Poynter to host Africans jilted by university

**By Nancy McCann, Amanda Starling and Jennifer Nessler Crow’s Nest Contributor and Staff Reporters**

Twelve of the African journalists who were turned away from USFSP because of Ebola concerns will be coming to St. Petersburg after all.

They will be just down the street at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies on Oct. 31-Nov. 4.

“Poynter has a long history and tradition of inclusion, it has a long history of training journalists, both here and abroad, and I think in that spirit, it’s something we can and should do at Poynter,” institute president Tim Franklin said in a statement last week.

The institute, a nonprofit school for journalists at 801 Third St. S., owns the Tampa Bay Times. It had been on the original schedule to host a half-day session with the journalists. Now, it will coordinate the entire program.

Two of the 14 African journalists originally scheduled to come to St. Petersburg will be absent. They live in Sierra Leone and Liberia, two of the West African countries hardest hit by the Ebola virus, and the U.S. State Department decided to delay their visit.

“We anticipate offering these distinguished journalists exchange program opportunities in the future,” State Department spokesman Nathan Arnold wrote in an email to The Crow’s Nest.

The State Department and several journalism schools around the country are public-private partners in the Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists, which brings a hundred foreign journalists to the U.S. each year to examine journalistic principles and practices here. This

Continued on p. 2

Overreaction or common sense? Two journalism students debate the university’s decision p. 7

More insight A conversation with the regional vice-chancellor p. 3

A Georgia welcome University of Georgia to host another group of African journalists p. 2

Want to talk about it?

A campus conversation on the university’s decision to cancel the visit of African journalists is scheduled from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday in the cafe area of the Poynter Library. Faculty, students, staff and administrators are invited to engage in the discussion.

Dr. Douglas Holt demonstrates an option for safety gear when approaching virus Ebola. Holt, who works as the director of the Division of Infectious Disease and Internal Medicine at USF, recognizes the virus as deadly but not easily contagious.

Attorney general position terminated

**By Emily Wehunt Staff Reporter**

A few weeks after the impeachment trial of Student Body President Cody Boyer was dismissed from the Supreme Court, Attorney General Melanie Mercado, who filed the impeachment memo, was terminated from her position.

On night of Oct. 22, the day before Mercado was fired, Boyer sent out an executive order to members of Student Government changing Title III to include that SG’s chief financial officer and attorney general positions can be terminated by the student body president.

All other executive branch positions can be terminated by the student body president. This summer, revisions were made to Title III to make an exception to that rule. The revision allowed the attorney general and chief financial officer only to be fired by impeachment.

The document sent out by Boyer on Oct. 22 states that the inability to terminate employees prevents him from fulfilling his job and duties as student body president. He said that the chief financial officer and attorney general should not be treated differently than any other executive branch employee.

“It’s not changing statutes; it’s clarifying our statutes,” Student Body Vice President Taylor Russell said in an interview with The Crow’s Nest. “It’s enacting certain policies to make us do our job better.”

After receiving the executive order from Boyer, Mercado issued him a notification of non-compliance, which is used an official documentation stating what an individual believes was done wrong. Within the document it stated that he (Boyer) does not have “the power to strike or create statues,” and that this is a power of the Legislative Branch. The only way this can be done by Boyer is through writing a bill to the Senate.

Fifteen minutes after Mercado sent Boyer her notice, she met with him, Russell, and the SG adviser Matt Morrin. She was then terminated from her role as attorney general. “The decision was made because of operational and cultural issues in the workplace,” Boyer said.

Boyer declined to elaborate on what specifically led to his decision to terminate Mercado. He and Russell said they did not want to discuss the details because they did not want to do or say anything that could hurt her reputation.

“It (firing Mercado) was something we deemed necessary to move forward,” Russell said.

According to Mercado, the two reasons given at their meeting on Oct. 23 were that she did not hold department meetings and did not meet with Morrin.

“It says no where in the laws that I have to meet with Matt, and there are multiple people within student government who haven’t met with him,” she said.

Mercado also claims that she did hold have an official department meeting, but was still working to get her department together, as are other departments within SG.

The executive order wasn’t done in relation to one or two people, and it was something that had been drafted for a while, according to Russell. But Mercado had a different opinion about it.

Continued on p. 3
By Nancy McCarty

Crow’s Nest Contributor

Although one delegation of African journalists was rejected by the University of South Florida on Tuesday, another group will be welcomed at the University of Georgia.

According to the university’s journalism school, the African visitors will spend a day in Atlanta with editors at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and CNN. Then they will spend Nov. 3-4 on campus, mingling with journalism faculty and students and watching Election Day coverage.

This is a unique opportunity for our students, for our faculty, for faculty elsewhere in the university, and for media professionals in the state to get to talk to such a diverse group of visitors about the challenges of journalism in the countries represented,” said Lee R. Becker, director of the Cox Center for International Mass Communication Training and Research, said in a statement.

One problem: At least one of the journalists is from Mali, The World Health Organization warned Friday that a 71-year-old man had died there Friday putting many people at high risk because the toddler was bleeding from her nose as she traveled from Guinea to Mali on a bus.

According to the Associated Press, WHO said it was treating the case – the first in Mali – as an emergency since the girl and her grandmother went through several towns in Mali, including a stopover in the capital of Bamako.

Earlier this month, the University of Georgia drew sharp criticism for rescinding an Oct. 23 speaking invitation to a Libyan editor.

Continued from p.1

would have been USFSP’s fifth year as a host and participant.

The university announced Oct. 17 that it was canceling this year’s program “out of utmost caution” and because some faculty, staff and students shared widespread national concerns that the epidemic in West Africa might spread throughout the United States.

But even after the government program that the reaction on campus has been generally positive and the limited emails he has gotten “run 4 to 1 with the decision we made,” the university administration has had no second thoughts despite some pointed criticism and Poynier’s decision to do what USFSP ruled out, he said.

“There have been some discussions, but the timeline was very clear,” Reichgelt said. “Around the 15th or 16th, Dr. (Deni) Elliott (chair of the journalism department) got some emails from faculty and staff that they were concerned, as bloggers were...”

Elliott asked the State Department if they would consider disinviting the journalists from the infected countries; they said no,” Reichgelt said.

He only asked after the university’s decision to cancel that the State Department reversed itself and removed the journalists from Sierra Leone and Liberia from the list of participating countries.

At that point, Reichgelt said, it was too late. “No matter what I think about Ebola or the State Department’s decision, we didn’t have the luxury of reversing it,” he said.

Only one person has died from Ebola in the United States – a visitor from Liberia who died in Dallas on Aug. 8. But when two of the nurses who had cared for him at a Dallas hospital contracted the virus, national concern ballooned into fear that some journalists have dubbed “Fearbola” and “Ebolaonica.”

Fear of the disease, which has infected more than 10,000 people in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea and killed nearly 5,000, temporarily marooned a cruise ship outside a Caribbean port. Parents pulled their children out of a Mississippi school when they heard the principal had been to Zambian, an African country untouched by the disease.

A teacher in Maine was put on 21-day paid leave because of fears she had been exposed to Ebola during a trip to Dallas for a conference. And Navarro College, a community college in Texas, stopped accepting applications from any country in Africa, according to the website Inside Higher Ed.

Meanwhile, the University of Georgia rescinded a speaking invitation to a Libyan editor, said in a lecture Friday that Ebola, as many people imagine.

However, an informal survey of USFSP journalism students last week suggests that many support the administration’s decision to cancel the program. Five professors who discussed the issue with students told The Crow’s Nest that student sentiment seemed to favor the administration. A couple of students said they might be comfortable mingling with the African journalists, but they thought their presence might be better.

American press coverage of Ebola has been criticized, too.

In an editorial last week, the New England Journal of Medicine blasted the news media, which it said has “generated too much hype, been indiscriminately critical of our public health officials, and been guilty of fear mongering.”

National coverage has been “disgraceful in many respects,” said Jill Abramson, the former executive editor of the New York Times, in remarks on Boston on Oct. 20.

I have to roll my eyes when, today, I’m reading all these stories about ‘the panic.’ Well, who helped cause the panic? I mean, please...”

Meanwhile, the University of Georgia rescinded a speaking invitation to a Libyan editor.

In coming to this decision, we considered not only our history of international work, but most importantly the health and safety of our employees and the community,” he said.

As a teaching institution that trains international journalists both here and abroad, Poynier is a natural fit for journalists in the Murrow program, Franklin said. Journalists from 63 countries are getting Poynier training this year.

“We invited USF to participate,” he said. “We haven’t heard anything back at this point.”

Information from Bloomberg Businessweek, the International Business Times, the Tampa Bay Times, the New York Times, NPR, the Washington Post and the Huffington Post was used in this report.
The reaction ‘has been positive’

By Amanda Starling
Staff Reporter

Here are some highlights of The Crow’s Nest interview of Dr. Han Reichgelt, the regional vice-chancellor for academic affairs, on Oct. 23.

The Crow’s Nest: What’s been the reaction – around campus and around town – to the university’s decision to cancel the visit of African journalists? Han Reichgelt: In general, the reaction on campus has been positive. I haven’t had many emails, but they run 4 to 1 with the decision we made. I haven’t heard anything from the community other than how the Poynter Institute has reacted (in deciding to host the journalists).

CN: Has the university heard from any of the African journalists who were turned away? If so, what have they said?

HR: No. They haven’t contacted us. That may well be because I understand that the State Department wanted all of the communication between the hosting institution and the journalists (to go) through the State Department. I don’t know if the State Department has not forwarded any emails.

CN: Do you and the chancellor plan to attend some of the events at Poynter? HR: No, not really. It’s now hosted by the Poynter Institute. If Poynter invites us to speak or to welcome them, and we probably will go over and welcome the journalists. We would do that more in a personal capacity than as representatives from USF St. Pete. That’s hypothetical.

CN: Do you think that USFSP’s relationship with the State Department and the Murrow Program has been damaged by this? Do you expect the university will host the visiting journalists next year?

HR: That certainly was one of the risk factors we had to take into account that may damage our relationship with the State Department. We did speak with representatives from both of them, and that we simply could not guarantee the quality of the program for the journalists and the expectations.

Meet the VP: Taylor Russell

By Thomas Boyd
Crow’s Nest Contributor

The new student body vice president has arrived for Student Government. Taylor Russell, a senior majoring in English, has stepped into the role previously held by Student Body President Cody Boyer. Russell, 20, hopes to work in the court system as a court media-and-forensic psychologist after graduation.

In the meantime, Russell hopes to make an impact with SG at USF St. Petersburg. The Crow’s Nest met with her to discuss her goals in her new position.

The Crow’s Nest: What was your previous position in SG?

Taylor Russell: I was the director of University Relations for the spring 2014 semester. Before that, I served within the Department of University Relations as an assistant director. I continued into this term as director of University Relations (before being appointed to student body vice president).

CN: Part of Jordan’s platform was that she would help keep Cody in line with SG policy and procedures. Will you be continuing that?

TR: Since taking office Cody has grown a lot. So he doesn’t need someone to watch him as much to see that he is following SG procedures. However, I do have probably the most experience to within the executive branch of all the directors right now. I am going to use that knowledge to further the executive cabinet.

But right now my role is that I am focusing on clubs and organizations, along with leadership and organizations like Harborside Activities Board and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, in making sure that those relationships within Student Affairs are built.

In addition, Cody and I have a really good understanding of what we’re essentially at two places at once. So we are going to meetings simultaneously, then report back at the end of the day. So we are able to meet with more people, reach more students, staff and administration, then come back and reconvene.

CN: What do you hope to accomplish while in office?

TR: What I want to accomplish the most is setting up the foundations for a long-lasting, solid relationship between clubs and organizations and SG. In past years, I feel like that has been lacking, and I really want to be that advocate for clubs and organizations so they understand exactly what SG is doing and why they are doing it. At the same time, they feel empowered by SG via funds, knowledge or training.

CN: What would you like the students to know?

TR: I’m really excited for this year. I think we are going to really grow what we are working on, and as Cody puts it, SG 2.0. We are really putting a lot of things behind us and we are ready to accomplish some really great things.

Executive order changes firing policy

Continued from p.1

“He basically did this so he could fire me,” Mercado said. However, Russell said that it puts SG officials in a hard spot when there are people who aren’t performing properly and are not willing to move forward.

“This wasn’t a decision wasn’t just between Cody and myself,” Russell said. “It was series of outside involvement that led to this decision.”

Although Mercado no longer holds her position as attorney general, she is not planning to give up. “There are a lot of different avenues I can take, and I am seeking them out,” she said. “I am not really sure where I am going to take this yet but it is going to be very immediate.”

Mercado’s termination does not affect her standing on campus.

“She has been rest assured that her eligibility for any position in SG is still opened,” Boyer said. “And her eligibility for anywhere on campus is still opened.”

Professor funded for marine studies

By Mark Wolfenbarger
Staff Reporter

Frank Muller-Karger began exploring the ocean as a child in coastal Carolina.

Born in Raleigh, N.C., Karger, 58, moved to the small town of Arrecifes at about 6 months old with his parents. There, Karger watched Sea Fantasy, a league Under the Sea and The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau. He also fished and swam with his father and read the works of 20,000 Leagues creator Jules Verne. His curiosity led him to a career in ocean research.

Now a biological oceanographer at USF’s College of Marine Science – administratively attached to USF Tampa despite its location on the USF St. Petersburg campus – Karger will soon use his lifetime of experience to help lead a team of researchers on a government-backed voyage into the Atlantic Ocean to study the biodiversity of two national marine sanctuaries – the Florida Keys and California’s Monterey Bay.

The goal of the program, known as a marine biodiversity observa-tion network, is to preserve these ecosystems by counting and identifying the various species of marine life that live there.

“For this particular grant, there was an opportunity: The govern-ment wants to understand biodiversity and how it’s changing … our food depends on it and our health depends on it,” Karger said.

“If we end up with a drastic decrease in biodiversity, we’re gonna end up having a negative impact on our own economy and jobs because it means that we may lose certain types of fish. We may lose the very fish that we eat, that we use for what we may have and we may lose the opportunity to discover new chemicals for pharmaceuticals.”

Karger’s team is one of three selected from a pool of 19 that sub-mitted proposals for the program.

The other two teams will be divided between California’s Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary off the Santa Barbara coast and the Arctic Alaskan waters of the Chukchi Sea. While it isn’t a sanctuary, Alaska’s arctic waters are experiencing significant temperature spikes that are having a detri-mental impact on the ice and frigid waters that harbor a vast amount of marine life.

The program will receive $7 million in funding over five years from NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and Shell Oil Co., which will contribute to the Alaskan project.

Karger’s team will receive $7 million of the overall budget with $5 million coming from NASA, where Karger completed a fellowship in 1988 while finishing his Ph.D. at the University of Maryland. The call to action for the program was made by the federal government, which wants the teams to find out what kind of organisms live in a specific area and at what times.

“What we are trying to measure is the diversity of life – how many species are there, what kind of biomass each one of these groups of species contributes to an ecosystem, and then how do they fit in what we call the ecosystem, which is just a collection of different habi-tats,” Karger said.

Woody Turner, who is serving as the program manager at NASA for the project, said Karger’s skills with technology and graphic-phy place him at the top of his field.

“(Karger) is an expert at integrating marine satellite observa-tions with observations from multiple types of in-water platforms,” Turner said. “He is also one of the best satellite oceanographers alive today. His skills at building net-works of investigators are very high.”

Biomass is a carbon-based organic compound taken from living or recently deceased organisms. It is constructed from the carbon dioxide that is found in the atmosphere and absorbed by plants with help from the sun. Any animals that consume plants will also contain biomass.

Because larger organisms are more difficult and expensive to study, most of the research will be conducted at the lowest level of the food chain – the microscopic level.

The objective is to collect water samples containing the biomass of various organisms and measure it using chemistry, microbiology or microscopy. This will give researchers an idea of what types of organ-isms inhabit an area.

For years, NASA has observed the ocean’s surface from space with the use of satellites. But Karger said that with satellites, researchers can’t see what lurks beneath.

“The ocean is three dimensional, so you can’t just look at the surface like satellites do; you gotta look below the surface,” Karger said.

Another reach aspect of the project is the identification of invasive species of plants, animals and bacteria that wreak havoc on the Atlantic’s ecosystems. Lionfish, native to the Pacific Ocean and a deceptively alluring, venomous species of fish, are a prime example of the types of marine life known to overtake a reef system and diminish its biodiversity.

“We need to understand how life in the oceans (is) changing,” Turner said. “It is not an exaggeration to say that our survival as a species depends upon it.”

news@crowsneststpete.com
Don't look under the bed
yard, don't move in.
The mansion
If there are bodies in the back-
some rocks.
some Great Pumpkin. Just get
I don't care
lady, GTFO.
killer. If you're warned by a
hopefully taught you something
endless marathons of horror flicks
Your
visit.
your mom tells you not to and
before munching addictively.
cheese hunch punch is delicious, but
especially important at parties. The
visit.

Staff Reporter

Now that you've ordered your
growlers of pumpkin beer, picked
out your costume and amassed
a mountain of candy, it's time to
party. But before you bust out your
year practice moves, now. If Michael
Jackson's Thriller, it might be best
to sink your teeth into these tips
for the most horrific (in a good
way) weekend of the year.

Don't assume you know how
to do the Thriller after one
YouTube video viewing. Flailing
isn't a dance move. You'll just look
like a regular zombie and not like
one of Michael Jackson's minions.

Stay away from creepy candles.
We don't really want to spend
Halloween fleeting the Sanderson
sisters of Hocus Pocus. How about
we just stick to the cute black cats
instead?

Check the pulse of the zombie
before you assume it's actually
one of the undead. Costumes are
pretty great these days and we
really do look like one of the
undead. But make sure that the
blood on your friend's costume is
fake- accidents happen.

Beetlejuice. Beetlejuice. Bee-
Let's stop while we're ahead, shall
we? I don't exactly want this
cruel poltergeist harassing me on
my favorite night of the year.

Inspect your candy and drinks
before indulging. This is
especially important at parties. The
hunch punch is delicious, but
make sure you serve yourself or
watch the person preparing your
drink. Don't shovel the M&M's right
away- inspect the package before
munching. M&M's love to break,
you know.

If your grandma lives in
Halloweentown, use the portal
your mom tells you not to and
visit. I would do anything for a
trip to a world filled with floating
monsters. If you're told to stay away, run
away, flee, etc...GO AWAY. Your
endless marathons of horror
flicks hopefully taught you something
about how to avoid the chainsaw
murderer. If you're warned by a
carving on the wall or creepy old
girl, GTFO.

Don't spend your whole night in
the pumpkin patch. I don't care
what Linus is telling you about
great Pumpkin. Just get
some rocks.

If there are bodies in the
backyard, don't move in. The
mansion is situated on some great property,
sorry, but if there is more than
massoleum, expect a mega creep
factor.

Don't look under the bed.
There's a bump, a hump, or a
snap that rings in the night. The
Boogeyman won't bother you as long as
you don't leave the safety of your
blanket.

Not all monsters are mean.
Just think of your pals, Mike and Sally,
and the scare factor isn't so bad.

By Sophia Fotiadis
Crown’s Next Contributor

The Tampa Bay Times' 22nd
annual Festival of Reading took
place throughout the streets
lining USF St. Petersburg on Saturday,
where people of all ages gathered
to meet and purchase works from
over 45 published authors.

The featured authors included
Carl Hiaasen, a well known Florida
journalist and novelist, Aasif
Mandvi, an actor and comedian,
and R.L. Stine, a former USF gradu-
ate student and best-selling author
of the "Goosebumps" and "Fear Street"
series.

Supporters quickly filled
the ballroom to hear authors speak
about their experiences and answer
questions. As Stine's voice filled
the ballrooms, the public sat at the
edges of their seats. Stine captivated
the room with his spirited humor.

When asked about why he chose
to write in the horror genre, he
responded: "Kids like to be scared!
I tried to write joke books at first,
but I don't know... it just didn't work out,
but when I began to write horror books I got
positive responses to them."

Stine also emphasized an impor-
tant element of his story formation
and writing process.

"I do a very complete outline,
and do all the thinking before I start
to write, so that when I sit down to
start the book, I can just have fun and
write", he said. "Sometimes I
even just write the title, and the title
leads me to the story."

"It's been quite the journey." Dr.
Sarah Boston, a veterinary surgi-
ical oncologist at the University of
Florida said, "but I've loved it every
step of the way."

Boston is the author of Lucky
Dog: How Being a Veterinarian
Saved My Life, a best-seller on
Amazon about diagnosing her own
thyroid cancer and her veterinary
experiences as she went through
the system of health care. She
even brought along her dog made
famous on the cover, Rumbly.

Thomas Blauvelt, an artist
and comic book writer from St.
Petersburg, was at the festival for
his second year to promote his book,
"Beetlejuice. Beetlejuice. Beetle-
juice."

"I was inspired to do comic
books from the ones I read as a kid," Blauvelt
said.

Garry "Trudeau's" Doonesbury
was what really motivated him
to create his own work and use
political themes. He also offered
advice to aspiring writers.

"If you find that you like some-
thing, then keep doing it. The jour-
ney is the important thing. When
you're creating stories, that is what
creativity is all about."

As the festival began to wind
down, people found themselves
with new inspiration to let their
creative spirit flow, along with a
few great books to add to their
collection.

By Mark Wolfenbarger
Staff Reporter

Blue Ocean Festival to bring big names, events

By Mark Wolfenbarger
Staff Reporter

The annual Blue Ocean Film
Festival and Conservation Summit
will light up St. Petersburg for the
first time, from Nov. 3-9.

Blue Ocean is a collaboration
of scientists, explorers, filmmaker-
s, photographers, entertain-
ment executives and ocean leaders,
who want to bring the story of our
oceans to the masses. It will show-
case the pinnacle of ocean film-
making, while aiming to inform
the public of the strain our every-
day actions place on the oceans and
what we can do to turn the tides.

Film blocks will take place Nov.
4-9 and will showcase more than
150 films. There will also be vari-
ous workshops, seminars, featured
evening events and other enter-
tainment located at various spots
around downtown St. Petersburg.

Viral and founder Richard
Branson, Academy Award-winning
actor Jeremy Irons and Callum
Roberts, a professor of marine con-
servation at the University of York
in the UK... are a few of the names on
the guest list. Director James
Cameron will not accompany his
diving sphere and opening night film
"Deep Sea Challenge 3D"

This is the first year that
the seven-day event has taken place
outside of California. ("Blue Ocean"
had decided that}
Psych scares at the Radley Haunted House

BY CAITLIN ASHWORTH
Crow’s Nest Contributor

Terror fills the streets and haunts St. Petersburg this October with Dr. Radley’s Nightmare Machine Haunted House.

Producer Ricky Brigante and creative director Cody Meacham set up the haunted house in front of a private home for the eighth year running, located at 3900 19th St. N. in St. Pete. It is open select nights with a suggested donation of $5.

It is Brigante’s first year with the Radley House, but he brings new tricks to the Old Northeast neighborhood favorite, including improved sound, lighting effects and “trigger effects.” For the first time at Radley, scare actors can use the trigger for sound and lighting effects on command.

Meacham created and developed the Radley family and brought them to life. The Radley family is cursed, and every year Meacham and his research team explore a different family member and their terrifying curse.

A short film was projected on a screen in front of the house as guests waited in line to enter the house of horrors. The film gave guests a quick back story on the cursed Dr. Radley.

Ready be to scared? Check out our plot synopsis below, but beware of the spoilers.

Dr. Radley suffered from nightmares and was determined to cure himself. He began to study his illness in more depth. He became a sleep specialist to help himself through treating his patients, but he was not successful.

During his travels, Dr. Radley came across an artifact he was mysteriously drawn to. It was a giant stone in the shape of an owl. He impulsively took the stone and brought it back to his office. His patients had great results while Dr. Radley found use for their bodies. Dr. Radley developed a machine used to access the user’s subconscious and extract nightmares, using human bodies as a power source.

The nightmare machine did not extract the nightmares, but instead brought them to life. Today Dr. Radley is dead, but the power source remains and the machine still operates. The house is kept alive by the spirit of nightmares, Meacham says.

As brave guests take a step into the Radley House, they find themselves trapped deep inside Dr. Radley’s nightmare. The house becomes a twisted maze of distorted logic and strange passageways and spirits lurking in dark corners.

The scares of Radley are just minutes from campus. But beware of the extent of the scare to be found. The Radley Haunted House is recommended for ages 8 and older.

If you go:
Dr. Radley’s Nightmare Machine Haunted House is located at 3900 19th St. N. It is open 7:30-11 p.m. on Oct. 30-31 and Nov. 1-2. Guests are suggested to donate $5. Visit DrRadleyHaunt.com for more details.

guests can experience Halloween thrills, like this one, at Dr. Radley’s Nightmare Machine Haunted House in the Old Northeast neighborhood.

Dance team brings the moves

BY EMILY TINTI
Staff Reporter

The South Florida All Stars are all about Bulls pride and diligent practice. After all, it’s their goal to showcase the beauty and influence of dance to students at the USF St. Petersburg.

As USFSF’s only dance group, the All Stars have expanded to 13 members. The team has performed at an array of events, such as the Benefit-A-Bull Fashion Show, Homecoming Ball, Gay Straight Alliance Drag Show, Student Government Greenstock and several others.

President and assistant choreographer Justice Thornton is a self-taught dancer, having learned from being part of high school extracurricular groups and watching YouTube dance tutorials. Five years ago, she spent time practicing by continuously dancing in her bedroom, because she lacked the financial means to afford classes.

Now, about five years later, she’s president of the dance team. “Dance challenges me, it comforts me, heals me and uplifts me,” Thornton said. “In college, dance has allowed me to connect with other people who share my passion for the art. It has given me the opportunity to clear my mind from all the homework and studying.”

Sophomore Kristina Sonstroem said she has gained both skill and confidence by being the South Florida All Stars’ ballet instructor. “In the beginning, I was terrified of teaching because I had never taught people my own age before,” Sonstroem said. “Once I worked through that, teaching has become one of my favorite times of the week. Watching my teammates grow and challenging them is very rewarding.”

Classes are held 9-10:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday in the Fitness Center. Tuesday nights are dedicated to ballet, while jazz and contemporary nights take place every Thursday. On Thursdays, the group alternates between teaching technique and choreography.

Classes aren’t exclusive to the All Stars. Students are encouraged to drop by practices if they are dancers who want to get back into the groove of dance, or beginners who just want to have some fun.

Jazz and contemporary instructor Arin Hurd has been dancing for 11 years, though dance isn’t the only technique she’s enhanced. “Being on the team has taught me time-management skills by learning how to prioritize” she said. “I balance being part of the team and being a student by finding a good mix of school and free time.”

The South Florida All Stars will perform next at the Black History Showcase hosted by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, where they will present three unique dances, according to Thornton: an African gumboot-inspired dance, a contemporary piece designed to Beyoncé’s version of “Ave Maria” and a modern dance to Beethoven’s “Moonlight Sonata,” which will convey the events of the 19th century Underground Railroad.

Although this performance isn’t until February, Thornton emphasizes that the spring semester will be quite a busy one for the dance team, with multiple performances lined up already.

Reflecting on how gratifying the All Stars have been, Thornton said, “It makes me proud every time I walk into practice. This team truly is the best.”

arts@crownsneststpete.com
Ah, the internet. It’s revolutionized the way we receive our news, and the speed at which our news is reported to us. Yet, it complicates the process at times.

Anyone can start their own website and post updates. And some Internet developers are talented at making fake news sites look real. In our browsers, our social media sites, and home pages, we are inundated with news stories from all sorts of sources. We get important information, but also lots of misinformation. Think of all the stories you’ve read about Ebola. How do you determine what’s real and what’s not?

These calls time for us to be discerning consumers of the media. But how?

First, we should read several news outlets before decide we understand what’s happening on a particular story. Some news outlets may not a thorough job of reporting a story. Others may be biased toward a certain political party. Some outlets may be satire disguised as reality. Just as journalists can rarely report and accurate and fair story by only talking to one source, news consumers shouldn’t assume one outlet can tell them everything they need to know.

Second, know the credibility of the outlet you are reading before you buy into what is being reported. In September, the National Report reported that Facebook would begin charging users $2.99 per month as of Nov. 1. People began commenting in anger, sharing the link on their page and announcing that they were quitting Facebook. If they’d have done their research, they would have known the National Report is a satire news site. The rumors about Facebook starting to charge users began in December 2009, according to snopes.com. The National Report was mocking these rumors, and in doing so, started a myth of their own.

So, do yourself a favor and don’t take the National Report seriously. The Onion is also another site intended for satire, in case you’re still confused.

It may be impossible to identify every outlet as credible or not. Some outlets just don’t provide enough information. But if the story is circulated widely enough, you may have resources.

As we mentioned above, snopes.com is a good place to go if you ever doubt the credibility if a widely-spread story on the internet. The site is run by two professional researchers, Barbara and David Mikkelson, who research internet myths, urban legends and more.

On their site, they post whether a myth is true, false or in between. Then, they provide their researched information.

When a site called Bibo Buzz posted that NASA announced that during three days this December, the Earth will go dark, we thought that sounded hokey. We turned to snopes.com and found out that it was indeed a myth. We also found out, to our relief, that our favorite Starbucks pumpkin spice lattes don’t contain “numerous toxins” like the Internet said they do. Now we sip in peace.

There’s a lot of misinformation on the Internet, but also the resources to sift through it all. Don’t blindly accept everything you read. Look it up first. Then, enjoy a good laugh at the satire.

---

Photo of the week

Submit a picture with a caption for photo of the week to jnesslar@mail.usf.edu by Friday at 5 p.m. The best photo submission will run next week.

A seagull soars above the Current Collections sculpture, located in Poynter Park.

---

Throwback

The ultimate detective debuted centuries ago: Sherlock Holmes. Scottish writer Arthur Conan Doyle published The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes on Oct. 31, 1887. The detective was loosely based off of Dr. Joseph Bell, his medical professor at the University of Edinburgh.

A slow medical practice after Doyle’s studies gave him ample time to write. His first story, “A Study in Scarlet,” was published in Beeton’s Christmas Annual. He would later be published in a series of short stories for The Strand, a magazine. Sherlock Holmes bursted with such popularity that Doyle gave up his medical practice and published multiple collections dedicated to Holmes.
Thoughts on USFSP’s decision regarding African visitors

op-ed

Popping the ‘Fearbola’ Bubble

By Salem Solomon

Contributing Columnist

Just as fast as the fear of Ebola has been traveling, so has mis-leading information and con-cerns about the disease. As evidenced by the decision of the USF St. Petersburg to cancel the Murrow Program. Therefore, I want to take this opportunity to address myths, assess risks and weigh facts.

The 2014 Murrow Fellows include jour-nalists fromBotswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. Eleven of the 13 countries have had no reported cases of Ebola. Participants from these countries posed zero risk to our campus. Nigeria had a handful of cases, but now this decline, the “Ebola-free” after no cases were reported for over six weeks. In fact, amidst the chaos and distract, the World Health Organization is commending both Nigeria and Senegal as positive examples of how to deal with the virus.

Liberia and Sierra Leone, on the other hand, are at the heart of the current out-break. One might ask: what about the two visitors from these countries? Traveling from a country where the Ebola outbreak has not yet been contained does not alone make someone a risk. In Sierra Leone and Liberia, there have been 7,659 total confirmed cases of Ebola. The combined population of these nations is over 10 million, meaning the Ebola-infected population represents 0.07 percent of the total population. If the invited jour-nalists from Liberia and Sierra Leone have had no contact with people infected with Ebola, they posed zero risk to our campus.

But what if the invited visitors from Ebola-affected countries had been exposed to people with the virus? After all, journalists, much like healthcare workers, often find themselves on the front lines covering news stories and are at increased risk. And as I pointed out in an opinion piece I wrote for the Tampa Bay Times: a few Ebola cases even enter the U.S. Screening at the airport is imperfect. And an infected person might not present symptoms until arriving in St. Petersburg, given the Ebola incubation period, which is 21 days.

For these reasons, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has started to moni-tor anyone coming from an Ebola-affected country. Everyone on campus should go to the site and learn about the details, but here is an important detail for the sake of this current debate:

“Monitor your health for 21 days. During the time that you are monitoring your health, if you have no symptoms, you can continue your normal activities, including work and school. If you get symptoms of Ebola, it is important to stay separated from other people and to call your doctor right away.”

Ebola is transmitted when one comes in contact with the bodily fluids of a person who is symptomatic. Traveling from an Ebola-affected country makes careful health monitoring important. It doesn’t mean an individual shouldn’t participate in campus activities.

The likelihood of Ebola coming to USFSP is minute. Still, there is some chance. Would the consequences be so catastrophic that the risk is not worth taking? In the U.S., there have been nine cases of Ebola. One person has died, six are now “virus-free,” and two are recovering, including a doctor in New York City who recently returned from treating Ebola patients in Guinea.

In a statement released on Oct. 17, Dr. Thomas Reicherl, the regional vice-chancellor for Higher Education, said that the virus was contained, and that the risk to the people who have been infected. However, Ebola’s fatal-ity rate is so high in part because the virus is prevalent in countries with inadequate health infrastructures.

The university decided to cancel the pro-gram believing that even a minuscule chance is not worth taking. In an interview with the Tampa Tribune, Reicherl said that “facility and students still weren’t com-fortable,” even after the State Department decided to postpone the trip for the journalist from Liberia and Sierra Leone. How fac-ul-ty and students were consulted during the weekend is an open question.

It’s been over a week since the announce-ment, and I think the university has continu-ed to miss valuable opportunities to edu-cate the student body about the real likeli-hood of contracting the disease.

Fortunately, there has been an alternate solution and I believe all will end well. The journalists will be hosted by our neighbors at the Poynter Institute. I hope all of my fellow USFSP students can confidently and com-fortably welcome these visiting journalists to St. Petersburg if their paths should cross around town. The debate can continue, but the most important thing is that these vis-itors don’t feel singled out or ostracized.

Salem Solomon is a graduate student in the Journalism and Media Studies program. She can be reached at salem.solomon@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @Salem_Solomon.

By F.R. Carlson

Contributing Columnist

I am a graduate student in jour-nalism at the USF St. Petersburg. I have run the Murrow Program last year. The International Visitor Leadership Program of the U.S. State Department leads the event. I was assisting USFSP in the orga-nization of the program for this year’s event. It is a fantastic, life changing event.

Some see the recent decision to cancel the program as the result of bureaucratic fear. I respectfully disagree.

The reason for this decision was not fear, but an inability to assess risk when faced with a low-data, high-value decision. When taken in this context, the decision makes sense. The bottom line is because the stakes are so enormous, and a full understanding of how to manage this crisis is in flux at the highest levels of government, USFSP had no choice but to fold on Murrow.

Some respondents see the unfairness of the situation by using the large population size of the affected nations. They believe it is unfair that 22 million people are assumed to have the virus. Yes, there are 22 million people in the affected countries. Yes, a tiny minority of a minority has the virus and yes, the entire situation is horrible and unfair.

The unfortunate fact is that it only takes one case to create total havoc, so you have to assume that everyone has the virus and, critically, you have to be sure you can check. Ebola deserves our respect. It deserves this respect not because of large numbers, but because of small ones. It deserves our respect because of the fatality rate. It deserves our respect for the devastation that epidemic causes to the social fabric, to trust systems, to our freedom. The stated rationale the U.S. has for allowing air travel is to prevent “information loss.” The U.S. Government has argued that the loss of information from a travel ban will paradoxically create more vulnerabilities in an effort to contain the epidemic.

The fact that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention want the air cor-ridors open to capture information about Ebola makes sense.

That does not mean that air travel, partic-u-larly non-essential air travel, from affected areas to non-affected areas makes sense or is even desired.

The efficaciuy of travel bans is mixed. Nigeria has so far stopped the virus cold without a travel ban. The Northern Province of Sierra Leone, Koinadugu, has succeeded in preventing a severe outbreak. Sierra Leone did this by the intelligent use of limiting movement.

There has been a string of mishaps at the United States’ national level in response to Ebola. These mishaps have shaken the con-fidence of the country. The infection of two nurses at Texas Presbyterian serve as a stark reminder of this initial failure. The scores of people on quarantine are another.

As President Obama said about our Ebola response, “This isn’t right.” Indeed it isn’t. Right now this is a scramble. The likelihood that USFSP will get the risk information it needs to make a decision that protects the stakeholders of this event is low, and the downsides are too enormous to guess at this one.

Last, timing matters and for USFSP and the Murrow Program, the timing is lousy. Right now, the CDC are moving to change the protocols that they said were solid just a few weeks ago. It is highly probable that if the Murrow program was occurring three months from now, this would be a non-issue.

This decision is a “lose-lose” decision for USFSP, but I cannot say it is a wrong decision or one based on fear.

Frederick R. Carlson is a graduate student in the Journalism and Media Studies program. He can be reached at fcarlson@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @FSUCarl64.

“I think the university has continued to miss valuable opportunities to educate the student body about the real likelihood of contracting the disease.” — Salem Solomon

“The bottom line is because the stakes are so enormous, and a full understanding of how to manage this crisis is in flux at the highest levels of government, USFSP had no choice but to fold on Murrow.” — F.R. Carlson
USF Football
The Bulls will return home Nov. 1 against Houston for Veterans and Military Appreciation Day. The first 5,000 people in attendance will receive a Rocky the Bull hat.

USF Men’s Basketball
First year head coach Orlando Antigua and his basketball team will play a pre-season exhibition Nov. 8 at the USF Sondheim against I-L Pennsylvania before opening the season at home against Flager College on Nov. 14.

AAC Commissioner sees division promise

By ANDREW CAPLAN
STAFF REPORTER

“I think we have a powerful group, and I think it’s going to get better.”

The AAC lost its automatic bid to one of college football’s major bowl games with the birth of the College Football Playoffs, a playoff selection committee and the loss of the Bowl Championship Series (BCS), but Aresco is confident the change is for the better and schools within the conference can make it to the big stage once again.

“The great thing about it is you’re not going to have competitors,” Aresco said. “The BCS system because you had some unusual results. This committee will look at strength of schedule, which is really important, because that’s what our league is all about.”

Also in 2013, the AAC agreed to a six-year $130 million contract with ESPN to nationally televise the conference’s games. Games will be broadcasted throughout various ESPN platforms, such as ESPN2, ESPNEWS, etc.

“Every game is pretty much on ESPN, three ABC nationals. This is even better exposure. I think, than what USF got all year in the old Big East. The exposure in the TV deal is terrific.”

With lucrative million-dollar contracts rolling into universities for television deals, head coaches and training facilities, the college athlete remains unpaid. Heisman winners and contenders, as well as other non-high profile players, have been widely scrutinized and punished for taking money for selling their autographs or likeness.

“The problem with something like that and I’ve always felt that with endorsements and things to that endorsemnt deals, they can do one thing about Olympians and willing to pay you $1 million for endorsement deals, they can do various things, the ametr model there has changed dramatically, but they aren’t recruiting against each other.”

But student athletes have spoken out against schools and conferences stating that they don’t see even enough food at times and that colleges are exploiting them to make millions.

“When you tour the facilities of USF or some of the other schools, the amount of money and effort, the notion that college athletes are exploited, to me, is ridiculous,” Aresco said. “How many students would love to get out of school debt free, especially when it might cost anywhere from $100,000-$200,000 to go to school and to have all the other benefits? The amount of money spent on nutrition, weight rooms, on training, counselling… I don’t think we’ve necessarily done a great job, as a college community, of talking about where that money is going.”

Aresco is awaiting the basketball season to begin, where the conference’s team’s rankings should be better than the 2014 football year. Fans will be able to witness the growth of the AAC from it’s early stages and only time will tell if the conference is moving in the right direction.

Aresco believes USF is making the necessary strides to grow with the conference.

“I think it’s absolutely on the rise, I don’t think there’s any question about it,” Aresco said.

American Athletic Conference Standings

TEAM | CONF | OVERALL
--- | --- | ---
East Carolina | 3-0 | 6-1
USF | 3-0 | 5-2
Houston | 2-1 | 4-3
Memphis | 2-1 | 4-3
Cincinnati | 2-1 | 4-3
Temple | 2-2 | 4-3
South Florida | 2-2 | 3-5
Tulane | 1-2 | 2-5
Tulsa | 1-2 | 1-6
x-SMU | 0-3 | 0-7
Connecticut | 0-4 | 1-6

(“- bowl eligible; * not bowl eligible)