University considers purchase of Poynter land

Pending approval by the USF system, USF St. Petersburg may purchase 3.7 acres of land, currently owned by the Poynter Institute.

By Emily Wehunt and Jennifer Nesslar
Staff Reporters

As the campus looks toward expanding to 10,000 students, campus territory may also be expanding.

USF St. Petersburg has signed a non-binding letter of intent with the Poynter Institute for the $6.2 million purchase of 3.7 acres of land owned by Poynter. The land, located along the Fourth Street S. corridor, is "surplus and vacant" according to Kim Tobin, Poynter’s marketing communications strategy manager.

The land has been on the market since May 2012, according to Tobin. USFSP must formally approve the purchase before the sale can be made. University officials did not respond to specific questions about the purchase, but released this statement: "We are currently conducting due diligence on the land. Since a finalized agreement has not been reached, it would be premature to discuss long-term goals for the property. We look forward to sharing our plans if the USF System completes the purchase and a determination is made on the most efficient use of the space."

The Poynter Institute trains journalists worldwide and is seeking to increase its online presence.

The Guy is back

By Andrew Caplan
Staff Reporter

Prior to the start of the second Fisheries Symposium held on Nov. 13-15, world-famous artist and ocean-enthusiast Guy Harvey shared his latest documentary, Sharks of the World, with USF St. Petersburg students Wednesday evening.

Harvey is best known for his marine wildlife paintings and work as a marine conservationist.

The film, Sharks of the World: A Guy Harvey Expedition, premiered on PBS a couple of weeks prior and counts down Harvey’s 10 favorite sharks. His goal was to provide the students, and non-students, with a chance to better understand sharks.

Armed with several years of hands-on research, Harvey and his team wanted to shred any misconceptions about the creatures.

Harvey started the night off by dedicating the festivities to his friend, Dr. Neil Burnie, who passed away on Nov. 11 in a diving accident unrelated to sharks. Dr. Burnie helped compile some of the tiger-shark footage with Harvey in Bermuda.

After the moment of remembrance for his fallen colleague, Harvey jokingly told the audience that if they were expecting or hoping to see a Shark Week-like depiction of sharks, they should leave the room immediately.

"It’s a result of many different shoots that we kind of coordinated in a really nice presentation," Harvey said. "Very educational. Gives you a completely different viewpoint from the Discovery Channel Shark Week bonanza that you get."

In the movie, narrated by Harvey, Harvey and several members of his team swim without the protection of cages. But as the swarming cloud of various shark species feast on nearby fish and bait, they pay little attention to their human guests.

"I like ‘em all," Harvey said. "I like the big ones. You know, the sharky-looking sharks."

Continued on p. 4

Research grant, monetary gift support campus

By Amanda Starling and Jack Moscone
Staff Reporters

Grants and donations continue to flow into the university.

The USF College of Marine Science, based on the USF St. Petersburg campus, was awarded a $20.2 million grant by the Gulf of Mexico Research Institute. The funds will expand research on the ongoing effects of the 2010 BP oil spill. The USF College of Marine Science researchers worked with the Florida Institute of Oceanography as some of the first research responders following the spill, according to a report by WUSF.

The award is the largest historic contribution for USF’s oil spill research. "The grant will support the efforts over the next three years."

Continued on p. 4
Candidate found common ground in election

By Caitlin Ashworth
Staff Reporter

Sparks fly. The photo flashes across the screen on the website lucasoverby.com. A slogan appears in a black army font.

“Lucas Overby for Congress,” the site reads. “Because we need someone who works as hard as we do.”

Twenty-eight-year-old Pinellas County native Lucas Overby is currently a commercial driver supervisor and more importantly, he was the Libertarian candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in Florida’s 13th Congressional district this past midterm election on Nov. 4.

With no Democratic candidate running for congressman, Republican David Jolly won with 74 percent against Overby with a 24 percent vote.

Overby said as part of the Libertarian party, they ask the question “How do we allow you to live your life as free as possible?”

Although Overby did not win the election, he contributed to the growing Libertarian party. Libertarian governor candidate, Adrian Wyllie, was just shy of a 4 percent vote, a record for the Florida Libertarian party.

“Though tonight, we didn’t win the ultimate victory. We did more than any third party candidate has ever done in the history of Florida,” says Wyllie, quoted by Fox 13 News’ Haley Hinds.

Hinds says Wyllie showed voters that there are more than the two parties, Republican and Democrat.

“One of my favorite aspects of being on the third party side, the way we present it, we can talk to anyone about anything and it’s not considered taboo. It’s not weird for me to be in a Democratic meeting one morning and be at a Republican meeting that afternoon,” says Overby.

Overby says his team consisted of a variety of viewpoints. “Libertarians, Republicans, Democrats, Socialists, you name it. They found common ground; they found common goals inside of our platform. To me, that’s more fun and more important.”

Prior to the election, Overby ran a youth outreach program, “Taking a District,” to get kids involved with politics. Overby says now that the election is over he will become involved with the program again.

“My passion really is youth engagement,” says Overby. “The good news on that was we tripled youth turnout, the bad news is 8 percent is tripling youth turnout.”

USF Oil spill research receives largest historic grant

“This gift is greatly helpful to us,” says Jessica Blais, director of communications at USFSP. “We are thankful to Smith & Associates for their interest in our school.”

By Jade Levy
Crow’s Nest Contributor

“Unique,” “engaged,” “inviting,” “home.” Those were just a few of the words used to describe USF St. Petersburg last month at the initial campus conversation about the strategic plan.

About 35 students, staff and faculty gathered for the first of six casual conversations to discuss the USFSP strategic plan, a master blueprint for the university’s growth through 2024. The discussion was held at the Nelson Poynter Library Café. Dr. Deni Elliott, chair of the Journalism and Media Studies department, led the talk, which included Regional Chancellor Sophia T. Winiarska.

The hourlong conversation covered a variety of topics, from what initially attracted people to the university to the traditions people would like to see at USFSP. Many people mentioned the unique location of the campus on the harbor, plus the small class sizes and friendly atmosphere. The most debated topic was student housing.

Student Alana Long, a resident of Residence Hall One, said that she will be moving out next year due to the cost of the dorms and the meal plan.

She still wants to be involved and live close to campus, “it just, unfortunately, is not a reality.”

Lucas Overby ran for Florida 13th Congressional district seat for the U.S. House of Representatives in the recent Nov. 4 election.

Overby says he teaches the youth how to affect change either in their neighborhood, city, in their state. The program educates the youth about how to protest, petition, read and write legislations and how to run for office at a local level.

USF Oil spill research receives largest historic grant

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Continued from p. 1

by professors, post-doctoral scholars and students at 19 collaborating institutions, in five countries including Mexico, the Netherlands, Germany and Canada, “according to USF’s website.”

Additionally, Smith & Associates Real Estate has donated $100,000 to USFSP. Smith & Associates has serviced the Tampa Bay area in the luxury real estate market for the past 40 years. Bob Glaser, who presented the gift along with his team, is the president and CEO of the association.

The donation will support student and faculty initiatives, including academic and research programs, student organizations, equipment, computer hardware and software, and student travel and training.

“This gift is greatly helpful to us,” says Jessica Blais, director of communications at USFSP. “We are thankful to Smith & Associates for their interest in our school.”

Smith & Associates is also in the pre-construction phase of building a 13-story apartment complex, The Salvador, right across the street from Residence Hall One.

The donation will be recognized when a planned café in the new College of Business is named.

If you go:

The next campus conversation is 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 18 in Bay 220. The topic will be infrastructure to meet current and future needs.

The biggest issue students had with housing was the meal plan. Students living on campus are required to have the meal plan which can cost up to $2,000. Since RHO residents have kitchens, some students felt they shouldn’t have to buy a meal plan since they can cook their own food.

The talk was wrapped up by one last question which brought the discussion back to the main topic – creating a distinctive identity for USFSP. When asked what USFSP should be known for, many people felt the harbor was the most distinguishing feature. USFSP is among the few colleges in the country on a waterfront.

When the topic of traditions came up, Chancellor Winiarska was eager to speak about her favorite tradition, the homecoming cardboard boat race.

“I think we need traditions that are fun and unique and this is definitely fun and unique,” she said.
New equipment for emergency monitoring

BY EMILY WEHUNT
STAFF REPORTER

The main emergency operation center for the university was completed this fall. The center, located within the campus police department on Third Street S., tracks virtually anything that occurs on campus, from a hurricane to a special event to a campus crisis.

The large interactive room has multiple components: a constant weather feed, a camera monitoring system connecting more than 300 cameras located throughout the campus, and a basic cable feed that airs channels such as CNN, the Weather Channel or any other local news stations.

The work for the center began this past spring, and equipment began to arrive over the summer after the funding was complete. The project, which cost about $15,000, was fully funded by the university as part of the needs for public safety.

“The university is in a constant process of updating equipment, but we didn’t have to do anything special for this project,” said David Hendry, director of police services. “In fact everything here is over-the-counter type products, so it makes it easier to use.”

There is also a large touch screen in the center of the room that is connected to the internet. This screen allows for maps and checklists to be pulled up and directly drawn on. A printer is connected to the system so anything that is used can be distributed.

Hendry said getting this center set up and running was his number one priority when he joined the campus a year ago. Hendry has over 30 years of experience in law enforcement and says that the center is the “best practice for any university.” Having this technology available is crucial for keeping the campus safe.

“Bringing all of this technology together reflects the university’s commitment to public safety and the safety of the campus,” Hendry told The Crow’s Nest.

Hendry said that the one of the most important capabilities within the center is the ability for everyone to speak together if needed, which can be done through the conference call telephone or a video chat.

When the science festival took place on campus last month, more than 15,000 people occupied the campus. The emergency center was set up as a dispatch center to make sure the event ran smoothly.

The space will also be used to train faculty and staff to make sure everyone is prepared for any type of emergency.

Before this center was made, emergency plans were available and there were telephone and network capabilities. However now those capabilities are much more efficient.

“A lot of the parts and pieces were in place but we hadn’t really drawn in a lot of the technology yet,” Hendry said. “We were able to take advantage of what the university does to keep the campus safe and bring it all into one space.”

Land purchase pending with USF system approval

“If this agreement comes to fruition, it would be a win for USF, Poynter, and the City of St. Petersburg,” Tim Franklin, the president of Poynter Institute, said in a statement.

The use of the money from the potential sale will not be specifically allocated until the sale goes through, Tobin said. But the proceeds from the sale will be reinvested back into Poynter, according to a Poynter Institute blog.

The blog said financial challenges that Poynter, and the rest of the media industry have faced in the past few years, was a compelling force in the sale of the property.

“The funds from the sale would be used to replenish financial reserves...and help the institute navigate its own transformation in a rapidly shifting landscape of media use and economics,” the blog said, citing Franklin.

Poynter is not planning to sell any portions of its building or waterfront property.

news@crowsneststpete.com
Try these easy classes

By Emily Tinsley

Staff Reporter

This could be your first or second to last semester in college, but needing a break of some kind is totally understandable. You could be just far enough away from gradua-
sating in May, or desperately seeking a GPA-booster. Either way, if you’re looking to lessen your workload or indulge in an interesting subject, consider taking one of these great-recom-

mended courses when you’re making your decisions.

Introduction to Sociology (SYG 2301) | Classroom

This course isn’t just for social science majors. The material is applicable to everyday life and covers a range of interesting topics – human interaction, religion, drugs, race and ethnicity, sexuali-

ty, social theory and more. The class is easy-going, and attendance is suggested. The instructor will go more in detail than the PowerPoints. While participation isn’t mandatory, you’ll find your-

self wanting to voice your opinion. You can also ask questions anonymously, but you can sort of gauge when they’ll be given based on where the last lecture ended. The instructor goes over the study guides, which basically what you’re test will look like. Pay atten-

tion, take some notes and you’ll get an A.

Health for Life (EDG 4909) | Classroom

Taught by the Wellness Center’s health educator, this course offers real-world knowledge that will stick with you. The course covers an array of topics, such as mental health, chronic diseases, sexual health, finances and several more. Each class includes some type of interactive activity, such as maintaining a healthy lifestyle and how to make positive personal decisions. Students this semester had the opportunity to go to Publix and meet with a registered dietician, and were educated on how to make healthy choices.

Literature in Childhood Education (LAE 4414) | Online

At first glance, there’s a bit of work to do. But it’s all very straight forward and seems to just be graded based on understanding and com-

pleting assignments. There are three kinds of activities and one quiz per chapter, and a chunk of work is due every month. You get to do which dis-
cussion posts you want to do, and here’s the best part you can easily finish it in just a couple days if you’re familiar with some of the books you read as a child – the Harry Potter series and Twilight saga come to mind. You’re encouraged to ask questions of the instructor, and it’s important to learn that there’s much more to children’s literature than you might think.

Cultural Anthropology (ANT 2410) | Classroom

The study of human behavior and social organization sounds complicated, but it can be really fascinating. For one semester, you get to see the world from multiple perspectives and learn about other peoples’ cultures. Depending on which professor you take it with, class functions will vary, but it’s an opportunity to fulfill your ALAMEA requirement as well. This class can apply to particularly the social sciences and education majors, but every-

one should give it a shot.

Leadership in Great Outdoors (AMS 6934) | Classroom

Although only a few seats to fill, this course has been recommended by several students who only give positive feedback. The course is taught in a classroom, but there’s also a three day- two night canoe trip.

Introduction to Visual Communications (VIC 3001) | Classroom

This course has been recom-

mended by several students. It deals with looking at visual com-

munication seen every day in newspa-

pers, television, film, magazines and on the web. This isn’t to say it’s going to be hard, but it is going to be a work-intensive trip. The PowerPoints are very clear and shown in class and offered online, and assignments are straightfor-

ward and minimal. If you come-

formed with the material and work, this class will be fairly easy. The professor’s lectures and storytelling will make the class really exciting. Plus, it’s worth four credits.

Introduction to Religion (REL 3363) | Online

While this course does require a bit of reading, it’s only because it is a very interactive class with no lectures. However, students always recommend this course to anybody seeking an interesting topic and the convenience of an online learning. It’s taught in a classroom, and there’s only one research paper at the very end of the semester on a topic of your choice. So if reading isn’t really an issue for you, go for it. It even meets upper-level course requirements.

Information gathered from USFSP’s 2014-2015 course catalog.

Harvey believes that the press has turned sharks into something more evil than what they really are and that there hasn’t been enough research compiled on the more than 400 different species to prepare for generalizations to be placed.

"What we’re trying to do is just try and learn more about the ani-

mals and then take our experience and turn it into a story to tell the general public," Harvey said. "And it should come across that these are amazing animals. They have a very significant and important role in the open ocean and in coral reef sit-

uations and they need our respect."

As seen at the top of the list in the film, Harvey expressed which sharks he likes a bit more than most.

"I think between the tiger and the oceanic white tip are my two favorite species," Harvey said. "I’m a good job of putting laws in place and enforc-

ing regulations to avoid such issues as extraction, reef construction, coastal development and pollution."

Review: Destroyer Fest takes on St. Petersburg

By Stephanie Jensen

Crow’s Nest Contributor

On Nov. 15, Destroyer Fest obliterated downtown St. Pete. It’s not every day you see a line-up of three bands, all on a live-streamed fest. The line-up included a thrash and doom sound which filled State Theater the whole night. Even with the festival start-

ning at four and not ending until after midnight, the crowd stayed put till the end. The most iconic acts were Orbweaver and Weedeater.

Orbweaver is by far my favorite band that played that night. This Miami band is a psychelic master-piece. Orbweaver is one of those few bands who flawlessly blends the brutality of metal with the discon-

nection and mental and physical effects. Their live performances are a celes-

tial excursion similar to suffocat-

ing in space; your mind is fixated on the weird effects and you’re hyp-

notized by this talented musician-

ship. Overall, this brain-melting act stormed the stage like a meteor of noise. I wouldn’t be surprised if the crowd collectively passed out, but Harvey understood in poorer places, people need to eat. They are sight eating fish, like I eat fish," Harvey said. "So there’s lots of people to feed. Recreational fishing wouldn’t be able to supply the demand. So, that’s why com-

mercial fishing happens; to supply the demand. It’s like farming almost."

Harvey believes that the state of Florida isn’t doing a good job of putting laws in place and enforc-

ing regulations to avoid such issues as extraction, reef construction, coastal development and pollution.

This course is taught in a classroom, but there’s also a three day- two night canoe trip.

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Information gathered from USFSP’s 2014-2015 course catalog.
Review: Picasso/Dali, Dali/Picasso

The Dali museum, a short walk from USF St. Petersburg, hosts a Picasso exhibit that runs from now until Feb. 16.

By Marla Cooper
Crow's Nest Contributor

Rivals, friends and legends are right here in St. Petersburg. The works of Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali are being shown side by side at the Dali Museum.

The Picasso/Dali, Dali/Picasso exhibit is organized by the Dali Museum and the Museu Picasso in Barcelona, with loans from 22 institutions and private collections.

After the journey up the winding stairs, the exhibit begins on the left. Pieces from each artist are arranged beside one another and guests learn about the styles, similarities and differences along the way. Each piece of artwork tells a story, and they have a lot to do with each other. The complimentary audio guide and screens explaining the time period and styles further were useful in understanding exactly what you are looking at. No photography is allowed in this special exhibit.

In 1926, Dali visited Picasso in Paris, who invited him into his studio. Afterward, their art started to share similar elements. Both artists used oil on canvas as their medium, and both made waves in cubism and surrealism. With added artwork from other museums, Picasso and Dali’s private prints and drawings were also on display.

The most interesting part of the exhibit is learning how the two artists influenced each other and therefore, the world. Guests can experience their style as they learn about the history, and see the art and its makers change before their eyes. Listening to the curators through the headphones made for wonderful images. I could picture the artists making their pieces, and the two talking to each other with a little friendly competition.

Dali sent Picasso many postcards as the two aged. Picasso never responded, but he kept each one until the day he died, and we can see some of them in this exhibit.

The exhibit also includes a room with books published by the Dali Museum about the Picasso/Dali, Dali/Picasso works. The book details the works’ time period and styles, and it is available for purchase in the Dali Museum Store.

Picasso and Dali are legends, and seeing their works up close is completely different from seeing them in a textbook or on the Internet.

If you go:

This exhibit is open until February 16, 2015, and USF St. Petersburg students get free admission with their student I.D.

By Emily Tinti
Staff Reporter

They endure hours of intense enthusiasm, non-stop work and multiple caffeinated beverages. And when it’s time to leave, they have to get escorted out of the building, battle traffic and watch out for people who might like to rob them.

It’s just another Black Friday in the life of a retail employee.

Every year, Black Friday seems to come earlier. This year, Tyrone Square Mall in St. Petersburg will open its doors at 6 p.m., meaning many employees will miss Thanksgiving dinner.

It’s unusual for employees to request off for Black Friday, and they are encouraged to work as much as possible in the month of December, according to USF St. Petersburg senior Sarah Maieritsch, the assistant manager at Gby Guess.

Retail chains have been hiring seasonal employees in bulk to lessen the pressure of winter holidays, and preparation for the holiday has been going on since mid-October.

“Retail, Black Friday is huge,” Maieritsch said. “This year we need to hire 20 people just for the holiday. We’re expected to make between $37,000 and $40,000 by the end of Black Friday.”

Although she and her coworkers don’t always have their turkey and stuffing together, they still have to work many hours. Black Friday shopping rush, most people consider Walmart, Target and various stores in the mall. But the chaos is also at Michaels, a hotspot for holiday crafts and decor.

While these retail workers acknowledge what their jobs entail, which includes assisting customers and answering questions, they say people are quite different on Black Friday.

“When you Black Friday shop, there’s an expectation that it’s going to be busy,” said senior Tierney Tran. “But for whatever reason, people still come in and complain that the line is long, or that it’s crowded, or that there wasn’t enough attention paid to them.”

This is Tran’s fourth year working at Tyrone Mall’s Tilly’s on Black Friday, but it’s her first year missing Thanksgiving dinner altogether. Although she and her coworkers plan on bringing food to celebrate Thanksgiving, she isn’t looking forward to the busy night.

She also says the outside of the mall is just as hectic as the inside.

“You either have to get dropped off or show up 40 minutes early just to find a parking spot,” Tran said. “And when you leave, we use the buddy system. You literally have to get escorted out because of all the traffic, and robberies do happen.”

When thinking about the Black Friday shopping rush, most people consider Walmart, Target and various stores in the mall. But the chaos is also at Michaels, a hotspot for holiday crafts and decor.

“We’re still a couple of weeks away from Black Friday and you’d think the world was ending with how busy it’s been lately,” said junior Breille Haynick, a Michaels sales associate. “I’m expecting it to be a mad house.”

There’s not really much preparing to do. You just got to brace yourself and drink a Redbull!” Haynick said.
Editorial

Poynter land purchase could grow campus size, reputation

Acquiring land from a regional stakeholder and nationally recognized organization like the Poynter Institute could pave way for expansion of the university’s reach.

More land. More contributions from area entrepreneurs. But with the rapidly growing potential for USF St. Petersburg, little will accelerate a reputation for the school like building partnerships with organizations like the Poynter Institute.

USF has made connections in recent years. The USF Marine Institute has been awarded grants for researching the Gulf Oil Spill after successful previous terms. USF Health maintains relationships with All Children’s Hospital. The Kate Tiedemann College of Business received a new name and contribution of $10 million to fund programming just months ago. The most successful programs at USF are gaining traction, and receiving positive response from the community at large.

The Poynter Institute opens a door for a further reach into national connections and expansion of liberal arts at USFSP.

The Poynter Institute, established in 1975 as the Modern Media Institute, is a nonprofit school for journalists. They own the Tampa Bay Times, one of the only independent daily newspapers remaining in the United States. Consider the space a mecca for any established reporter or public relations officer. They host Pulitzer prize winners, international journalists, grammar experts, and the occasional celebrity. Though seemingly a quiet neighbor to USFSP, Poynter is a hotbed and nationally recognized institute that connects journalists.

It’s all in the name of expanded learning, a mission that is not so different from a nearby university campus. Many programs on our campus sit for celebrity appearances and guest speakers that draw the community and potential students into the doors of USFSP. Events like annual visits from artist and marine scientist Guy Harvey, hosting the Tampa Bay Times Festival of Reading, and others of a similar nature are successful.

USFSP, like any university, has a goal to gather a strong reputation with quality programs to match.

The Journalism and Media Studies program at USFSP faces a new era of education. Students in the program are fascinated by a myriad of subjects: public relations, marketing, broadcast journalism, online journalism, social media, and more. The professors in our program have done an outstanding job instructing us over the years. A partnership with the Poynter Institute could expand the base of knowledge and expose students to career connections.

Acquisition of land is the topic between the university and the nonprofit now. There is a chance to create a long-lasting partnership. Poynter has the tools that could elevate programs at USFSP.

Photo of the week

Swollen with Pride

Rocky the Bull greets potential students at an Open House on Sunday, Nov. 16. University departments, clubs, and organizations gathered to introduce future Bulls to activities and opportunities at USF St. Petersburg.

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.

Throwback

The modern people suffer from jet lag and switching time zones all thanks to an 1883 decision. At noon on Nov. 18, the first time zones were implemented, courtesy of a push from railroad companies.

Railroads, which were quickly becoming a popular mode of shipment and transportation, required tracking of local time of day. Because of the structure of the railroads, it became necessary for conductors and companies to know what time it was in a region and at what point clocks should shift. Every town had their own tracking of time through the movement of the sun— a scheduling nightmare for a growing industry.

This wasn’t implemented by the American or Canadian governments, but was instead enforced by railroad companies forming an agreement. It only became official in 1918, after Congress agreed with the decision decades later.
BLUEST a makes waves in St. Petersburg op-ed

By JOEY VARS
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

St. Petersburg is making waves again, and this time, the current is felt all around the world. The city hosted the Blue Ocean Film Festival and climate summit. The conference, which ran from Nov. 3-9, aimed to educate the general public about the issues facing the ocean, and served as an industry conference to collaborate on improving the future of the ocean, as well as to honor the best in ocean filmmaking. This was accomplished by promoting critical dialog between filmmakers and scientists to inspire great films, and connecting ocean filmmakers with the latest technology.

Among the high-profile speaker line-ups were Don Walsh, Fabien Cousteau, Sir Richard Branson, Jeremy Irons and Sir Robert Swan. There were numerous exhib-its and workshops for attendees to experience as well. Many of them were hands on, such as Robert Ballard’s E/V Nautilus, and a field trip to Egmont Key.

BLUE kicked off on Nov. 2 with a community cleanup on Spa Beach. During the seven-day conference, dozens of speakers educating guests on their careers, adventures and efforts to preserve the oceans.

One of the major components of the conference was the film festival, which was hosted at various locations around the city. Award-winning filmmakers and documentarians created films with topics ranging from underwater biodiversity to World War II era munitions dumping. As of this printing, the awards ceremony for the films will occur Sunday night.

Multiple industry events aimed to provide networking opportunities for scientists, filmmakers and educators. New technologies were unveiled at the conference, such as the latest Exosuit and underwater photography equipment.

BLUE celebrated its first year in the Sunshine City in 2014. The festival relocated here from Monterey California, where it out-grew its previous venue. BLUE returns to St. Petersburg every four years, sharing the festival with the Principality of Monaco, on the French Riviera.

Among the exhibits that attendees could experience were Robert Ballard’s research vessel, the R/V Nautilus. Ballard, who is famous for discovering the wreck of the Titanic in 1985, and his crew spend four to five months each summer researching various aspects of the deep ocean. The team utilizes four ROVs – Remotely Operated Vehicles – to explore, map, and collect samples of the ocean floor.

Numerous high-profile individuals spoke at the conference. Filmmakers discussed their inspiration and methods for their films, photographers told stories of their expeditions through the Florida swampland, and scientists discussed the latest discoveries on the ocean floor.

However, what I found most fascinating were the lectures given by Sir Robert Swan and Dr. Don Walsh. Swan was the first individual to walk to each one of Earth’s poles. Each year, he takes a handful of students from around the world to Antarctica or research and awareness. Combining British wit with a fascinating tale, Swan inspired the audience with adventures and hardships on his polar explorations.

Dr. Don Walsh, along with Dr. Jacques Piccard, became the first man to reach the deepest part of the ocean, Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench, January 13, 1960. As part of the Navy’s Project Nekton, Lieutenant Walsh and Dr. Piccard piloted the bathyscaphe Trieste to a record-setting depth of 36,000 feet. The dive was not made for science, but rather to test the technology needed for manned operations at extreme depths for the U.S. Navy.

Saturday morning, Nov. 8, saw a wildlife expedition photograph and explore historic Egmont Key. Photographers put into practice techniques they had learned in lectures and workshops earlier in the week.

I noticed many interesting features about BLUE. First of all, every luncheon or after party that we attended did not have any meat on the menu; they were completely vegetarian. In a seemingly obvious decision, fish was excluded as well. This was yet another attention to detail that BLUE’s planners put into the event as a way to promote healthy, sustainable oceans. Additionally, no plastic items were located anywhere within any venue used by BLUE. Everything was eco-friendly or conservation minded.

When the festival returns to our city in 2018, BLUE is sure to make waves again. The impact it has had on the city and region is already being felt, and is sure to grow each year.

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Trust issues: Disney films cut life short

By AMANDA STARLING
STAFF COLUMNIST

This is your only warning. Disney fans, get away from this column if you are easily offended. If you plan to see Big Hero 6 or haven’t seen all of the latest flicks, leave. After this paragraph, I will launch into a series of spoilers that may be upsetting to you.

Disney has given me trust issues. I can’t watch a puppy in a Pixar short without wondering if it’s dead when the meat ball rolls past its sleeping form. When the fire starts, or the barracuda swims by, my heart sinks immediately.

Maybe it’s adulthood, but now I anticipate everything I love in a Disney movie dying. Nemo’s mom is ousted in the first five minutes. Elsa and Anna’s parents die at sea. Tarzan’s parents are killed by a jaguar. Mulan is murdered by his brother. The list goes on.

The latest addition to the string of beloved character deaths is Tadashi, the perfect older brother in Big Hero 6, who dies in a fire in the first 15 minutes, but only after the audi-ence has become emotionally attached. We’re introduced to the protagonist brothers, Hiro and Tadashi, as orphans early in the film. It wasn’t enough for Hiro to grow up without parents- now he’s brotherless.

Since when do we have to extinguish every familial connection for a protagonist in order for a hero to be born on screen? Some families shape each other during times of trouble and strengthen each other, even if the every-day life isn’t always as pleasant.

It’s important to teach children that in life there’s also loss. That’s why character deaths are important- they ease us into understanding death.

But watching Disney films as an adult has shaped me to have a contrary reaction. I miss stronger family values that have been project-ed on screen before- how amazing was it to see Mulan join the Chinese army on behalf of her father? What about Rapunzel’s fight to see the world and find her true identity, back at home with her true parents? What about the bonds of family showing true strength in the Incredibles?

As much as we want our children to be independent and strong, it’s family that can carry us through the most challenging chapters of our lives. It’s hard enough when we lose the people we love in our own lives. We don’t want to become desensitized, or worse, traumatized, by frequent fictitious or actual loss.

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My pride for Pete

By EMILY WEHUNT
STAFF REPORTER

Home to the largest pride parade in the state of Florida, St. Petersburg just received a score of 100 percent for its support for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Last year, the city received 66 points for its support. This clearly changed over the last 12 months and is something the whole city should be proud of. Our Major Rick Kriseman did an excellent job drawing support for the LGBTI community when he came into office last November, and his efforts didn’t go unnoticed.

Although Florida doesn’t recognize same sex marriage, I am proud to live in a city that shows such support for equality. I attended the pride parade for the first time over the summer, and I even made it onto a float! Going through the crowd of over 100,000 people who all came together for a common purpose was amazing.

St. Pete is a city that is continuing to grow in numerous ways. From its crafty fest, to its local breweries, the city is still gentrifying everyday. It’s an exciting time to be living in a city like this, and I hope that my fellow Bulls feel the same.

Emily Wehunt, a senior majoring in mass communications, is the arts and life editor. She can be reached at ewehunt@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @emilywehunt.
Season opener a slam dunk

Bulls' basketball coach Orlando Antigua debuted this season and took home a winning opener.

By Andrew Caplan
Staff Reporter

Questions of the team's identity have been raised in the offseason, due to having a new coach and nine new faces on the roster, but the Bulls answered sceptics displaying their up-tempo offense and their lockdown defense.

In his first game as a head coach, Orlando Antigua watched his players from courtside as the men's basketball team dominated the Flagler Saints in a 75-61 victory Friday night.

From center Jaleel Cousin's first two points to forward Chris Perry's final layup, USF led the entire game.

The Bulls allowed the Saints to score only two jump shots in the game, both coming in the second half. The Saints were held to 33 percent shooting overall, which gained the respect of Saints head coach Bo Clark.

"I think Orlando brings a lot of energy to USF," Clark said. "I thought they did a great job defensively. They really had tremendous ball pressure; they knew our shooters."

The Bulls bench players had an active role throughout the game, combining for 34 points. Perry led the cause with a game-high 18 points, who fed off the atmosphere and the respect of Saints head coach Bo Clark.

"I liked the turn out," Perry said. "The student section helped us out a lot."

Junior guard Nehemias Morillo had his hand in the cookie jar as well recording 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Bulls.

Like the majority of the team, it was Morillo's first time in a Bulls uniform.

"I'm happy, I'm happy for the guys," Antigua said. "There are a lot of players there that's their first victory, first time competing, season opener and I'm just excited and happy for them."

Just three members of last year's basketball team -- Corey Allen, Jr., Anthony Collins and Perry -- returned to the Bulls for the 2014-2015 season.

The Saints played into the hooves of the Bulls, as they scored 40 points within the foul-line area. It was what Antigua wanted from his team. He wanted the Saints to be make shots at the rim and to lock down the 3-point perimeter.

Antigua, who comes from John Calipari's coaching staff at the University of Kentucky, said that the negative number on the stat sheet that he could live with was the team's 16 turnovers because he knows his team is running hard to both sides of the court. He believes as the team grows together, that number will shrink.

"I'm happy; I'm happy for the guys," Antigua said. "I'm happy for them."