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MBA students spend week in Kuwait

On a trip to learn about Kuwait’s economy, five business students gained a new outlook on the country’s culture.

Last month, five USF St. Petersburg MBA students traveled 7,250 miles to expand their knowledge of banking, finance and Islamic culture.

Matt Jackson, Liz Makofske, Eric LaBarre, Jeneca Williams and Bradley Gavornik, all local working professionals, spent a week in Kuwait with Dr. Gary Patterson. The group was hosted by the Kuwait government, which funded the trip entirely.

The opportunity arose when Jackson was interning for World Partnerships, a nonprofit that hosts global leaders in the Tampa Bay area. During his stint with the company, he met Kuwaiti officials who helped arrange the outing.

The goal of the trip was to learn about Islamic banking and how the Kuwait economy, which is largely sustained on oil, will begin to diversify over the next 50 years or so – when the country’s oil is expected to run out.

While the trip was educational from a business standpoint, it was also an opportunity for the students to immerse themselves in a new culture.

The students initially were wary about Kuwaiti’s location – just 16 miles from the Iran border – the group said they felt completely safe in the Middle Eastern country.

“It was just like going to New York,” Makofske said. The group agreed they felt safer walking the streets of Kuwait at 11 p.m. than they did at home.

The similarities between American and Kuwaiti culture were another surprise.

“They’re more similar to us than we thought were different,” Jackson explained.

From what they saw, the Kuwaiti women are even more obsessed with shopping than Americans are.

Makofske and Williams, the only female students on the trip, made an extra effort to dress modestly out of respect for Islamic culture. Sometimes, though, their dress seemed even more conservative than that of Kuwaiti women.

The students did, however, encounter at least one big cultural divergence – dating life. Most Kuwaiti women live with their parents until they marry.

Another shocking difference is the absence of poverty in Kuwait. Everyone gets an education and everyone gets a job. The unemployment rate in Kuwait is only about 2.5 percent. It’s 7.3 percent in the United States.

Patterson explained Kuwait’s wealth system begins at upper middle class and goes up from there. The only people who may be considered poor are foreign workers who usually work service jobs.

There is also no tax in Kuwait and interest cannot be charged on money. Instead, Kuwait banks charge fees, or “payments,” with loans to make a profit.

Nearly all Kuwaiti homes would be considered mansions in the United States. The students compared them to those in St. Petersburg’s Coffee Pot Bayou – exclusive waterfront marina. LaBarre added that Kuwaitis “are obsessed with smell,” with some homes offering a new aroma in each room.

The group visited Kuwait University, a public Arab university, and the American University of Kuwait, which is modeled after the American system of higher education.

Though Kuwait University wasn’t in session during their visit, walking into the American University of Kuwait was like “walking into USE,” Williams said.

“It was completely different from what you would expect.”

And they even served American-sized coffees there, Jackson added.

Kuwait residents attend college for free. The government will even pay for higher education in other countries, which is why many travel to the United States for college.

Despite the hemispherically distant location, the group managed to find some USF alumni on their trip. The students found Kuwaiti’s attitude in its youth and small business enterprises reminiscent of St. Petersburg.

The Kuwait government uses a youth program to get a grasp of the younger generation’s thinking to help with policymaking for the future, Makofske explained. It’s a practice she’d like to see Americans pick up on.

“All time we can get youth more active in any country, it’s going to be a good thing,” she said.

Patterson and the students were treated as VIPs in Kuwait, put up in a fancy hotel, chauffeured through the city and treated to dinners with high-ranking officials. The group chatted with the governor of the Kuwait bank, the president’s economic advisor, the head of Kuwait’s petroleum company and a former prime minister, among others.

After returning home, they saw a familiar face being interviewed on CNN, someone they’d met just days before.

One of the most valuable takeaways from the trip was a newfound viewpoint on Middle Eastern countries, Gavornik said. He and his colleagues are eager to share what they learned with their families and peers.

While most student groups hosted by the Kuwait government come and leave as mere visitors, the USFSP group was able to establish a more meaningful relationship with their hosts. Patterson hopes the relationship will continue to develop and is working on maintaining contact.

For more information about the USFSP Gay Straight Alliance visit their OrgSync page. The organization meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Palm Room of the USC. President Danielle Merewether can also be reached via email at merewether@mail.usf.edu.

Unisex sign to be placed this semester

Continued from front page

The simple change was made after hearing concerns from LGBT students who didn’t feel comfortable using the restrooms at school. One senior, who was born female but now identifies as male, said he would avoid drinking fluids at school as to avoid using the restroom, according to an article from ABC News.

The way we have bathrooms set up now … reinforces the strict gender binary. Unisex bathrooms say ‘this is a bathroom people can use.’ Transgender students face potential issues when it comes to the traditional binary bathroom setup.

Unisex bathrooms would make the university a potentially more comfortable space for transgender and gender non-conforming students, faculty and staff,” said a graduate student who wishes to remain anonymous.

The exact date of the change to the restroom in the USC has not been determined, but new signage will be added before the end of the spring 2014 semester.
A crowd of 100 clutched candles in an evening vigil, as friends and family mourned the loss of Paula Witthaus, 54, and her roommate, James McDonald recalls. Another non-profit, throughout her years at USFSP. Her friends note her aspiration to become a grant writer to aid more organizations. Her recent years were marked with community activism, particularly in her efforts to obtain a domestic registry for same-sex partners in St. Petersburg.

“She was amazing,” said Danny McDonald, a 2013 graduate of mass communications. “The first thing she always spoke about in class was the community, and most importantly, the nonprofits she associated herself with.”

McDonald recalls Witthaus’ work with Community Action Stops Abuse, another non-profit, throughout her years at USFSP. Her friends note her aspiration to become a grant writer to aid more organizations. Her recent years were marked with community activism, particularly in her efforts to obtain a domestic registry for same-sex partners in St. Petersburg.

“She was three credits away from commencement prior to her death. She was incredibly smart.”

Accoring to the Tampa Bay Times, prior to her enrollment at USFSP, Witthaus struggled with drugs and homelessness, but something in her changed and she decided to study English.

“She wrote a grant and got the funding for the whole project on MLK Day,” McDonald said. “While the actual non-profit didn’t even know such opportunities existed for them.”

The story said a permit is required to store a gun in a car; or in a closed box or container which requires a lid or cover to be opened for access,” according to opencarry.org.

A license is not required to possess a firearm in the State of Florida, as long as the person in possession is over 18 years of age and “the firearm or other weapon is securely encased or is otherwise not readily accessible for immediate use,” according to Florida State Statute 790.25(5).

The weapon must be securely encased, meaning, “in a glove compartment, whether or not locked; snapped in a holster; in a gun case, whether or not locked; in a zippered gun case; or in a closed box or container which requires a lid or cover to be opened for access,” according to opencarry.org.

USFSP University Police Services encourages students to keep the container locked, though state statutes do not require one to do so.

Correction:
A story published about the change in gun carrying regulations throughout the USF System on Jan. 20, 2014, inaccurately reported a few details regarding gun possession on campus.

The story said a permit is required to store a gun in a car on campus and that guns should be stored in a locked container, however, state laws mandate the following:

The renovated Davis lounge has become a center of technology and student momentum to improve their understanding of coursework. Selecting tutors is a critical process that involves selections based on faculty recommendations and critical qualities.

“The space is ideal for meetings and small seminars,” Edwards said. “Our central location on campus has made students, administration, and faculty more aware of our services.”

“A large part of tutoring is making someone feel confident in their skills and feel confident in the learning process,” Parkinson said. “I've seen a huge difference between before and after visiting them.” Greene said. “They would help me with any questions I had and observe how I was working, then they would offer suggestions on how to be more effective.”

Two adjunct instructors are holding their office hours in the Student Success Center, which Edwards feels “promotes the partnership between faculty and the SSC and the united goal of helping students achieve academic success.”

Growing connections between programs and the center include a foreign language placement test, which will allow faculty to determine the level of understanding a student has in the language prior to course entry. Edwards hopes to see a continued growth of the center due to its central placement on campus.

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Review: 3 Daughters Brewing

BY LAZAR ANDERSON
Staff Reporter

Brewing in the Warehouse Arts District of St. Petersburg since last December, 3 Daughters, 222 22nd St. S., has opened its doors to beer lovers and students around the bay.

The 3 Daughters Brewery and Tasting Room has a decided openness to it, a constant reminder this place is all about the beer.

The tasting room is built out of leftover materials from the building of the brewery. It leads into the giant warehouse, where patrons play shuffleboard next to porters aging in wooden barrels, and brewers work steadily to make the next batch, tours wandering around them and admiring the 2-story-tall fermentation tanks.

"We really wanted the room to have the feel of the brewery itself, for patrons to be able to feel like they’re in the brewery no matter where they are," said Mike Harting, owner of 3 Daughters and downtown St. Petersburg restaurant Bella Brava. "Everything is open, anything you want to see you can see. You can walk out there, drink a beer and watch us keg the next 30 barrels."

The tasting room can be a cozy place for a few people to enjoy a beer, though it was large enough to fit 1,500 people for the grand opening in December. They’ve built a stage for music, giving adults plenty to like, though also maintain a miniature golf course and even have plans to brew a root beer to keep a family friendly environment.

The whole thing started innocuously enough as an experiment on a menu item.

"Two years ago, we were talking about what else we could do to make our restaurant as fresh as possible," Harting said. "We had a beer battered fish on the menu and decided to brew our own beer for it."

Chef Ty Weaver, now head brewer at 3 Daughters, came up with a golden ale for the dish. They liked the beer so much they put it on tap. When the single tap handle soared to 30 percent of beer sales, they knew they were on to something and kept experimenting with different brews.

"It was too much fun," Harting said.

Bella Brava expanded to become its own brewery, and by March 2013 construction began on the 30 barrel craft brewery, its products distributed to more than 80 locations in the Tampa Bay area.

Already a well-established member of the downtown St. Petersburg community, Harting quickly embraced his new home in the Warehouse Arts District.

"It's awesome. This place is really fantastic," Harting said.

Surrounded by artists' studios, he connected with artists who built his sign, and commissioned Mark Aeling (sculptor of the giant metal lizard that greets entrants to the Fifth Avenue on ramp of I-275) to build a 12-foot-tall tap handle, among other projects.

The brewery also has several connections with USF St. Petersburg, which only began with the tap handle at the Tavern at Bayboro. Students in the entrepreneurship program have worked with the brewery, making it a semester long case study for Professor William Jackson's Scalability in Entrepreneurial Firms class. And while they've brought the brewery to students, the College of Arts and Sciences went a step further by placing students in the brewery.

On the edge of the tap room lies a glassed-in laboratory, run by USFSP students. As intern, they monitor beer quality and are beginning to grow yeast.

Biology major Jessy Weber is one of several students who enjoy the unique opportunity of working at the brewery.

"As a scientist, I never thought I could do something like this with my degree," Weber said.

Like everything else in the brewery, the lab is something patrons can observe, beer in hand, to get a full understanding of where the beer comes from. The environment makes it an experience Weber enjoys even more. "I look forward to going there every time," she said.

To learn more about the brewery, check out 3dbrewing.com.

Guide to 3 Daughters:

What we tried

Everything! From IPAs to ESBs, summery wheats to dark stouts, there is a beer on tap for everyone.

What we recommend

The Beach Blonde Ale is appealing to just about every palate and is available at many bars and restaurants. If you’re feeling more adventurous, try the Oatmeal Stout. It’s smoother than a typical stout with an interesting hint of Irish cream.

For the atmosphere

The tasting room is intimate, but the warehouse is huge and filled with activities. This brewery suits a first date as easily as a night out with old pals.
Juggling is long-term passion for Brown

He is considering working for the FBI or becoming a military justice attorney upon getting his law degree. Either way, Brown said five to 10 years from now he will still be juggling, regardless of his part or full-time position.

"I'm always going to be juggling until I'm physically unable to do it anymore," Brown said.

The only hobby Brown has been pursuing longer than juggling is drumming. He also enjoys water sports, weight weightlifting and staying fit in general -- a requirement of a juggler at his level.

While many people believe juggling dangerous objects, like torches, is harder than juggling other objects and requires a more skilled juggler, Brown said this is merely a misconception. He often receives such requests because people believe it's more of a challenge. Still, he doesn't mind doing it.

life@crowsneststpete.com

Try something new: Brown offers lessons to those interested in learning how to juggle. He can be reached through the contact page on his website, worldclassjuggling.com. Those looking to engage with other student jugglers are encouraged to join the USFSP Juggling Club.
Editorial

The ‘sweetest’ way to pay for school

Fact: College is expensive.
Fact: Many college students struggle financially.
Fact: There are many solutions for paying one’s way through college.

Fact: One of these solutions is being a sugar baby.

The website is called seekingarrangement.com. It allows young, attractive women to find rich, older men to “ supplement” their income in exchange for their “time.” Technically, the arrangement is not assumed to be sexual. Many sugar babies insist they’re only arm candy and spend their time with sugar daddies by going on dates and accompanying them to events. Either way, the relationship is expected to be “mutually beneficial.”

In 2012, USF was reported to have more sugar babies than any other Florida university and seventh most in the nation. According to a story by 10 News, 198 USF students were signed up for the website that year. The Tampa Bay area was said to have had the twelfth highest number of sugar daddy arrangements in the United States.

Right now, a 48-year-old Tampa man, so charmingly calling himself “Mr. Happy,” is looking for a sugar baby. According to the website, he has an average income of $175,000 - $200,000 and a net worth of more than a million dollars.

Men like this are waiting for you. They’ll pay for your cell phone bill, your tuition, maybe even a nose job. And all you have to do is put on some stilettos and hit the town for some free drinks. Sounds like a sweet deal, huh?

But if young women truly feel they will not be pressured into favors that are more than just for show, they’re kidding themselves. A recent Huffington Post article, which discusses the influx in sugar daddy arrangement in the UK, reports that many sugar babies admit to feeling pressured into sex. Though legally it is prostitution, we won’t pass judgement on the young women willing to “work hard for the money,” especially in the name of education.

A sugar daddy arrangement is weird and probably an uncomfortable topic for most. There are certainly more “moral” ways to pay for school, but at the same time, there are also less moral ways. At least these young women aren’t doing anything criminal. Though engaging in a sugar daddy relationship seems like a gateway drug to more dangerous activity, we’ll give newbies the benefit of the doubt. And again, especially in the name of education.

Anyway, Seeking Arrangement promises its sugar babies an upstanding, “modern” gentleman who totally just wants you to succeed in life and isn’t trying to get in your pants.

It describes its sugar daddies as “always respectful and generous. You only live once, and you want to date the best. Some call you a mentor, sponsor or benefactor. But no matter what your desires may be, you are brutally honest about who you are, what you expect and what you offer.”

Sounds like a great guy. But just one question. If you’re so great, why are you paying thousands of dollars for a date?

We took it upon ourselves to re-write this description: “You’re getting old. You cheated on your wife through 25 years of marriage and now both she and your three 20-something-year-old children hate your guts. Even the illegitimate child airs your calls. Nobody loves you anymore. You’re sneezy, arrogant and perverted. But you do have one attribute left: your money. So join Seeking Arrangement today!”

It’s gross, but at least these men are doing something somewhat charitable with their money.

So it’s not so much the people who use this service that we have our beef with, but the man who created it, Brandon Wade.

“Calling women ‘prostitutes’ who want something more out of a relationship than just this abstract notion of love is a comment and a stigma that is born from pure jealousy,” Wade said in a 2012 GQ interview.

“The truth is, in my opinion, love is a concept that’s been invented by poor people. These people aren’t wealthy, they aren’t beautiful, they aren’t the cream of the crop — so what do they have? They have love. For everyone else there’s our website.”

Hmmm. We won’t waste any space elaborating on how we feel about that statement.

editor@crowsneststpete.com

Staring Contest

By Kati Lacker

Mission Statement: The Crow’s Nest is committed to providing its readers with news relevant to the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and its surrounding community. The Crow’s Nest abides by the highest ethical standards and focuses on stories that help readers make informed decisions on current issues. We take seriously the public’s trust in our news reporting and strive to uphold the highest standards of reporting as defined by the Society of Professional Journalists. The views expressed—whether written and graphic—in the opinion section of The Crow’s Nest do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board. Submit letters to the editor to crowsnesteditor@gmail.com. The Crow’s Nest reserves the right to edit these pieces for style and length. If a letter is not meant for publication, please mark it as such. All submissions must include the author’s name, daytime phone number, and e-mail address.

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Throwback

Feb. 4, 1938 – Disney released “Snow White and the Seven Dwarves” for the first time. Based on the famous fairytale by the Brothers Grimm, “Snow White” was the first animated feature film to be produced in English and in Technicolor.

Since it’s release 76 years ago, it has been re-released and digitally restored to fit with today’s technology. In 2008, it was named the No. 1 animated film of all time by the American Film Institute.
By including lesbian parents on the children’s show “Good Luck Charlie,” the Disney Channel is the first to show a gay couple on a show made exclusively for kids

I feel comforted knowing my children will grow up watching children’s shows that accurately depict all sorts of people they will encounter in their lives.

Disney does gay characters right

By Tyler Killette
Staff Columnist

Last month, the first ever gay couple was featured on a Disney Channel show. Though “Good Luck Charlie’s” two lesbian characters received no more than 10 seconds of airtime, the feat was significant -- not just for gay people and supporters, but for the human race.

The storyline was simple. Charlie had a playdate with a girl named Taylor. Charlie’s parents, Amy and Bob, had met Taylor’s mom on individual occasions, but they each remembered her having a different name. Was it Susan or Cheryl?

Upon opening the door to their guests, Amy and Bob realized they had both been correct. Amy greets the uber-trendy skinny blonde couple (they may be gay, but they’re still Disney) and Bob retorts, “Ohh, Amy has two moms.”

Bingo, Bob.

Taylor runs over to Charlie, Charlie couldn’t care less that her friend has two moms and they all live happily ever after. That’s that. End scene.

The fact that this scene was executed so swiftly only makes it more impressive. Charlie’s parents didn’t have to explain why Taylor has two moms. Charlie thought nothing unusual of it, and neither did her parents. And whereas gay characters are often used for comic relief, the “funny” in this scene came out of Amy and Bob’s confusion, not the lesbian couple itself.

Kids will watch this episode of “Good Luck Charlie” and think it no different than any other. They’ll laugh when Bob is slow to the punch (as he apparently often is) on the whole two moms thing, and they’ll hit “Play next episode” on Netflix when this one ends. A lesbian couple will not2014. 48, 19

watching. I feel comfortable knowing my children will grow up watching children’s shows that accurately depict all sorts of people they will encounter in their lives.

by Matt Thomas
Staff Columnist

You’re taking a class that you like well enough, the teacher is friendly and you sit next to the people you know. It’s all fun, but there’s one student in the room who tends to open their mouth more than you would like and your mind goes to a dark place and you start wishing for bad things to happen to this person. If you don’t know who that person is in your class, it is likely you. I like to think we’ve all been that person at some point or another. I’m pretty sure I was that person last week.

Let’s move on to a more personal example. I was in a car with a couple on a way to the beach. Now, a beach in the Tampa Bay area is never far off, but the guy wanted to go this “awesome” beach, a beach

it to children in the least confusing way. I feel comforted knowing my children will grow up watching children’s shows that accurately depict all sorts of people they will encounter in their lives.

When I tell these stories, I’m usually laughing. I realized during another uncomfortable moment this week that there’s no point in cringing. It’s something I’m going to laugh about later, so why should I be uncomfortable while it’s happening? I enjoy cringe-worthy humor on television and in movies -- I’d like to apply it to real life.

Let’s move onto my best example. Dealing with a co-worker who doesn’t like you and the awkwardness that comes with having to sit next to them in stone silence for several hours during your shift. Me typing this very column while sitting next to the person as they glare at me for giggling is also awkward. It’s weird when you’re around someone you don’t like so much. We normally avoid these people, but sometimes you don’t have a choice. I decided to sit back and examine this relationship from a distance, and I found something funny about it. I realized that this person

dislikes me so much that during the less than four hours I have to spend with them, they can’t even feign decency. We get a lengthy seven-day period of not seeing each other, and yet this person holds the same vitriol as if we were around each other 24/7. I’ve heard of not liking people, but that’s just excessive. There are two sides to every story, but I honestly don’t know how it got to that point in a couple of months.

Perhaps not everyone is going to “get” the “joke.” Let’s look at this from their perspective. Let’s observe an awkward interaction between two other people. I hope everyone reading this has observed the following situation: A couple of two friends that are no longer on speaking terms or two people that hooked up once, and went on to regret it, go to the same party, and one of the two people is painfully aware of the situation between them. Observe how far these two people go out of their way to avoid each other. Count the amount of times they make eye contact and quickly look away. Watch how another person at the party inevitably gets frustrated and decides to call both of them out for being so stubborn in front of everyone, and they still don’t talk to each other.

Don’t be uncomfortable and enjoy the awkwardness. Also, if you’re ever the person in that situation, lighten up, it’s funny.

It’s funny because it’s awkward

by Matt Thomas
Staff Columnist

You’re taking a class that you like well enough, the teacher is friendly and you sit next to the people you know. It’s all fun, but there’s one student in the room who tends to open their mouth more than you would like and your mind goes to a dark place and you start wishing for bad things to happen to this person. If you don’t know who that person is in your class, it is likely you. I like to think we’ve all been that person at some point or another. I’m pretty sure I was that person last week.

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you had to pass other beaches to get to. The problem is the girl was driving her car and burning up a lot of gas. “We’re almost there” became a catchphrase during the second hour of driving. Tensions were building, frustrations were vocalized more and more often, but we finally made it, only to be vocalized more and more often, the girl was driving her car and burning up a lot of gas. “We’re almost there” became a catchphrase during the second hour of driving. Tensions were building, frustrations were vocalized more and more often, but we finally made it, only to be but we finally made it, only to be
Bulls keep it close in loss

The No. 13 Cincinnati Bearcats got all they could handle on Sunday with the USF men’s basketball team. Chris Perry scored 13 points to lead the Bulls in the 50-45 loss. The Bearcats got 18 points from guard Chris Kilpatrick who moved to 3rd on the Cincinnati all time scoring list.

Cards beat Bulls

The USF Lady Bulls could not stop Louisville’s winning streak which stands at 15 games after the Cardinals beat the Bulls. 79-59 on Sunday. Courtney Williams was the leading scorer for USF with 17 points.

Why not here?

The National Hockey League has shown a game can work in SoCal. How Would a game in Tampa work?

By Mike Hopey

On Jan. 24, the National Hockey League did something bold, the league held a regular season game outdoors in a locale known more for sunshine and surfing rather than ice and snow.

The Anaheim Ducks beat the Los Angeles Kings 3-0 in the game played at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. More important than the two points earned in the standings for the Ducks is the new possibility that the NHL can hold an outdoor game anywhere.

The success of the Dodger Stadium game means that cities like Miami, Nashville, Dallas and Tampa become viable locations for an outdoor hockey game. All those cities have a shining example to follow.

The desire to host an outdoor hockey is an intrinsic one. An outdoor game provides a boost to exposure for a team. The host team also sees an increase in revenue from the merchandise, concessions and auxiliary events held prior to the game.

However, the ability to host a game is another, more important, factor in determining which NHL teams host an outdoor game.

According to Tom Miracle, ice operations manager for the Tampa Bay Lightning, says the biggest obstacle for hosting an outdoor hockey game in Tampa would be the weather. Miracle who has worked for the Lightning since they opened the Tampa Bay Times Forum says if the weather was as cold as it was in mid-January a game held outdoors at Raymond James Stadium would work according to Miracle. The colder temperatures would make ice maintenance more manageable.

But don’t mistake more manageable as easy. Even indoors in Tampa keeping ice to the high standards set by the league is a challenge says Miracle. From the morning skate through the end of the game, Miracle and his assistants are constantly monitoring the ice temperature.

During breaks in the action, Miracle’s assistant Patrick Jessos uses an infrared thermometer on the ice to make sure that it stays in the ideal temperature range. The ideal temperature for a one-inch thick of NHL ice is between 24-26 degrees Fahrenheit.

Higher temperatures outside the arena and the number of people inside can cause the humidity and temperature in the arena to fluctuate. Miracle says he makes adjustments to the ice temperature after every period.

Miracle has made ice into June in Tampa and would welcome the challenge of maintaining the ice at an outdoor game. Last June he brought the idea up to NHL officials and they laughed at him. He hopes that success in Los Angeles means the league will give Tampa another look.

However, unreasonable cold temperatures cannot be counted on in Florida. The last time significant snowfall accumulated in Tampa was in 1977 when 0.2 inches of snow caused the city to shut down.

The history of outdoor NHL games in warm climates is as long as the history of the NHL playing outdoors games. The first outdoor game in NHL history was held in Las Vegas, Nev. In September 1993, when afternoon temperatures can rise higher than 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Prior the game between the Los Angeles Kings and New York Rangers the ice was a slushy mess. But using 1993 technology they were able to play the game, NHL legend Wayne Gretzky said the ice was fine.

Over 20 years later, the NHL has pulled off a game in Southern California and there seems to be no limit but their imagination. So when the NHL comes calling for help on an outdoor game in Tampa, Fla. Tom Miracle will be happy to help.

usfsp basebal ready to go

By Mike Hopey

Six months ago the only sports team at USF St. Petersburg was the sailing team. There was no insurance or procedures for creating a baseball team. Jeremy Berger didn’t let that stop him. Now the USFSP Bulls club baseball team is about to play its first game.

On Feb. 8, the Bulls will make their way to Miami to take on the Miami Hurricanes club baseball team for a pair of games to begin a new era of athletics at USFSP.

It will be the culmination of six months of hard work for Berger. He said not a day goes by that he doesn’t think about creating a team or deal with a new problem. It has been a lot of hard work – hard work he said he couldn’t have done without the support of his friends and family.

Making Berger’s job doubly hard is the fact that he will serve as the Bulls player/coach in addition to the club president.

While some teams hire a coach, the Bulls and Berger are going to try this way, with a player/coach, and see how they do. The 19-year-old has risen to the challenge.

Berger says he has really found himself as a leader on this team. He ends every practice by leading his teammates in saying their motto for 2014, “Beast Mode.”

The team is ready, he said. Berger feels strongly that great pitching, being a pitcher himself, and good defense will anchor the team. He also said the team has some big players who will want to drive the ball as far as possible.

A successful season for Berger is 15 wins. There will need to be more than a few upsets, he said, but the team is ready for them.

The Bulls will open their home season with a game at Al Lang Field, on Feb. 15, against the newly formed USF Tampa club baseball team. Admission will be free and a pizza truck will be outside the game. New St. Petersburg mayor Rick Kriseman will be on hand to throw out the first pitch.