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I’m afraid ‘we will lose a little momentum’

By Timothy Fanning
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Mark Durand, founding Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, says he is worried about the institution overcoming negative coverage by national news outlets.

Twice in his 13 years at USF St. Petersburg, V. Mark Durand has held key administrative posts as the university grew in size and stature. Now the prominent professor fears the controversy surrounding the abrupt dismissal of Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska.

“I am afraid that we will lose a little momentum because of (Wisniewska’s) connections with so many people in the community, who were so alike. I was always a bond,” Tadlock said. “We were so much alike, not just in appearance, but in mannerisms, attitude and characteristics, he said.

“When I met my biological father, I instantly formed a bond,” Tadlock said. “We were so alike. I was always a passionate kid and during our conversation it was easy to pick up what he cared about.”

Through their conversation, Tadlock learned that Chavis and his wife had been keeping track of him since his parents’ divorce when he was just two-years-old. Chavis learned about the surgery from Tadlock’s mother, and then travelled all the way from Florida to Ohio to see him.

The arrival of Tadlock’s father thought we could maybe find records, not just in appearance, but in mannerisms, attitude and characteristics, he said. The especially poignant because of the recent hurricane loss of life and property.

Tadlock and his wife had left campus.

It took about six months of looking through records online, and visiting archives in both Columbia and Raleigh South Carolina, but we finally found a death certificate from my great grandfather,” said Tadlock. Not only did he find records, but discovered stories about his great grandfather. He married an English woman, Mary Sykes, and lived on the North Carolina border on the Little Pee Dee River south of Lumberton. He learned that his great grandfather was a cotton field sharecropper who raised seven children and died suddenly at a family Christmas gathering.

“I hope you can help us come to St. Petersburg this week for meetings with faculty and staff and break her silence.”

Meanwhile, there were tentative plans for Genshaft to come to St. Petersburg this week for meetings with faculty and staff and break her silence.

WHO LET THE DOG IN?

What’s the single most exciting thing that could happen to a college campus? You guessed it. A yellow lab named Petey. Say hello USF St. Petersburg’s first residential guide dog in training. (See story, page 8).

Martin Tadlock: finding his roots set him free

By Delaney Brown
delaneybrown@mail.usf.edu

Martin Tadlock never knew his biological father.

Growing up, his mother and stepfather didn’t talk about him or his family. For awhile, he would wonder about his father. But after years of silence, Tadlock gave up, figuring they had a good reason not to mention him.

So Tadlock grew up. He graduated high school, joined the Air Force and eventually graduated Utah State University in 1981.

Then, at age 33, Tadlock’s second son had kidney failure and needed a transplant. While recovering in the hospital, his biological father, Lee Chavis, appeared.

They were very much alike, not just in appearance, but in mannerisms, attitude and characteristics, he said.

“When I met my biological father, I instantly formed a bond,” Tadlock said. “We were so alike. I was always a passionate kid and during our conversation it was easy to pick up what he cared about.”

Through their conversation, Tadlock learned that Chavis and his wife had been keeping track of him since his parents’ divorce when he was just two-years-old. Chavis learned about the surgery from Tadlock’s mother, and then travelled all the way from Florida to Ohio to see him.

The arrival of Tadlock’s father gave insight into his past he never had before. Not only did he get to know his father, but discovered that Lee Chavis was a member of the Pee Dee Indian Tribe.

“Oh there’s a dozen; let me find you one’ From that moment on, Tadlock learned all about the Chavis family and their Lumbee English ancestry.

“It took about six months of looking through records online, and visiting archives in both Columbia and Raleigh South Carolina, but we finally found a death certificate from my great grandfather,” said Tadlock. Not only did he find records, but discovered stories about his great grandfather. He married an English woman, Mary Sykes, and lived on the North Carolina and South Carolina border on the Little Pee Dee River south of Lumberton.

He learned that his great grandfather was a cotton field sharecropper who raised seven children and died suddenly at a family Christmas gathering.

But Tadlock wanted to learn more.

“A fire had destroyed a census from 1890 and with the Civil War, there were a lot of holes in the records. We thought we could maybe find more information about (my great grandfather’s) parents or children,” said Tadlock.

Tadlock and his wife found and visited his great grandmother’s grave in the Little Pee Dee Baptist Church near Clio, South Carolina.

Without knowing what else to do, Tadlock walked into the USF system.

>> See “GENSHAFT” on P2

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On Wisniewska: ‘The captain should go down with their ship’

By Delaney Brown
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F or professor Deb Reichgelt, the region’s regional chancellor’s decision to evacuate students was not enough; Sophia Wisniewska should have stayed behind.

“Whenever there’s a potential catastrophe, a strong leader needs to stay and reassure their people. They need to be there to start rebuilding, if they have to,” Reichgelt said.

Cassill has served as an associate professor and associate chair of biology at USF St. Petersburg since 2001.

Her research on animal behavior, specifically her work with fire ants, has garnered attention from national outlets and helped her to secure a tenure position.

In her time on campus, Cassill has seen five chancellors at the helm of the school. Over the years she’s also seen the way these leaders have dealt with crisis.

“There was a hurricane that threatened St. Petersburg while Karen White served as regional chancellor,” said Cassill.

Unlike Wisniewska, White didn’t evacuate. “Karen stayed in the Hilton until the storm passed. She also required her top team to stay behind to help assess the physical damages. For Cassill, the fact that Wisniewska evacuated to Atlanta is inexcusable. She felt that the chancellor’s decision was flippant given that even tenured faculty can be terminated for the abandonment of duties. In Cassill’s mind, Wisniewska needed to be in both constant electronic and physical contact with the school.

It’s for this reason Cassill was impressed with the response of USF system President Judy Genshaft. Cassill felt it was clear that Genshaft’s first concern was students.”

“(Genshaft) showed great care for students,” said Cassill.

“She made sure that the dorms and cafeterias stayed open in Tampa, and made provisions for students to be moved to the Sun Dome if necessary. Her thumb was constantly on the pulse of the campus.”

Despite her thoughts on Wisniewska’s evacuation, Cassill expressed a professional fondness for her, saying the former chancellor was incredibly student focused and crucial in the creation of the identity of the St. Petersburg campus.

“I like that (Wisniewska) took the time. She hired a good firm to help us find our brand, and really put a focus on finding where the job opportunities for students were.”

In the end, though, Cassill agrees with Genshaft’s decision.

“It’s simple: The captain should go down with their ship.”

GENSHAFT, continued from P1

On the move that left the campus reeling in shock and dismay.

Tadlock and Debra Sinclair, president of the Faculty Senate, said Genshaft is tentatively scheduled to come on Friday afternoon to speak with students, faculty and staff.

Sinclair, a professor of accounting, said her group wants Genshaft to come to St. Petersburg to “tell us what happened and why.”

For days, senior faculty have groused, mostly in private, about the way Genshaft handled Wisniewska’s ouster, which caught the campus unaware and came with little public explanation.

The move reinforced the perception that Genshaft acts prescriptively on key issues at USF St. Petersburg without consulting its administrators and senior faculty.

Although most professors who have spoken publicly are critical of Genshaft, the university system president found an ally in Deby Cassill, a professor of biology.

She expressed fondness for Wisniewska but criticized her for leaving town as the hurricane approached, arguing that the campus leader should have stayed.

“It’s simple,” said Cassill. “The captain should go down with their ship.”

As president of the Faculty Senate, Sinclair leads a seven-member body (and several faculty committees) that is designed to be the main channel of communication between the faculty and administration of USF St. Petersburg.

Sinclair said she has “no idea why Genshaft didn’t come the first week. I don’t want to speculate.”

“I feel like all I know is what’s in the paper, and that’s all I’ve been told as well. I feel like there is nothing I can do about it. I am disappointed,” she said.

Having Genshaft come to speak with faculty it would “make people feel more respected or that their opinion mattered,” Sinclair said.

Although Wisniewska’s abrupt departure was unsettling, Sinclair said, she thinks Tadlock will keep the campus on course.

“He knows the plan and he knows the people,” said Sinclair. “I don’t anticipate losing any momentum.”

But Durand is not so optimistic.

“NO ONE QUITE KNOWS!”

Durand was the founding dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 2003-2004, and in 2015-2016 he served as acting vice chancellor of academic affairs while USF St. Petersburg recruited and hired Tadlock to replace Han Reichgelt, who was ousted in February 2015 for crudely propitiating a female professor.

Durand is widely known as an authority in the field of autism spectrum disorder. His books include two textbooks on abnormal psychology that have been used in more than a thousand universities around the world, according to a USF St. Petersburg website.

From 1993 to 2003 Durand was the founding director of the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at University at Albany, SUNY, and in 2001-2002, he was the school’s interim dean for the College of Arts and Sciences.

When he arrived at USF St. Petersburg in 2004, there were no residence halls and the campus was just transitioning into a place that allowed faculty to make their own decisions. Before that, St. Petersburg faculty “had an allegiance” to departments in Tampa, Durand said, and many faculty members needed to be convinced that they could create their own curricula.

“We had to change their outlook and tell them, ‘That’s not your department in Tampa, this is your department,’” Durand said. “So for the first time, it was teaching faculty how to get tenured promotions and how to make their own decisions. We were essentially creating a new university that was not just a branch of another university.”

The campus became more than just a commuter school, won separate accreditation in 2006 and gradually morphed into its own little community.

Gradually the focus turned to the students, he said. Students began to hang out on campus and all of a sudden students were having lunch.

“Students were having lunch here, they were all over the place. They were by the water, by the library,” Durand said. “There was a life here, and faculty eventually had a vested interest in keeping that campus community alive. One of the things we are always told now is that our faculty is always accessible, that we are here to just talk, for career advice, to write letters of recommendations.”

“We created our own USFSP that was more than just a pretty place to go to class,” he said.

Durand attributes a lot of the growth to Wisniewska, who he said built a team of talented vice chancellor and senior administrators. He said that the people she put in place really care about the campus and the students.

“You never know who your next boss is and what the relationship will be like. Sometimes a regional chancellor will want a whole new team or see something that needs fixing. It’s an uncertain time,” Durand said.

“Martin Tadlock is interim chancellor now, and he will do a fine job, but it is not clear how long he will be interim. He said until June of next year, but there have been no active plans for a search committee, and that’s another uncertainty that no one quite knows.”

Delaney Brown contributed to this report.
Hurricane Maria leaves her mark on student’s family

By Mia Staggers

Hurricane Maria leaves her mark on student’s family

THE CROW’S NEST October 2, 2017

Contributor

October 2, 2017

Tadlock learned that his history and ancestry he felt lost. “I feel so strange doing...” Tadlock said. "We are an...
systematic assessment of the city is predictable, Sanchez said. “I never thought I’d say this, but I was so excited to be back to school. I welcomed it.”

For Sanchez, it was hard to get used to the new city rules. “I’ve got this idea of what our students from Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands could be,” said Sanchez. “We increased retention for APO. Honestly, I don’t think that was a stretch.”

When he spoke about the first day back, McZee was emotional. “I walked out of my office and I almost didn’t recognize the park,” said Sanchez. “There was this massive tree, the kind so big you kind of take for granted, that was completely uprooted. It was all across the walkway.”

A typical day for him involves keeping track of the adult softball and football programs or trying to get more people out on the fields, but Hurricane Irma, he felt lucky just to have a field. Though St. Petersburg was spared a direct hit from Hurricane Irma, there was considerable damage left behind by the heavy sustained winds and 90 mph gusts. Debris blocked the streets, trees were downed and entire neighborhoods were out of power. For Sanchez, it was hard to see the destruction.

He’s been working with the St. Petersburg Parks Department since he was 16. He grew up shooting hoops in the neighborhood park; when he calls the old court he frequently “the mecca of pickup games,” his eyes lit up. When he spoke about his office and home turf at Woodlawn Park, he straightened up and squared his shoulders — he’s proud.

“During the pledging process, we had thought about hazing, and we’re against any kind of reckless behavior that may put others in danger or tarnish the integrity of the fraternity, school or community,” Piazza said. “We’re very against hazing, [and] we’re very against any drinking.”

This will be the chapter’s third attempt at chartering. The school’s relatively small population has made it hard enough to attract new members, and lack of interest has kept membership involvement even lower. Still, McZee remains optimistic that this time APO is ready to take the next step in becoming an established fraternity on campus.

“We attracted members with our service events and by going to university success courses [to talk about APO and our mission],” McZee said. “We increased retention by creating a space where we could be a family and where people felt like they could express their ideas.”

While the number of fraternities and sororities on campus remains scarce, APO’s efforts could signal the beginning of a more prominent Greek life on campus. Student Body President David Thompson contends that many students choose this campus because of its lack of Greek life. Those who are interested in starting their own organizations are faced with the challenge of limited housing space.

“However, new leaders in the Department of Student Life and Engagement have expressed interest in exploring this area in the coming year,” he said.

“So many students have told us they’re interested in starting a chapter,” said Vice President of Fellowship Brianna Daviul. “We believe this is a step in the right direction.”

The next challenge for APO is to become nationally chartered, which involves submitting a petition to USF’s regional vice chancellor for approval. “We will identify all enrolled eligible students who have already paid the out-of-state fee for the Fall semester and provide them with information on how to apply for the waiver,” he said. “We’ll continue to welcome students from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands into our fraternity. Unfortunately, many students choose this campus because of its lack of Greek life. Those who are interested in starting their own organizations are faced with the challenge of limited housing space.”

“Although many of our coworkers were still stuck in Puerto Rico, they right to work. Once they got the ‘go ahead’ from Federal Emergency Management Agency, Sanchez, along with the other emergency personnel, started assessing damages, cutting down damaged trees and clearing the roadways. “It was all hands on deck,” said Sanchez.

Last week, Sanchez worked around the clock. When he wasn’t working, he was in class. “I’ve just been successful from work to class and then back to work,” says Sanchez. “Honestly never thought I’d say this, but I was so excited to be back to school. I welcomed it.”

Now that the immediate needs of the city have been met, Sanchez is focused on getting back into the day-to-day routine. He and his team are back in the office updating the schedule, prepping the fields, and talking about last night’s football game. “It’s been great to see everyone’s ugly mugs back in the office,” Sanchez said, laughing.

Located in one of the most culturally diverse neighborhoods in the city, the neighborhood park was one of the few that was spared a direct hit. Sanchez grew up playing basketball in the neighborhood park; when he calls the old court he frequently “the mecca of pickup games,” his eyes lit up.

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Local business is glazing up new donut concept

By Brianna Rodriguez

Donut Freak makes the concept of eating a donut for breakfast, lunch and dinner possible. Think doughnut sandwiches. Think delectable and delicious.

The doughnut shop opened its doors in August as an extension of Genaro Cafe on Central Avenue, and the merging of coffee and doughnuts was created. The concept, however, did not happen overnight. Lou O’Donnell, founder and CEO, wanted something different. It wasn’t until O’Donnell met Michael Ostrander, a professional pastry chef, that the dream was born.

At Donut Freak, they bake instead of deep fry the doughnuts, using a 106-year-old recipe. All doughnuts are made from scratch, without preservatives, which allows them to create a wide variety of flavors and presentations.

“We have a full menu of doughnut sandwiches, cake doughnuts, gluten-free doughnuts, vegan doughnuts, dumplings (muffins with a hole), fudgekakakins, frrappapppes, ice cream doughnut sandwiches and ice cream doughnut sundaes,” said O’Donnell. Donut Freak’s unique format and passion for a quality product seem to be what drive customers to the shop.

Executive pastry chef Brooke Warner, a graduate of Johnson and Wales University, works to keep the doughnuts fresh and ready for customers to enjoy. “Other companies create doughnuts that are almost robotic. It’s not passionate the way that Amber and Brooke bring to the table,” said Alejandro Sandoval, public relations manager. “Knowing the passion that they have and that the team has made this company feel like family.”

The business owners hope to launch other locations throughout Tampa Bay. There are also plans to stay open later so customers can enjoy doughnuts during evening hours. Currently, Donut Freak is only open until 2 p.m. but Sandoval mentioned that Donut Freak plans to eventually cater toward an evening crowd with more sandwich options.

Black Crow Celebrates Creatives for Second Anniversary

By Devin Rodriguez

On any given day there’s no telling who will walk into Black Crow Coffee. The small space, in Old Northeast a few blocks from the Central strip, has limited seating and customers often have to share a more intimate space.

As Deana Hawk, the co-owner of the little coffee shop puts it: When you come to Black Crow, expect to leave with some new friends.

Just last week, Hawk said, a neighborhood regular came in to play the Williams Overture piano in the left room. While he played the piano another customer entered. They stopped and listened, then after a few minutes grabbed the Martin guitar hanging against the wall and began to play along to the song. The two strangers jammed together brightening the space for the Monday morning patrons.

“Isn’t that kind of moment magical,” Hawk said. “There’s a lot of those kind of exchanges. It’s the interaction between people — when they make friends.”

Black Crow celebrated its second year open on Sept. 22-24, hosting local musicians Friday and Saturday, as well as a saturday workshop on Sunday and a visit from the Blue Bird Book Bus. Hawk said that her only new goal over the next two years is to participate in more community events. She wants to keep the shop experience the same as it’s been.

A St Petersburg resident for the past 30 years, Hawk said she doesn’t live far from the location and two years ago saw the space up for rent. She thought that it would make a great spot for a coffee shop.

So with her business partner Greg Bauman, who had other decades of experience in the coffee industry, they started Black Crow.

Months into the journey, Hawk said, her employees and customers were asking if they could hang up art around the coffee shop.

“I just say yes, I don’t even look at what they want to put up half the time,” Hawk said. “I’m not here to judge their art, I’m here to give them a place.”

Black Crow has evolved from a simple coffee shop, selling gluten-free baked goods and capuccinos to a center for artists and creatives. It happened organically, Hawk said.

As she hired more people and gave them the space to be themselves, they started bringing their artistic expressions to work and customers did so too.

Filipe Bergson considers himself a regular, attending Black Crow at least four times a week. He goes there to meet with people, to drink coffee but mostly, he goes to work.

A USF St. Petersburg student and freelancer for Round House Creative, Bergson said he’s designed graphics and t-shirts, written movie scripts, and edited videos at one of the tables, coffee in hand.

“I love the atmosphere here, it’s full of inspiration and creativity,” Bergson said. “It’s full of inspirational people.”

Bergson considers the other people at Black Crow his “work buddies” often discussing projects and philosophy between bursts of productivity.

“There’s a lot of people who draw and paint here and you don’t see that at a lot of the other coffee shops in town,” Person said. “At Black Crow, it’s kind of like walking into your crazy uncle’s workshop and it’s okay to spill some paint.”

On the first Saturday of every month, Black Crow Coffee premiers new art on its walls. Most of the work comes from local artists. Paintings, photography and comic strips are all given space to be seen.

Hawk said she also wanted to use Black Crow to help better establish the St Petersburg music scene.

From their open mic nights each month to their small acoustic shows, Black Crow has been providing local musicians a platform to get out in front of the audience.

Kyle Duey just moved back to St Petersburg from New Orleans. Upon arriving back in his hometown he’s been reforming his band Eyelid Cinema and playing open mics to hone his songs.

For the Anniversary he played Saturday night with local artists Mia Bury and Kerry Courtney. It was the first show he’s been billed on.

“Nowadays it feels like all the local musicians are being pushed off the Central strip,” Duey said. “Local DIY scenes are getting pushed out but it’s nice that local artists can play here and get recognized as being part of the community.”

Duey’s set he asked the patrons to donate to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers who are collecting donations for residents and workers affected by Hurricane Irma. Black Crow joined him in this effort by offering a donut to anyone who donated to the cause.

Early in the week, Black Crow had held a clothing and food drive for the same nonprofit. Duey said he’s proud to know his community is so generous and supportive of each other.

“It’s important that people know they do have a place, to feel like you’re a part of something and belong,” Duey said. “It’s so cool that this place is open to that and all the people in it.”

Hawk said she can’t wait for to see what happens next and see what else the shop will do. She said that the community organically grew as soon as she opened its doors.

“It’s been amazing,” Hawk said. “I’ve just been behind the counter watching all of this beauty roll out.”

Deana Hawk with her business partner Greg Bauman started Black Crow Coffee Co. two years ago. Since then it’s become a hub of creative endeavors. In October, Hawk said she plans to host a diorama and zine competition for writers and poets in the area.
Know the true costs of college before you attend

By Antonio D Fazzalari

Have you ever considered why you are pursuing a college education? Was it perhaps established as the only sensible course of action following high school during your childhood? Or maybe higher education is necessary for your future career? Regardless of the forces which propelled you into the realm of high-academia, college stands as an expensive, and often times intensive, investment. Let us take a look at the monetary and non-monetary value of pursuing a higher-education, and the opportunity cost of entering the workforce with nothing but a high school diploma.

The average salary of a person with a high school diploma and no college experience is $35,984, with an unemployment rate of 5.2 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For individuals with a bachelor’s degree, the average salary they can expect is $60,112, with an unemployment rate of 2.7 percent. While the large disparity between the two average incomes may be enough to reaffirm any degree-seeking student that they are on the right course, it is important to consider both the opportunity cost of attending college and the cost of tuition before committing, while. How expensive, then, is a college education? Well, according to the USF St. Petersburg campus, the undergraduate tuition cost for one credit hour is $193.70 for in-state students and $557.52 for out-of-state students.

Assuming that a student has afforded their education by way of loans, by the time an in-state student has completed their 120 credit hours necessary for a USF St. Petersburg bachelor’s degree, they will have accumulated $23,244 in student debt. Not to forget the costs of housing, food and textbooks.

Furthermore, the opportunity cost of pursuing a college education is foregoing four years of wages as a full-time worker with a high school diploma, which would equal to $143,936. What this means is that the monetary cost of seeking a bachelor’s degree at USF St. Petersburg is $164,268.

Before you forsake your college education to join the workforce and redefine yourself, it is important to note that a college education comes with certain non-monetary benefits.

College graduates, as compared to their high school diploma counterparts, are statistically more likely to vote, engage in volunteerism, practice understanding, and lead a healthier lifestyle, often times carrying over well into their 70s. According to Inside Higher Education, some 60 percent of college graduates age 25-34 reported exercising intensely once or more per week, while only 31 percent of their high school diploma counterparts reported doing the same.

Also of significant importance is the long-term monetary benefits of pursuing a college education. The typical lifetime earnings of a college graduate equates to some $800,000 more than their high school diploma counterpart, a number which increases with furthered education beyond a bachelor’s degree.

While the prospect of hundreds of thousands of dollars added onto your paychecks might revitalize the forces which propelled you into the workforce, it is important to consider that, due to the $164,268 of debt accumulated while pursuing a bachelor’s degree, it takes the average USF St. Petersburg college graduate roughly 7 years to catch up to the average full-time worker with a high school diploma and no college education.

When it comes to pursuing a college education, it is not so much a matter of right or wrong, but of the intention behind seeking a college education and how one plans to use the education to their benefit.

The reason it is important to know both the monetary costs, and the non-monetary costs seeking a degree is so that one may make the decision for oneself, logically and rationally tailored to their desires and ambitions. Consider once more why you pursue a college education. What have you found?

Information from Mike Patton’s The Cost of College. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Elia Perrone’s The (Non-Mandated) Value of a College Degree were used in this op-ed.

Taking a stand by refusing to stand: thoughts on kneeling

By Emily Wunderlich

D on Aug. 26, 2016, Colin Kaepernick of the San Francisco 49ers took a knee during the national anthem before a pre-season game. Now political tensions have resurfaced after President Donald Trump profoundly criticized other athletes who have joined Kaepernick in protesting the anthem.

Many NFL teams responded by kneeling, locking arms, or staying in the locker room altogether,prompting severe backlash from across the country. Political pundit Tomi Lahren addressed the debate Sept. 25 in a heated segment for Fox News.

“I’ll be happy to remind you what that flag and that anthem mean because maybe, just maybe, it’s bigger than defend you and your turf tantrum,” she said. “Under God and under the American flag we are not white, black or brown, we are red, white and blue. Congrats Colin Kaepernick, you made hatred for America a new celebrity lad.”

Everyone loves their freedom until someone else’s freedom costs them. In criticism of the “kneelers,” Lahren argued that “free speech isn’t just saying what you want to say, it’s also hearing what you don’t want to hear,” but she refuses to apply that logic herself. You may not agree with others how choose to exercise their rights, what’s not okay is forcing your beliefs onto others.

This isn’t about the American Flag. It’s about raising awareness of police brutality against people of color. People do it to draw attention to an issue that is dividing our country. “If peaceful protests didn’t work, the powerful wouldn’t try so hard to silence it,” the American Civil Liberties Union of New York tweeted Sept. 23.

Even if this was about the American flag, it could be worse. People aren’t wearing the American flag, laying it horizontally, using it to advertise alcohol, embroidering it onto pillows, using it on plastic plates and napkins, or worse: flying the Confederate flag, a symbol of rebellion. According to the United States Flag Code, none of these things should be done.

Many veterans actually support those who kneel. If a country’s citizens must be forced to honor symbols of nationality, it’s probably a sign that something is drastically wrong at a systemic level. Instead of criticizing a movement whose effects are harmless, a good leader would pay attention to the move behind it.

It may never be known what the true intentions of the NFL players were last week. Freedom of speech and peaceful protest are the rights of every American citizen. If this display of solidarity offended you more than the torch-bear white supremacists and neo-Nazis in Charlottesville, you are part of the problem.
Now that Hefner is dead, what have we learned? 

Barack Obama came out and spoke about what a mistake it would be to let these 800,000 individuals down. These individuals, who aren’t felons, who are contributing to the economy and paying taxes, who trusted the government by coming out of the shadows. It will be a couple of dark months of waiting to see what happens, but hopefully there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We must not remain silent about this, we must speak up and do what is right. Just because it isn’t us this time, doesn’t mean that next time injustice won’t be towards us. Think back to a time when you were little and your parents made a choice for you, because they wanted to better your life. These individuals were brought here, in almost every occasion without a say. They’ve grown up here, forgotten their native tongues; they’re soldiers, straight A students, hard workers, and most importantly as American as the first immigrants that came here.

We need individuals like those who are here under DACA in our society, because not only do they not harm, but they make communities better. We need to speak up, we need to converse, we need to tell their stories, and we need DACA or something better. 

“The goal can never be to change someone’s mind because it’s just not always realistic. However, there is something to be said about students feeling like they have a voice and, hopefully, walking away having learned something from each other.”

Information for this article was gathered from The Tampa Bay Times and CNBC.

THE CROW’S NEST

October 2, 2017

Dreamers are still dreaming of DACA reform

By Kristen Saldivar
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Hefner may be dead, but his business is still rolling. So now that Hefner is dead, what have we learned? Who doesn’t daydream about a guy like Hugh Hefner. At least we can say he brought to mind everything that shielded young undocumented immigrants from deportation, urging Congress to pass a replacement before he begins phasing out its protections in six months.

"The life of a dreamer is a rich one. It is the life of the artist, the poet, the philosopher, the scientist. It is the life of all who seek to understand the world and to find the meaning of life. It is the life of all who strive to make the world a better place."

By Amber Nicol
Senior English writing studies major
anicol@mail.usf.edu

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In early September, President Donald Trump ordered an end to DACA, the Obama-era program that shielded young undocumented immigrants from deportation, urging Congress to pass a replacement before he begins phasing out its protections in six months.

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Hugh Hefner, billion dollar Playboy, dies at 91. His impact is undeniable, his character was... Questionable.

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Hugh Hefner, billion dollar Playboy, dies at 91. His impact is undeniable, his character was... Questionable.
By Whitney Elfstrom
welfstrom@mail.usf.edu

A brand new tenant moved into Residence Hall One, Wednesday morning, donning a bright blue bandana, a yellow coat and a wagging tail. He answers to the name Petey.

Community members, reporters and the USF St. Petersburg Puppy Club — who were wearing identical light-blue polos — flocked to the front of RHO to welcome the new pup, including fellow guide-dogs-in-training Bub and Juno.

Despite being surrounded by people at the ceremony, Petey only seemed to care about one thing: looking for twigs to snack on.

The three-month-old yellow lab will be the sixth puppy, from Southeastern Guide Dogs on campus, but the first to live in a dorm room. Petey will be living with Stephanie Campos, senior biology major and president of the club. Campos will be responsible for taking care of Petey and teaching him manners.

There are also 20 students living in the Living Learning Communities on the first floor of RHO, who will be there to help puppy-sit Petey.

Campos, a lifelong dog lover, was inspired to become a volunteer raiser — someone who fosters a puppy for 14-16 months to teach them house manners and basic obedience — while on an internship last year at Southeastern Guide Dogs. There, she watched the progress of the dogs as they trained to become guide dogs and grew up to help the community.

As a raiser, Campos will provide a happy and supportive home for Petey as he trains.

Campos said her and her roommates were “counting down the days” since the beginning of the semester for the puppy in-training to come to live with them.

“We set up crates in each room, we have his toys set up and put his (food) bowl out. We did pretty much everything we could safety-wise — we picked up all the loose cables and anything on the floor. It’s just like having a toddler,” Campos said.

Raising Petey to become a “superhero” will be a community effort, said Campos. The Puppy Club and Southeastern Guide Dogs lean on one another for support as they all go through the training process.

There are still a few weeks to go before the adorable puppy can strut across Harbor Lawn to sit in on daily lectures. Petey will first have to attend a four-week-long puppy kindergarten. After he graduates, he will be awarded his “Service Dog in Training” vest.

Students should be respectful of Petey while he’s sporting his royal blue vest, said Campos.

“The little vest is the same things as if (Petey) was already a certified guide dog,” Campos said. “If he has the vest on then it means that he’s working and (students) should ask before petting or they should leave him alone because he’s doing his job right now.”

A service dog is a highly trained companion that works to provide their handlers with an element of safety and independence that would otherwise be unattainable.

“A blind person cannot cross the street without their guide dog on their hand,” Campos said. “A veteran who came back from the war cannot turn without being frightened without their service dog next to them.”

Students who are interested in the Puppy Club are invited to join the weekly Monday meetings in SLC 2100 from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Members will learn the basics of how to train a service dog and will be able to puppy-sit.

Leslie Shepard, director of Puppy Raising Services, said she would love to see a “dorm full of puppies.”

She also said that the university is the best place to train a service dog, not only because it’s in a metropolitan area, but because the dogs trained at a university are ideal for visually impaired college students since they will be used to going to lectures.

Southeastern Guide Dogs is always in need of more puppy raisers as they have roughly 250 puppies in the program who need loving foster homes.

According to Campos, raising a guide dog is fun and rewarding but challenging. They’re babies in training, so raisers have to make sure they have the time to watch the puppy and that they have a community to support them.

Raising a puppy will be a daily adventure but Campos said she’s looking forward to loving him, “telling him he’s a good boy” and joining the supportive raisers community.

“The biggest challenge will definitely be giving (Petey) up on his training day,” Campos said, “But the most rewarding will be seeing him in his harness helping someone who needs him.”
Campos and Petey, a 3-month-old yellow lab, outside of RHO on Wednesday when the puppy arrived on campus with the Southeastern Guide Dogs group.

Stephanie Campos leading Petey to their shared room on the first floor of RHO in a Living Learning community.

If you’re interested in becoming a raiser you can find more information at http://tiny.cc/puppyrasier

Campos and Petey, a 3-month-old yellow lab, outside of RHO on Wednesday when the puppy arrived on campus with the Southeastern Guide Dogs group.
Connect’s highly anticipated first concert series launched

By Brianna Rodriguez

Aﬅer a summer of filming and recording two dozen musicians and bands, Connect, a student-run media group, released its video concert series Tiny Office Sept. 25.

Everyone in the community is aware of the size of a college dorm, the series will feature performances from students and artists from the St. Petersburg community.

Tiny Office will feature 25 artists from genres including acoustic, pop, jazz, country and rock. The videos will be posted on Connect’s website, Facebook and YouTube page. The idea for the series came from Warren Buchholz, the multimedia program coordinator of the University Student Center. The series draws heavy influence from Tiny Desk Concerts, a video series of live concerts hosted by NPR Music at the desk of All Songs Considered host Bob Boilen.

“I thought it was a great idea to get students involved with the local community,” Buchholz told Connect last week. “And so why not showcase musicians.”

Buchholz also told Connect that this was the first time the student-run media group attempted such a project. He has high hopes for the future and wants Tiny Office to eventually incorporate more kinds of art projects, including a poetry series.

A goal of the Connect team is to make USFSP students feel more confident when trying to get involved in the St. Petersburg community and to bring it together with the USFSP community.

One act featured in the series is Avenue Icon, a band comprised entirely of USFSP students.

The Connect Team plans to bring more local artists to our campus.

Filming is over for the 2017-2018 academic year, but any students interested in performing can look forward to next summer when the Connect team anticipates filming more acts.

NFL protests lead to local beach bar boycott

By Anna Bryson

On a typical Sunday at Shark Tales Waterfront Restaurant on St. Pete Beach, bar patrons are boating and boistering at television screens while watching NFL football. This Sunday, those same screens were playing “Courage the Cowardly Dog” and sports not involving pigskin or gridirons.

As various NFL players continue protesting racial injustice by taking a knee during the national anthem, Shark Tales owner Craig Munroe has been a longtime supporter of the players.

Munroe has been a lifetime supporter of the players and has not been swayed by the president calling them babies or whatever he called them and kneeling during our anthem,” he said.

“Disagree with a bunch of football players who make millions of dollars getting personally offended because the president called them babies or whatever he called them and kicking over our country’s anthem,” he said.

According to Munroe, 50 percent of the proceeds from the benefit were donated to urban youth in St. Petersburg.

“I decided to put my money where my mouth is,” Munroe said.

If the players step kneeling, Munroe will start showing the games again. Until then, he plans to host concert events every Sunday, where he will continue to donate a portion of the proceeds to charity.

Sing it” open mic helps break in The Edge

By Arman Mouradian

Open mic night at The Edge was in full swing Monday night when Brielle Carter stepped up to the microphone. Although that wasn’t her first time performing in front of strangers, she was nervous stepping up to the stage. But as soon as she grasped the microphone and opened her mouth to sing, it all faded away.

“It’s always a better time getting the crowd involved in any performance,” Carter said after her performance. “It’s like all else fades and the only thing that matters is the music coming from within. Once you take your first couple steps towards the mic and say your first sentence everything else becomes easier,” she said.

Carter gave her heart to the performance, singing the catchy Alicia Keys “If I Ain’t Got You” for her boyfriend. But she gave it a twist by engaging the crowd along with her. The revamped indoor and outdoor space was something students have been anticipating for months. With new seating and LED lighting, students felt like “The Edge” would truly be a comfortable place to socialize and pass the time.

“Students gathering on open mic nights bring new friendships together while reconnecting with old ones” said Sam Runyon, a student in the crowd.

Runyon said social events like “Sing it,” the open mic event, bring all forms of talent to campus. It gives students a place to relax after a long day at school and gives them an opportunity to get away from their textbooks.

After her performance, Carter received numerous compliments from the crowd before sitting back down to hear what the rest of open mic night had to offer.

Students stepped up to the mic showing off a variety of talents throughout the night.

“I really enjoyed hearing the comedy skits throughout the night” said Runyon. “Comedy is something that never seems to get dull with new trending humor to talk about.”

“Before open mic night I didn’t really know of any campus activities I wanted to participate in until hearing about The Edge. I will be coming back for more nights here at the heart of campus,” said Carter. “The warm welcoming of everyone can make the most experienced or inexperienced of talent feel welcome.”

Brielle Carter helped break in the newly renovated recreation space. At an open mic last Monday night, Carter performed Alicia Keys.
LGBTQ ally training help those faced with discrimination

By Tiffany Beyer

You might not think a public university in the heart of a city with one of the nation’s largest annual Pride parades would need LGBTQ Ally Training, but according to members of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Wellness Center, it does. Although the LGBTQ community has begun to make its way into the mainstream, we still have a long way to go, according to Victoria Beltran, a health educator in the Wellness Center. Since 2014, USF St. Petersburg’s Safe Zone Ally training has certified 305 allies. However, less than 15 of those allies were faculty members. This is a problem, according to Beltran.

“Because diversity and inclusion is in our university’s Strategic Plan, it’s really important that we have administrators and faculty become safe zone certified and be shining examples of how to be inclusive and help all members of our USFSP community feel welcome and safe,” she said.

Beltran also said that understanding gender and sexuality discrimination and ignorance is especially important given the current political climate.

“This training helps people understand that gender and sexuality don’t have to be rigid, and that we are all humans who deserve the same rights and equal access to education, housing and careers.”

Javier Gonzalez, the coordinator of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, said that the training is vital to bring basic understanding of marginalized groups, who are always in need of support.

“In order to create some positive change on this campus and in the St. Pete community we need to educate ourselves and others, which can be done with this training,” Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said he has seen the training positively affect students.

“The most memorable thing that has been shared with me from a student was when they told me how glad they were to see more allies, often distinguished by safe zone buttons or magnets, around campus and how comforting it was for them,” Gonzalez said.

“They felt like they could be themselves with little to no fear of judgment and always knew they had someone to talk to.”

The three hour training sessions occur monthly and go over topics like LGBTQ history, biological sex, gender identity and sexual orientation. The training also discusses how to be an advocate for the LGBTQ community and how to show support when faced with situations of discrimination or harassment.

“Essentially, we are hoping to make allies feel more empowered to be helpful and effective bystanders and supporters, regardless of whether they are a part of the LGBTQ community or not,” Beltran said.

Members of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Wellness Center lead the sessions. The training includes a lecture, activities, videos and a 54-page Safe Zone Ally manual you can take home with you.

After completing the session, participants receive a Safe Zone Ally Certificate. There are plans to implement an advanced Safe Zone Ally training for those who wish to further their education and for staff at the Wellness Center and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

By Lis Casanova

MONDAY

New to USF St. Petersburg? Well then, there’s no better way to show school spirit than by learning a little about our campus’ history. Join the Lunch and Learn: USFSP History Week hosted by Compass. The event will take place in the Compass office (COQ 101) from 3 – 4 p.m.

If you’ve applied for graduation, it’s likely that you’re ready to put on your shoes and get going but, slow down. First, you’ll need a cap and gown, and a class ring, perhaps? So, here’s how it works: show up to USFSP Grad Stampede at Barnes & Noble USF St. Petersburg Bookstore from 2 – 6 p.m. and check all those to-do’s off your list. Regalia? Check. Meet with a Herff Jones representative? Check. Get graduation portraits? Check.

Beer, wings and bingo — also, diva-licious drag queens. Rescue your Wednesday night from hump day dullness with a dinner and Drag Queen Bingo at Hamburger Mary’s at 7 p.m. on Tyroone Boulevard. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Sunken Gardens Forever nonprofit. Reservations are required. Call 727-851-9836.

TUESDAY

Put on your dancing shoes if you love to get groovy, it’s time to swing to some old-timey tunes. Swing Dancing in the Sundial Courtyard at 7 p.m. for an hour of free swing dance lessons, then another hour of social dancing to different jazz songs. Bring some water and get ready to move it.

If you love your city, you’ve got to help keep it clean. Join the Vinoy Park Clean Up at 5 p.m. to help the Pirates Against Pollution, a band of beach trash raiders, as they help keep our shorelines clean. All trash collected will be used as data for a research project. Bags and gloves will be provided, and feel free to dress the part, matesy.

WEDNESDAY

No matter what career you’re going into, knowing how to write effectively will almost always be a required skill. But learning the skill does not have to be a tedious process, especially when you learn Roy Peter Clark, a senior scholar at the Poynter Institute. Join the writing workshop that promises to be enjoyable. If I can sing, you can write: Finding your authentic voice at American Stage from 3 – 4 p.m.

THURSDAY

Nothing to do between classes? Take a stroll and check out the HAB Market #2 from 2 – 4 p.m. on Harborwalk. The activity board will be passing out free knock knock jokes like tumbler cups with snack compartments and snacks. While you’re there you can also pick up some event flyers and sign up for committees around campus.

When you live in a city with it’s own soccer field and local soccer league, guess what? You go to their games! It’s part of being a St. Petean. To make it simple for you, Compass is offering rides to the Rowdies Game at 6:45 p.m. and help with getting tickets. Don’t forget to RSVP on Pete Sync.

FRIDAY

Done with your schoolwork? Take a stroll over to Straub Park at 6 p.m. for one of our top favorite local events: Movies in the Park this time playing “Mama Mia!” Bring a blanket and relax for awhile, you deserve it — probably.

SATURDAY

Homecoming season is here and the Harborside Activities Board is preparing alongside the Traditions committee to launch the Homecoming week with a game of Power Puff Football at the Rec Field. Each team will hold nine to 15 people so if you want to play, you must sign up on Pete Sync as soon as possible. First come, first served.

Becky Sheskey is here again, which means, it’s time to get out there, have fun and drink up ladies and gents. The event is bringing out food, drinks, music and a lot of fun — you may even find a pumpkin flavored beer! This month’s event will be featuring The Tempests so make your way to downtown Central Avenue (it’s not a long walk) from 5 – 10 p.m. and please, party responsibly.
Holocaust survivors speak on the impact of Charlottesville

By Sara McDonald

Working at the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg, Sara McDonald, a senior psychology major, has met many Holocaust survivors. After seeing the “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, bring neo-Nazis and white nationalists back into the news, McDonald knew she needed to speak to some of those survivors.

The survivors

Ruth Sarah Lebowitz was born in 1933 in Breslau, Germany. Her father owned a large business and she had a nice life with lots of aunts, uncles and cousins. When Adolf Hitler came to power the year she was born, Lebowitz became, like all other Jewish babies, identified by their religion.

Lisl Schick was born in Vienna, Austria, on Dec. 20, 1927. One of her best memories before the war was when her mother came home carrying a little blue bundle and she said, “This is your brother and you’re going to help me take care of him.”

Edward Herman was born Dec. 6, 1931, in Warsaw, Poland. For him, life before the war was wonderful. His family had a car, a rare item to have at the time. They also had a maid and would take vacations.

Q&A

How did you survive the Holocaust?

RL: My father had a friend who was a government official and he notified my father that he had been a Gestapo list (Nazi Germany’s political police that gathered Jews across Europe to deport them to the concentration camps) and that my father’s name was on it. He told him “You better leave now” so he did. He was able to be smuggled into Holland and . . . buy forged papers. That’s how he came to the U.S. He was then able to send for my siblings and me.

LS: A few weeks after Kristallnacht (a string of violent anti-Jewish attacks that happened across Germany on Nov. 9 and 10, 1938), my parents came to me and said we have a chance to get you on a kindertransport that will take you to England (Kindertransports relocated thousands of children from Nazi Germany to the United Kingdom. months before the start of the war). And we will try to follow as soon as possible. My mother asked if I would consider that but told me I had to promise to take care of Walter (her brother). I said yes. I just knew I had to get out.

EH: We had a Christian maid who . . . gave my mother her birth certificate so no one would question her and because she was blonde and so beautiful, no one really did. She decided it was time for me to get smuggled out of the ghetto. She did it at the right time because a few months later, they started bringing the Jews from the Warsaw ghetto to Treblinka for the Final Solution. I went to Nowy Wisnicz and then once there, we had gotten notice that Jews had to assemble in the square. My mother heard of this and paid a prison guard to hide me in the attic.

How did events in Charlottesville make you feel and did it remind you of those leading up to World War II?

RL: Oh definitely. In the museum, there’s photos of these rallies and marches. And now in the newspaper, there’s those photos of the marchers . . . who have the torches and the Nazi flag. It’s just awful to think that these are Americans and you wonder if they really know . . . who they are aligning with. America . . . is where things like this aren’t supposed to happen. This is where people go for freedom and opportunities no matter what your religion or race, and that it (events like the Charlottesville rally) is going on here is quite scary.

LS: I was very, very upset. One of my daughters graduated from UVA (University of Virginia). We were in Charlottesville many times. When this happened, my daughter called me in tears. She said “Mom, can you believe this happened in the place I loved so much?” What really upset me was it was like déjà vu for me.

EH: Disturbed. Nazis are not new and the Ku Klux Klan likes the Nazi philosophy. What I don’t like the most was the reaction afterwards, especially by the sympathizers. It is frightening that these people (neo-Nazis and the KKK) still believe in these ideas that are rooted in nothing but hatred.

Do you think our communities can be fixed?

RL: We sure can work on it.

The museum here is a fantastic venue for doing things like that. The mission is to teach tolerance and diversity of all people.

LS: Maybe, if we educate our children. We need to impress on people not to bully in the first place. If you see something that you know is wrong, do something about it. Tell a teacher, parent, friend or anyone who can help so that you can stop it.

EH: Well, we need to get Congress on board. Republicans and Democrats are more concerned with winning elections than they actually are with the country.

What do you want to say to us as a nation in response to Charlottesville?

RL: Go to the museum. Know the past and what really happened. Stay above the hatred. Don’t give into it.

LS: Education. I keep saying it but that’s number one. Respect and compensate teachers much higher than we do because they are one of the most important people in our lives. Lack of education has led us here. We must continue to learn from the past.

EH: A quote by (George) Santayana (a philosopher) sums it up best. ‘Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.’

Do not ignore history. Learn from it.

Ruth Lebowitz was born the year Hitler took power. She came to America as a refugee after her mother died.