With the help of new technology, virtually anything can be brought to classrooms. Read about how VR headsets could change the way students learn.
Emphasis has been placed on the sophomore experience as Leadership & Student Organizations and Compass aim to build a community of growth for sophomores to succeed at USF St. Petersburg. Second-year students have much to look forward to with Compass hosting ‘#usfspMORE,’ an un-put-down-able spring break trip and LSO’s first ever Sophomore Summit.

The summit is a soft pilot for the sophomore experience initiative and was developed by LSO graduate assistant John Miller.

“I wanted to create an experience that would incorporate leadership, team building and engagement for sophomores to build a successful community,” Miller said.

He brought the idea to LSO coordinator Abigail Brown, which launched a year of further development and support from other campus organizations, Compass First-Year Experience. Compass was also expanding its initiative to organize a sophomore experience.

“This was a great opportunity to expand our ideas and collaborate on the initiative to provide the best sophomore experience,” Miller said.

The summit is set to close the #usfspMORE week, purely based on coincidence.

When asked if this was developed with Compass’ initiative of a sophomore experience, Miller said, “We didn’t plan it together, we just had similar goals for the sophomore experience that we all wanted to achieve.”

Although the summit has come to a close, the development came with some struggles. Searching for activities and students interested proved difficult in providing the best sophomore experience. The organizations looked into past events that were popular with the community while also considering how sophomore students would benefit from the summit.

There are many events for first-year students that encourage engagement and involvement within the campus community, but there are not as many for students in their second year. The summit is the first of its kind, specifically geared for sophomores, who wish to further grow in the university by strengthening leadership skills, succeeding in academic courses and pursuing career paths.

As it is the first ever summit, current sophomores will have the chance to provide input into how they want following summits to be.

A pre-survey will be given that determines different skills or goals sophomores came in with, followed by a post-survey accepted or in press, including four major articles and seven notes. He is preparing seven papers for publication, including six major articles.

“Dr. Doody is working on a book on the social behavior of reptiles. Most of our tenured faculty publish several papers a year.”

Julie Buckner Armstrong, professor of English:

“No matter what happens with consolidation, I’ll continue to write books and teach classes.”

Thomas Hallock, professor of English:

“My understanding, last time I heard, is that USF St. Petersburg would be a branch campus. Do not, not want to become an ‘Instructional site,’

“I am fine with ‘research’ and ‘teaching’ designations among faculty, but those lines should be made by actual research productivity – not strictly geographic (campus) lines.”

“Being designated as a branch campus is the preferable outcome; this designation would allow us to maintain some control over our programs and faculty, continue to provide our students with a rich academic and social community, and hopefully maintain much of what has made this campus special and unique.”

PeteSync to secure a spot.

“Haven’t been excited about this development from the start!” John Miller, LSO graduate assistant said.

survey that shows growth of these based on activities throughout the event.

“We’ll have team-building activities that include ‘walk the line’ that normalizes experiences, juggling and minefield,” Bradley said. The summit will incorporate new activities, socialization and development to build a sophomore community that will last throughout the semester’s time at USF St. Petersburg.

Free food, as well as a chance to win an Amazon Dot and Amazon Echo will be provided.

The Sophomore Summit is Saturday, Jan. 26, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., while #usfspMORE has events scheduled throughout the week that include food, a guest speaker and group activities. Register on PeteSync to secure a spot. MATTHERS, continued from P1

If nothing changes, a consolidated USF would fall short in four of the 12 metrics in 2020, according to the chart.

USF system President Judy Genshaft, who led the yearslong campaign that led to preeminence for Tampa, has stressed that she wants the consolidated university to achieve preeminence as well.

“St. Petersburg has the preeminent undergraduate status for the (unified) University of South Florida is absolutely, absolutely critical,” she said at a press conference last year. “If everything else falls in place with preeminence,” she said at the trustees meeting.

“Having this by systemwide in one consolidated structure is absolutely one of the best things we can do for our students … and faculty.”

St. Petersburg has already begun taking steps to pull up key numbers in admissions, freshman retention rate and graduation rates.

But making St. Petersburg an instructional site, as opposed to a branch campus, would give Tampa more control over Sarasota–Manatee. This is “likely to come to light,” she said.

The CIC and Consolidation Task Force must report their recommendations to the trustees by Feb. 15. In turn, the trustees must recommend a plan to the board that oversees USF’s public universities by March.

James Bennett III, Anna Bryant, Emily Wunderlich | THE CROW’S NEST

Jay Sokolovsky, professor of anthropology, and St. Petersburg campus leaders nominated people to help fill out 17 new teams that will work up suggestions on key issues.

Among the issues that the CIC must still hash out before making recommendations are where colleges and schools should be based, how curriculum consolidation should be handled, and what the roles and responsibilities of campus leaders should be. After the trustees meeting, CIC co-chair Donna Petersen said her committee was not specifically asked to address the issue of branch campus vs. instructional site for St. Petersburg and Sarasota–Manatee.

But that is “likely to come out,” she said.

The CIC and Consolidation Task Force must report their recommendations to the trustees by Feb. 15. In turn, the trustees must recommend a plan to the board that oversees USF’s public universities by March.

James Bennett III, Anna Bryant, Emily Wunderlich | THE CROW’S NEST

Jay Sokolovsky, professor of anthropology, and St. Petersburg campus leaders nominated people to help fill out 17 new teams that will work up suggestions on key issues.

Among the issues that the CIC must still hash out before making recommendations are where colleges and schools should be based, how curriculum consolidation should be handled, and what the roles and responsibilities of campus leaders should be. After the trustees meeting, CIC co-chair Donna Petersen said her committee was not specifically asked to address the issue of branch campus vs. instructional site for St. Petersburg and Sarasota–Manatee.

But that is “likely to come out,” she said.

The CIC and Consolidation Task Force must report their recommendations to the trustees by Feb. 15. In turn, the trustees must recommend a plan to the board that oversees USF’s public universities by March.

James Bennett III, Anna Bryant, Emily Wunderlich | THE CROW’S NEST

Jay Sokolovsky, professor of anthropology, and St. Petersburg campus leaders nominated people to help fill out 17 new teams that will work up suggestions on key issues.

Among the issues that the CIC must still hash out before making recommendations are where colleges and schools should be based, how curriculum consolidation should be handled, and what the roles and responsibilities of campus leaders should be. After the trustees meeting, CIC co-chair Donna Petersen said her committee was not specifically asked to address the issue of branch campus vs. instructional site for St. Petersburg and Sarasota–Manatee.

But that is “likely to come out,” she said.

The CIC and Consolidation Task Force must report their recommendations to the trustees by Feb. 15. In turn, the trustees must recommend a plan to the board that oversees USF’s public universities by March.

James Bennett III, Anna Bryant, Emily Wunderlich | THE CROW’S NEST
Construction underway for USFSP library exterior

By Michael Moore Jr.

When students returned to campus following winter break, they found mounds of dirt, walls of silk fencing and yellow caution tape outside Nelson Pointy Memorial Library.

The $400,000 project to renovate the area outside the library and between Bayboro Hall aims to transform the space into a "destination area" and hangout spot for students, according to Edward Lewis, USF St. Petersburg’s construction project manager.

"We wanted to do something that would have an impact on the students," said Kaya van Beynen, interim associate dean and vice president of student services. "It was funded by the students, so we wanted to do something that wasn’t just fixing the floor, but that one would see. We looked at a lot of options and we came up with the two sections that we’re working on." 

The first section is the space in front of the library, which is being developed into a decked seating area furnished with tables and chairs beneath the canopy of trees and the LED fairy lights, which the library head said she would love to hang from them, though lighting doesn’t fall within the budget as it is.

The second section is the slot tucked between the library and Bayboro Hall, which was a community area where students can lounge beneath a fabric shade sail and take advantage of the bayfront view without baking in the Florida sun.

Construction began in early January and is scheduled to be completed before final exam week in late March or early April, if all goes according to plan. There will also be increased wireless connectivity in the areas.

The money for the renovation was allocated by the university’s Capital Improvement Trust Fund – a fund for major student infrastructure projects that is paid for by student fees.

The Capital Improvement Trust Fund is set at a statewide rate of at least $4.76 per credit hour per semester and cannot exceed 10 percent of tuition for resident students. Beginning in 2012, university boards of trustees were authorized by the state legislature to raise the rate.

USF St. Petersburg’s rate sits at $6.76 per credit hour per semester, according to the Florida Board of Governors website, which puts it on par with other universities within the state.

The fund is appropriated by a committee that consists of six faculty members and student representatives appointed by the student body president, according to Dwayne Isaacs, who has chaired USF St. Petersburg’s committee for the past two years.

The money can’t be used for academic buildings, but instead must be utilized in support of student services, according to Isaacs. This means that the interior of the library, which is set to be renovated sometime in the future, would not qualify under these funds – but the outside common areas do.

The fund has been used in the past on the Student Life Center, and more recently The Edge.

Lewis, who is responsible for facilitating and coordinating on-campus projects such as these, said the renovations will improve campus aesthetics while giving students another spot.

"In its conception, we wanted to do something to tidy it up," Lewis said. "But also we wanted to get some more outside space that was practical and could be used for students to sort of hang out and relax, whether you’re an introvert and want to go and read somewhere or whether you’re an extrovert and want to go outside and get together with your friends.”

Van Beynen sees the increased tidiness as a way of making that side of campus more visibly pleasing.

"I don’t know how many people noticed, but that area had become a parking lot. All the golf carts were sitting there all the time. And, you know, it’s a lovely view of the water," she said.

While some students said they don’t see the improvements as necessary, many agreed that the new areas could be an interesting new spot for students.

Britney Clarke, an 18-year-old freshman biology student, said that while she didn’t know if our campus was big enough to warrant more hangout areas, it would probably be a good new place for students to stress.

Angelique Gilbert, 17, who is a freshman education major, agreed.

"I didn’t really think it was a problem the way it was before, but I bet students will enjoy it," Gilbert said.

Her biggest concern was over the ongoing construction and the potential for it to get in the way.

"I was thinking they should have done this over the summer," she said. "She was, however, quick to add that the workers had done an excellent job thus far at staying out of the way and not impeding any of the sidewalks. Her routes to class have been clear so far, she said.

Both van Beynen and Lewis said that construction on the project, which has been in the planning stages from conception for close to a year now, was primarily being done in the morning, with great care being taken not to disturb any students.

Construction could not have been completed during the duration of any of the breaks, they said.

Gilbert said she would definitely use the new location once completed and doesn’t think she will be alone in that regard.

"I think students will love it,” she said.

The project was designed by BBF Architecture, the same architect behind The Edge. It was initially designed to include a fountain, but that drove the estimated quote up to over $1 million, well beyond the budget allotted by CITF.

The outside construction comes at a time when the library is fundraising to renovate its first floor.

Josephine Hall, a longtime patron of the arts and USF St. Petersburg community member, left behind a generous $2 million donation to the university that was announced by Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock in October.

Hall of that went toward the potential renovation of the library’s first floor – but initial quotes set the renovation as costing somewhere between $4 and $7 million, according to van Beynen.

Plans for the library include changes in many parts that will allow for increased security protocol in the hopes of allowing 24/7 access to the library, something that has been requested by students for years.

The renovations would also include bigger tables, more comfortable furnishings and far more utilization of natural sunlight, while doubling the number of study rooms, which van Beynen said was one of the most requested items by students while collecting input for the plans.

It would also feature a brand new event space.

While these changes are likely years away as the library continues to seek additional funds, they have already begun preparing by downsizing spaces that are no longer used and are also housed, such as print magazines, newspapers and VHS tapes.

Any other kind of one-stop-shop and I think we just try to be as accommodating as possible because it’s not always comfortable,” van Beynen said. "I think students like coming to the library because we provide a welcoming space and we do our best to help students however we can.”

Room draft gives students a chance to choose

By Dylan Hart
dhart4@mail.usf.edu

Students now have the opportunity to guarantee their room selection in Residence Hall One for the 2019 fall semester with the USF St. Petersburg room draft.

An email sent by Stephen Harris, housing operations assistant, and housing manager, alongside an information sheet provided by Housing & Residence Life, explains the draft process.

"The USFSP room draft is a week long event where returning residents can come talk with housing staff and pick exactly what they want and with whom they would like to live with," Harris stated in the email.

The draft, which starts Jan. 28 on the first floor of the University Student Center, will allow groups of four students to select their rooms. The following day, groups of three will select their rooms, the third day groups of two and the final day, Feb. 1, will allow one student to select a room.

Students must have a completed housing application for the 2019-2020 academic year and bring their student ID to the room draft. The event will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

"Our goal for this event is to show our returning residents that we value them and appreciate their continued dedication to USFSP housing and the residence halls," the information sheet says.

"We hope that this opportunity can alleviate some stressors off our returners as well and give them more insight into the housing process and how room assignments work.”
Fans of sci-fi will tell you a good book can take you to a different world. But on Thursday, the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library showed that there are more methods than books to transform reality.

Virtual reality, a form of interactive technology that immerses you in a digital world, was the star of a small open house in the library that offered trials of an HTC Vive headset alongside smaller gadgets to augment the VR experience.

The Vive is a goggle-like headset equipped with internal screens to occupy the wearer’s vision and two hand-held controllers for manipulating the digital environment.

“You kind of lose where you are when you’re inside. I definitely forgot I was in Poynter,” said Lasonya Moore, assistant professor of special education. “I got lost in virtual reality before my subconscious kicked in and realized ‘Oh, you’re a professor in the library, just spinning around in a chair.’”

Moore’s educational focus is on students with exceptionalities and bridging the socio-economic gap in marginalized classrooms. She attended the open house to look for educational uses for the technology.

“I think when I voiced that realization, it prompted others to chime in that they thought the situation was funny too,” Moore said. “When you can bring the lesson to them in a variety of modalities, students will retain much better while still having fun.”

Despite its novelty, the technology’s price tag is feasible for use in underfunded classrooms. While the primary attraction of the event, the HTC Vive, retails for over $500, VR headsets utilizing smartphones or tablets sell for a fraction of that price.

Combined with its intuitive nature, the accessibility of VR makes it a good candidate for engaging students across all demographics, according to Moore.

“The youngest person I’ve seen here has been 18, 19, all the way up to people in their 60s. I am all about communication, collaboration and collegiality, so anything that can bring people together like this is powerful to me.”

While the Vive was the event’s focus, there were a handful of other reality-altering technologies.

In addition to the cheaper headsets, a handful of Merge Cubes — physical proxies between our tactile world and virtual reality — were used as an augmented reality addition to the intangible VR environment.

“I did a 3D scan of my 8-year-old son, put him on the cube, and I was just tossing him around in VR,” said Chad Mairn, manager of St. Petersburg College’s Innovation Lab.

The Innovation Lab is a tech-based learning environment, which provided the equipment used in the open house.

Mairn and the Innovation Lab often host workshops where children and adult students learn to create environments in VR and augmented reality to better facilitate learning. Partnerships with local museums and galleries provide otherwise impossible educational opportunities to students.

“The Seminole Historical Society has some dinosaur bones, and we plan on bringing the equipment to scan them so kids can handle the bones through the Merge Cubes,” Mairn said. “The technology opens a lot of doors.”

More events for exploring interactive technology are in the works, though no set dates have been planned. Advances in the field and grants for SPC’s Innovation Lab and College of Education’s new STEM INQ lab could make VR open houses a regular occurrence, according to Mairn.
Don’t be mad, honey, buy art

By Dinorah Prevost
dprevost1@mail.usf.edu

Standing in line at her polling station in south St. Petersburg with weed leaf-shaped felt earrings, she knew she’d get some looks.

“It was really funny because it was all these old people. I thought it was hilarious,” said Madi Clark, a senior graphic design major.

Of all the earrings Clark has designed and sold, the bright green leaves are the only ones that didn’t sell out.

“These are really just crazy to wear in public and I want people to be OK to wear these statement earrings,” she said.

Clark makes earrings as a side hustle under her brand BE MAD, HONEY. She started it last October to “build up her skill so that (she) can work full time in graphic design.”

“The whole idea behind the brand is that I want people to feel free to do whatever they want or wear whatever they want wherever they are,” Clark said.

For now, she’s stuck to producing earrings. She designs them in Adobe Illustrator, cuts the felt shapes out and assembles them by hand. She started out with six designs, and to date, they include yellow stars, lightning bolts, black hearts and a broken heart.

BMH came about as Clark was finding her niche in design and graphic art. She majored in studio art for two years at USF Tampa, even displaying artwork in shows at the USF Contemporary Art Museum.

“Honestly, straight out of high school, nobody really knows exactly what they want to do and I’ve always been interested in art, but never really comfortable enough to the point where I wanted to be a fine artist,” Clark said. “At the time, I was inspired by a lot of people who were doing graphic work and thought it was really interesting.”

The graphic design major isn’t offered in Tampa, so in the spring of 2017, she applied to the St. Petersburg program. Every year, about 70 students apply to the program and only 20 are admitted.

“I basically didn’t know anything at the start about graphic design, and now I feel really comfortable in the field. And I’ve been doing a lot of freelance projects so it just worked out and I’m happy about that.”

Clark started BMH spontaneously, thanks to some felt she bought to use for her senior thesis.

“I bought felt to mess around with for my senior thesis. I thought I was going to use it for lettering and I just started to cut out shapes and then I was like, ‘I could make jewelry,’” Clark said.

“Originally I intended for it to be just (making) jewelry for my friends. And then I figured I should just start a brand because … it’s the perfect opportunity to build a brand and put it in my portfolio.”

Gabriela Calderon, Clark’s best friend and fellow graphic design student, was a model for the initial posts on Clark’s BE MAD, HONEY Instagram account. She was Clark’s “support system” and “someone to bounce ideas off of” in the early days of the brand.

“She does everything. She’s doing her own branding, she takes her own photographs, she packages everything and sends it out. It’s all her. A one-woman show, you could call it,” Calderon said.

“Be Mad” came out of an effort to incorporate Madi into the brand name. “Honey” was added later on.

“I literally spent a week and a half trying to come up with names,” Clark said. “I journaled a lot of different name options and was just pairing words together and I liked the idea of ‘be mad’ because then I could interchange ‘mad’ for whatever word I wanted to use for the name of the earring. When I first started (the brand), I started to name (each earring) ‘be bright’ or ‘be divine’ or ‘be bold.’ And then the ‘honey’ just came for fun.”

Creating earrings and tote bags instead of expensive art gallery pieces is appealing for Clark because they can be affordable art.

“Right now in my life, I like that because if it is more accessible, people will buy it and my name will get out there … especially with social media because you can post all of your work,” Clark said. “It can be really challenging to get your paintings hung up in a studio and then at that point, you don’t know how many people will show up.”

Beyond earrings, she plans to expand her offerings to screen prints on tote bags and T-shirts, even some Aquarius-inspired art.

“Independent is probably the biggest one,” she said. “Creative, I feel like I’m always in my mind, up in the air and people don’t understand. I love change. I always have to change something about myself to feel refreshed.”
Don’t let diet culture kill you

By Anna Bryson
Senior journalism and digital communication major
annabryson@mail.usf.edu

I’ve spent more than half of my life trying to be a rich man with all of my friends on the cheerleading team all did it too, so I thought it was normal.

By the time my esophagus was fucked up, it was too late. Always carried a toothbrush and toothpaste in my purse. I never thought about the nearest exit in case of a gunman attacked — but I always thought about where the nearest bathroom was.

You might say, “Just stop doing that,” but it’s not that simple. I still can’t find the words to accurately describe the feeling of needing to do it. While knowing it’s wrong, it feels like if I don’t, then the world will fall apart.

I can’t go one second without being bombarded with diet culture. Scrolling through Instagram, I see photos and ads telling me to “lose stubborn belly fat.” It’s not just the media, it’s my friends too. Someone is always talking about their new diet or praising somebody for weight loss.

This is all toxic. The size of your body doesn’t make you a better person. You should never feel guilty about the food you eat (unless you stole it, then maybe). Food is not the enemy. Corporations are making money off of your insecurities.

Stop playing into it. Does your diet make you happy? Do you really want to spend five hours at the gym picking stuff up and putting it down so you can feel validated from likes on Instagram? Changing your body won’t make you stop hating yourself. Your weight is the least interesting thing about you.

You are more than what you look like. I’m not saying this as somebody who is fully recovered. I still relapse. I’m trying to rewire my brain and unlearn the diet culture that surrounds me.

But I’m getting better. I’m seeing a doctor. It’s not easy — it took me five to find one who I like. It’s not cheap either, but I’m saving money by not buying diet pills, laxatives and drugs to suppress my appetite.

At the end of my life, I don’t want to have wasted it all with my face in a toilet. You don’t make an impact on the world from being skinny. I want to be remembered for something other than being a kick-ass journalist, and that’s what I’m going to spend my time doing.

Netflix saves lost Orsen Welles film

By Bryce Lawson
Junior journalism and digital communications major
brycect@mail.usf.edu

The streaming wars are in full swing. Hulu, Amazon, HBO, YouTube and even CBS have thrown their hats into the ring. But one streaming service stands at the top: Netflix.

Netflix catapulted itself into the No. 1 spot by offering original content and giving directors an opportunity to release unrealized passion projects.

One of those passion projects is “The Other Side of the Wind,” director Orson Welles’ unfinished final film. After years of seeking funding through Indiegogo, an international crowdfunding website, and various contributors, Netflix put together a two-picture $30 million deal to release the movie. The companion documentary, “They’ll Love Me When I’m Dead,” about the making of the film and Welles’ last days in Hollywood, will also be released.

After receiving fame from the release of his debut film “Citizen Kane,” which is often regarded as the greatest film ever made, one might think that Welles would have turned to Hollywood at his fingertips.

But in reality, things went in a much sadder direction for him. After the release of “Citizen Kane,” Welles often faced backlash from various studios, resulting in a majority of his films being cut and edited, which compromised his artistic vision. Because of this, Welles had to work as an actor in films to fund his projects independently or through foreign distribution in France in order to retain his vision.

Dealing with health issues and a lack of funding, Welles was unable to finish “The Other Side of the Wind” before his death on Oct. 10, 1985.

It is an experimental film, taking the meta approach to filmmaking using a film-within-a-film narrative structure. The film tells the story of an aging director, Jake Hannaford, making his final film, also called “The Other Side of the Wind,” while Netflix subscribers have no idea about this film or the history behind it, just the fact that it is available and, for the most part, holds strong to Welles’ original artistic vision is a win for cinema.

Hopefully, with the success of “The Other Side of the Wind,” Netflix will take more chances with its original content.
The campus event to share these experiences will be held on campus. "It is right around the corner," Hammer said. "It could be the motel down the street from your apartment. It takes on different forms."

Hammer explained how adolescents are targeted through social media as traffickers can pose as kids their age to make contact online. "You never know what can happen as soon as you walk out from your dorm one day, so being highly aware of your surroundings can help you," Clarke said.

Hammer said the best thing students can do if they want to get involved with ending human trafficking is to be curious. Learning the facts, resources and agencies is a great way to start before looking into local organizations that offer volunteer positions. "Don't be afraid of being underqualified or inexperienced, because we need all the hands we can get," Hammer said. "In safe houses, survivors want to learn how to cook, how to sew, how to do this and that. Chances are there is something you can do that they would love to learn from."

The SOSO Coalition is developing meetings for the spring semester. They hope to work with the Department of Homeland Security on an event. For more updates about the group and meetings, contact Hammer at meganhammer@mail.usf.edu.

What to do this week: Jan. 22-25

By Bryce Lawson

TUESDAY

To support the nonprofit organization Dance Marathon, students will host a dog wash from 3 to 5 p.m. at Bayboroh Harbor near The Edge. All donations will go toward Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital.

The James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art will host live music from Infinite Third and Alexu Hernandez. The show is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 150 Central Ave. and costs $10.

WEDNESDAY

Trufflea, an eco-boutique featuring clothing made from sustainable materials such as hemp, organic cotton, and bamboo will have its grand opening extravaganza from 6 to 8 p.m. at 2395 Central Ave.

Get some late night exercise at Daughters Brewing. A free 3-mile run along the Pinellas Trail will be from 6 to 9 p.m., starting at 222 22nd St. S.

THURSDAY

Looking to hear some insightful words? The Campus Student Experience Program will host a talk with entrepreneur and civil rights activist Samantha Ramirez-Herrera at 5 p.m. in the USF Ballrooms.

Learn some new dance moves with the swing dancing group The Cat’s Meow. Jump Session, a dance practice plus level testing class, will be held at The Princess Martha, 411 First Ave. N. from 7 to 9:15 p.m. A spot in the class costs $15.

Friday

The Independent Bar will host ‘80s Night. DJ Wonderland will be playing all of your throwback favorites from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at 1049 Central Ave. The event has no cover, and drinks will be available for purchase.

End the week artily with Friends of Photography Presents: Pick-A-Pic at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg 255 Beach Dr. NE. Patrons will vote on which photographs by Sam Contis will be purchased by the collection. The event is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. with a $45 admission fee.

SATURDAY

Sophomore Summit, the first-ever conference for sophomore students, will be held in the USF Ballrooms from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The goal of the summit is to help sophomore students explore their major and define career paths.

The Second Annual Onsie Bar Crawl will be from 5 p.m. to 12 a.m.

The crawl starts at Thirsty First, 119 First Ave. N. and goes throughout downtown St. Petersburg. Tickets for the crawl are $20 per person.

SUNDAY

In honor of International Holocaust Day, the Florida Holocaust Museum will offer free admission to the museum from 10 a.m. until p.m. The museum is at 55 Fifth St. S.
USFSP embraces sustainability in the unveiling of six new EV charging stations

By Kate Rickman
Contributor

With sustainability being one of USF St. Petersburg’s core pillars, the university will unveil six new electric vehicle charging stations on campus.

The university is partnering with Duke Energy to launch the pilot program Park and Plug. The EV charging stations are installed for free at any participating host site and will be used to collect data for future electric vehicle improvements.

The event will take place from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Jan. 24 outside the Tavern at Bayboro.

“This aligns with our drive toward renewable energy,” said Lisa Vanover, chair and coordinator of the Sustainability Action Team.

Driving an EV provides long-term environmental and financial benefits by reducing the need to pay for gas.

“The more we do this as a state and a nation, the less problems we will encounter with climate change,” Vanover said.

Students and other attendees will be able to learn about various electric vehicles, view a documentary and participate in a “ride and drive” event, where they can test drive select electric vehicles. Teslas and Nissan Leafs will be on display, along with their owners, who will answer questions.

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority’s electric buses will also be on display. St. Petersburg owns four electric buses, with two more coming in 2020. There will be several guest speakers, including Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock.

A new app will also be unveiled, which displays the locations of charging stations on a map. It will be used to help prevent “range anxiety,” which is the fear of not making it to a charging station before running out of power.

The event will feature one of the electric vehicles students can test drive, has an incredible pickup, according to Vanover.

She is hoping to trade in her current car for an electric vehicle and is excited to use the new charging stations in the future.

“(The program) is a way to promote the use of electric vehicles by expanding on infrastructure in the community,” said Peveeta Persaud, a spokesperson for Duke Energy.

“The really feel that electric vehicles have the ability to transform the electric industry.”

Park and Plug will provide two different charging stations: Level 2 and DC Fast-Charging. Level 2 charging stations are standard, typically used for multi-unit dwellings like apartments, offices and communities like universities.

The DC Fast-Charging stations require more infrastructure but charge faster and are usually placed near high-traffic areas or major corridors.

At USF St. Petersburg, four Level 2 charging stations will be installed in parking lot five and two DC Fast-Charging stations will be in the parking garage. The parking garage stations are powered by the 100-kilowatt solar array on the roof of the garage. All stations are available for public use.

The Florida Public Service Commission will then decide if it can be expended as part of a larger agreement between the Commission and Duke Energy.

The League of Women Voters of St. Pete Area, Florida Suncoast Sierra Club, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition and various car companies were also involved in planning the event.