By James Bennett III
jamesbennett@mail.usf.edu

Mechanic digestor coming soon

The ORCA is set to be installed by the end of this semester, after a space impact request form and a purchase order form have been submitted by SGEF.

The Baby ORCA was specifically recommended for the St. Petersburg campus by an ORCA representative and is the smallest, cheapest model available. Edible food will still be collected by the Food Recovery Club and donated to local shelters. The ORCA will only be used for waste that cannot be donated.

With the current system, roughly 40 pounds of waste are thrown in the garbage every week. Once the sanitation department collects the waste, it is burned in a furnace and buried at the Pinellas County Solid Waste site. The ORCA is set to be installed by the end of this semester, after a space impact request form and a purchase order form have been submitted by SGEF.

THE CROW’S NEST

THE CAMPUS NEWSPAPER AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG

Volume 52, Issue 6 - February 18, 2019 | Online at crowsneststpete.com

Genshaft equivocates as task force recommends full branch campuses

By Nancy McCann
Contributor

W hen the Legislature passed a law last year to help structure the independent accreditations of USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee, it came with a mandate to maintain the unique identities of each campus.

When a task force established by legislators to help plan for consolidation reported to the Board of Trustees on Feb. 12, it recommended that St. Petersburg and Sarasota Manatee be designated branch campuses, as strictly defined in regional accrediting standards.

But when USF system President Judy Genshaft addressed the trustees, she equivocated.

“It’s fine to call them branch campuses,” she said.

What we have to do is find out which structure is the best that fits our personality at the University of South Florida,” Genshaft told the trustees that branch campuses around the state are structured differently and can be “somewhere in between” a branch campus and an instructional site.

But that’s not how it works under the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges – the agency that accredits USF.

“For accreditation purposes, it’s either one or the other – a branch campus or an off-campus instructional site – and there is nothing in between,” Belle Wheelan, who has been president of SACSCOC for 14 years, told The Crow’s Nest.

A branch campus, Wheelan said, is a “full-blown operation with someone in charge.”

The distinction between branch campuses and instructional site is crucial for the future of USF St. Petersburg.

As a branch campus, it would have its own budgetary and hiring authority and its own faculty and administrative organization.

“...
The lives lost Feb. 14, 2018:

- Alyssa Alhadeff, 14, a soccer player and aspiring lawyer.
- Gina Montalto, 14, a member of the winter guard of the school's marching band.
- Martin Duque Anguiano, 14, a witty, outgoing young spirit.
- Nicholas Dworet, 17, a swimmer who committed to the University of Indianapolis and had dreams to swim at the 2020 Olympics Games in Tokyo.
- Aaron Feis, 37, an assistant football coach who was shot as he tried to protect students.
- Jaime Guttenberg, 14, a talented and vibrant dancer who planned to become an occupational therapist.
- Chrisixon, 49, the school's athletic director.
- Luke Hooyer, 15, the youngest of his siblings who had a contagious smile.
- Scott Beigel, 35, a geography teacher who was killed as he tried to bring students back into his classroom when the gunfire broke out.
- Cara Loughran, 14, an Irish dancer who loved the beach.
- Alaina Petty, 14, a member of the junior ROTC at the school.
- Meadow Pollack, 18, an energetic young woman who had been accepted at Lynn University in Boca Raton.
- Helena Ramsey, 17, a smart and caring young woman who had a determination to excel in her studies and a commitment to being kind to those around her.
- Alex Schachter, 14, a kind-hearted member of the marching band who was always working on perfecting his trombone skills.
- Carmen Schentrup, 16, a National Merit Scholar semi-finalist and panelist who had dreams to discover a cure for ALS.
- Peter Wang, 15, a member of the JROTC who dreamed of serving our country. He selflessly held the door open for other students to escape the building, putting their lives before his own.

Information from CNN was used in this report.

What’s a branch campus?

According to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, a branch campus:

- Is permanent in nature.
- Offers courses in educational programs leading to a degree, certificate or other recognized educational credential.
- Has its own faculty and administrative or supervisory organization.
- Has its own budgetary and hiring authority.

By Anna Bryson
annabryson@mail.usf.edu

USFSP remembers victims of MSD shooting

The task force recommendations would preserve the president’s “singular leadership role” with the two regional campuses reporting “directly to the president.”

Ray Arsenault, a professor of history and president of USF St. Petersburg’s Faculty Senate, said he has “no idea” what is meant now by the term regional campus.

“When I arrived here in 1980, we were called a regional campus – before separate accreditation (in 2006),” he said. “It concerns me that the term is being used in the present situation.

“It’s implicit in the legislation that St. Pete would be a branch campus as defined by SACS,” Arsenault said.

“Anything less shouldn’t even be on the table; there are no hybrids under SACS.

“It’s unacceptable (for St. Petersburg) to become an instructional site,” Wilcox said.

Consolidation Task Force chairman Mike Griffin said after last week’s trustees meeting that he thinks things are “moving in the right direction” and he would be surprised if the two small campuses end up as instructional sites.

He said he will continue advocating for branch campuses as defined in the task force recommendations.

“We didn’t spend all this effort and time not to see our recommendations through,” Griffin said.

COURTESY OF USFSP

USF system President Judy Genshaft said branch campuses can be “somewhere in-between” a branch campus and an instructional site. But that’s not how it works under the agency that accredits USF.

leadership will spend the next several months developing the governance and administrative structures, which will then be presented to SACSCOC...”, he wrote in an email.

“Based on the structure that is submitted, SACSCOC will determine how USF’s campuses are designated from an accreditation standpoint.

“However, for the purposes of everyday operations, USF can label each campus anything we prefer,” Wilcox said.

Consolidation Task Force chairman Mike Griffin said after last week’s trustees meeting that he thinks things are “moving in the right direction” and he would be surprised if the two small campuses end up as instructional sites.

He said he will continue advocating for branch campuses as defined in the task force recommendations.

“We didn’t spend all this effort and time not to see our recommendations through,” Griffin said.

COURTESY OF USFSP

USF system President Judy Genshaft said branch campuses can be “somewhere in-between” a branch campus and an instructional site. But that’s not how it works under the agency that accredits USF.

leadership will spend the next several months developing the governance and administrative structures, which will then be presented to SACSCOC...”, he wrote in an email.

“Based on the structure that is submitted, SACSCOC will determine how USF’s campuses are designated from an accreditation standpoint.

“However, for the purposes of everyday operations, USF can label each campus anything we prefer,” Wilcox said.

Consolidation Task Force chairman Mike Griffin said after last week’s trustees meeting that he thinks things are “moving in the right direction” and he would be surprised if the two small campuses end up as instructional sites.

He said he will continue advocating for branch campuses as defined in the task force recommendations.

“We didn’t spend all this effort and time not to see our recommendations through,” Griffin said.

COURTESY OF USFSP

USF system President Judy Genshaft said branch campuses can be “somewhere in-between” a branch campus and an instructional site. But that’s not how it works under the agency that accredits USF.

leadership will spend the next several months developing the governance and administrative structures, which will then be presented to SACSCOC...”, he wrote in an email.

“Based on the structure that is submitted, SACSCOC will determine how USF’s campuses are designated from an accreditation standpoint.

“However, for the purposes of everyday operations, USF can label each campus anything we prefer,” Wilcox said.

Consolidation Task Force chairman Mike Griffin said after last week’s trustees meeting that he thinks things are “moving in the right direction” and he would be surprised if the two small campuses end up as instructional sites.

He said he will continue advocating for branch campuses as defined in the task force recommendations.

“We didn’t spend all this effort and time not to see our recommendations through,” Griffin said.

COURTESY OF USFSP

USF system President Judy Genshaft said branch campuses can be “somewhere in-between” a branch campus and an instructional site. But that’s not how it works under the agency that accredits USF.
NPR host brings ‘jazz journalism’ to campus

By Dinorah Prevost

dprevostt@mail.usf.edu

Radio host Joshua Johnson, away from the Common microphone and pop filter, is not the droning radio newscaster you think of when you hear the letters N-P-R.

When Johnson tried to describe what a “civil dialogue” is like to a crowd in the University Student Center ballrooms, he let out a cartoonish howl of frustration.

That energy was characteristic of the host who taped his current events show “1A” live on campus Feb. 11.

The two-hour show was split into segments, the first one on fact-checking and the other on climate change.

For the hourlong fact-checking discussion, Johnson brought on USF Tampa professor Giovanni Luca Campanigia, and the Poynter Institute’s Aaron Shirockman and Kelly McBride. Later on, for climate change, Mayor Rick Kriseman and two other Tampa professors, Rebecca Zanger and Don Chambers, joined him.

About 200 retirees and people packed the ballroom, and Johnson joked that they were “playing hookey from work and school.”

“We are a national program that, for 10 hours a week tries to create a space for Americans to have the kinds of conversations that are really tough to have,” Johnson said.

“Basically the whole country has been turned up to 11 (on a scale of 10) the past two years. What we try to do on ‘1A’ is at times bring the volume down so we can talk, but acknowledge why the volume is so high.”

“I know that when Diane Rehm chose to retire after the 2016 election, that America was going to need a place to come talk, no matter who won,” Johnson said.

A Florida native from West Palm Beach, he “fell for public radio when (he) was 13.”

His mother listened to the Philadelphia-based station WRTI when it was a “news and jazz” station. Those types of stations had a higher black listenership than stations without jazz, he said.

“So my mother tuned in for the jazz and then she heard ‘Robert Siegel on ‘All Things Considered,’ ” Johnson said.

Soon after, he started listening to NPR on his own.

“I grew up listening to Diane Rehm so I understood what her journalistic style was and her sense of civil dialogue,” he said.

He went to the University of Miami and worked in local TV broadcasting while in college. But he “got tired of local TV news and ran screaming into the arms of public radio.”

He did six years at Miami’s NPR affiliate WRNN and then landed at KQED in San Francisco for five years as a morning newscaster.

“I’ve been through hurricanes, election cycles, covered corruption scandals, the MTV Video Music Awards and Super Bowls,” Johnson said.

While Johnson was in California, WAMU began looking for a replacement for the then 80-year-old Rehm. Johnson was the last person to audition, and he got the gig.

At “1A,” Johnson said he tries not to be the know-it-all host, but a “learn-it-all” person.

“My job is much more about the human aspect of conversation than it is about knowing everything. I need to be a good listener, I need to be a good anthropologist or sociologist. And then know when to throw the script away. It’s a lot more… jazz journalism really,” he said.


Common Ground brings leadership training and civility

By Amy Diaz

amydiaz@mail.usf.edu

The Open Partnership Education Network is hosting a series of events around the theme of civility.

From Feb. 18-22, students and community members can participate and receive leadership training from Kuany Kiir Kuany, an author, South Sudanese refugee and project officer at the United Nations.

Kuany, 28, wrote a book on his experience with war and survival called “Enlightened Darkness,” and has traveled the world working as a youth leadership developer encouraging positive, peaceful community initiatives.

“This will be the first time he’s coming to the United States, so this is the first time this particular program has come to the United States,” said Benjamin Smet, OPEN director.

“And we were looking for a replacement for the then 80-year-old Rehm. Johnson was the last person to audition, and he got the gig.

At “1A,” Johnson said he tries not to be the know-it-all host, but a “learn-it-all” person.

“My job is much more about the human aspect of conversation than it is about knowing everything. I need to be a good listener, I need to be a good anthropologist or sociologist. And then know when to throw the script away. It’s a lot more… jazz journalism really,” he said.


It’s a lot more… jazz journalism really,” he said.

Kuany Kiir Kuany prefaces his book by saying “one has to go into the darkness in pursuit of light.”

Kuany Kiir Kuany prefaces his book by saying “one has to go into the darkness in pursuit of light.”

Kuany Kiir Kuany prefaces his book by saying “one has to go into the darkness in pursuit of light.”

Kuany Kiir Kuany prefaces his book by saying “one has to go into the darkness in pursuit of light.”

Kuany Kiir Kuany prefaces his book by saying “one has to go into the darkness in pursuit of light.”
H e watched the news evolve from sensational, fact-free infotainment and opinion. Born in 1943, during the heyday of newspapers and radio news, William Dowell remembers how important papers were to his family during World War II.

“It was not clear that we were going to win the war, and people read newspapers because their survival depended on it,” said Dowell, a former foreign correspondent for TIME magazine and two television networks. 

The 1950s brought the advent of television news, which by the 1960s had supplanted newspapers as the No. 1 source of news for most Americans. And by 2000, the three cable news networks, CNN, Fox News and MSNBC, were challenging the supremacy and the standards of NBC, CBS and ABC.

Dowell blamed the shift from straight news to fluff, from fact-based and opinion and economic model of journalism, and a panel at the St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs seemed to agree.

“So why did we go to opinion?” Dowell asked. “The reason I smoke 183 cigarettes a year is because I live in Paris, where diesel fuel pollutes the air,” he said.

“If you visit London for a four-day weekend, it’s almost in the air,” he said. “That’s because we breathe co2. The increase in co2, it’s a fact.”

Dowell, a journalist and foreign affairs commentator for the international news channel Al Jazeera America, introduced a gas tax in 2018 that neighbors Germany, which is producing,” said Dowell.

While optimistic about an environmental solution, Herbert argued that cutting down car usage in France – much less the United States – is unrealistic.

“The easiest thing for me to say is that I’m against nuclear because of the potential treachery, but there are a lot of misunderstandings about nuclear energy.”

Herbert noted that he has visited several nuclear power plants and that the safety of the plants has significantly improved.

“‘Activist Doug’ would really like to say it’s awful and to get rid of it, but my rational self thinks it’s become safer and safer and, utilized the right way, it’s a very good energy – it’s cheap and efficient.”

Chambers, a professor of political oceanography at USF, argued that nuclear energy “needs to be part of the discussion,” contending that only the Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine was “really catastrophic” and that the 1979 Three Mile Island accident in Pennsylvania was blown out of proportion.

He also pointed out that while Germany is phasing out nuclear, it will still rely on French nuclear power and pollutive coal to fuel the country.

“None of us who went into journalism didn’t go into it because we wanted to push forward a political point of view,” he said. “We simply wanted to report and make the world a better place.”

Paris-based reporter tackles climate change

By Emily Wunderlich ewunderl@mail.usf.edu

I n recent years, the U.S. Census Bureau has polled the bee hive of race in the United States with statistics. 

“Ever since the first big waves of immigration hit this country in the mid-19th century, we have heard concern from the non-immigrants that this was not good for them that they were somehow going

Paris-based reporter tackles climate change

By Dylan Hart dhart@mail.usf.edu

D ogbert Herbert is no brainer, but says he inhales the equivalent of 183 cigarettes a year.

“The reason I smoke 183 cigarettes a year is because I live in Paris, where diesel fuel pollutes the air,” he said. “If you visit London for a four-day weekend, it’s almost a fact.”

Dowell, a journalist and foreign affairs commentator for the international news channel Al Jazeera America, introduced a gas tax in 2018 that neighbors Germany, which is producing,” said Dowell.

While optimistic about an environmental solution, Herbert argued that cutting down car usage in France – much less the United States – is unrealistic.

“The easiest thing for me to say is that I’m against nuclear because of the potential treachery, but there are a lot of misunderstandings about nuclear energy.”

Herbert noted that he has visited several nuclear power plants and that the safety of the plants has significantly improved.

“‘Activist Doug’ would really like to say it’s awful and to get rid of it, but my rational self thinks it’s become safer and safer and, utilized the right way, it’s a very good energy – it’s cheap and efficient.”

Chambers, a professor of political oceanography at USF, argued that nuclear energy “needs to be part of the discussion,” contending that only the Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine was “really catastrophic” and that the 1979 Three Mile Island accident in Pennsylvania was blown out of proportion.

He also pointed out that while Germany is phasing out nuclear, it will still rely on French nuclear power and pollutive coal to fuel the country.

“None of us who went into journalism didn’t go into it because we wanted to push forward a political point of view,” he said. “We simply wanted to report and make the world a better place.”

Paris-based reporter tackles climate change

By Emily Wunderlich ewunderl@mail.usf.edu

I n recent years, the U.S. Census Bureau has polled the bee hive of race in the United States with statistics. 

“Ever since the first big waves of immigration hit this country in the mid-19th century, we have heard concern from the non-immigrants that this was not good for them that they were somehow going
The phrase “American Exceptionalism” was used for the first time in 1930 – by Joseph Stalin. In the decades that followed, those words became a point of pride in a country that relished being a moral leader in the world. Over the last two years, the phrase has turned into a double entendre for America’s “not-so-pretty” nationalism, said Ray Arsenault, the John Hope Franklin professor of Southern history at USF St. Petersburg. Now the U.S. is “much more like some of the more unsavory parts of the world in terms of breaking with democratic traditions and embracing authoritarianism,” Arsenault said during a panel discussion at the St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs.

In earlier years, he said, “we would have called (those developments) un-American, and so, for better or for worse, I think Canada almost has become the new United States and they’re our last best hope.” The panel discussion, titled “Let’s talk Canadian exceptionalism,” revolved around an opinion piece in the New York Times praising Canada as “the leader the world needs.”

Susan Harper, a panelist and Canadian diplomat, said her country earned that praise through programs like universal health care, open borders and, according to her, the 10th largest global economy in the world and one of the safest as well.

“When you’re sitting beside the largest (economy in the world), sometimes you feel small, but relative to others, we’re in a pretty healthy position,” she said. “But like other economies, we have issues around the distribution of that wealth. We need to deal with those.”

The opinion piece cited the Syrian refugee crisis, comparing Canada’s acceptance of 40,000 refugees to the 12,000 accepted by the U.S. Arsenault said the cultural gap between the U.S. and Canada has widened tremendously over the past couple of years.

The debate over refugees was only the beginning. Since Donald Trump became president there have been threats to declare a state of emergency to build a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico – a step he took Feb. 15 – and his Muslim travel ban in early 2017.

“Pride goeth before a fall, and if you embrace this notion of the exceptional, I think it carries a very heavy burden, because inevitably some people are going to take this as this kind of chauvinistic superiority,” Arsenault said.

“I think we’ve seen this in American history, and I hope that maybe Canada will have a lot more sense … (to) use that label and not turn it into something ugly.”

In many cases, he said, that is “what we have done in the United States.”
Should the NBA’s athletes get a choice?

By Bryce Lawson
Junior journalism and digital communications major
bryce11@mail.usf.edu

With the 2019 NBA Trade Deadline at a close and the NBA All-Star Game Feb. 17, a big topic of discussion around the league is whether players should be able to force a trade if they are unhappy in their current situation.

For some players, a small-market team can be a wasteland of opportunity, especially if you are an MVP-caliber player. Take Anthony Davis, the superstar power forward for the New Orleans Pelicans, a small-market team that rarely sees any playoff success.

In the past, players like LeBron James and Kevin Durant have faced huge amounts of criticism for leaving their small-market teams in order to build up their brand in a larger market and compete for championships. Davis’s case has been met with fines and even accusations of tampering due to Davis being under the same agent as James, Rich Paul.

Paul, who is the head of Clutch Sports, said Davis would like to join James in the purple and gold of the Los Angeles Lakers.

The media storm even overshadowed much of the Super Bowl coverage, putting the NBA at the forefront of sports news.

If a player of Davis’ caliber is in a similar situation as him, they should have the right to ask for a trade if they so desire. They just have to go about it the right way, making it beneficial for both teams in the transaction.

The problem with the way Davis made the decision was that the Lakers tried to force the Pelicans to trade Davis, putting the organization in turmoil and resulting in the firing of Pelicans general manager Dell Demps.

It would have been smarter for Davis to request a trade in the offseason, allowing other teams to enter the bidding war and letting the Pelicans recover some assets in the trade.

In the NBA, players are the reasons why the league is competitive without hurting the integrity of the league. The NBA needs to find a way to keep players from wanting to leave smaller market teams. This will help the NBA become more competitive without hurting the integrity of the league.

The issue of star players requesting trades is not solely in the NBA. The Pittsburgh Steelers faced similar drama this year, when star receiver Antonio Brown requested a trade after the Steelers failed to make the playoffs.

Brown’s case is different. Problems with coaches and players are the reasons why he is requesting a trade, not lack of opportunity, like in Davis’ case.

It is clear that Davis will get his wish to play on a new team, but with the Pelicans holding the cards, it might be safe to say it won’t be with the Lakers. The Lakers were willing to give up a king’s ransom of basically the entire team except for James in order to land the superstar power forward before the trade deadline.

Davis’s case has been a catalyst for players using their voice to take control of their careers, rather than wasting their prime years on under-achieving teams that hold them back from potential greatness.

The Crow’s Nest

EDITOR IN CHIEF
APPLICATION OPEN

SEND YOUR RESUME, COVER LETTER AND WRITING SAMPLES TO WELFSTROM@MAIL.USF.EDU

DUE MARCH 4
Kombucha craze takes over USFSP

By Hope Weil
Contributor

February 18, 2019

I

tyoko live in the St. Petersburg area, you’ve probably heard of this probiotic drink called kombucha. The drink that was originally sold primarily in health stores can now be found at local coffee shop and supermarket throughout the city.

While the drink is becoming more readily commercially, it can also be brewed at home for cheap.

Kombucha (pronounced kön-boo-chá) is typically fermented using either green or black tea. The fermentation process involves microorganisms, including an assortment of bacteria and yeasts. While the drink is said to contain probiotics that help with digestion and provide additional health benefits, some scientists claim that there isn’t substantial evidence in the advantages of its consumption.

According to scientist Silvia Alejandra Villarreal Soto and his colleagues, kombucha’s biological properties are not well understood. In 2018, Villarreal and his colleagues conducted a study for the Journal of Food Science that found the microbiological composition of Kombucha is complex, and more research is needed in order to fully understand its behavior.

It’s an $800 million market in the U.S. and is expected to grow to $1.8 billion by 2020, according to Kombucha Brewers International, a California industry trade group.

The niche product has connected to in a handful of urban cities, including St. Petersburg. A crowd favorite among the locals, Mother Kombucha is one of the few licensed commercial brewer in Florida. It celebrated its five-year anniversary last month. Owner Tonya Donati said she was a fan of the drink even before she founded “Mother.”

“I was drinking a lot of kombucha and I absolutely loved the way that it made me feel,” Donati said.

To Donati, kombucha is a better choice than soda, coffee, juices and alcoholic drinks.

She stressed that it makes a great alternative to other habits that you may want to break, while still being more exciting than water.

Before Donati founded her company, she often brewed kombucha at home.

“It’s not magic, there’s a bit of science and art to it,” she said. “There is a saying, ‘If you can brew tea, you can make kombucha.’ It really isn’t that complicated, it’s a three- or four-step process and a little bit of patience.”

Donati isn’t alone. Many individuals find kombucha at home to be pretty straightforward and equally rewarding. USF St. Petersburg senior Emma Guyette said she started making the probiotic tea at home because she found it to be rich in health benefits other than purchasing it at the store.

“I’ve done a cost comparison, and it comes down to less than a dollar a cup, which is a little bit more than the SCOBY. They give you a lot more.”

Kathleen Gibson-Dee, a mathematics professor at USF St. Petersburg, is also a fan of brewing kombucha at home. Her daughter first introduced her to kombucha a few years ago.

“My daughter gave me my first symbiotic culture of bacteria and yeast (SCOBY) and taught me what to do, and I was like wow,” Gibson-Dee said. “It’s so easy.

All you do is just let it sit there.”

SCOBY is thought to have originated in China. It is one of the four ingredients necessary for making kombucha tea. In addition to the SCOBY, you need tea, sugar and water. According to Gibson-Dee, the first step in making kombucha is bringing the tea. She uses five tea bags to brew a half-gallon of tea. She then adds a cup of sugar into the tea and gives it roughly 30 to 45 minutes to steep.

“I use organic sugar because that’s just me. If the point is to be healthy, be healthy,” she said.

After waiting for the tea to cool to about room temperature, Gibson-Dee pours it into a jar, adds a half-gallon of water and then adds the SCOBY.

“You like jellyfish, and they feel like jellyfish,” she said. “It is thousands of little living creatures and people get grossed out, but I think the thought of millions of little living creatures and people just let them live there.”

The SCOBY spends roughly two weeks eating the sugar inside the tea. If you want a sweeter kombucha, you shouldn’t let the SCOBY ferment for as long.

“You take care of your SCOBY. They give you kombucha, and it costs you nearly nothing,” Gibson-Dee said.

The SCOBY craze takes over USFSP

What to do this week: Feb. 18-24

Kathleen Gibson-Dee, a mathematics professor at USF St. Petersburg.

7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19: The talk is from “dreams deferred” to “the sunset,” she said. “It’s perfect after work, have a nice little kombucha and watch the sunset,” she said.

If you are interested in brewing your own kombucha but want some extra guidance, Mother Kombucha offers a class to get you started. The two-hour session is an introduction to the art and science of kombucha, explaining the history, background and science of the drink. The price of the class varies from free to $20 depending, on the host.

“The class gives you a solid understanding to brew, what to look for, and gives you tips at the end about if you want to use alternative items for different types of tea and fermenting flavors,” Donati said.

For additional information about Mother Kombucha’s workshop, visit https://mtherkombucha.com/about/ or call 727-767-0408.

Step up your gardening skills at Sunken Gardens, 1825 Fourth St. N., Ordrecht Repotting and Growing event. Beth Sedacca from the St. Pete Orchid Farm will be on hand from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. to give you the best tips on how to grow orchids at home. Admission is $10.

SUNDAY

The St. Pete Fine Arts Festival will be at South Straub Park, 198 Bayshore Drive N.E., from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. showing glass, ceramics, woodwork and other forms of art. The festival is free with food and drinks available to purchase.
Day at the Capitol inspires students

By Amy Diaz
amydiaz@mail.usf.edu

On the rainy, early morning of Feb. 13, around 40 presumably sleepy USF St. Petersburg students piled onto a bus headed for Tallahassee. Political science majors, medical students, Student Government members and veterans were among the group taking part in the annual USF Day at the Capitol. The free trip gives students an inside look at local government and a chance to meet and talk with senators and representatives of Florida.

There were a couple hundred students in attendance from all three campuses in the USF system. Students were divided into groups with different schedules. Some saw the Florida Supreme Court while others explored the rare books library or met with representatives.

Jacob Terrell, a political science major in his second semester, heard about the trip in one of his classes and signed up right away.

“It wasn’t even like, ‘Oh, I’ll go for extra credit.’ It was just like, ‘This is an amazing opportunity,’” Terrell said. “I got to meet a representative and a senator. It was amazing.”

Terrell’s group made its first stop at the House of Representatives, where it asked questions and talked to representatives.

“We also got to sit in all of the representative seats,” Terrell said. “And talk about the world’s most comfy chair. I didn’t want to get up.

“The chairs weren’t the only thing that made Terrell want to stay.

After meeting Rep. David Silvers, D-Palm Beach, and hearing his enthusiasm about a bill he’s looking to sponsor, Terrell, who is interested in going into politics, said he felt inspired.

“Seeing it in action and being where all these people are, just feeling the power... It’s just a very powerful place,” Terrell said. “Even though it’s only the Florida capitol... These are people that are deciding what happens and writing laws and the policies that are going down all over Florida.”

It was SG Senate President Tiffany Porcelli’s second time on the trip.

“Going to the Day at the Capitol is like my Super Bowl, I’m not even kidding.” Porcelli said. “It’s the best day ever.”

Majoring in political science and dreaming of one day being in Congress, Porcelli said the trip gives hands-on experience to students, opportunities to network and a chance to talk to politicians about their lives and how they got where they are.

Porcelli was especially excited to meet women in politics and shared an emotional moment with Rep. Jennifer Webb, D-Gulfport.

Porcelli voiced her concerns to Webb about arming public school teachers and the threat of mass shootings because her mother is a teacher.

“She literally started tearing up and told me her story about her younger sister who killed herself,” Porcelli said. “She said she will ensure it doesn’t happen and talked to me about resources for mental health.

“I didn’t expect her to share something so personal. It was so moving.”

Porcelli said she thinks some people don’t know how to approach politicians, but she felt like a friend or family member when speaking with Webb and Sen. Darryl Rouson, D-St. Petersburg.

If she wasn’t graduating in December, Porcelli said she would go again next year.

“It’s a really good event for like-minded people,” she said. “Even if you don’t have experience in politics, you learn a whole lot about the impact our representatives and senators have.”

Lost in the abstract of Kenny Jensen’s art

By Thomas Iacobucci
Contributor

Outside of the Lowell E. Davis Memorial Hall, parallel to the Science and Technology building, sits Kenny Jensen’s latest artistic endeavor: a sculpture replicating the leaf miner’s consumption habits and the path it leaves in its wake.

“Paths to Consumption: USFSP” brings artistic endeavor: a sculpture behind her.

Jensen said.

“Paths to Consumption: USFSP” will remain mounted in the Poynter Library through the next five years.

More information on Jensen’s exhibit can be found in the Poynter Library through the end of March.

COURTESY OF JACOB TERRELL
Jacob Terrell said he could feel the power in the rooms he visited, like the Florida Supreme Court room.

COURTESY OF TIFFANY PORCELLI
Tiffany Porcelli was especially excited to meet female politicians like Rep. Jennifer Webb, D-Gulfport.

COURTESY OF THOMAS IACOBUCCHI
Kenny Jensen stands in front of his work “Paths to Consumption: USFSP.”

By Amy Diaz
amydiaz@mail.usf.edu

On the rainy, early morning of Feb. 13, around 40 presumably sleepy USF St. Petersburg students piled onto a bus headed for Tallahassee. Political science majors, medical students, Student Government members and veterans were among the group taking part in the annual USF Day at the Capitol. The free trip gives students an inside look at local government and a chance to meet and talk with senators and representatives of Florida.

There were a couple hundred students in attendance from all three campuses in the USF system. Students were divided into groups with different schedules. Some saw the Florida Supreme Court while others explored the rare books library or met with representatives.

Jacob Terrell, a political science major in his second semester, heard about the trip in one of his classes and signed up right away.

“It wasn’t even like, ‘Oh, I’ll go for extra credit.’ It was just like, ‘This is an amazing opportunity,’” Terrell said. “I got to meet a representative and a senator. It was amazing.”

Terrell’s group made its first stop at the House of Representatives, where it asked questions and talked to representatives.

“We also got to sit in all of the representative seats,” Terrell said. “And talk about the world’s most comfy chair. I didn’t want to get up.

“The chairs weren’t the only thing that made Terrell want to stay.

After meeting Rep. David Silvers, D-Palm Beach, and hearing his enthusiasm about a bill he’s looking to sponsor, Terrell, who is interested in going into politics, said he felt inspired.

“Seeing it in action and being where all these people are, just feeling the power... It’s just a very powerful place,” Terrell said. “Even though it’s only the Florida capitol... These are people that are deciding what happens and writing laws and the policies that are going down all over Florida.”

It was SG Senate President Tiffany Porcelli’s second time on the trip.

“Going to the Day at the Capitol is like my Super Bowl, I’m not even kidding.” Porcelli said. “It’s the best day ever.”

Majoring in political science and dreaming of one day being in Congress, Porcelli said the trip gives hands-on experience to students, opportunities to network and a chance to talk to politicians about their lives and how they got where they are.

Porcelli was especially excited to meet women in politics and shared an emotional moment with Rep. Jennifer Webb, D-Gulfport.

Porcelli voiced her concerns to Webb about arming public school teachers and the threat of mass shootings because her mother is a teacher.

“She literally started tearing up and told me her story about her younger sister who killed herself,” Porcelli said. “She said she will ensure it doesn’t happen and talked to me about resources for mental health.

“I didn’t expect her to share something so personal. It was so moving.”

Porcelli said she thinks some people don’t know how to approach politicians, but she felt like a friend or family member when speaking with Webb and Sen. Darryl Rouson, D-St. Petersburg.

If she wasn’t graduating in December, Porcelli said she would go again next year.

“It’s a really good event for like-minded people,” she said. “Even if you don’t have experience in politics, you learn a whole lot about the impact our representatives and senators have.”

Lost in the abstract of Kenny Jensen’s art

By Thomas Iacobucci
Contributor

Outside of the Lowell E. Davis Memorial Hall, parallel to the Science and Technology building, sits Kenny Jensen’s latest artistic endeavor: a sculpture replicating the leaf miner’s consumption habits and the path it leaves in its wake.

“Paths to Consumption: USFSP” brings a fresh look to the campus through his environmentally conscientious art. Four USF St. Petersburg students helped Jensen with the project.

“The whole initiative with bringing art onto campus is very contingent upon it bringing art onto campus,” Jensen said.

Jensen, a St. Petersburg based multidisciplinary artist, sought out students in the fall semester to help contribute to the “Paths to Consumption” project.

After meeting with an environmental economics class and a marketing class, Jensen was able to get students from each to do a nature tour of the campus to look at the ecosystems and discover any paths that might be present.

“This has been an ongoing theme project I have been working on, the Paths to Consumption, so we looked for paths on campus and the ones we ended up finding were the leaf miner paths,” Jensen said.

Jensen then challenged each of the four students to take a look at their own paths: how they move through the world and what they individually consume.

Each student then came up with their own interpretation of the project, selecting paths that represent their own life, both figurative and literal.

Maria P. Garcia, a former USF St. Petersburg student, took a pattern that was left from a leaf miner and traced it over a map of her neighborhood to see where that would lead her.

“I biked all around my neighborhood and it ended up taking me to this really big desiccated tree that kind of looked like all these patterns,” said Garcia, gesturing to the “Paths to Consumption” sculpture behind her.

Looking at the mounted "Paths to Consumption: USFSP," students will notice the divide between the main leaf on the left side of the wall and the seven individually drawn paths on the right.

The grouping of the individual paths represents each student’s experience.

“There’s unity in the diversity,” Jensen said.

The main leaf represents the campus as a whole and the rich diversity and experience each student has.

Aesthetically, the common theme throughout the groupings of the pieces is a crisp black base with vibrant colors popping out in a Pollack-esque way.

“It’s functional and it’s aesthetic and conceptual,” Jensen said. “Conceptually, why I used the black is because this work is about exaggerations in segregation, seeing things in as wide of an experience as possible.”

The “Paths to Consumption: USFSP” will remain mounted on the outside of the Lowell E. Davis Memorial Hall for the next five years.

More information on Jensen’s exhibit can be found in the Poynter Library through the end of March.