Consolidation plan: 810 pages and uncertainty for USF St. Pete

By Nancy McCann

The USF Board of Trustees will be asked on March 5 to approve a plan and timetable to consolidate the three campuses of the university system. The 810-page proposed plan says “a strong community desire has been expressed” for USF-St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee to become branch campuses under consolidation. But it doesn’t say that these branch campuses should be defined using the criteria of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, the regional agency that accredits higher education institutions in the South. That distinction is crucial. Under SACSCOC criteria, branch campuses have their own budgetary and hiring authority and their own faculty and administrative organization. The only alternative under the accreditation umbrella is becoming an instructional site with little control over campus identity – an unacceptable outcome to supporters of the St. Petersburg campus. Without a clear definition of what a branch campus is, the proposed consolidation plan leaves the administrative structures of USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee up in the air.

“Important determinations are still under review, including the level of authority on each campus of a Preeminent and consolidated USF,” according to the lengthy consolidation plan awaiting the trustees’ approval.

“Over the next few months, the BOT (Board of Trustees) will be engaged in conversations with the BOG (state Board of Governors), the Legislature, Governor and other stakeholders to design an administrative structure that serves all USF students and faculty, meets local workforce needs, and ensures accountable and preeminent performance across all campuses.”

The plan assigns a Nov. 1, target date for this important decision to be made.

The Consolidation Task Force, which was created by the Florida Legislature to advise the trustees on consolidation, explicitly recommends that St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee become branch campuses as defined by SACSCOC.

But Genshaft has equivocated on that. She told the trustees at their last meeting that examples need to be studied that are “somewhere in-between” a branch campus and an instructional site.

On Feb. 22, the Tampa Faculty Senate did not equivocate. In a biting memo, it urged the trustees to reject the task force’s recommendation on branch campuses. Giving the two smaller campuses that much independence would “threaten USF’s preeminent status,” the Tampa senate said.

Shoving unusual collaboration, the faculty senators from St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee responded on Feb. 28.

They sent a joint statement to the trustees saying they “believe we are best positioned to contribute to USF” as branch campuses defined by the regional accrediting agency.

In a contested election, candidates Jadzia “Jazzy” Duarte and Hannah Rose Wanless became USF St. Petersburg’s next student body president and vice president.

Duarte and Wanless beat senators Gregory Cote and Tyra Warren with 327 of 574 votes. Duarte, who is the director of sustainable initiatives for Student Government, and Wanless, who is senate president pro tempore, will take office at the start of summer semester.

The pair celebrated in the Student Life Center atrium, where the winners were announced, with Duarte FaceTime-calling Wanless from work to make a brief appearance. Duarte told the crowd that she was crying as she cheered with roughly 50 others in the atrium.

Duarte and Wanless ran on a platform that focused on sustainability. They plan on opening an “office of sustainability” in SG and want to replace all campus paper products with biodegradable alternatives from Atlanta-based company TreeZero, Inc.

As student body president, Duarte will earn $10,908 a year. According to SG statutes, her duties will include signing legislation, nominating members of the executive and judicial branches, initiating the annual budget process and acting as a student representative for the campus.

Wanless, as her vice president, will earn $8,325 a year. Her job will include representing SG at campus events, overseeing the executive branch and assuming the role of student body president if Duarte be unable to complete her term.


Meet your new student body president and vice president

Hannah Rose Wanless (center) Face-Timed her running mate Jadzia “Jazzy” Duarte to celebrate after winning the election. They will take office as student body president and vice president this summer.

By Dylan Hart

HANNAH ROSE WANLESS

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Nursing program coming to USFSP

By Anna Bryson annabryson@mail.usf.edu

A nursing program is finally making its way to USF St. Petersburg this year. Thanks to an agreement with the city of St. Petersburg, the program will launch in the fall 2019 semester.

The City Council voted unanimously to allow the university to lease its 10,713-square-foot Port Terminal Building for classes, laboratory space and office space. At 250 Eighth Ave. SE, the building is adjacent to the USF College of Marine Science. The lease is for two years, at $44,820 per year.

Despite the many uncertain factors of the ongoing consolidation process, the new program offers benefits. State lawmakers have been reiterating the need for more funding for USF St. Petersburg during the consolidation process.

According to Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock, similar partnerships are in the works as the three USF campuses prepare to consolidate by 2020. "The vision we have, of course, is to bring additional programming to downtown St. Petersburg because we are St. Petersburg’s university," Tadlock said in a news release. "That’s who we are."

But classes in this program will not be offered exclusively at the St. Petersburg campus — students will still need to travel to the Tampa campus from time to time. The classes will be taught by USF Nursing faculty, who are employed by USF Tampa.

The program will essentially be a duplicate of the second-degree nursing program at USF Tampa. Designed for students who have already obtained a bachelor’s degree, the nursing degree can be completed in four semesters or 16 months.

For more information about the nursing program, visit: health.usf.edu/nursing.

PLAN, continued from P1

"We have enjoyed close and longstanding connections with our local communities, donors, and students, and we believe that maintaining some degree of campus autonomy will remain at the university the tone of their statement was mild compared to the initial reactions of Arsenault and Karen Holbrook, USF Sarasota-Manatee’s regional chancellor, when they learned of the Tampa campus will reap some benefits. State lawmakers have been reiterating the need for more funding for USF St. Petersburg during the consolidation process.

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ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY FEB. 21 TO ALLOW THE UNIVERSITY TO LEASE ITS 10,713-SQUARE-FOOT PORT TERMINAL BUILDING FOR NURSING CLASSES, LABORATORY SPACE AND OFFICE SPACE. NURSING PROGRAM WILL LAUNCH IN THE FALL 2019 SEMESTER.

COURTESY OF USF SARASOTA-MANATEE
Karen Holbrook, USF Sarasota-Manatee’s regional chancellor

COURTESY OF TIFFANY PORCELLI
Tiffany Porcelli, Student Government senate president

St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee are added to the mix, while Tampa on its own "already meets the requirements of preeminence standards of a 60 percent 4-year graduation rate and a 90 percent freshmen retention rate."

At a Feb. 26 campus forum, Martin Tadlock, USF St. Petersburg’s regional chancellor, told faculty that St. Petersburg’s fall-to-fall retention rate dropped 4 percentage points to 74.9 percent from 2017 to 2018, but had climbed 10 percentage points from the previous year.

Tadlock said he will be making a presentation to the trustees on March 5 to describe several initiatives already underway to significantly increase freshman retention.

Meanwhile, still lurking in the consolidation debate is another key player – the Florida Legislature.

State Rep. Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, the chair of the powerful House Rules Committee, and Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, the president of the Senate, have praised the work of the Consolidation Task Force and its call for strong branch campuses.

Legislation filed in both houses last month stipulates that St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee will become “branch campuses” under consolidation. But the term “branch campus” is not defined.

By law, the USF Board of Trustees must adopt and submit a consolidation implementation plan and timeline to the Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida no later than March 15.

The March 5 meeting of the trustees, which will include consideration of the plan, is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. at the Tampa campus in the Marshall Student Center. See full statements online at: https://bit.ly/2NGuZsf.
Meet the two new faces in Compass

By Dylan Hart
dhart4@mail.usf.edu

A ntonia Robinson and Zachary Hyder want to "provide student success from A to Z.

Hyder, Compass' first- and second-year student success advocate, and Robinson, who helps third- and fourth-year students, started on campus Jan. 26. Student success advocates are a part of Compass, which changed its mission in October from serving exclusively first-year students to helping all students at all levels. Compass is the university's campus-wide initiative to provide resources and outreach to students in need. It uses a combination of student peer coaches and professional staff, like Hyder and Robinson, to achieve its goals.

The advocates' job is to act as a contact point between struggling students and resources that can help them. Their help is not strictly academic, and the advocates indicate that they can help point students in the right direction for anything.

"We're not just here for one reason, we're here for a lot of different reasons," Hyder said. "Students should know they can come here for holistic support - not strictly academic, and the advocates indicate that they can help point students in the right direction for anything." Their positions are another part of the university's plan to keep retention rates up.

Growing up and attending college, neither Robinson nor Hyder expected to end up working in education.

Robinson, who grew up in Jacksonville, earned a degree in journalism from the University of Florida. "I have always loved to write," Robinson said. "In fourth grade, I won an essay contest about what I would be and why, and I said clown - because I loved to make people smile," something apparent in her energy and enthusiasm when we see you on campus. "We help prevent run-on students, faculty and family members can refer a student for an appointment with a student success advocate at https://bit.ly/2Hd4qHZ.

"I really think that higher education shapes community leaders, and the world can always use more people who are trying to do good things," Hyder said.

"Students, faculty and family members can refer a student to Compass, to the right places. They're the specialists."

Hyder and Robinson said that since the day they've started, they have worked together closely. Robinson said they talk to each other "5,000 times a day," and hopes that the transition between a second-year and third-year student will be seamless.

"At the end of the day, we're focused on the students," Robinson said. "We know we're doing our job when we see you walk across the stage, but we also know we're doing our job when we see you on campus being happy and productive."

"We want to get you from the beginning to the end — Antonia to Zachary, A to Z."

“I feel like I can see my instant impact with students,” she said. “I’ll see students across the campus and strike up a conversation and know them, just like that.”

Hyder said that he loves the Tampa Bay area and that he “resonates with the university’s mission” of pushing for student success, which he says is a rare trait for a college in the U.S.

Hyder and Robinson do not have the same role as an academic advisor or the financial officer. But they hope that through a university-wide collaboration process, they can help students with what they need.

“We help prevent run-on, where you have to go to all these kinds of offices,” Hyder said. “We may not be able to do everything, but with the goal of collaboration, we’re really hoping to be able to plug people into the right places. They’re the specialists.”

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Ohio park rangers and patio chair smugglers: A glimpse inside CMF

By Baron Reichenbach
Contributor
Emily Wunderlich ewunderlich@mail.usf.edu

C ampus Movie Fest: The time for students to light up the stage by making beavers shoot lightning out of their paws.

CMF, which trouts itself as the largest student film festival in the world, provides students with all the equipment they need to produce their own 5-minute films in one week. Anonymous judges select 16 films to show at the closing ceremony, which will receive the Jury Award and the Grand Prix of the national TERMINUS convention in Atlanta.

As the fourth annual CMF, the film "Wood Chucked" is one student reflects on his first time participating in the event.

Interview with a creator

Nate Landry, 19, a freshman history major, decided he wanted to make "at-all remarkable" premiere of his short film, "Wood Chucked." "You've probably seen this plot in every movie," he said. "Basically, Chuck Wood, an Ohioan lumber conservation agent, has been fighting wood-based crime since the 1980s, and he's been sent to Florida to stop a patio chair-smuggling operation. Very basic.

Armed with a camera, tripod, microphone and MacBook with Adobe Creative Cloud, Landry had one week to complete his project. However, during the editing process, he found that the music he had used in the Adobe program was "shaggy." "So what did I do was I went on my actual Windows PC and snuck a trial of Adobe Premiere CS6 2012, which allowed me to get my film done by 3 a.m. (Feb. 25)," he said.

Although he finished the script before he started filming, Landry had to make last-minute adjustments to account for the limited cast and the actors' availability. This resulted in some roles being cut from the final product. "It was tough, because some people just couldn't make it, but the guys who were able to help out were really great," Landry said. "Even though Landry used to produce short films in high school, he said directing this one was "I can write a good script, and I think I can act, but when it comes to staging and directing people, it was really chaotic. Though I'd say I'm at least better than amateur," he said. "There was also the stress of balancing the film with my schoolwork... that (was) my biggest challenge next to casting and finding good locations."

With a $10 budget, Landry said this was his most expensive movie to date. He used the $10 to buy a stuffed beaver.

"I ended up having to spend three hours working on the lighting effects alone, making sure they were coming out of the beaver's hand, and no one is going to appreciate that," he said. "No one's going to realize I spent that amount of time in with Adobe Premiere."
We came, we saw, we smashed

Tiny but mighty
By Amy Diaz
amydiaz@mail.usf.edu

The sledgehammer was too heavy. The golf club was too light. The ax was just right.
The smallest boots I had were two sizes too big, and the gauzy coverall was definitely designed for people well over 5'2". The helmet, gloves and protective vest — arguably the most important pieces — all fit just fine.

With Paramore blasting in the background, I approached a big mirror in a wooden frame. I looked for nods of encouragement from my two friends armored up with me. Then I smashed the shit out of it.

The Smash Room of Tampa, 14311 N Nebraska Ave, is in a small unit of an unsuspecting brown building. When you walk in, there are comments written on little pieces of paper taped all over the walls from previous visitors. "Hulk smash!" and "I'd smash that!" seem to be pretty popular ones.

The company started in 2018 and, according to its website, was "established to provide an alternative to seeing an anger therapist or talking it out when you're having a bad day."

To mimic an actual workplace or house, the rooms have objects like furniture, printers, TVs and glassware. You can also bring in your own objects to destroy, like a framed picture of your ex. (I didn’t do that, Evan, but I may or may not have been imagining your face on everything I tolerated in recent months and realized I had never let myself truly be angry over it. Instead, I kept myself distracted until I didn’t think about it anymore. But it was like a conflict with no resolution; the anger had to come out somehow."

"This one is for insisting you knew what I wanted." Smash.

"This one's for the time you called me a whore." Smash.

"And this one is for all the times you didn’t take ‘no’ for an answer." Smash.

"I'm not violent enough to imagine anybody's face while I'm breaking glass. But I'm not above pretending to smash his windows, his phone, his computer or his TV." Jonah took on the wooden headboard that our host kindly asked us to make sure we "really destroyed."

Myself before the rest
By Jonah Hinebaugh
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I stared through a cloudy dirt bike-esque helmet — already drenched in sweat — into my camera, praying that one of these photos would turn out OK.

I rapid-fired my shutter to get that ax smashing the mirror since, you know, I can’t quite tape the glass pieces back together and try again.

May the batting practice with glass cups counts as sports photography.

I hid my camera in the corner as ceramic, glass and splintered wood flew across the room.

My inner Eric Andre manifested, and with the same energy he brings to every destructive intro on his self-titled show, I smashed everything in sight.

I felt like a lumberjack setting up planks of wood on the table to destroy — measure twice, cut once, am I right? I’ve never been an aggressive person. I usually keep my heavy emotional burdens and traumas to myself. I feel like a burden trying to talk to someone about it and putting my own shitty mental health on them.

Every swing of the bat, ax or crowbar was directed mostly at myself.

Every time I’ve had suicidal ideation.

Every time I haven’t been able to get out of bed because of my depression.

Every time I’ve brought emotional pain to my friends and family.

I swung the ax so much on the printer I thought Amy and Emily were staring at me like I was crazy — I swear I’m not.

The feelings then shifted toward every fascist, white nationalist, supremacist, racist, xenophobicuck across the U.S.

Even today, watching the videos of Heather Heyer, among other protesters, being struck by James Fields in Charlottesville, Virginia, makes me cry. So, you best believe Fields’ ugly-ass face was on my mind.

Sweaty, but satisfied, I was glad I didn’t have to worry about catching a charge while still brushing up on my destructive ability.

For around $30, depending on the package, you’re provided with protective gear, a room full of smashable objects and a basket of weapons, including baseball bats and crowbars.

The Smash Room offers group, individual and kid sessions, as well as party packages ranging from birthday to divorce. You have the option when booking your appointment to make your session recurring, (and they totally wouldn’t judge you if you don’t.)

Students, teachers, military and first responders receive a 10-percent discount on the Smash Room starter package and group-of-two packages.
Four years ago, a Van Helsing look-alike bartender had to break into Shanghai Nobby’s in St. Augustine so The Nude Party could perform for nobody.

Now they tour with Dr. Dog, perform to sold-out crowds and are set to embark on their first European tour in May.

“This is like the most lush tour we’ve ever done,” said percussionist Austin Brose, 25. “It's a lot more comfortable and a lot less helter-skelter than the first few times we came to Florida.”

The March 1 show at The Orpheum in Tampa provided a sigh of relief from the “hellaciously cold” stops in the Midwest and northern regions, which almost wrecked their mental psyche, Brose said.

After they finish their five remaining shows with Dr. Dog, The Nude Party will leave for their tour in Europe.

The band’s 60s-drenched influence comes from artists like Gram Parsons and bands like The Rolling Stones and The Velvet Underground.

According to guitarist Shaun Couture, 26, they’re “grand-daddies” for the band who double as angels hovering over them.

In 2012, the original sextet formed at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, with the name stemming from performing nude in their early career.

“Honestly, we thought it’d be funny, for the shock value, to play naked,” Couture said. “It started because we would skinny-dip with our friends at (bassist) Alec Castillo’s lake house before we started the band. It was really natural for us as friends to be naked in front of each other.”

It gained them notoriety in the college town for obvious reasons.

As they began broadening their horizons, they met Oakley Munson of Black Lips while performing in Asheville, North Carolina. When Munson lived in Nashville, Tennessee, he housed the band members when they performed there. Eventually, they moved in together in Livingston Manor, New York.

The “landlord, roommate, good friend and spiritual guru,” as Brose described him, helped produce the band’s EP, “Hot Tub,” in 2016.

Munson also had a hand in the band’s self-titled debut album released in July 2018.

Couture said most songs were written while they were still in college, but they spent two years polishing them while touring around the U.S. According to their biography on the New West Records website, the band stays busy, playing over 150 shows a year.

“Writing on the road was more of like cleaning a finished product,” Brose said. “It kind of solidified the ways that songs should be played or the way they sounded better by noticing the way crowds would react if we played certain things longer or shorter.”

Four days and three nights in Woodstock, New York, birthed the debut album with 12-hour recording sessions each day at Dreamland Recording Studio.

The studio was housed in what was once a church, which has been a host for acclaimed artists and bands like Beach House, Herbie Hancock and The B-52s.

“The general attitude toward our band is never (taking) anything very seriously,” Couture said.

Though their naked performances were only a small section of the band’s timeline, the carefree attitude that came with it has remained a staple in their music.

Shaun Couture (right) poses next to Austin Brose before The Nude Party’s performance at The Orpheum.

Couture and Brose share a kiss.

Singer and guitarist Patton Magee serenades the crowd during their set.

Most of the band also plays the role of backup vocalist for songs. Pictured is Shaun Couture.

The band performed a sold-out show at The Orpheum.

Brose (left) performs with another band member during their 45-minute set.

The band performed a sold-out show at The Orpheum.
I was Lucky to know him

By James Bennett III

m y best friend died Feb. 15 around 10:33 a.m.

He was a 14-year-old Maltese named Lucky. I had known him since I was 8.

Overall, he was a very happy dog. Whenever I took him to a new veterinarian or groomer, they would always inform me that he had a very charming smile.

It almost feels cheap to be writing about him; words cannot describe his impact on my life. I am writing about him because death is for the living, and he deserves to be remembered.

I refused to make any statement on social media regarding his death because the last thing that I want is a bunch of half-assed sad react emojis and people commenting “I’m sorry” for your loss, let me know if there is anything that I can do for you.” None of that will bring back my dog.

My brother, at the risk of sounding hokey, reminded me that Lucky would always be with me in my memories. He would be there in the McDonald’s french fries that we shared on long road trips. Lucky was there in the music that he loved so much.

Neither my brother, nor myself, are very spiritual. I personally do not believe in souls or spirits.

I choose to believe in the law of conservation of energy which states energy cannot be created nor destroyed. When we die, our molecules revert back into the universe in a funky version of osmosis. I am still adjusting to Lucky’s death three weeks later.

His food and water bowl still sit in my room, and I have to catch myself daily from saying something like “I’m playing with my dog when I get home.”

When I go from my living room to my bedroom, I still expect to hear the pitter-patter of his paws and his happy yipping. I still see him running in circles, excited for me to hold him.

I remember asking my mother how long Lucky was supposed to live when I was a child. She told me that he was supposed to stick around until I was in college.

His death seemed so far away at that time, but by the time that I started my freshman year, every day was a constant reminder of time’s inevitable and inexorable march toward Lucky— and everybody else’s— death.

I used to lay in bed for hours holding Lucky and wishing that time would stop for the both of us.

None of us will escape death. Some believe in an afterlife or rebirth, but they will end this life of the end before they go on to the next one.

I believe that once you die, your consciousness goes back to the way that it was before you were born.

Following that belief, everybody has one chance to do the things that matter most to them.

Spending time with Lucky was a high-ranking priority for me. I almost regret going to school and work instead of spending all of my time with him, but I understand the necessity of doing the “responsible” things in life, especially when those things helped me feed and care for Lucky.

Although Lucky will never greet me with shrill barks ever again, I will always remember him as my favorite collection of molecules. His passing has reminded me that we can all be a bit more aware of the fortune in our lives.

The existential philosopher, Jean-Paul Sartre, once wrote that “Hell is other people.” I’m not entirely sure if I agree with that train of thought, but I am almost certain that heaven walks on four paws.

The boys of summer are back

By Alec Arroyo

Spr ing is here, and that means baseball is back.

After a nauseating winter surrounding the Manny Machado and Bryce Harper free agency sweepstakes and the ongoing tension between the MLB and the MLB Players Association, it is nice to once again see grown men tossing baseballs.

The animosity between the MLBPA and the owners is at an all-time high because of the time it took for two of the game’s best Manny Machado and Bryce Harper — to find new homes. But now with Machado going to San Diego, and Bryce Harper signing with Philadelphia, other free agents should start to find jobs.

From Feb. 14 until opening day on March 28, teams are practicing and playing games at their spring training facilities — located in either Florida or Arizona — to prepare for the upcoming season.

Spring training games are already underway. Teams are gathering in Florida for the Grapefruit League and Arizona for the Cactus League, with their new team members preparing for the marathon that is the regular season.

These games can be tough to watch, since guys are ramping up for the regular season. The major leaguers normally play for the first few innings — sometimes at half speed — before minor leaguers come in to finish the full innings. Unless you are fully invested in a team’s minor league talent, there’s no reason to watch the latter half of a game.

But it’s still baseball, dear. It’s still baseball.

Florida gives extra reason to be excited. In the Grapefruit League, 15 teams have spring training facilities in the state — five of which are in the greater Tampa Bay and Orlando area — giving fans a chance to see teams and players they don’t normally see.

Think about how cool it is to go to Spectrum Field in Clearwater and watch newly signed Bryce Harper and the Phillies play the Astros, or watch Yankees vs. Red Sox rivalry game at George M. Steinbrenner Field in Tampa.

The stadiums, which are often close to one another, offer a special sporting experience. You can catch the first few innings of a Blue Jays game at 1:05 p.m. at Dunedin Stadium and then travel 10 minutes down the road to Clearwater to catch the second half of the Phillies game — all before dinner time.

Some people think baseball is boring, and I understand that. But there’s something to be said about attending a game. Sitting in the stands with a group of friends and drinking an ice-cold beer while scarifying down a ballpark hot dog is an awesome experience.

The break in action makes baseball a perfect sport to spectate because it gives people a chance to socialize and roam around the park, taking in the sights and enjoying the carnival games that test how fast you can throw a baseball.

Fans of the sport get excited around this time of year. I might say so because baseball signifies the change from the cold, gloomy weather of winter to the warm, sunny conditions of summer.

America’s pastime is back, folks. Enjoy it.
All differences aside, whether you prefer hoppy or sweet, good people drink good beer. Lucky for us, we live in Tampa Bay. Every time a spacious brick building with an abandoned parking lot closes, chances are a craft brewery will open in its spot. Seriously, guys, I could throw a rock and hit a brewery. I could wander blindly down any avenue and walk into a tasting room.

It’s Tampa Bay Beer Week, so it’s time to drink up.

**Coppendahl Brewing Co.**

You’ve drunk Night Swim before. You probably picked it up from the gas station on a chilly night. But I’m here to tell you that day swim (ABV: 6.5%, IBU: 0) is even better. Primarily available in the Ybor City brewery’s taproom, this rich, dark porter is essentially Night Swim with a sweet twist. The chocolate and vanilla push this brew over the edge, making it even more luxurious. The rich porter has notes of coffee, so it makes for a good breakfast beer, and the brewery opens at 11 a.m. Oh, you don’t drink beer for breakfast? Yeah, neither do I...

**Flying Boat Brewing Co.**

One of the three brews that are always on tap, the Big Al (ABV: 5%, IBU: 29) has a sweet caramel aroma right off the bat. It’s light and easy to drink, but you get a nice toasted toffee taste. A deceptively light color, this American pale ale is rich with taste.

It’s hard to stop at just one beer here, so let me go on a little tangent. The Match 100 (ABV: 7.3%, IBU: 50) is a cayenne, but damn delicious. A milkshake beer, if you will. I’m ready to get made fun of by IPA-lovers for loving milkshake beers, but here I am. Come at me. Learn from my mistakes and drink this one first instead of last. In keeping with me going on about coffee and chocolate notes, this beer has strong, delicious chocolate notes with coffee, chocolate and vanilla. The sweet stout won’t be on tap forever, but for at least a month or so. Drink up while you can.

**Pinellas Ale Works**

If you’re looking for the best milk stout you can find, this is the place to go. The brewery’s flagship beer, Milk Bone (ABV: 5%, IBU: 24), won a silver medal from the Great American Beer Festival (GABF) in 2017, and for good reason. Brewed with lactose in the boil (sorry, vegans), it has a residuals sweetness and medium mouthfeel. With notes of chocolate, coffee and a slight hint of toffee in the aroma and flavor, it’s perfect for a chilly day. Or if you’re like me, you’ll drink it every day regardless. Even better, the brewer adds fun treatments to this sweet stout from time to time. My favorites have been chocolate covered orange and s’mores.

**Cigar City Brewing**

If you live in Tampa Bay, you’ve probably already been here, or at least picked up a six-pack of Jai Alai from Publix before. But the beer you need in your life is Maduro (ABV: 5.5%, IBU: 25). Always on tap, this northern English-style Brown Ale is silky and chocolatey. It’s dark and full-bodied, but still easy drinking. It’s available year-round, so you can bring it out to the beach (remember to pour it into a cup because drinking on most of our beaches is illegal). It won a gold medal from GABF in 2018.

**Angry Chair Brewing**

This is the place to go if you’re looking for a dark beer and you don’t want to take any chances. Seriously, people line up out the door at 4 a.m. for their bottle releases. Recently making its debut, Reasonable Doubt (ABV: 9.5%, IBU: 0) is an imperial oatmeal porter with some oomph. Bonus: it’s also tapped on nitro for extra smoothness. Sweet and rich, this porter coats your mouth, leaving a delicious aftertaste. With a high ABV, this beer sneaks up on you, so be careful. Or, if you’re like me, don’t.

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Alumna takes record shop on the road

By Dinorah Prevost
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Each piece offered varied glimpses into the artists’ interpretation on the topic, allowing different ideas to be displayed as one cohesive whole.

Hosted by the Dean of Student Ambassadors, Ineffable: A Look at Sex, Love, and Relationships, was held Feb. 28, marking the second event hosted by the organization this year.

The exhibit highlights the highs and lows of love, whether through the physical expression of it or the diverse types of relationships that embody it.

“The Dean of Students … is all about relationships and getting along and self-preservation,” said I’Deara Gordon, president of the dean of student ambassadors. “That is why the theme of the art show is sex and love.”

Gordon, 19, was tasked with putting on at least three events for the year alongside the other student ambassadors when she was first hired.

“We wanted to switch it up and thought, ‘Why not an art show?’”

The exhibit consisted of 50 pieces from 30 people. Every entry was accepted, and the show displayed mediums such as photography, ceramics and oil works on canvas.

Kristine Normand, 24, displayed two pieces propped on a table in the corner of The Edge, each granting the viewer separate interpretations on love.

“I wanted to create a piece in my bedroom that represented the relationship between the masculine and the feminine, not necessarily in two individual people, but within myself and inviting the energy of couple into my life,” said Normand, gesturing to her piece titled “My Own Touch.”

Normand was one of the many artists who did not shy away from sharing their conceptual thought processes with others.

Another artist, Tracey Oakes, 19, shared her thoughts on the show and the force behind the piece she submitted.

“I submitted to the show because I wanted to contribute my art and be a part of this community of creators,” Oakes said.

Oakes’ piece titled, “The First Girl I Kissed,” highlighted the first girl she had a relationship with.

“It was very wholesome, learning about myself through someone else,” Oakes said.

Of the 50 pieces submitted, three were granted awards from student and faculty jurors, as well as one additional award nominated by the people in attendance as the fan favorite.

The first prize award went to a 2D animation video “The Crash,” which was created by Angela Maxfield. The second prize award went to Lily Atkins for her ceramics piece, “44 Richards.” The third prize went to Samantha Rispoli for her acrylic piece “Soft.” The fan favorite award went to McKenna Cheifo and Jaylen Byrne for their photographic piece “Bodies.”

The Dean of Student Ambassadors applauded as they announced the winners of the Ineffable: A Look at Sex, Love, and Relationships art show.