8-26-2019

Crow's Nest : 2019 : 08 : 26

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Professor Thomas Hallock will teach a basic English and advanced English writing course in Cholula, Mexico. Read more about what his work will entail.

NEWS, page 8

LEADERS WHO WANT TO LISTEN

The new SG leadership listed student participation, sustainability and consolidation as their top priorities. Here’s how you can get involved.

FEATURES, page 7

SOFT-SERVE SMILES

One USF St. Petersburg alumnus spent his birthday raising money for Birthday Candles for Kids, a local nonprofit organization that plans birthday parties for underprivileged children.

THE CROW’S NEST

THE CAMPUS NEWSPAPER AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG

Volume 53, Issue 1 - August 26, 2019 | Online at crowsneststpete.com @USFCrowsNest @USFCrowsNest @USFSPCrowsNest

Planners chip away at St. Pete

By Nancy McCann

Contributor

In June, the governor and Legislature put an order into state law:

When the three campuses of the USF system are consolidated in 2020, they declared, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee will be full branch campuses with authority to shape their budgets, hire faculty and tailor programs for their students.

But over the summer, those branches lost a lot of leaves.

• The search for a regional vice chancellor to oversee academics in St. Petersburg was abruptly terminated.

“We were told not to fill the position because we don’t know what the final organizational chart will be and it’s not wise to invest permanently” in that position, Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock told faculty on Aug. 19.

• Ralph Wilcox, who as USF system provost was longtime President Judy Genshaft’s strong right arm, was recently awarded a five-year contract to serve new USF system President Steve Currall. His annual salary: $471,203.

Wilcox supported Genshaft’s position that USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee can be called branch campuses without meeting the exact definition used by the regional accrediting agency.

• The St. Petersburg campus got an increase of $3.2 million in its base budget from the Legislature this year, and Sarasota-Manatee got $5 million. But under a new policy adopted by the USF Board of Trustees on Aug. 19, the money can’t be committed by the campuses without the approval of the USF president.

Who let the dogs out?

By James Bennett III

Jamesbennett@mail.usf.edu

The accuser in a 2016 sexual assault case on campus has called out The Crow’s Nest for the way it covered the case.

In a letter to the newspaper, the female student accuses the paper of violating her privacy and repeatedly publicizing details of the case while positively portraying the male student, who was kicked out of school in May 2017. (See letter, page 6)

“You have continued to bring up traumatic details of the case with a seeming lack of regard for my healing and the feelings of the many sexual assault survivors on our campus,” her letter says.

“As a newspaper, I ask that you re-evaluate your ethical and moral boundaries rather than using my story as your hot take on #MeToo.”

The female student is not named in the records released by the university and a voluminous court file. She has not been named by the newspaper either.

But the male student in the case is Samuel Goetz, who in 2016-2017 was a member of the Student Government senate. He had just been elected vice president of SG when he was expelled by the university in May 2017.

A university conduct board concluded that Goetz was guilty of non-consensual sexual contact and non-consensual intercourse.

A month later, Goetz sued the university, contending that the charges were false and he was denied due process in contesting them.

He and his lawyers said he did not wish to be reinstated by the university, but did want the expulsion removed from his record so he could eventually attend law school.

In the months that followed, lawyers for Goetz and the university sparred over details of the alleged sexual assault in a series of hearings and documents.

In June 2018, three Pinellas County circuit court judges upheld the expulsion. But when Goetz appealed their ruling, the same judges later reversed themselves.

They ruled that Goetz’s rights of due process were denied by both the university’s student conduct board and Dean of Students Jacob Diaz and ordered a rehearing of the case.

Rather than prolonging the case, the university agreed to remove the expulsion from Goetz’s record, which instead would stipulate that he was suspended with “an ongoing restriction from access to the University.”

Accuser in sexual assault case criticizes newspaper coverage

By Emily Wunderlich

ewunderlich@mail.usf.edu

Two years after Sophia Wisniewska was ousted as regional chancellor for the way she handled Hurricane Irma, her lawsuit against the university system and former President Judy Genshaft is headed for its first hearing.

Genshaft is suing for breach of contract, defamation, intentional infliction of emotional distress and wrongful interference with a business relationship. She is seeking $15,000 in damages, excluding attorneys fees, court costs and interest.

Her suit, which was filed in Hillsborough County Circuit Court in April, refers to the draft of her termination letter from Genshaft, which was quoted in the Tampa Bay Times before the two had reached a less explosive resignation agreement.

On July 1, Genshaft’s attorney filed a motion to dismiss Wisniewska’s lawsuit on the grounds of her failure to state a cause of action.

Wisniewska’s attorney also argued that Genshaft could not have breached the resignation agreement before it was executed.

“The duty of good faith does not attach unless plaintiff can establish the existence of an enforceable contract that USF (Board of Trustees) was obligated to perform,” the motion says.

In Wisniewska’s suit, dated April 26, her attorney called Genshaft’s conduct “outrageous” and said it caused “emotional distress so severe that no reasonable person should be expected to endure.”

But Genshaft’s lawyer argues that her conduct does not legally meet Florida’s “particularly high burden” for the definition of “outrageous,” which is “to go beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.”

Hearing set in former chancellor’s USF lawsuit

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Retention increases, but enrollment dips

By Nancy McCann

It’s remarkable news, said USF St. Petersburg’s Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock. The projected freshman retention rate for students who entered USF St. Petersburg in the fall of 2018 is over 82 percent. The “retention rate” is the percentage of a school’s first-year undergraduates who continue at that school the next year.

Tadlock told a large audience of USF St. Petersburg faculty and staff on Aug. 19 that there is an 8 percentage point increase in freshman retention when compared to the fall-to-fall figure for 2017-2018. He applauded the hard work the part of faculty and staff who made this happen. “Nationally, the average retention rate is 75 percent,” Tadlock said. “You can’t find another university in the United States with that significant of an increase in the freshman retention rate over the last three years as we have had at USF St. Petersburg.”

He also reported that the projected number of incoming freshmen at USF St. Petersburg in the fall 2019 semester is down. But he said that’s no surprise as St. Petersburg heads toward consolidation of the three USF campuses. The final number of freshmen will be available after the first week of classes.

The student profile of USF St. Petersburg’s first-time-in-college freshmen went from a 3.82 GPA in 2017 to an estimated 4.1 GPA in 2019, climbing to meet the state without ensuring proper arrangements had been made.

He criticized Wisniewska for hesitating to close the campus, and then leaving the state without ensuring proper arrangements had been made.

Wisniewska and Genshaft ultimately reached a resignation agreement in which Wisniewska’s termination letter would not be included in her personnel file, “thereby rendering the letter subject to the Florida Sunshine Laws.”

The agreement also stated that both Genshaft and Wisniewska would “refrain from professionally derogatory comments regarding USF and each other, including but not limited to comments that could reasonably affect employability and professional standing.”

But before that agreement was reached, a draft of Genshaft’s termination letter was quoted in the Tampa Bay Times on Sept. 19, 2017. In it, Genshaft criticized Wisniewska for hesitating to close the campus, and then leaving the state without ensuring proper arrangements had been made.

Genshaft said in the draft that Wisniewska’s “lack of leadership” created an “intolerable safety risk” for the USF St. Petersburg community. “No one is expected to remain vulnerable in a dangerous situation,” the draft said. “But it is expected that the Regional Chancellor will recognize that a clear chain of command must be established and that emergency operations and communications expertise are vital before, during and after a natural disaster.”

But Wisniewska argues that she “competently fulfilled her role as the Regional Chancellor for USFSP,” by keeping in contact through phone calls and emails until the storm threat was over.

She contends that her reputation, professional standing and employability have all been damaged by the release of the draft letter. Now 67, Wisniewska lives in California, where she worked for a time as a senior adviser at the University of San Diego, according to her LinkedIn profile.

SUIT, continued from P1

Genshaft’s attorney also maintains that Wisniewska cannot collect damages for “mental pain and anguish” due to breach of contract, even if the breach was willful and flagrant. Hillsborough County Circuit Judge Ralph Stoddard is scheduled to hear arguments in the case at 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 22.

Outrageous conduct

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FALL FIRST TIME IN COLLEGE PROFILE COMPARISON

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<tr>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Average SAT</th>
<th>Average ACT</th>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>(estimated)</td>
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2019

GPA: 4.1
Average SAT: 1250
Average ACT: 28
English professor takes USFSP across the border

By Katlynn Mullins
katlynnm@mail.usf.edu

English professor Thomas Hallock wants to show his students “peace and understanding — one tortilla at a time.”

This semester, he will work as the Garcia Robles Chair of U.S. Studies at the Universidad de las Americas Puebla in Cholula, Mexico, under the Fulbright Scholar program. Hallock is teaching two courses at UDLAP, a Fulbright Scholar program.

The writing course is linked to Julie Armstrong’s class and an advanced English writing course. The writing course is tied to the Garcia Robles Chair of U.S. Studies at the Universidad de las Americas Puebla in Cholula, Mexico, under the Fulbright Scholar program.

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For the St. Petersburg campus and its allies in the Pinellas County business and political communities, the distinction between a branch campus and an instructional site is crucial.

The Legislature’s definition of “branch campus” matches the definition of the agency that accredits higher education institutions in the South. As branch campuses, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee must be permanent in nature and offer courses in educational programs leading to a degree, diploma, certificate or other recognized educational credentials.

They also must have their own faculty and administrative or supervisory organization and their own budgetary and hiring authority.

Falling short of these four defining features means that the smaller USF campuses would be less prestigious institutional sites, which would be inconsistent with the state law that was enacted in June.

“This is more than bureaucratic language,” the Tampa Bay Times said about the legislation in a May 3 editorial. “This is a big win for the St. Petersburg campus, and it should end any lingering efforts to micromanage from the main campus in Tampa.”

Patricia Petijohn, head of collection development and technical services at the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library and member of the USF System Faculty Council, said in an interview last week that so far, comments from faculty members reviewing the consolidation documents fall mainly in two areas.

“A shared concern is that critical information is missing that makes it impossible for us to make any decision about the proposed structure,” she said. “Mostly what we can do is ask questions.”

Another big issue, she said, is that faculty members do not yet know if they have an assigned campus.

“It’s unknown if you will be a USF or USFSP faculty member,” she said. “All cases roll up to a dean in Tampa, and the way things are looking, department meetings will be in Tampa. Some people are worried about having to do a lot of travel.

“We still don’t know if the College of Marine Science will be located in St. Pete. It’s getting late in the game.”

A consolidation document titled “Alignment of Degree Programs to Colleges” shows that several of USF St. Petersburg’s unique programs appear to be feeding up to schools and departments that are known (but not obviously identified) to be located at the Tampa campus.

For example, St. Petersburg’s journalism, digital communication and media programs are shown as aligned with the Zimmerman School of Mass Communication in Tampa.

St. Petersburg’s distinctive conservation biology program is aligned with the Department of Integrative Biology; computational and applied mathematics is with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

USF St. Petersburg’s environmental chemistry program, launched this fall, is aligned with the Department of Chemistry; sustainability studies is with the School of Geosciences.

In March, during a St. Petersburg appearance the day before he was named president by the Board of Trustees, Currall said he has seen multi-campus universities “work very well.” He said he was “aware that this campus has its own identity and culture” that should be honored.

But Currall’s decision to end the search at the St. Petersburg campus for a new regional vice chancellor for academic affairs prompted the Times in an Aug. 13 editorial to mention “renewed concerns about micromanaging from Tampa.”

Tadlock’s message to the campus about consolidation emphasized the long game.

“This is a process that will be ongoing for quite some time,” he told faculty at the Aug. 19 meeting. “Keep focused on our students, our community and each other. We know what to do.”

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Anthropology professor receives grant to conduct research in Africa

Anthropology professor Kathryn Weedman Arthur received a $240,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to study a culture’s history and its effect on the surrounding land.

The study will focus on the Boreda Gamo, an indigenous culture in Southern Ethiopia, and the more than 200 nearby forests. The forests are sacred, and no one can enter without community consent. Arthur has been working with and learning about the culture since 1996. They have accepted her, and she is considered a citizen among them.

The team is made up of international researchers from the U.S., Italy, France and Ethiopia. They will conduct shovel tests, or archaeological digs, to find artifacts from the 13th through 19th centuries.

Then, the researchers will compare them with modern ceramic forms to determine the culture’s activities and when the artifacts were made. The same will be done with the land through environmental assessments inside the forests.

One goal of the study is to help the culture, as the Boreda Gamo have a poor reputation in Ethiopia, according to Arthur. They have been painted as “passive during pre-colonial assaults,” Arthur said.

By studying their past, the team will assist in “providing them with a place of dignity in Ethiopia’s history,” she said.

The study will offer a model for how people successfully engage the landscape to survive human and environmental atrocities — through resistance or resilience.

Arthur said she also hopes this study will provide “potential solutions to our future climate and socio-economic vulnerabilities.”

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By Katlynn Mullins
katlynnm@mail.usf.edu

Dr. Kathryn Weedman Arthur, professor of anthropology at USF St. Petersburg, received a $240,000 grant to study the Boreda Gamo, an indigenous culture in Southern Ethiopia and the more than 200 nearby forests. COURTESY OF KATHRYN WEEDEMAN ARTHUR
Who let the dogs out: St. Petersburg shelter offers ‘Doggy Day Out’ program

By Carrie Pinkard
clarice2@mail.usf.edu

Loki sat in the shade of Vinoy Park in downtown St. Petersburg, his massive tongue drooping to the side. He seemed to smile at everyone who walked by. Behind him, dolphins skirted along the surface of Tampa Bay.

The 10-month-old Pitbull mix spends most of his time at a local animal shelter, Friends of Strays. But today he got to explore St. Petersburg thanks to the shelter’s “Doggy Day Out” program.

The program, which started in May, allows anyone interested in a canine companion to take them out for a day. This gives people a chance to see if a dog is right for them, and it gives the dog a chance to experience life outside the shelter. Holly Clare, communications manager at Friends of Strays, said the dogs are happier when they return to the shelter. She said the happiness isn’t just visual — it’s scientific.

“Maddie’s Fund is an organization that gives out grants to a lot of shelters,” Clare said. “They gave a grant to study the Doggy Day Out program, where they measured the serotonin levels in the dogs’ brains before and after they went out.

“All the results came back showing the dogs were much more calm, relaxed, happy and less stressed. So we know that it works.”

I picked up Loki at 2:00 p.m. on a Thursday. He was so excited to leave the shelter he nearly knocked me over with his front paws. The employees at the shelter handed me everything I needed for a day out with a dog: a leash, collar, towel, ID tag, dog seat belt, water bowl and crate.

I also received a coupon book, filled with discounts for both human and dog treats at businesses around the city who sponsor the program. Our first stop was Vinoy Park, where I paraded Loki, adorned in a green “adopt me” bandana, along the waterfront. People lounging in hammocks noticed the green-eyed dog right away and said how beautiful he was. I traded their compliments for a Loki business card, with information on where they could find him and, hopefully, adopt him.

After jogging through the park in the 93-degree heat, Loki was ready for some air conditioning, so we headed to Pinellas Ale Works, also known as P.A.W., a dog-themed bar in downtown St. Petersburg.

I challenged Loki to a game of Dog-O-Poly, but he preferred the more physical challenge of demolishing a Jenga board.

After an afternoon of belly rubs and bonding, it was hard to say goodbye. However, after seeing the amount of attention Loki got during the day, I left confident he would be adopted soon.

Clare said 13 dogs have been adopted directly from the people who have taken them out, and even more have been adopted from bystanders who met the dogs out in the community during their day out.

The dogs range from $50 to $300 to adopt. Friends of Strays is the first and only animal shelter in the Tampa Bay area to offer a Doggy Day Out program.

“People are so happy with the program,” she said. “All of these places gave us financial support. I didn’t ask one business who turned us down. ‘We just live in such a good place for something like this, because we live in such a dog-friendly city.’
Letter to the Editor:
‘Enough is enough’

By Emily Wunderlich
Senior Journalism & Digital Communication Major ewunderlich@mail.usf.edu

When my sexual assault case took place, I was the one with the power and safety — or so I thought. Now, as USFSP Student Life Center Office 2400, I’m going to recite the many things. The news is plenty of things. The news is plenty of things. The news is plenty of things. The news is plenty of things.

I read and write. I'll even admit I submitted poems to The Sarasota Herald-Tribune. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change that will highlight the uncertain. — a huge change 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Every day I wish that I didn’t have to look at it, but it did and now all I can do is be there for others. Naya Payne has started the Sexual Assault Survivors Support Club on campus as a way to support women and men of assault and harassment. Sincerely, Jane Roe
USFSP alumnus celebrates birthday by giving back
By Savannah Carr savannahc4@mail.usf.edu

L ast summer, USF St. Petersburg alumnus Jon Boyd spent his 26th birthday handing out free ice cream and raising money for the local nonprofit organization, Birthday Candles for Kids.

“I had recently moved back to St. Petersburg after living overseas and I wanted to do something for my community. So I watched different YouTube videos for inspiration,” he said.

“Between my love for ice cream and my love for people, the idea just flowed.” After a few phone calls, Boyd was able to secure an ice cream truck, along with merchandise donations from the Tampa Bay Rays and the Tampa Bay Rowdies. For every donation, the Rays and Rowdies gave away merchandise.

“It was pretty awesome the Rays and Rowdies partnered with us. So, we were able to hand out bobble heads and other merchandise,” Boyd said.

Upholding the birthday theme, he chose to partner with an organization that plans birthday parties for homeless, fostered and orphaned children in Pinellas County.

“We typically spend $40 to $50 on a party, so Jon’s amazing fundraiser will turn into upwards of 20 parties! That is very exciting,” co-founders Chelsea and Kayla Hage said in an email.

Boyd also hopes to continue this tradition for years to come, both on and off campus.

“I definitely see doing it again in the future. Hopefully with a bigger impact around the campus and community. I am considering doing it again during finals week,” he said.

A dream come true: Staff member appears on Wheel of Fortune
By Katlynn Mullins katlynnm@mail.usf.edu

F irst, she submitted a video and didn’t hear back.

Six months later, she drove to Cape Coral, to audition and never even got on stage.

“There’s a possibility you can get called into a second-round interview,” producers told her. But she was skeptical.

Then she got the email — come back to Cape Coral for the second round.

“If you’re in our contestant pool, you’ll hear back from us in 14 days,” the producers told her after the audition.

On day 16, Jerrica Stovall, associate director of Student Involvement as USF St. Petersburg, was finally invited to Los Angeles to compete on Wheel of Fortune.

“I could not miss the opportunity,” she said.

Stovall watched the show every night growing up. She was sent paperwork to study, and her husband helped her prepare throughout the two weeks before filming.

She felt confident in her ability to think logically and solve puzzles, even with all the commotion going on in the studio.

“I just remember being really nervous,” Stovall said.

What to do this week: Aug. 26-Sept. 1

By Bryce Lawson

MONDAY
Bring you favorite four-legged friends to the Sundial in honor of National Dog Day from 5 to 8 p.m. Vendors such as Pinellas Ale Works and Locale Market will have dog-themed food and drinks available to purchase. This is a free event.

The Pinellas Democrats will meet at the Marriott St. Petersburg, 12600 Roosevelt Blvd. N, from 7 to 9 p.m. This is a free event.

TUESDAY
The James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art will host Dr. Gabrielle Vail, who will discuss the correlation between indigenous art and the natural and supernatural worlds. The $10 event will run from 6 to 8 p.m. at 150 Central Ave.

The Outpost, 10056 Gandy Blvd., will host Trivia Night from 7 to 9 p.m. The event is free with food and drinks available for purchase.

WEDNESDAY
Attention all Marvel fans! Emerald City Comics, 4902 113th Ave. N, will host Marvel Comics #1000 from 5 to 7 p.m. featuring a meet-and-greet with three comic book artists who will sign items for free.

The Queens Head, 2501 Central Ave., will host A Fun Nite Out, featuring music by Jennifer Real from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. This is a free show with food and drinks available to purchase at the bar.

THURSDAY
Intermezzo Coffee & Cocktails, 1111 Central Ave., will host The Royal Palm Market from 6 p.m. to midnight. The free event will feature some of the best vendors the area has to offer, with a variety of handmade and leather goods.

Terrapin, an ambient music DJ, will perform at Steep Station, 2901 Central Ave., from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. This is a free event.

FRIDAY
Shout out to Eleven The Bends, 919 First Ave. N, will host a Stranger Things Costume Party from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. This free event will feature food and live music, with a prize for the winner of the costume contest.

The Hot Rod Hornets, a local swing dancing band, will perform at 3 Daughters Brewing, 222 22nd St. S, from 8 to 11 p.m. The music is free to enjoy with refreshments available for purchase.

SATURDAY
The annual GeckoFest will be held in downtown Gulfport from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., featuring the best food, art and live music Gulfport has to offer. This is a free event.

Williams Park, 350 Second Ave. N, will host a Summer Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Various produce and art vendors will be on hand. The market is free to attend.

SUNDAY
No Vacancy, 937 Central Ave., will host Sink Or Swim, an event that offers $20 bottomless Mimosas and Bloody Marys from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Food will also be available to purchase.

Before filming, contestants had to practice with the 2,400-pound wheel and get sized with a platform to ensure their belly button met with the buzzer.

In the end, Stovall won $42,000 in prizes, including a 2019 Nissan Versa and a cruise to France during her run on Wheel of Fortune. COURTESY OF JERRICA STOVALL

Jerrica Stovall, associate director of Student Involvement as USF St. Petersburg, won $42,000 in prizes, including a 2019 Nissan Versa and a cruise to France during her run on Wheel of Fortune. COURTESY OF JERRICA STOVALL
Student Government leaders share priorities for new year

By Carrie Pinkard
clarice2@mail.usf.edu

The new school year means new classes, new textbooks and a new Student Government term. The 48th term brings in senior Jazzy Duarte as president and junior Hannah Rose Wanless as vice president.

Duarte is an environmental science and policy major from Orlando. She said she started working with Student Government in the summer of 2016 because she “loved the idea of working as students for students.”

Wanless is a history major who joined SG as a freshman. She said she wants to make sure all student voices feel heard and represented on campus.

The pair discussed their plans for the year and agreed that the major issues they want to tackle are consolidation, environmental sustainability, student participation and voter turnout.

Consolidation has been looming over the university for over a year. There are still many questions about how the process will work and how it will affect students.

Duarte said as SG president, she wants to be sure USF St. Petersburg student voices are being heard.

“I think the most concerning thing about this situation is that there isn’t much information given to the students,” Duarte said.

“A lot of the details have not been advertised, so we’re not able to properly plan on what next steps to take for our campus,” Duarte said. “It’s also going to be hard to ensure that our campus voice and concerns are heard, so we don’t get lost in this process.”

Wanless agreed.

“Figuring out what it means to be a consolidated university, and making sure USFSP’s students voices are heard and needs are still met during this process is a big priority President Duarte and myself,” she said.

Sustainability

When Duarte ran for president, sustainability was one of the pillars of her campaign. She is part of the Clean Energy and Resource Conservation Commission, which conducted research on greenhouse gas emissions and recycling on campus. She said the recycling rate at USF St. Petersburg was “very low.”

“I hope to work with other environmental organizations to promote sustainability and make it accessible to all,” Duarte said.

Student Participation

One of Wanless’ goals is to get more students participating in events. “I would love to be able to increase student attendance and participation in events across the board,” she said.

“Student Government and the other student organizations on campus are here to serve the student body, so figuring out the best events, and ways to reach them is a goal that I have.”

Duarte wants to encourage students to explore jobs within SG. She said it’s one of the best ways to get involved on campus, and there are a variety of opportunities.

“With the Executive branch, we have deputy opportunities where you can shadow a Director in the branch and see what the position is made to be,” Duarte said.

“If someone was interested in the Legislative branch, they could campaign to be a senator and be a part of committees to make decisions for the campus. Same with our Judicial Branch, students can get involved as a judicial aid and be a part of our court,” she added.

Duarte and Wanless said they also want to start town halls and constituent hours to answer questions about how SG works.

Wanless and Duarte both want to address the low voter turnout in SG elections. They plan to hold informational sessions that will teach students how and why they should vote.

“One of the things President Duarte and I planned on doing during our campaign is hosting ‘Know Your Rights’ sessions, that explain your rights as a student on campus,” Wanless said.

“These sessions will go over how each branch works and how they represent the students, and why each person’s vote is important.”

“I hope to work closely with our Office of Civic Engagement and other affiliated organizations on campus to increase voter turnout on campus and in the community,” said Duarte.

Both Duarte and Wanless said they’re always open to hearing concerns from students.

Duarte said students can contact her by email, come in to the student government office, or simply approach her on campus.

“I want to put emphasis on the fact that my job is to serve the students. I want to hear from you,” she said.

SPEAKS, continued from P1

In her letter to The Crow’s Nest, the female student – who calls herself Jane Roe – says she now has “no reason to be silenced by our bullying source of news anymore.”

“This letter is to bring awareness to your staff to be aware of what impact your articles have on the emotional well-being of others,” she says. “I have cried many times over the things said about me and hoped that the news coverage would stop so that I may heal.”

Emily Wunderlich, the editor-in-chief of The Crow’s Nest, said the newspaper staff welcomed Roe’s letter, which she said brings a key voice to the important story.

The editors agree that any case of alleged sexual assault or harassment should be handled with great care, Wunderlich said.

The paper contacted Roe as the staff tried to determine why Goetz had suddenly resigned as vice president-elect of Student Government, Wunderlich said. In their brief conversation, the reporter promised that the paper would not publish Roe’s name.

The newspaper never published Roe’s name, Wunderlich said, and it did not publish some details of the sexual encounter.

When Goetz sued the university, Wunderlich said, it was important to follow the case in the context of renewed national debate on sexual violence on America’s college campuses.

Visit crownestpete.com to read previous coverage of the Samuel Goetz case.