Education professor awarded Tampa leadership position

By James Bennett III

A prominent professor at USF St. Petersburg has been named a department chair at the College of Education in Tampa.

But Deanna Michael said she will remain on the education faculty in St. Petersburg, where she teaches two classes and spends a majority of her time here.

The department chair role in Tampa means she gets both a promotion and the chance to stay in a university system that she has grown to love, she said.

When the opportunity in Tampa materialized, she said, “I was like, ‘I get to stay. I get to stay with the students I absolutely adore. I get to stay with my friends. And I get to work with my friends in Tampa.’ What’s better?”

Michael, an associate professor, is also a prominent player in the governance of the USF system. As president of the USF System Faculty Council, which works with the faculty senates on the three campuses, Michael serves on the university system’s 13-member Board of Trustees.

Her stint as a trustee was supposed to end in August, Michael said, but it was extended so she could help guide the three campuses through the consolidation process.

Michael’s new role on the Tampa campus comes at a time of uncertainty for the College of Education in St. Petersburg.

Under the rules of the regional agency that accredits USF, the consolidated university can have only one college of education and one dean. And both will be in Tampa.

St. Petersburg’s college apparently will become a school or schools offering education courses with a particular focus.

The last dean of St. Petersburg’s College of Education, Dr. Allyson Watson, served for only two years before leaving last summer to work at Black Crow Coffee Co.

More than 20 St. Petersburg businesses and organizations participated in the climate strike Sept. 20, including the Suncoast Sierra Club, Pinellas Democratic Socialists of America and Black Crow Coffee Co.

See story, page 8

St. Pete’s once—and future?—academic czar

By Nancy McCann

Contributor

When USF system President Steve Currall came to the USF St. Petersburg campus on Aug. 30 to discuss consolidation, his second in command sat quietly in the audience.

Currall never introduced Provost Ralph Wilcox. If you didn’t recognize him, you wouldn’t have known he was there.

In hindsight, that seemed all the more curious when, 11 days later, Currall unveiled a proposed plan for consolidation that would put Wilcox in charge of St. Petersburg’s academic and student affairs.

Those sweeping responsibilities, which have belonged to a St. Petersburg-based executive for decades, would be moved to a silver-haired veteran of academic governance based 35 miles away in Tampa.

As some in St. Petersburg struggled to process both the core and the details of Currall’s “preliminary blueprint,” the campus was left to wonder: Who is Ralph Wilcox, and how would the campus fare under his leadership?

As if sensing the curiosity and fears, Wilcox has been meeting with groups of faculty and staff in St. Petersburg.

On Sept. 20, it was faculty from the College of Education and staff from student success who met with him.

On his agenda next week is a meeting with faculty from the campus’ largest college – Arts and Sciences – on Sept. 26.

That meeting, like the others, will be private.

“It is not at all unusual” for Wilcox to meet with colleagues in St. Petersburg “on important university business, including consolidation,” said university system spokesman Adam Freeman.

“University employees are permitted to have meetings that aren’t open to the public or news media,” he said.

At least one faculty member suggests that is a mistake.

“I’m saddened to learn that The Crow’s Nest will not be allowed” at the meeting, said Melanie Riedinger-Whitmore, an associate professor and chair of the Department of Biology.

“Personally, I think that student reporters should be allowed to report on campus events that impact the educational opportunities and mission of USF.”

The meetings with Wilcox come at a perilous time for the St. Petersburg campus, which was stripped of its independent accreditation – effective next July – by the Legislature.

Under Currall’s tentative plan for consolidation, which he calls “USF as one university geographically distributed,” the general education curriculum is consistent across all three campuses, there is one office of admissions to recruit students and one office of student success.

His organizational chart shows all deans reporting to Tampa.

Meanwhile, Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock would get a longer title – regional chancellor and vice president – but his “refreshed role” would leave him in charge of non-academic support staff and university “advancement” activities, like fundraising and alumni relations.

Tadlock’s sweeping authority would pass to Wilcox, 65, who as the top assistant to Currall and his predecessor, Judy Genshaft, has played a key role in consolidation planning.

Although many in St. Petersburg don’t know him, Provost Ralph Wilcox ran the campus for a year in the early 1990s.
By Savannah Carr

The sailing team drew national attention after sailors from U.S. Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg brought five students ashore from Bayboro Harbor on Sept. 12.

According to a news release, winds of 25 mph caused the boats to capsize during a sailing class. All of the students were wearing life jackets, and most returned to campus with the help of an instructor vessel.

The Coast Guard towed two boats to prevent them from hitting the rocks.

“Fortunately for sail students at USFSP, Coast Guard Station St. Petersburg is right next door to keep an eye out for trouble,” the Coast Guard said in a tweet.

But Sam Kappar, the sailing team’s secretary, said the incident “was not serious enough for the Coast Guard to intervene.”

“We appreciate their help, dinghies flip sometimes,” she said. “It’s just part of our sport.”

The incident was reported in the Stars and Stripes and the Associated Press.

Olivia Smith, a member of the sailing team, said the people on the capsized boat were beginners who didn’t know how to recover their vessel.

“When we went out, the winds were not overpowering, and when we realized the winds were gaining speed, we started to head in,” she said. “We had our safety boat out there trying to help, but the current pushed them into the rocks. That’s when the Coast Guard came to help.”

Fortunately, most sailing students are well-prepared for incidents such as this, according to team member Delaney Brown. Many have previous experience, and those who don’t are taught what to do, she said.

“If they are brand new to the sport, we recommend they take Campus Recreation’s ‘Start Sailing Right Course,’ which goes over the basics of sailing and teaches capsize recovery,” Brown said.

“Usually, when a storm comes in and brings a lot of wind, we only send a smaller group of sailors that are able to confidently handle a boat in breezer conditions.”

Wilcox supported Genshaft’s proposal to consolidate the USF campuses.

Genshaft, now the president at Washington State University, continued from P1

Two of the sailing team’s boats had to be towed back to campus after 25 mph winds caused them to capsize during a sailing class.

COURTESY OF U.S. COAST GUARD SECTOR ST. PETERSBURG

Sailing students rescued by Coast Guard

The CROW’S NEST

Sailing students rescued by Coast Guard

THE CROW’S NEST
W ith budget setbacks from last semester and a new bull running around, Campus Recreation has faced some changes. Fresh from graduate school, new fitness coordinator Hannah Anderson started in May.

Anderson likes the smaller size of the campus. She feels she “can connect with students” and build relationships with them while working closely with different staff members.

When Anderson planned the second annual Fitness Week, she focused largely on collaborating with campus organizations, said Assistant Director Casey Plastek.

On Sept. 17, she partnered with The Puppy Raisers club to put on puppy yoga. On Sept. 18, she partnered with Sodexo, the campus dining service, to throw a dish-themed event.

Overall, the three events drew 172 participants and 319 on Wednesday alone. The “Taste and Take” event was hosted to inform students about healthy eating options.

There are four chair positions in the large College of Education in Tampa, Michael said.

Michael’s new responsibilities include ensuring the classes offered to students will count toward their degrees, making sure instructors are qualified for each class they teach and checking whether faculty members are taking on an adequate workload.

Michael said she also is tasked with communicating the priorities of the education leaders on both campuses to other faculty members.

On the St. Petersburg campus, that part of the job can be as simple as going door to door or stopping by faculty members in the hallway to remind them to order textbooks.

For faculty members who work at the Tampa campus or work remotely, she said, she will often have to rely on email.

Michael said the leaders on the two campuses are still working out how she should divvy up her services and research, but she will still spend the majority of her time at the St. Petersburg campus.

“I get the best of both worlds,” Michael said. “It’s not very often that you get a situation where you’re made an offer and you respect everyone you’re working with. It just doesn’t happen. And so because of that, because of other leaders I could trust and their guiding me and their helping me. It was the opportune moment.”

Michael’s specialty is education policy at all levels of American government, particularly racial desegregation policies in the 1960s and 1970s. In 2008, she published a book on former President Jimmy Carter and his education policy-making.

As her roles on the System Faculty Council and Board of Trustees wind down, she said she looks forward to using the extra time writing a book and some articles and attending international conferences on education.

Michael sounded optimistic that the consolidation process won’t steamroll the St. Petersburg campus.

“What’s important is paying attention to committee membership and the representation of faculty,” Michael said. “We don’t know the structure yet. So what we’ve got to do, is get as far as we can go, and then have plan A, plan B, plan C, but that all are fair or equitable.”

“Know everybody involved in the constitutional rewrite is listening to another,” she said. “Yeah, they may not always agree, but they’re all listening to another one.”

One challenge Anderson has faced is the commuter culture.

“How do we get students to buy into all of the offerings that Campus Recreation has?” she asked. Even though they might not live on campus, she wants them to stay and feel more involved.

“I’m trying to figure out what students want,” she said.

One of her goals is to work more with the Wellness Center to create an exercise prescription program. The program would allow students time with personal trainers in Campus Recreation to build “self-efficacy.”

Often, Anderson said, a good coping mechanism for students who go to the counseling center is “simply exercise.”

“I was a competitive dancer for about 12 years before I went to undergrad. I struggled with some mental health and anxiety issues,” she said. “I found that keeping moving in my life was really crucial to my sanity.”

That’s when she started her major fitness journey. She began teaching as a freshman and hasn’t stopped. She’s into “holistic wellness” and works to combine all aspects of health — both mental and physical.

Anderson wants to pass that onto students.

“For me, it’s really important working on a campus. … This is the first time so many students are living on your own, you have your mom and dad telling you where to go, where to be, what to eat,” Anderson said. "It’s a really influential time for students, so I want to have that impact.”

**Multiple hits**

ReFit is another annual event in the fall. The organization made similar collaborations, but with community partners. According to Plastek, the partners provided sponsorships to assist with food and prizes.

These “collaborations” have been an effort to lessen the impact “to the student body so we can be good stewards of Activities and Services funds,” said Plastek. They’ve been intentional with collaborations in hopes that their current allocation will be enough to “operate so the student experience doesn’t falter.”

Additionally, since April, Campus Recreation has lost two people: Fallon Hartig, former competitive sports coordinator, and Alan Capellin, former waterfront coordinator.

The organization hopes to find a new competitive sports coordinator by mid-November, said Director Al Gentilini. The waterfront coordinator position, however, is not listed on the organization’s website.

“We created an Assistant Director of Programs position after Capellin’s position became vacant,” Gentilini said.

Dan Mall, outdoor recreation coordinator, now oversees the boathouse and waterfront operations and the assistant director of programs will oversee Marshall and the new competitive sports coordinator.

---

**TAMPA, continued from P1**

a chair position, she said, wondering that she would have to move out of state.

The chair role in Tampa means she can stay, she said.

There are four chair positions in the large College of Education in Tampa, Michael said.

Michael’s new responsibilities include ensuring the classes offered to students will count toward their degrees, making sure instructors are qualified for each class they teach and checking whether faculty members are taking on an adequate workload.

Michael said she also is tasked with communicating the priorities of the education leaders on both campuses to other faculty members.

On the St. Petersburg campus, that part of the job can be as simple as going door to door or stopping by faculty members in the hallway to remind them to order textbooks.

For faculty members who work at the Tampa campus or work remotely, she said, she will often have to rely on email.

Michael said the leaders on the two campuses are still working out how she should divvy up her services and research, but she will still spend the majority of her time at the St. Petersburg campus.

“I get the best of both worlds,” Michael said. “It’s not very often that you get a situation where you’re made an offer and you respect everyone you’re working with. It just doesn’t happen. And so because of that, because of other leaders I could trust and their guiding me and their helping me. It was the opportune moment.”

Michael’s specialty is education policy at all levels of American government, particularly racial desegregation policies in the 1960s and 1970s. In 2008, she published a book on former President Jimmy Carter and his education policy-making.

As her roles on the System Faculty Council and Board of Trustees wind down, she said she looks forward to using the extra time writing a book and some articles and attending international conferences on education.

Michael sounded optimistic that the consolidation process won’t steamroll the St. Petersburg campus.

“What’s important is paying attention to committee membership and the representation of faculty,” Michael said. “We don’t know the structure yet. So what we’ve got to do, is get as far as we can go, and then have plan A, plan B, plan C, but that all are fair or equitable.”

“Know everybody involved in the constitutional rewrite is listening to another,” she said. “Yeah, they may not always agree, but they’re all listening to another one.”

One challenge Anderson has faced is the commuter culture.

“How do we get students to buy into all of the offerings that Campus Recreation has?” she asked. Even though they might not live on campus, she wants them to stay and feel more involved.

“I’m trying to figure out what students want,” she said.

One of her goals is to work more with the Wellness Center to create an exercise prescription program. The program would allow students time with personal trainers in Campus Recreation to build “self-efficacy.”

Often, Anderson said, a good coping mechanism for students who go to the counseling center is “simply exercise.”

“I was a competitive dancer for about 12 years before I went to undergrad. I struggled with some mental health and anxiety issues,” she said. “I found that keeping moving in my life was really crucial to my sanity.”

That’s when she started her major fitness journey. She began teaching as a freshman and hasn’t stopped. She’s into “holistic wellness” and works to combine all aspects of health — both mental and physical.

Anderson wants to pass that onto students.

“For me, it’s really important working on a campus. … This is the first time so many students are living on your own, you have your mom and dad telling you where to go, where to be, what to eat,” Anderson said. "It’s a really influential time for students, so I want to have that impact.”

**Multiple hits**

ReFit is another annual event in the fall. The organization made similar collaborations, but with community partners. According to Plastek, the partners provided sponsorships to assist with food and prizes.

These “collaborations” have been an effort to lessen the impact “to the student body so we can be good stewards of Activities and Services funds,” said Plastek. They’ve been intentional with collaborations in hopes that their current allocation will be enough to “operate so the student experience doesn’t falter.”

Additionally, since April, Campus Recreation has lost two people: Fallon Hartig, former competitive sports coordinator, and Alan Capellin, former waterfront coordinator.

The organization hopes to find a new competitive sports coordinator by mid-November, said Director Al Gentilini. The waterfront coordinator position, however, is not listed on the organization’s website.

“We created an Assistant Director of Programs position after Capellin’s position became vacant,” Gentilini said.

Dan Mall, outdoor recreation coordinator, now oversees the boathouse and waterfront operations and the assistant director of programs will oversee Marshall and the new competitive sports coordinator.

---

**Consolidation ‘imperils’ our department and our campus, journalism profs say**

This is a letter that the Department of Journalism and Digital Communication sent Sept. 23 to Pinellas County legislators and other stakeholders.

“The faculty and staff of USF St. Petersburg’s Department of Journalism & Digital Communication write to express our unanimous concerns about consolidation at USF.

“Plans presented by President Steven Currall on Sept. 10 disregard feedback provided by large swaths of the St. Petersburg community and, more alarmingly, ignore legislation designating St. Petersburg as a branch campus.

“We ask for your help in urging University leadership to revise a proposal that, as currently formulated, imperils our department and our campus.

“Consolidation, as defined in state legislation, can elevate the entire USF System, and we are heartened by the support of all who recognize the unique value the St. Pete campus brings to the University.

“The current plan, however, removes academic decision-making from St. Petersburg and eliminates the Journalism Department.

“The plan jeopardizes our professional accreditation, which depends on a formally defined unit with academic and budgetary autonomy. It threatens our award-winning independent student newspaper, The Crow’s Nest, which has operated for 50 years. It also undermines the Neighborhood News Bureau, a project that provides students with practical learning experiences in the Midtown community.

“Despite declines in journalism programs nationwide, our enrollment is at a five-year high. In the months ahead, we plan to expand projects with our 44 Pinellas-based partners and bring our unique model of community-based journalism from St. Petersburg to Cape Verde.

“As one of only four accredited journalism programs in Florida, we seek to establish a Center of Excellence to advance innovation in community and digital journalism.

“Our department is thriving, but we need your help in asking USF leadership to adopt a revised plan that:

• Retains a vibrant journalism unit based in St. Petersburg;
• Gives the regional chancellor authority to oversee academics on the USFSP campus;
• Prioritizes distinct departments and schools at USFSP — not only in Business but also in Arts & Sciences and Education; and
• Provides students with a local, autonomous academic support system.

“We are committed to excellence in journalism education at USF and have ambitious goals for the future.

“That future is now in peril. Please help us make our vision a reality by calling on President Currall and the USF leadership team to follow the letter and intent of the legislation, in the true spirit of consolidation and student success.

Sincerely,

The Faculty and Staff of the Department of Journalism & Digital Communication at USF St. Petersburg
Doing downward dog on the deck... with dogs

By Katlynn Mullins 
katlynnm@mail.usf.edu

E verything was tinged gold as the sun began to set over the west deck of The Edge.

Students sat barefoot on yoga mats while puppies dragged their handles between the mats.

A hint of excitement was in the air.

For the second day of Fitness Week, Campus Recreation partnered with the Puppy Raisers Club on Sept. 17 to bring students “puppy yoga.”

I was one of the last around to arrive, so I sat in the back. Marty, the yellow labrador, was near me, a good boy who I’ve seen plodding around campus too many times to count. I wanted to pet him, but always refrained.

The puppies will go on to become certified guide dogs. Even if they’re not technically guiding anyone, you don’t pet service dogs when their harneses are on. They’re working.

This time, however, their harneses were off. I waited for my turn.

“Welcome to Fitness Week!” The instructor said.

It began.

At first, I was hyper-aware of the two boys walking around with cameras. I only ever practice yoga in an empty apartment with my cat, Fawkes (Pronounced “fox”), as company. Now, I was surrounded by almost 50 other people, and it felt awkward.

“Nobody cares,” I thought. “This time is for you. Enjoy it.” Then I heard panting.

I looked up, but it wasn’t Marty. It was Jolo, a black lab I hadn’t met before. She tugged on her leash as she made her way through a sea of mats and excited gasps. She stopped to sniff me, but continued past to lie on the concrete.

It took less than 15 minutes before the group of friends next to me asked another one, “How long is left?”

At this point, the cameras were gone. My mind and body had become limber as my breathing slowed. All three remembered the familiarity of being present.

At one point in my life, I couldn’t do this. Counting breaths seemed ridiculous, meditation was for hippies and the only “stretching” I could do was touching my toes for 10 seconds after a 5-mile run.

I’ve always had a brain that doesn’t rest. I don’t know if it’s anxiety, creativity or simply the fact that I’m an Aries – the child of the Zodiac, always on-the-go – but silence has always bothered me.

My ears started ringing, my legs started shaking and I constantly worried I was annoying the person next to me, but I couldn’t make it stop.

Though the energy of the crowd responded with enthused vigor after each song, the band played with the casualness of veteran performers, and the crowd responded with enthused vigor after each song.

The band formed in 2006 and released its first album, “Are You in Out?” in 2009. Since then, The Growlers picked up traction and built a cult-like following that has spanned well over a decade, seven studio albums, and 10 singles, leading them from their hometown of Dana Point, California, origins to sold-out venues across the world.

The Growlers brought lo-fi “Beach Goth” to Tampa

The Growlers remain relaxed and collected, segueing into each song as only a veteran touring group could. The 300-plus crowd swayed and recited lyrics to hits like “Dope on a Rope” and “Who Loves the Scum?” as Nielsen and the backing members conducted the flow from atop the venue’s low stage.

Ahead of the band’s next album release, “Natural Affair,” the group previewed two new singles in a special treat for the people in attendance.

Try Hard Fool” and “Natural Affair” were mixed in the middle of the setlist, and though only recently released, each song is a departure from The Growlers’ usual style.

Cementing their visit to the small Tampa borough, the band closed with “Humdrum Blues” and “I’ll Be Around,” a single from “City Club” that boasts vocals from the backing members and displays an indie riff in the chorus that juxtaposes the remaining beat. As The Growlers continue their North American tour, the sheer intimacy of their set at the Crowbar will continue ringing in the ears of fans.

Those wanting another of an encore can look for The Growlers’ new album set to release this fall.
MD Oriental Market: More than a grocery store

Kyla Fields

MD Oriental Market: More than a grocery store

but their Northeastern accents

women stroll up and down the

travel adventure.

who shops there is finding their

to catch their eye. Not everyone

waiting for a particular product

while others meander around,

store.

it) fill the shelves of the grocery

sauces (soy, eel, plum, you name

selection of Asian foods.

bickering Filipino couples alike

Oriental Market on a Saturday

people shop here because it's a

of fruits, vegetables, fresh meat,

– Thai, Vietnamese, Chinese,

– Thai, Vietnamese, Chinese,

restaurants of different varieties

Asian-owned businesses in

Asian immigrants – although

people. It’s not your average grocery

This market may seem

strange and mysterious

place to some, but to Asians and

Asian-Americans, a supermarket

can be a second

home.

Second that home for many Asians in Tampa Bay is located

of U.S. Highway-19 in

Pinellas Park.

The second thing one notices

whether they’re an Asian

market veteran or amateur — is

the sheer size of this grocery

store, as it inhabits an old Publix

building. Despite its large size,

which is unusual, as traditional

Asian groceries are small and

family-owned, MD Oriental is a

gem of St. Petersburg hidden in

plain sight.

But not everyone who shops

at MD Oriental is Asian. On any
day, it’s easy to observe that

people from a wide variety of

ages, ethnicities and backgrounds

shop here.

The market offers a variety of

fruits, vegetables, fresh meat,

seafood and vegan options

cheaper than Publix. Some

people shop here because it’s a

smarter economic choice, but it’s

a supermarket option that

many people may be unaware of.

A plethora of individuals can

find shopping at MD Oriental

Market on a Saturday afternoon:

a Vietnamese family with two small children in

private school uniforms, a
determined-looking white couple

with a grocery list, and older,
bickering Filipino couples alike

take advantage of MD’s wide

selection of Asian foods.

Aisles of noodles, rice, and

a seemingly infinite amount of

sauces (soy, ed, plum, you name

it) fill the shelves of the grocery

store.

Some navigate the aisles

with confident, focused strides,

while others meander around,

waiting for a particular product
to catch their eye. Not everyone

who shops here is finding their

second home. To some, it’s a

travel adventure.

Two middle-aged white

women stroll up and down the

aisles of MD as they point to the

bright packaging in the candy

section. They didn’t explicitly say

they were from New York, but

their Northeastern accents

echoed off the linoleum floors of

the supermarket, seemingly out

of place. They weren’t shopping

doors to cook dinner, but

window-shopping of sorts in the

Asian junk food aisle.

“Don’t even cook American

food at my house, why would I

try to cook Asian food?” Mary

said. “We just had lunch at the

Pho place at the end of the plaza.

I wanted to show my friend how

interesting this place is. We’re

just looking at all of the cool

snacks.”

“Interesting” to some, but

everyday” to others.

This supermarket

population growth, as Asians

and Pacific Islanders are the

fastest growing immigrant group

entering the United States, with

the Asian population growing 72

percent since 2000, according to the

Pew Research Center.

The staff of MD Oriental

is comprised of almost all Asian

immigrants. This supermarket

gives individuals who may

struggle with English as a second

language a job in which they can

speak their native language while

contributing to the community.

There’s only one white person

Fowler Avenue opened, Asian

immigrants in Tampa could find

the food and ingredients they

grew up eating before moving
to America,” Changg said while

ringing up a customer.

Her father and his business

partner “received a lot of positive

feedback and support from the

community and decided to open

up another store in Pinellas Park,”

she said.

“Along with Asian families,

I see a lot of broke college kids

buying ramen and anime fans

shopping around, trying to be

“W hen I go to H-Mart,” I’m

not just on the hunt for cuttlefish

and three bunches of scallions

for a buck. I’m searching for

their memories,” Zauner wrote.

“I’m collecting the evidence

that the Korean half of my

identity didn’t die when they did.

In moments like this, H-Mart is

the bridge that guides me away

from the memories that haunt me,

of chemo head and skeletal

bodies and logging milligrams of

hydrocodone.”

She is not the only Asian-

American with emotional,

cultural and familial ties to Asian

supermarkets.

My mother immigrated to

the United States from the

Philippines in the mid-1990s,

and I was born shortly after that.

I grew up in the heart of the New

Jersey Filipino community. All

of my friends in high school

were Vietnamese, and we took

bi-weekly visits to Chinatown in

Philadelphia.

But I moved 1,000 miles

away to St. Petersburg when I

was 18 to attend college. My

mother and I didn’t have a

savory relationship at the time,

and I suddenly found myself

surrounded by people who did

not look like me or my mom —

who were not Asian.

I had no idea my identity

meant that much to me until I

moved away from everything

that reminded me of it.

I stumbled upon MD Oriental

last year when I had to buy

ingredients to make a sour

Filipino stew called “Sinangag”

for an online food podcast class

I was taking. When I walked in,

a wave of déjà-vu hit me like a

bus.

The smell was so familiar.

Everything was so familiar. It
	took me back to when I would

come home from school, open

my front door and the smell of

frying garlic would be so strong

it would sting my eyes.

Or when my mom had to call

my elementary school principal

because two white girls in my

class were making fun of me

for smelling like the fried fish

that she cooked in the moring

for my Lola. That she cooked in

the morning before she went to

work.

It smelled like the hours I

spent rolling “Lumpia” in the

kitchen pretending to understand

the Tagalog my titas were

speaking far too loudly.

I felt all of this the second

I walked through the doors of

MD Oriental. Obviously, not

everyone has this visceral and

emotional reaction to a

supermarket, but we all have

personal connections to the

important places of our

childhoods – however arbitrary

they may seem.

So you can understand why

I hate when non-Asian people

give me an online food podcast

review on Yelp because it smells

like the hours I spent rolling

“Lumpia” in the kitchen pretending

to understand the Tagalog my

titas were speaking far too

loudly.
Consolidation plan still threatens newspapers

By Crow's Nest Staff

When consolidation planners last year haphazardly recommended merging USF’s two student publications — The Crow’s Nest and The Oracle — the backlash was almost instantaneous. Editors on the St. Petersburg campus called it a “recipe for chaos,” while Tampa editors called it “ludicrous.” Journalism faculty on both campuses said it would undermine success.

And alumni feared it would cause a drop in both student involvement and the quality of content.

Now, the language in the proposal is different, but still short-sighted. It calls for the exploration of an online-only publication, followed by collaboration between the two papers to serve the consolidated USF campuses.

By 2023, consolidation planners call for further research by student involvement staff into whether a “consolidated structure” is necessary.

But where do the newspapers fit into all of this? Why is the department of student involvement charged with the task of consolidating papers that don’t need, or want, to be consolidated?

As the July 1 consolidation deadline looms near, it’s important to remind our higher-ups where we stand: ensuring the language and extending the time frame in the consolidation plan doesn’t result in nothing.

While there are benefits to an online-only publication — such as cost reduction, environmental impact and student access — we should not ignore the role our newspapers have played on the St. Petersburg campus since its first publication 50 years ago as The Bay Campus Bulletin.

The paper served as a physical representation of the school, something visitors can flip through to understand our campus’ culture. And publishing the news in print gives journalism students an opportunity to practice how other publications work, where print is the most lucrative medium.

Physical printing drives active discussion about campus and community news. This is in sharp contrast to the proposition of pushing the publication into a corner of the Internet, where only truly determined readers would find it.

The Crow’s Nest publishes every Monday, with a weekly circulation of 500 copies and frequent updates to its website.

This year, the paper has an operating budget of $40,255.80 — a 23 percent cut from last year.

The budget — which is funded by Activities and Services fees and allocated by Student Government — covers the cost of printing, salaries of 10 staff members, and other expenses.

If “a uniform” A&S fee is implemented, that could only mean a greater financial burden on the smaller campuses.

Even as our circulation declines under budget cuts, it’s evident that our paper still has many readers — whether they’re students, faculty, visiting community members or prospective students.

Newstands on campus are nearly emptied every week.

With a campus only a fraction of the size of Tampa’s in both acreage and population, we tackle issues that just aren’t pertinent 35 miles away. Tampa has different student organizations, events, and facilities. The communities surrounding the campuses are distinct.

Students who live in downtown St. Petersburg don’t necessarily care about a debate club meeting on the Tampa campus, whereas students in Tampa have no interest in reading about a puppy yoga class at the St. Pete campus.

As the journalism industry continues to struggle, now is the time to advocate for the students who keep the USF community informed.

If preserving the identities of each campus remains a top priority and to state legislators, it does — consolidation planners should start by leaving the campus papers alone.
When John O’Leary was 7 years old, he got his first paid gig as a pianist. “Somebody gave me 5 pesos to play them a song,” O’Leary said. “This lady said, ‘OK, mark this date, this is your first professional performance and there will be many more to come.’ I didn’t think of it, but now it’s like, ‘Oh, she was right.’”

Years later, at USF Tampa, O’Leary was studying the human brain. It would be a long journey, but he would eventually end up back where he started as a child. O’Leary, now the pianist for St. Petersburg-based jazz trio La Lucha, joined a diverse cast of four other artists at Studio@620 for a panel discussing the local art scene.

Born in the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, he moved to the United States as a child and attended Zephyrhills High School. His musical origins are all too familiar to fellow pianists—he was forced to take lessons with an instructor for much of his childhood.

But somewhere along the way, O’Leary fell in love with it. He attended USF Tampa, majoring first in tuba performance before switching to jazz piano. He met his future fiancé, the other two members of La Lucha, at USF.

But a year from graduation, he knew he had to choose. It was either he would continue down the academic path and become a full-fledged neuroscientist, like his father in Mexico wished for him, or he would pursue his passion for music.

At a crossroads with no clear direction, O’Leary emailed a neuroscientist who had been there before—Dr. Charles Limb. Limb hosted a popular TED Talk in 2011 about his study on jazz pianists and the neuroscience behind improvisation.

Limb told him to take a year off and give music a try. “See if it’s for you,” O’Leary remembered him saying. Could he take the minimal pay, the stress of self-promotion and the mad navigation of a competitive music world?

La Lucha is living proof of O’Leary’s decision. He left science for a year in 2013 and he’s still playing music professionally, even with a wife and a son.

“I always knew I was going to make something—science or music, something,” he said. “It was always about creating, being a craftsman. That was always appealing to me.”

He doesn’t always get to play his original tunes, but playing jazz in local bars and getting a chance to show off his work every once in a while at big venues like the Palladium Theatre is good enough for him.

In O’Leary’s book, St. Petersburg is a great home base. He grew roots in the area while gigging and met his closest friends, the other two members of La Lucha, at USF.

“It was serendipitous that I ended up here,” he said. “When I came here, I never thought I could make a living playing jazz piano in Tampa Bay, but it works great, I love this area.”

Despite playing music since childhood, O’Leary always looks inspiration in the world around him. He’s always looking for the next thing that can blow his mind, but he finds it in the small things, too. He spends a lot of his time just thinking of melodies and trying to piece the musical puzzle together in his head. “It’s just so hard to get the art part of my brain,” he said. “Sometimes I wish I could so I could be more present in other things, but I’ve embraced part of that as who I am. It can be challenging, but it’s always there.”

Music bleeds into every facet of his life. He sings and taps rhythms on his lap “all the time.”

“My wife forbid me from lap-tapping because I was doing it so much,” he said, receiving roaring laughter from the crowd. “She’s trying to have a conversation with me and I’m thinking polyrhythms. It’s whenever you can squeeze it in.”

O’Leary may’ve played piano professionally from a young age, but he never felt like his work was fully his own until last year, when he released the album “CRISP”—finally an opportunity to marry neuroscience and music.

If there’s any doctrine he’s followed to a T, though, it’s the philosophy of doing what you love without comparing yourself to others.

“To your thing,” O’Leary advised the crowd. “If you’re happy with your life, then man, that’s awesome.”

---

**What to do this week: Sept. 23-29**

By Bryce Lawson

**MONDAY**

Center your core and get ready for the week at Yoga Flow Xpress with Valeria from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. in the Fitness Center, Student Life Center Room 1901. This is a free class.

The Barq’548, 548 Central Ave., will have an open mic night hosted by John Colby from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. This is a free event.

**TUESDAY**

Low Tide Kava Bar, 2902 Beach Blvd. S, will have a clothing swap from 5 to 8 p.m. All of the clothes not swapped out will be donated to Hurricane Dorian Disaster Relief.

Summer bodies start in fall. Get on the right track with Bootcamp with Avery from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Fitness Center, SLC 1901. The exercises are similar to everyday movements that boost your cardiovascular system.

**WEDNESDAY**

Transport back to your elementary school days with an Intramural Four Square Tournament from 5 to 8 p.m. at the basketball courts.

The St. Petersburg City Council Candidate Forum will be on campus from 5:15 to 8 p.m. This free event is your opportunity to hear what the candidates have to say on important issues, like affordable places to live and transportation alternatives.

**THURSDAY**

The Royal Palm Market at Intermezzo Coffee & Cocktails, 1111 Central Ave., is a pet-friendly market that will feature local artists and boutiques offering various goods such as edible cookie dough, soaps and candles. This is a free event from 6 p.m. to midnight.

Prove that you’re king of the court at the Intramural 3 vs. 3 Basketball tournament from 6 to 9 p.m. at the basketball courts.

**FRIDAY**

Start the weekend with live music at Emerald Bar, 550 Central Ave., with performances by electronic artists Terrapin and the band Proud Miranda. The performances start at 10 p.m. and cost $3.

Tampa Bay Pro Wrestling will present “Battle Of The Bay” at the Campbell Park Recreation Center, 601 14th St. S., from 8 to 10 p.m. featuring a main event title match between Steven Frick and Jackson Zaire. Tickets for the event are $7.

**SATURDAY**

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Come OUT St. Pete will host Over The Rainbow, where teams will compete in challenges across the restaurants and bars in the Grand Central District. This is a free event.

**SUNDAY**

The No Human is Illegal - Art Show, an art exhibition intended to bring awareness to the struggles of immigrants and refugees, is coming to the Venus Gallery, 244 Dr. MLK Jr. St. S. The opening event will be from 5 to 9 p.m., and the exhibition will run through Oct. 12. Hosted by The St. Pete Women’s Collective, 50 percent of each sale will go to the nonprofit organization Refugee & Immigrant Center For Education and Legal Services.
Climate change protest remains (mostly) peaceful

Grace Leah stood in the middle of an intersection next to an elderly man as traveling cars dodged them. It was the USF St. Petersburg student’s first protest.

“It’s just crazy to see what really happens when a group of people care about something so strongly,” said Leah, a junior health sciences major. “I almost started crying because I was so overwhelmed emotionally. It’s so amazing and beautiful to see a group of people fighting for change.”

Leah was among the hundreds of students, children and other St. Petersburg residents who filled the streets of downtown on Sept. 20 to demand climate change action.

Before the march, activists gathered in the shadow of City Hall, where organizers and community leaders took to the podium to remind everyone why they were there.

“We are coming together to put pressure on politicians and policymakers to pay attention to sound science and act on climate issues,” said Jadzia Duarte, president of USF St. Petersburg’s Student Government, during the press conference. “Climate scientists have been making the calls for years. It’s about time that we pick up.”

Mayor Rick Kriseman made an appearance and delivered a short speech before wishing everyone a great march.

“There is no more climate change debate,” Kriseman said. “The science has long been settled. Reasonable people know this. And while the climate debate may be over, the climate emergency is well underway. And make no mistake, this is an emergency.”

The strike was held in conjunction with hundreds of others across the globe in anticipation of the United Nations Climate Summit. Demands made by organizers include sustainable urban agriculture, renewable energy and protection and restoration of biodiversity.

The mass action was sparked by 16-year-old Greta Thunberg, who’s gained global attention for her activism.

“(The youth) don’t have the luxury of riding this one out,” said Tim Martin, who helped organize the event. “If you’re a young person here today, your generation will have to live the longest of us all with the effects of global climate change. So the message to you is to keep pushing. For those of us who are not so young, keep demanding politicians take action.

“Our lives, our economy and our future depend on it.”

Protesters marched through downtown to Williams Park as onlookers took breaks from their lunches or midday cigars to watch.

They spilled onto the streets, clogging traffic at the intersection of Third Street North and First Avenue North. The result was a mix of close calls and honks of affirmation.

One such close call came when an elderly woman in a red SUV became seemingly annoyed with the protestors and lurched her car forward multiple times as they stood just inches away. Phone cameras were pressed on her window, and fists pounded the hood of her car before a gap finally opened and she could squeeze through.

One participant said protests are meant to be a disruption, otherwise it’s just a sideshow. But it wasn’t long before St. Petersburg Police came to close off the surrounding intersections.

“This is a monumental day,” Duarte said to the protesters. “When people look back on this day, hopefully they see this as a tipping point that started the environmental revolution.

“Whether you have a personal stance, a general care for the environment, or a fear for the future, it’s vital that every single one of you are here today.”