Crow's Nest : 2019 : 11 : 04

University of South Florida St. Petersburg

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This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University History: Campus Publications at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Crow's Nest by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.
Eleven candidates ran. Only 10 were elected to Student Government senate. Read about your new student representatives and the historically low voter turnout that brought them to the table.

In celebrating the newspaper’s 50th anniversary, the university’s marketing and communications department omitted some key milestones in our coverage. Editor-in-Chief Emily Wunderlich describes why this was unacceptable.

Residents in the Old Southeast district of St. Petersburg have created a community of artists, establishing their neighborhood as an official “artists enclave.” Learn about the artists’ journey to build the vibrant arts community just south of campus.

"Airing your dirty laundry" can often be difficult and embarrassing, but the survivors of domestic and sexual abuse from Community Action Stops Abuse support groups embraced this at the Harborwalk on Oct. 31, hanging their thoughts and emotions out for everyone to see. See story, page 4.

A local drive for local nonprofits

By James Bennett III

Professor Karin Braunsberger, who teaches an online course called “Principles of Entrepreneurship,” likes assigning projects where students do “real-life work” whenever possible.

This semester, while brainstorming projects, she was contacted by Wanda Chaves, a USF alumna who provided a pre-built project that would have students work with local nonprofit organizations.

The project, Social Entrepreneurship Experiential Program, was created by Clean the World, an organization that collects and recycles used soap and other hygiene products from the hospitality industry.

As part of the project, six teams of students were told to find locally accessible nonprofit organizations in need of hygiene products. After each team is finished raising their money this week, they will send it to,

CLEAN the World for “build kits.”

The class is planning to host a hygiene kit-building party in the lobby of Lynn Pippenger Hall on Nov. 13 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. During the building party, students and faculty will be invited to help put the hygiene kits together and write notes of encouragement to those who receive them.

Each kit will contain a bar of recycled soap, bottles of shampoo, conditioner and lotion, a disposable razor, a toothbrush, toothpaste and a washcloth.

“The reason I chose it as a semester project is because it gives real life experience,” Braunsberger said. “So instead of talking about how to form teams and make sure that the teams work well together, they’re experiencing this in a real-world environment.”

Braunsberger added that it’s important for students to develop skills in team management, conflict resolution, setting goals and time management.

“I thought that would be really unique for students to be in an industry environment while still being in a safe environment in college,” Braunsberger said. Students will send their hygiene kits to the St. Petersburg Free Clinic, Pinellas Hope, Alpha House of Pinellas County, Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board, Daystar Life Center and Sol Relief.

Braunsberger said the resilience and creativity of her students was impressive; some students raised money through GoFundMe, while others organized fundraising events.

Bryan Carpenter, a junior entrepreneurship major, feels like his team fell short with the $400 they raised on GoFundMe. There was another setback, too: The first $200 his team raised was sent directly to St. Petersburg Free Clinic because of a mistake with the GoFundMe page. With the remaining money, they will be able to put together about 40 hygiene kits.

“We still did a valiant effort,” Carpenter said. “It was an honest mistake. It happens, but, you know, it’s not like it went to some hacker in Russia.”

Carpenter said he hopes the hygiene kits his team donates will help homeless people “feel human again.”

Braunsberger said she plans on reusing the SEEP project in later semesters, but will likely change the workflow so students have a better idea of everything the project entails earlier in the semester.

“A lot of our students stay here after they graduate, so having a network of community members that can help them in their professions later on, that’s also very important,” she said.

A SPACE TO CREATE

Local fees to rise

By Dylan Hart

dhart4@mail.usf.edu

The university plans to raise local fees for new students at USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee when consolidation takes effect on July 1.

But the change will only impact students who enroll after that date.

Local fees are a portion of students’ tuition, billed per credit hour. The fees break down into three types: the Activities and Services fee, which goes toward student organizations on campus; the health fee and the athletic fee.

Right now, students at USF St. Petersburg pay $32.45 per credit hour in local fees. Students at USF Sarasota-Manatee pay $25.45. In the consolidated model, students from all three campuses will pay the same $36.48 fee as students at USF Tampa.

Nicholas Setteducato, regional vice chancellor of administrative and financial services, told Student Government senators at an Oct. 28 general assembly meeting that the new fee structure will only apply to new students or those who “step out” and need to re-enroll.

“It’s not an increase in any one individual fee,” Setteducato said. “It’s an increase to all of the local fees in total. Therefore, we have the ability on both Sarasota and St. Petersburg to utilize any increment where it’s needed on those campuses.”

The plan comes from a desire to “level out” the local fee structure to meet that of the pre-eminent campus, which is Tampa,” Setteducato said.

“Although the price will be going up in total, what I want to stress is that you’re not being told how to spend,” he said.

The plan to decide how to spend that money is to reconvene the campus local fees committee. In the past, Setteducato said, the campus had a local fees committee, but government restrictions have prevented the university from raising student fees.

>> SEE FEES ON P2

PATRICK TOBIN | THE CROW’S NEST

THE CAMPUS NEWSPAPER AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG

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Fees, continued from P1

“The reason why (the local fees committee) is out of practice is, for many years now, the universities in the state of Florida have been pretty much prohibited from increasing any fees whatsoever,” he said, referring to the state government’s desire to keep student financial burdens low. The members of the local fees committee will be appointed by the regional chancellor and will constitute a joint membership of students, faculty, and administrators.

The local fees committee will decide how the local fees break down — that is, how much of students’ local fees will go to Athletics, Services, and health and athletics. Setteducato said that there is no plan to change the current Energy fee, which funds environmental initiatives on the St. Petersburg and Tampa campuses respectively, via the Student Green Energy Fund.

While the changes will take effect July 1, the new structure will only affect students who enroll at the university after that date.

CAMPUS | CURRENT FEE (PER CREDIT HOUR) | FEE UNDER CONSOLIDATION MODEL | COST INCREASE FOR 15-CREDIT HOUR SEMESTER
--- | --- | --- | ---
TAMPA | $36.48 | $36.48 | N/A
ST. PETERSBURG | $32.98 | $36.48 | $60
SARASOTA-MANATEE | $28.45 | $36.48 | $120.45

Fees, continued from P1

“Regarding the fairness and the good faith of rule-following, I have not heard anything from the good faith of rule-following, I had being ethically correct, I had to accept her application, too, which resulted in a contested election.” Each candidate needed to be enrolled in at least six credit hours and have a 2.5 cumulative GPA to qualify. “Regarding the fairness and the good faith of rule-following, I have not heard anything from anyone regarding cheating, and that makes me very happy,” Starr said.

The reason for the acceptance of the two applicants was to get the senate seats filled, Starr said. “At first, when I had only nine applicants, there was one student who contacted me about permission to turn in the application late. Considering I needed 10 seats filled, I accepted his application. Later that same day, another student asked the same question, and out of being ethically correct, I had to accept her application, too, which resulted in a contested election.” Each candidate needed to be enrolled in at least six credit hours and have a 2.5 cumulative GPA to qualify. “Regarding the fairness and the good faith of rule-following, I have not heard anything from anyone regarding cheating, and that makes me very happy,” Starr said.

The final headliner, Esboide Dantica, will talk about her novel, “Everything Inside,” from 2–2:45 p.m. in the University Student Center. A student from the University Student Center, Alexa Arthus, who writes for O, the Oprah Magazine, said the novel was “Hunting, profound—an answered question, long treasured Danticat’s essential contributions to the Caribbean literary canon.”

USF St. Petersburg professor Ray Arsenault will also speak at the event from 10–10:45 a.m. in Room 3019 at the Poynter Institute. During his presentation, Arsenault will discuss “Arthur Ashe: A Life,” which former President Barack Obama featured on his 2018 reading list.

The Festival of Reading is free and will feature book signings; a book market; food trucks and exhibits. For more details, visit the event’s website at https://www.tampabaytimes.com/expos/festival-of-reading/.

The Festival of Reading will be free to attend.

Correction

A story published in the Oct. 28 issue about The Crow’s Nest’s coverage of the USC’s finances in 2012 identified the managing editor by a previous name. Her name is Alison Guinn.

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“They just want to make sure that if there are similar services that are being provided (on each campus), that everyone has access to it,” Setteducato said. “You shouldn’t have to wait longer here for a service just because you have less money here.

“The (oversight) committee is not going to prevent the local fees committee from setting how the money is spent, but they are going to look across all three campuses just to make sure that there’s always that check and balance for equity for the students.”

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Victims speak out on their struggles with abuse through art

By Seth Payan

The words “When you learn to hate the pain, you lose yourself” is black counted on the bright green T-shirt they were painted on. A vibrant array of colorful shirts surrounded it, each one featuring a similar emotional statement that they want to say before putting it on the shirt. They felt empowered to have a platform and an outlet for their voices to be heard.

The original Clothesline Project dates back to 1990, when shirts were hung in Hyannis, Massachusetts, to act as witness to the toll of thousands of domestic abuse survivors. The clotheslines on both sides of the Harborwalk displayed numerous colorful T-shirts that draw the attention of passersby. But it wasn’t the vibrant colors that caused people to stop and stare; it was the messages they shared.

All of them spilled tales and quotes from each survivor, recreating the emotions from their struggles with domestic and sexual abuse. The colors served a purpose beyond attracting eyes.

White shirts represented women who died from the violence they endured. Yellow shirts told the stories of battered or assaulted women. Red, pink and orange shirts contained the stories of rape and sexual assault survivors. Blue and green shirts represented survivors of incest. People shared stories of survivors, of women attacked because of their sexual orientation. Lastly, black shirts represented women who were attacked for political reasons.

With this in mind, the director looked to inspire people to realize that they’re not alone,” Dickerson said. “We want to inspire survivors and victims that don’t even know what they’re surviving right now, so that they see some of their own experiences on these pieces of clothing and recognize that they need to reach out for support.”

Dickerson elaborated on CASA’s new “CallWhitliffs” campaign, which is focused on pressuring the media and community members to “call out domestic violence by its name to put a spotlight on this public health epidemic.”

“When I found out about CASA, I was just looking at volunteer organizations online,” Pua said. “I noticed the thrift store before, but I didn’t know about the actual organization. Since being around them, I’ve been surprised by the amount of services they offer, and I love seeing how dedicated they all are to their purpose.”

Dickerson reflected on her work with CASA, but one of the most memorable is still her first project.

“She approached me, barely knowing my English, and told me about her abusive husband that brought her to the United States. He married her to bring her to the country and would regularly later use that immigration law as control,” she said. “She eventually became pregnant, using that as one more reason to fight for her life against the physical and sexual abuse.”

According to Dickerson, the women escaped and began searching for agencies and shelters that would provide help to help them.

“She would frequently just be pushed along toward someone else,” Dickerson said. “I was looking to help her in her current state.” Dickerson added, “I told her, and I handled it creatively to make sure she received the resources and legal advice that she needed. In that moment, I realized that this kind of work fulfilled me. She went on to go through our entire program, had her baby, found a place to live and had her happy ending.”

Dickerson said she received an email from the woman last detailing her “new life.”

“She told me, ‘Now every smile on my child’s face is yours.’” Dickerson said.

A vibrant array of colorful shirts, each one featuring an emotional statement, hang across from the University Student Center.

Different colored shirts hang along the Harborwalk, with each color serving a specific purpose. Red, pink and orange shirts tell the stories of rape and sexual assault survivors, while white ones represented women who died from the abuse they endured.
The university address what happened a few weeks ago and, more importantly, that it does something to prevent suicides in the future. Whether it be through direct action, the administration should be a Student Government-funded project, or a grassroots effort led by students and student organizations, something needs to be done about suicides at parking garages on campus. Simply Good Luck, “suicide at parking garages,” and you’ll be floundered with too many articles, scientific studies and peer-reviewed journals about the topic.

I would like to address the following question to the editors at the University of South Florida’s Digital Communication Media Program:

To the Editor:

Something must be done about parking garage suicides

Dear fellow alumni, students, faculty, and friends of the University of South Florida:

The Crow’s Nest has not yet been able to begin the letter by saying if you’re struggling with suicidal thoughts, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or text “CrisisTextArmy”.

In light of the recent suicide at the University of South Florida, and the spotlight on mental health in the most recent issue of the USF Alumni Magazine, it is time for students, faculty and community members to come together and find ways to make our campus safer.

The cost to screen levels four and five for risk of suicide at a seven-or-eight garage is about $20,000; according to a University of Iowa study cited in the IPI report.

A quarter-million dollars per parking garage is a lot, but how much would it cost to save someone who is currently struggling with suicidal thoughts?

I am not saying fences and screens on parking garages will end suicides, but they will further the goal of preventing mental health awareness and hopefully save more lives with parking garages.

To the editor: I would like to gather people of action, at some level, so that we can work to prevent and stop it. People can make a difference in our community. I realize change at the government level would be slow and painful, but make this issue a priority.

If the administration won’t address the problem, I will be writing to the Florida Union of Student Government representatives and other elected officials about this issue.

The woman who lost her son said the USF student, as we are a community should keep active.

From Harriet Slaughter Graham.

This is a call to action. Students should work to address this aspect of suicide prevention on campus in memory of her life.

- Harriet Slaughter Graham.

NNB co-organizes Black History Preservation Drive

By Dylan Hart
dharl@mail.usf.edu

If St. Petersburg’s Neighborhood Newspaper, in conjunction with the Tampa Bay Times, the African American Heritage Association, the Racial Challenge and the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Museum, plans to help document the history of the African American community. The organizations will meet Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. at the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Museum, 2240 N Ninth Ave. to “collect oral histories, photos and other archival material from long-time residents to tell the story of what (their) life was like here from the 1930s to the turn of the (21st) century,” according to the African American Heritage Association website.

The material will go toward a project called “Tourist Town,” which plans to map the history of St. Petersburg from the perspective of its historically marginalized African American community.

The project’s namesake comes from the city’s attempts to segregate the community away from the beaches and tourist attractors.

NNB is a newspaper on campus covering the historic African American neighborhoods of St. Petersburg, according to the newspaper. Students run the website. Students would be able to see the supervision of professor of philosophy and political science and is currently studying a master’s degree in applied psychology at Johns Hopkins University.

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Rob Hooker

Letters to the Editor

By Frank Cirillo

Dear Editor,

I would like to begin the letter by saying if you’re struggling with suicidal thoughts, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or text “CrisisTextArmy”.

How long would it take to build the tallest building in the world?

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For the first time, artists living in the Old Southeast opened their doors to show off their home-based studios and artwork on Oct. 19. The self-guided tour brought visitors into the homes of 13 residents in the Old Southeast Artist Enclave. The event was organized in part by Esther Aall, who helped revitalize the dormant enclave, which hasn’t held any significant events since receiving the designation five years ago.

Aall, a sculptor, moved to Old Southeast from Switzerland in 2016 and, by chance, learned about the neighborhood’s designation. “I should probably check (the enclave) out and see what has been done or what I can do,” Aall recalled saying. “So I started to talk to people in the neighborhood and I said, ‘I would love to bring this alive.’”

The Old Southeast is a neighborhood of homes just south of USF St. Petersburg between Fourth Street S and Tampa Bay. It includes a variety of house styles that range from cheap cottages to houses costing more than $600,000.

According to the city of St. Petersburg’s municipal code, artist enclaves, or Artist Enclave Overlay Districts, “encourage a mix of small-scale, home business uses oriented toward or supporting the visual, performing and cultural arts, while maintaining the residential character of the underlying residential neighborhood.”

The city’s code also says that these enclaves are normally established within “single-family residential neighborhoods where artists may live, create work and market their art.” To become an artist enclave, at least two-thirds of residents in the proposed district must give their approval.

Old Southeast is one of only two enclaves in the city. The other is the Historic Kenwood neighborhood.

The enclave has existed since 2014, thanks to Scott Durfee – an artist who uses recycled material to make jewelry, dresses and sculptures – and his former partner, George Medeiros. Durfee and Medeiros moved from Philadelphia to Old Southeast in 2003 and got involved with the neighborhood association. “We fell in love with the charming community,” Durfee said in an email. “Back then (Old Southeast) was a not-so-great neighborhood, which had many stigmas about its location in south St. Pete, and we won’t talk about the negative color divide of our city’s history.

“Remember, we relocated (the enclave) out and see what has been done or what I can do,” Aall recalled saying. “So I started to talk to people in the neighborhood and I said, ‘I would love to bring this alive.’”

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According to Durfee, in early 2010 there was a push for an artist initiative in the city that led to “Spathose” – their home-based studio – to be officially recognized as one.

Durfee worked closely with members from the Historic Kenwood Artist Enclave when he established it in Old Southeast.

“This proposal was going to help all artists in St. Petersburg by bringing more attention to the already ever-growing artist movement,” Durfee said.

After Durfee and Medeiros halted their partnership, the enclave remained inactive until Aall took over as the unofficial coordinator. “I had visited Historic Kenwood, and I knew what they were doing,” Aall said. “I thought, OK, we could do that, too. I actually started to recruit people and started to bring them over to do meetings here. I got people who are interested in the artist enclave and let them know that we are planning to start making these events happen.”

In June, Aall and others held a contest to pick a logo for the enclave. A month later, after the logo was chosen, a silent auction of the different logo submissions was held to raise funds for the self-guided tour.

Organizing the tour, Aall said, was tricky. Some skeptical residents supported the initial petition but feared it would get “too big, too soon” and fizzle out once again; others outright opposed the enclave.

Despite those protests, Aall said, people who continued to show up for meetings began to feel ownership over the enclave and invested more time in it.

Aall said she isn’t worried about the momentum of the enclave this time around. “I think something like an artist’s enclave in a neighborhood takes time,” she said. “I’m thinking back to Historic Kenwood because I think at the beginning they had a hard time bringing it up to speed, and now they have been around five years.”

What seems most important to her is showcasing the talent of all artists spanning the city’s five arts districts, museums, enclaves and outsiders. “I think there’s space for everyone,” she said. “If they bring people from the outside in, it gives exposure to what lies beyond us. “Creativity goes beyond borders, so there’s no border for only St. Petersburg. I think we should be open to everything.”

After years of groundwork, artist enclave comes to fruition

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