FEATURES, page 4 and 5
BULLS IN THE BURG
Have your student ID? That little piece of plastic can get you discounts across downtown St. Petersburg. The Bulls in the Burgh initiative encourages students to become better acquainted with the city — by offering juicy discounts at the establishments listed here.

EDITORIAL, page 6
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR
The Crow’s Nest has been serving the students of USF St. Petersburg since 1969. Its editorship has changed hands immeasurable times since its inception, and a new editor-in-chief has taken her position.

NEWS, page 7
HERE COMES THE SPY
While the country wrestles with the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, USF St. Petersburg is wrestling with its own possibility of Russian meddling. The St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs has hosted diplomats and thinkers for half a decade — and one of the 2016 speakers is an alleged spy.

THE CROW’S NEST
THE CAMPUS NEWSPAPER AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG
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The bulls are back in town

Tadlock talks
By Whitney Elfstrom
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Fall semester is underway at USF St. Petersburg, and with it come changes around campus, according to interim Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock. He said he expects students to notice the physical changes that have taken place over the summer — such as the installment of on-campus maps and the pressure washing of some buildings and sidewalks.

But Tadlock doesn’t think students will notice the bigger changes happening with the USF system’s consolidation of its three campuses this fall, as it will not officially take place until 2020.

“We’re just very excited,” Tadlock said.

USFSP freshman enrollment declines
By Nancy McCann

Freshman admissions at USF St. Petersburg have fallen since administrators decided in January to stop accepting high school graduates with a GPA below 3.0.

But university officials disagree on how strongly the two developments are related and why the decision was made.

Interim Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock attributes the decline in enrollment primarily to a national trend, not the higher GPA threshold.

“College admissions have fallen since administrators decided in January to stop accepting high school graduates with a GPA below 3.0,” Tadlock said.

But university officials say the decline in enrollment is a result of USF St. Petersburg’s decision to increase its focus on incoming students.

Desir acknowledged that high school students with a GPA below 3.0 will have to go to other schools, but he said the campus will continue to accept transfer students who earn an associate degree at community colleges like St. Petersburg College.

“There is always the possibility of students with GPAs under 3.0 being admitted on a case-by-case basis due to special circumstances,” he said.

About 25 percent of current undergraduates at USFSP are St. Petersburg College transfers, according to a university news release.

Last spring, the Legislature appropriated additional funding to expand the pipeline between SPC and the university.

That money will go toward scholarships and programs to help community college students move on to USFSP.

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That money will go toward scholarships and programs to help community college students move on to USFSP.

One program — called FUSE — helps students begin earning the same degree from SPC while receiving some of the perks of being a USFSP student, such as access to advising and campus events.

As interim regional chancellor, Tadlock is walking a tightrope as he tries to ease concerns on his campus while bracing the inevitable and planning for consolidation with the administration of USF system President Judy Genshaft.

In an interview with The Crow’s Nest, Tadlock said that visibility is among several priorities for the 47th term SG cabinet.

“I want more people in the door, even if it’s them just complaining about something that they want to change,” Tadlock said.

From left: Hunter Leonard, Allyson Capati, Meghan Fletcher and Gregory Cote enjoy some time on campus before classes begin.

SG speaks
By Emily Wunderlich
ewunderlich@mail.usf.edu

As the fall semester begins, student body president Daniel “Kaeden” Kelso and vice president Yasaris Jordan want new and returning students to know one thing: Student Government is here for them.

“We’re ready to take care of them, we’re ready to support them, we’re ready to hear them,” said Jordan, a senior health sciences major.

“If you need something, come to SLC 1500,” Kelso said.

Kelso and Jordan agreed that the visibility of their cabinet has improved since the 2016–2017 SG cabinet.

“I want more people in the door, even if it’s them just complaining about something that they want to change,” Kelso said.

The Crow’s Nest sits down with university leaders to see what changed on campus over the summer and what’s on the agenda for fall semester.

The Crow’s Nest
Since 1969

THE CROW’S NEST IS THE WEEKLY STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG. ALL CONTENT IN THE PUBLICATION IS PRODUCED BY USFSP STUDENTS. SINGLE COPIES FREE.
Enrollment, continued from P1

At the center of things is a 13-member task force led by Dr. Jonathan Ellen, the president and CEO of Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg. The task force, which has five Pinellas members, and its three subcommittees have held public hearings on the three campuses to learn from experts and confer repeatedly by telephone.

The subcommittees will make recommendations to the task force on Sunday.

By law, the task force must submit recommendations to the USF system Board of Trustees by Feb. 15. The trustees must submit a consolidation plan to the Board of Governors – the board of the University of Florida’s 12 public universities – by March. 15.

The separate accreditation for the three campuses ends and consolidation takes effect by July 1, 2020.

In a growing attention has been focused on the task force, much of the consolidation planning is apparently being handled by an Education and Research committee that ultimately reports to Genshaft through five “work groups”: general education and core curriculum; college of Arts and Sciences; business and finance; and external affairs.

There were 66 people in the work groups, 13 from USFSP and 18 from Sarasota-Manatee.

Amid this whirl of activity, even the USF Board of Trustees has a four-member consolidation committee.

On the St. Petersburg campus, some are watching the proceedings with a wary eye.

Six times in her 18 years as USF system president, Genshaft has changed the top leadership in St. Petersburg. That has generated some distrust of her administration.

Only two of the 13 members of the Board of Trustees are from Pinellas County. Among only the campus leader in St. Petersburg is either an interim – like Tadlock or relatively new.

The dean of the College of Arts and Sciences began her job July 1. The dean of the College of Education has been here for a year, and the dean of the College of Business for two.

Genshaft said in an August email to The Crow’s Nest.

She said St. Petersburg is well represented in the planning process, which was designed to ensure transparency and to encourage participation from all three campuses.

“Many students will benefit from a simplified admissions process, access to more degree programs, increased efficiencies that result in graduating faster and with less debt, and expanded opportunities in graduate or doctoral research,”

Genshaft said. “Consolidation will also provide more clarity to employers because students will be required to complete the same coursework to earn a degree in a specific field, regardless of which USF campus they attend,”

she said.

“Each campus will maintain its distinctive identity.”

Bettoring the benchmarks

In June, USF Tampa and Sarasota-Manatee designated a “preeminent state university” entitled to extra state funds each year (see story, below).

When the three campuses are consolidated in 2020, legislators and Genshaft say, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee will get a share of the extra funds and their students will have enhanced academic opportunities.

But consolidation also means that St. Petersburg must pull up its performance on key academic benchmarks – called metrics – so that the USF system can maintain its preeminent status.

As a preeminent university, each year the USF system combines data from all three campuses – must have an average weighted grade point average of 4.0 or higher and an average SAT score of 1200 for fall semester incoming freshmen.

“We are down this summer in (first-time-in-college) enrollment,” Tadlock told Campus Board members on Aug. 6.

The summer profile was lower than the campus goal, he said. First-time freshmen are expected to have an average 3.8 GPA and a 1200 SAT or 25 ACT.

2018 fall student profile goals for freshmen are higher at the Tampa and Sarasota-Manatee campuses. Tampa’s average GPA is weighted GPA and a 1300 SAT; and Sarasota-Manatee is a 4.0 GPA and 1225 SAT, according to the Tampa Bay Times.

In the spring 2019 semester, Desir said, the St. Petersburg profile will be lower – with “an average GPA from 3.3 to 3.5 and 1100 to 1150 for the SAT or 22 to 23 for the ACT.”

“The reason for the lower student profile in the spring is to make the campus accessible to some good students who do not meet the higher fall requirements, he said.

Not all universities admit first-time students in the spring, and of the ones that do, not all have lower admissions requirements.

For some institutions, the smaller pool of spring enrollment helps keep residence halls full and tuition flowing.

By the summer of 2019, all three USF campuses will begin using identical admissions criteria. Tadlock said, in anticipation of single accreditation starting in the fall of 2020.

Details about student profiles for admissions beyond the spring 2019 semester were not public.

“I think the lower summer and fall (2018) enrollment numbers are a temporary blip,” said Tadlock.

“As we improve our student profile, USFSP becomes a more serious destination, including students from other states.

“As we continue to focus our attention on consolidation, there will be access to more majors and more resources,” he said. “In the long run, it will benefit students.”

USF Tampa joins the big leagues

For years, people liked to joke that USF stood for “U Stay Forever,” a fitting label for a commuter school with easy admissions standards and a low graduation rate.

How times have changed.

USF Tampa has now joined the University of Florida as a “preeminent state university,” a designation that provides a job with access to millions of dollars from the state each year.

The designation, which came this summer, capped a years-long campaign by the administration of USF system President Judy Genshaft, who has orchestrated a dramatic increase in the Tampa campus’ academic profile since she took office in 2000.

“This validates our efforts over more than a decade to transform USF into a premier institution of higher education, rivaling peers twice our age,”

Genshaft said in a university news release.

“This critical designation will have an exponential impact on our continued efforts to grow our research enterprise, provide the highest quality education to our students, strengthen our partnerships and help us make an even bigger difference in our community.”

The preeminence designation was created by the Florida Legislature in 2013 to encourage the state’s 12 public universities to strive for excellence and additional resources.

Legislators established 12 metrics, or benchmarks, that include average GPA for first-time-in-college students, research spending, student retention and graduation rates, and size of endowment.

They stipulated that a school needed to meet or exceed 11 of the 12 benchmarks to qualify for preeminence.

UF and FSU, which can trace their origins to 1853, qualified right away.

USF Tampa, which was founded in 1956, qualified as an “emerging preeminent state university” in 2016 by meeting nine of the 12 metrics. When it met two more metrics this year, it earned full preeminence.

The new status means USF Tampa will get additional funding each year from the state. This year that means $6.15 million more.

It also paves the way for USF’s St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee campuses.

Last spring, the Legislature abolished the separate accreditation of those two campuses – a move that rankled many in St. Petersburg.

They recalled an unhappy era when Tampa administrators ran roughshod over the St. Petersburg campus and warned that it might happen again.

But the legislators who successfully pushed for consolidation of the three campuses said that the change – which takes effect in 2020 – will enable St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee to get a share of the preeminence funds.

The change also will put pressure on the two satellite campuses to improve their performance on various metrics.

Some critics fear the change may also jeopardize USFSP’s long role as a school that welcomes older, non-traditional students and minorities.

In an editorial congratulating USF Tampa for achieving preeminent status, the Tampa Bay Times called on the university to “grow in stature without abandoning its historic mission to serve a diverse student body.”

The challenge, the Times said, “requires the home campus in Tampa to be sensitive to local-area needs as USF consolidates its three separately accredited institutions … into one.”

“As it raises its admissions standards, USF needs to do everything possible to make students feel comfortable, and has the editorial said. “Many students have long been first-generation families to attend college, or barely able to pay for it, and USF will need to ensure these students have the support they need to navigate and succeed in their difficult environment.”
The enthusiasm for USF St. Petersburg is undeterred. When Tadlock was named interim regional chancellor after Sophia Winiarski was abruptly ousted in 2013, USF system President Judy Genshaft’s administration indicated that the search for a permanent chancellor would begin in the summer or fall of 2018. In an email to USF system President Judy Genshaft, The Crow’s Nest asked if this was still the administration’s plan or if Tadlock would get the permanent position. She did not respond to the question.

Consolidation and You

Tadlock said that right now there are more questions than answers regarding what will happen as the three campuses transition to a single accreditation. A 13-member task force, which includes representatives from all three committees are studying the issue.

“We’ll have meeting and hearings here on our campus and we’re trying to work on this consolidation. Students are certainly welcome to attend those and find out what that means for them,” Tadlock said.

A few of the topics under discussion include student transfer issues, and campuses, new doctoral programs for the St. Petersburg campus and allowing students to choose which campus will host their programs.

“It’s not a final decision but the initial conversation is students should be able to choose which way they would like to get their diploma to do,” Tadlock said. “Because USF (Tampa) has been a preeminent university in the state of Florida now ... (it) might be beneficial for students to have that on their diploma, but that’s up here.”

The task force meetings began in April and have continued through the summer. The next meeting will be held Sept. 11 in the University Student Center ballrooms. A list of all future meetings can be found on the USF system and USF St. Petersburg websites.

What's changing on campus?

When students enter the Student Life Center, the first thing they will see are the murals covering the once-bare walls in an effort to beautify and enhance the campus. Tadlock said the university is engaged in local artists who will collaborate with students on artwork.

In January, Lowell E. Davis Memorial Library, which was the home to the Department of Journalism and Communications, has been vacated. A great number of students share their opinions.

Last spring, one of the student outreach programs implemented was “Sailing with Tadlock,” which was a lottery-based system that invited the winning students to share their ideas for what they would like to see on campus with the interim Regional Chancellor. Tadlock said that he intends to continue the trips this semester and include other events with students, like taking a pottery class at the Morean Arts Center, 719 Central Ave, St. Petersburg, or riding bikes around downtown St. Petersburg.

He also plans to re-up the program. Delicious Dialogues a series where students are invited to be a part of a debate session that teaches them how to disagree civilly and still argue effectively.

Tadlock said 2-4 a semester is working to find ways to save students money with the textbook initiative that was created last year by faculty and the library, which saved students more than $420,000.

The administration is also still in partnership with the Student Government Energy Fund to help lower the campus’ carbon footprint.

Welcome freshmen

The USF St. Petersburg community has worked hard to build an inclusive campus that is more intimate than larger universities and encourages close working relationships between students and professors, Tadlock said.

If there was one takeaway message from the interim regional chancellor during his time as student, it’s to get involved on campus. While academic credentials are important employers also look for student engagement, involvement in the campus community and internships, Tadlock said.

“Join something. The clubs and organizations here on campus that need leadership and need students ... to join and become active members because they do great things in the community,” Tadlock said.

“we’ve been working on it for a year to try and figure out the plan and to get it all laid out.”

The waterfront transformation, which began in the fall 2017 semester with the remodeling of The Edge, will continue with an extension of the back of Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Tadlock said that phase two of the transformation will feature outdoor working and social spaces for students. A new Computational and Applied Mathematics program will launch this year, a vision of a mathematics major that is primarily based upon the needs of business and industry,” Tadlock said.

Also, over the summer USF’s 15-year contract with Barnes and Noble expired and was subsequently replaced with Follett Higher Education Group, The Oracle reported.

Looking out for students

Tadlock has made student input a priority and is seeking new ways for students to share their opinions.

To keep students informed, SG plans to provide a weekly summary of consolidation updates at their general assembly meetings every Monday at 5:00 p.m. in the Life Center Student Center ballrooms.

For more detailed coverage on accreditation, visit http://crownsneststpete.com/category/accreditation/.

Voter turnout

With a history of low voter turnout, SG hopes to make a change in the election process and voting opportunities, Jordan said. Supervisor of elections Alexander Kelso and president Jordan called Georgia Tech, a place that inspired us to realize some of our problems and the problems that we’ve faced in the past with elections and voter turnout,” Jordan said.

For Domingo, a junior health sciences major targeting 2020 and beyond, “It’s great for your resume, great for a teacher or professor who requires volunteer hours. Everybody’s right there at your fingertips,” Jordan said. However, PeteSync’s usability needed an upgrade, Kelso said.

“We realized we were putting in a lot of money toward PeteSync, and it was being used but it wasn’t reaching its full potential,” Kelso said.

Now, PeteSync will allow community partners to post information and volunteer opportunities, creating a more centralized place where students can make connections in St. Pete, Jordan said.

“It’s for great your resume great for a teacher or professor who requires volunteer hours. Everybody’s right there at your fingertips,” Jordan said. However, PeteSync is not to be confused with Handshake, USF St. Petersburg’s online job board, Jordan said. “Handshake is mostly for paid jobs. PeteSync is for student involvement but it will also have volunteer opportunities,” she said.

“We’re not trying to take away from Handshake.”

Syllabus banks

What if you could find the syllabus for any teacher at any campus at USF system campus?

In 2019, that might be possible.

USFSP has an syllabus bank in the past, so we’re just bringing it back, and thankfully all three campuses are on board,” Jordan said.

If the implementation goes as planned, students will be able to access the system wide syllabus bank via the MyUSF website.

You can go ahead and feel free to wonder, feel free to do it yourself, but I’m hoping that it’s before actually committing to a class, so you can do it and have time to sit and go over on campus and make up your mind,” Jordan said.

SG plans to propose the syllabus bank to the faculty senate this semester. If approved, the bank would go live in spring or summer of 2019, Jordan said.

Parking

Jordan said she of her top priorities for the 2018-2019 term is to leave behind some kind of legacy, some kind of memorabilia event or possession. “Something in the spring that we can walk away with that big,” she called it.

Jordan identified parking as one of the long-term changes she wants to make, specifically by decreasing costs and increasing parking space on and around campus.

“As a student, I can start advocating for it, but as vice president, as a student government member (who) holds some weight behind their name, I think that we can bring issues to light with administration and then start getting into those meetings, start bringing those conversations about what we can do as a university,” she said.

At the time of publication, Student Government has two open positions available: Director of Events and Director of Graphic and Web Design. For more information or to apply, visit SG’s page on PeteSync.
Everything you need to know about Bulls in The Burg

By Brianna Rodriguez
b.rodriguez@mail.usf.edu
and Anna Bryson
annabryson@mail.usf.edu

Stores & Services

Amped Fitness $0 Enrollment
Big Fish Printing Company 10%
Cricket Wireless 10-25%
CPR Cell Phone Repair $10 off repairs over $75
Fit2Run 15%
Helinger Advertising 20%
Iride Bike Shop 20%
Northeast Cycles 10%
Salon LaRu 20%
Savory Spice Shop 10%
Tervis 15%
The Trunk Stylists 25%
Kuaffmans Tire 10%
Pure Natural Nail Lounge Program Participant

Entertainment

Ferg’s 10% off and 2 for 1 bowling
Painting with a Twist Program Participant
The Chihuly Museum $12 tickets
The Dali Free Admission
The Ringling Museum Free Admission
The Rowdies $10 Tickets
The Fig Cafe 10%
Right Around the Corner (21+) Program Participant
Sunrise Lanes 10%
AMC Sundial Program Participant
The American Stage Program Participant
The Holocaust Museum Free Admission
Museum of Fine Arts- Students $10 and it’s $5 for anyone after 5 on Thursdays

Grassroots Kava House offers kava, kratom and coffee to USF St. Petersburg students at a discounted rate.

Grassroots Kava House, 957 Central Ave, is a local spot that features unique non-alcoholic beverages, a dog-friendly atmosphere and quiet study space.

The first floor emits a bar-like vibe where locals go to socialize. The second floor includes a study space that doubles as a spot for the business’ events to take place, such as a variety of yoga classes, including dog rescue yoga. Participants practice yoga while adoptable dogs roam about during the class.

Grassroots grants USF St. Petersburg students a 10 percent discount.

“I feel like it’s a good place to hang out at any time of the day,” Kelton Brooks, 22, said. “It’s a nice place to come in and meet new people.”

Living on a budget in college can be difficult, but discounts create more affordable ways for USF St. Petersburg students to experience the downtown area.

Bulls in the Burg is a Student Government initiative in which local businesses offer students deals. It gives students a chance to become acclimated to the area and encourages them to get out and explore the town.

The program is run by SG’s Director of Community Outreach Gabrielle Donald, and in order to participate in the program, students must present their USF St. Petersburg ID.

Stores & Services

The Trunk Stylists on the 600 block of Central Avenue offers boutique quality clothes at affordable prices

With boutique quality but department store prices, The Trunk Stylists, 651 Central Ave, caters to expensive taste on a college student’s budget.

“I try to make it full of variety,” Kailey Wirth, store manager, said. “I want to make it not like the mall to allow people of all ages to come in and find something that they like.”

The Dali Museum, less than a half mile from campus students.

The world-famous Salvador Dali Museum offers the largest comprehensive collection of Dali’s work less than a half mile from campus, not only to USF St. Petersburg students.
Amped Fitness offers 24/7 access to fit students’ busy schedules.

Amped Fitness, 830 3rd Ave S, is a gym less than a mile from campus with top-of-the-line equipment. They are open 24/7 and have personal trainers available. USF St. Petersburg students can enroll for free. Memberships are $10 a month.

Justine Ortiz, a junior political science major, goes to Amped for its cheap price and proximity to campus.

“I love Amped because I can go workout on my schedule even if that means a 10 p.m. sesh before I call it a night,” she said. “I sweat a lot so I usually just wear a sports bra and no one tells me to put on a shirt or that I don’t fit dress code.”

The world-famous Salvador Dali Museum, 1 Dali Blvd, houses the largest comprehensive collection of Dali’s work outside of Europe. Right on the bay and less than a half mile from campus, the museum offers free admission to USF St. Petersburg students.

“Who wants to see more USFSP students here,” Executive Chef Matthew Smith said. “Our famous cheeseburger is $6 every Wednesday so I’m sure that’s appealing to college students.”
THE CROW’S NEST

August 20, 2018

The Crow’s Nest is committed to providing its readers with news relevant to the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and its surrounding area. The Crow’s Nest abides by the highest ethical standards and is a forum for students to make informed decisions. Readers make informed decisions on current events and have access to the public news service and reporting. This newspaper is designed to provide a voice of expression as defined by the Society of Professional Journalists. Opinions in this newspaper do not necessarily represent those of the administration, faculty or student body.

Dear students,

We’re back at the Jewel by the Bay with a full year ahead of us. For some of you, this may be the first time you’ve stepped foot on a college campus. For others, you might have more credits until you can kiss Cheryl the Bull goodbye.

Regardless of where you’re at in your college career, one thing that remains the same is the importance of knowing what’s going on around you. That’s where The Crow’s Nest comes in. We’re the campus newspaper written for students, by students.

Each week our staff members and contributors strive to put forth a paper that informs the student body and faculty about what’s happening on campus, in St. Petersburg and around the world.

Last year we broke stories about the ousting of former Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska, the stripping of government election mishaps. This year, we cover the countless opportunities our campus gives students.

The hardest competition on campus just got a lot easier.

By Whitney Elfstrom

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The hardest competition on campus just got a lot easier.
By Anna Bryson   annabryson@mail.usf.edu

Longtime professor and lover of literature, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences has been in her new role for only six weeks but is excited to learn the culture of the campus. Dr. Magali Cornier Michael came to St. Petersburg from Pittsburgh, where she was a professor and served as chair of the English department and associate dean of liberal arts at Duquesne University.

After working there for 26 years, she moved to work at USF St. Petersburg, where she is drawn to the campus’ strong sense of community.

Michael admits that working at a public university is different than working at a private one. As a native believer in public education, she is excited to finally have the opportunity to work at a public university.

Michael also served as a professor of creative writing, literature and fiction writing. This will be her first semester in a long time not teaching as a professor. “Because I started out just teaching and then slowly moving into administration, I always had one foot in teaching, so I understand what students need and what they want. So I think that will help me be able to support the faculty and make sure we have a curriculum that students need and want,” Michael said.

Consolidation changes

Although it is an awkward time to come to USF St. Petersburg with the restructuring of programs as a part of the consolidation with USF Tampa, Michael was excited to be a part of the change and growth of the city.

“The strong sense of community here and being part of the city of St. Petersburg and all the partnerships with the university and the things that I anticipate would continue no matter what kind of restructuring happens,” Michael said.

Her main priority is student experience. She notes that change is vital and she is excited to get to know students and faculty and to learn their changing needs.

“This place has grown very quickly and when you grow very quickly sometimes you need to go back and reevaluate to make sure things are working as well as they can for both the faculty and students but remember that our mission is educating students,” she said.

Lover of literature

Unlike her husband who is a chemist and two sons who are studying physical chemistry and neurobiology, Michael is the creative of the family. She went to engineering school for one year and now works both her roots as a literature fanatic.

When asked about her favorite author, she laughed because there are “just so many,” but cited Toni Morrison, Mary Atwood and Don DeLillo as some of her favorites.

“They are very different ways she added an angle to the text. People always think about literature as what people wrote way back then, but there’s all sorts of really interesting writers doing all sorts of interesting things now,” she said. “I think looking at what writers are writing now is a good window into our own culture.”

The book last Michael wrote was “Narrative Innovation in 9/11 Fiction,” which explores fiction written about the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center towers and their repercussions.

“Historically, it has been challenging to write about horrific events like slavery and from the Holocaust. Michael said, but she emphasizes the importance of it.

“When you have these horrific historical events people say you shouldn’t write about them. But if you don’t write about them people forget,” she said. “You want to talk about these issues head-on, explore them and try to understand them so that they don’t happen again.”

Feminist roots

At Duquesne University, Michael implemented the university’s women and gender studies program and hopes to bring that area of study to USF St. Petersburg.

She has met with the chair of the women and gender studies at USF Tampa, and they are working together to find a way to introduce a program to the university.

Maria Butina during the “Gun rights, Mental Health Rights/ Where Should Societies Draw the Line?” panel at the 2016 Conference on World Affairs.

HbibyAmy Diaz amydiaz@mail.usf.edu

Hundreds of diplomats, professors, business executives and journalists have come to USF St. Petersburg since the annual Conference on World Affairs began in 2013.

One of them now stands accused of being a Russian spy. Maria Butina, 29, was arrested last month by federal authorities who say she used gun rights and sex appeal to win favor with conservative groups and advance Russian interests. She has pleaded not guilty.

“Needless to say, when we invite her to come speak we had no idea that she would be an alleged Russian spy,” said Dr. Thomas Smith, a political science professor at USF St. Petersburg and conference co-organizer. “At the conference, we work really hard to represent a diversity of viewpoints and to kind of see across the political spectrum.”

For the 2016 panels on “Gun Rights, Mental Health Rights/ Where Should Societies Draw the Line?” and “Russia: Imperial Aspirations on a Beer Budget,” Butina, billed as a graduate student and founding chairman of a Russian organization called Right to Bear Arms, appeared to be a great panel to add a unique international perspective.

“She was very engaging. She spoke about how difficult it was to obtain a gun in Russia, how she went through a litany of hurdles that the state had raised for gun owners,” Smith said. “In some ways she added an angle to the conference.”

Butina’s appearance was arranged by the program committee, not the university.

On the gun rights panel with Butina was Dr. Mary Armstrong, a family studies professor at USF Tampa who was invited to speak after the Tampa Bay Times printed a column she wrote on gun rights and mental health.

“I wasn’t sure what anyone else was going to say on the panel, but it became clear to me that she had been selected because she had very a different point of view about guns and firearms and who should have them,” Armstrong said. “To think that she is possibly a spy is like, ‘Oh my goodness.’”

Dr. Kees Boterbloem, a history professor at USF Tampa and author of several books on Russian history, served on the gun rights panel.

“The panel was an example of a professor of geography, an investigative journalist and a woman who has worked the Russian counterpart of the NRA,” Boterbloem said. “So I’m thinking, ‘OK, this is going to be interesting.’”

Butiner recalled Boterbloem defending Russian President Vladimir Putin and arguing that Russia and America should be friends.

“There is an enormous Russian expatriate community in the United States. It’s not so strange to meet people who are pro-Putin or anti-Putin and she didn’t really strike me as particularly different from them,” Boterbloem said. “But, of course, to my great astonishment she was arrested a month ago.”

When news of Butina’s arrest broke, Dr. Raymond Arsenault, a USF St. Petersburg history and politics professor and moderator of the gun rights panel, was shocked. “Immediately my ears perked up because she sounded so familiar,” Arsenault recalled. “I read about it, I realized it sounded exactly like the woman who was on the panel. And it was.”

The St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs has become one of the campus’ signature events and has attracted thousands of people, ranging from students to retirees.

“She’s probably the most famous, or infamous, connection we’ve had,” Arsenault said. “It’s a fascinating little piece of history.”

Maria Butina during the "Gun rights, Mental Health Rights/ Where Should Societies Draw the Line?" panel at the 2016 Conference on World Affairs.

By Brianna Rodriguez   briarodriguez@mail.usf.edu

What to do this week: August 20-August 26

MONDAY: Week of Welcome event

Grill and Chill will take place on Harbor Walk from noon to 2 p.m. The event will feature free food.

TUESDAY: Sand and Surf

Spend time with Student Life and Engagement by making homemade craft projects during the WOW DIY Event at the SLTC Patio and Lawn from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Like puppies and sweet treats? Join Co-Mission for Puppies and Popsicles at the Harbor Walk starting at 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY: A Great Time for Hi’lites

Looking for fun? Campus Recreation is hosting Rec Fest from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Rec Field on University Parkway. Students can enjoy everything from log rolling, glow-in-the-dark laser tag and more. Free food will be provided and an after party will follow.

THURSDAY: Want to know about free wellness services on campus? The Wellness Center will host its open house from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Student Life Center 2200. Students will learn about free services that the center offers while munching on free food.

Get involved on campus during Get on Board Day. The university’s more than 80 student organizations will be at Harbor Walk from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

FRIDAY: A Great Time for Hi’lites

Take a dip in the Coquina Pool and watch Life of the Party during HAB Dive in Movie Night from 8 to 10 p.m. in The Edge.

SATURDAY: Free Things

Asher Roth will perform for USFSP Live! at Jannus Live, 200 1st Ave N from 7 p.m. to midnight. Students wishing to attend can sign up through PeteSync for free tickets.
Campus Rec Festival brings laser tag in the spring before finals. He manages the sailing and powerboating instructional courses and will continue to coach the sailing clubs. Aside from the former sailing coach Capellin’s responsibilities used to fall under watercraft, adventure, and aquatic coordinator Daniel Marshall. His new title became coordinator of adventure and aquatics. The division of duties allowed for a greater focus on quality.

“Having Alan now to split some of the workload will benefit the students because we will both be able to focus more on our specific areas,” said Marshall.

Marshall now focuses on the operation of aquatics, The Edge and adventure trips.

Sailing began as a huge attraction for incoming students to USF St. Petersburg when it was first introduced because it was the only intercollegiate sport on campus. The switch in funding led to the team’s change in status. As a result, this is the first year it will be a sport club, which means there will no longer be a paid coach running the program. Instead, it will be run primarily by students.

“Sailing is more of a lifestyle than it is a sport — and I have a passion for it,” said Capellin. “I want to take that passion and help people get through not just the sport, but the job — but not just the job here.”

Campus Recreation planned to expand the athletic department so students could participate in a variety of sports without having to travel to USF Tampa. However, consolidation stonewalled that plan — a contributing factor in changing the sailing team to a sport club.

“We have now more hands on to give a focus to the students,” said Al Gentilini, Campus Recreation Waterfront Coordinator. “I am excited about the quality of our program.”

Former SG leader asks for rehearing in lawsuit against university

By Anna Bryson

Pinellas County circuit court has denied a former Student Government leader’s petition that his due process rights were violated when he was accused of sexually assaulting another student in his dorm room in September 2016 and expelled in May 2017.

But the student has asked for a rehearing, citing a similar case in California. The student is not named in the lawsuit, but it is clearly Samuel Goetz, who was elected SG vice president on March 2, 2017, and abruptly resigned seven weeks later. He sued the university in June 2017, contending that the university denied him due process because it violated its disciplinary procedures, failed to give him proper notice of the allegations and evidence against him, and denied him the opportunity to cross-examine his accuser.

He does not seek reinstatement at USF St. Petersburg; he only asks that he be allowed to complete his education — and a cloud over his future — he removed from his record.

“I will lose all opportunities to obtain a good education as well as to pursue my dream of going to law school,” he said in documents included in the lawsuit.

On June 12, Judge Jack Day denied Goetz’s petition, saying that the final decision of the dean of students — who upheld the findings of a student conduct board that did not violate Goetz’s due process rights and “complied with the essential requirements of the law.”

In July, Goetz’s lawyers requested a rehearing, and in a supplemental filing last week they asked a ruling by a California state appellate court in a similar case.

In that case, a male student at Claremont McKenna College was suspended for a year after a college disciplinary committee concluded that he had non-consensual sex with a female student from a nearby college. A judge upheld the committee’s decision, but the appellate court reversed the judge’s ruling earlier this month.

The female student was not required to appear before the disciplinary committee — in person or by video conference — and that violated the accused student’s right to a fair hearing, the appellate court ruled.

In the Goetz case, his accuser was not required to appear as a student but answer his questions.

The woman who accused Goetz of sexual assault did not press criminal charges with law enforcement, only reported the event to the university.

Goetz declined to comment on the last week. His lawyers did not allow for a greater focus on aquatics. The division of duties allowed for a greater focus on quality. The addition to the staff means there will no longer be a paid coach running the program. Instead, it will be run primarily by students.

“In one agile and coordinated effort, we utilized all the best practices that you read about across the U.S.,” said Cynthia Collins, the director of academic advising, in a university news release. “We did it in one year and we retained more students and made more progress because different initiatives impacted different student needs.”

The first-year retention rate is considered one of the key measures of success in higher education. It tracks the percentage of students who attend their freshman year and return to the same school the following year.

In 2018-2019, the St. Petersburg campus will expand its retention efforts to sophomores and juniors.

“The eventual goal is putting in place programs that ensure all our students are successful and graduate on time,” Carolina Nutt, director of the Compass First-Year Experience program, said in the news release.

Campus Rec Fest brings laser tag

By Jonah Hinebaugh

Campus Recreation hosting Rec Fest Wednesday as a way to introduce students to both their peers and the amenities that Campus Rec has to offer. Organized by Fallon Hartig, the competitive sports coordinator, and a student coordinator, the event aims to get students’ attention before they get too caught up in their day-to-day activities.

“Typically we’ve had Rec Fest in the spring before finals, and we realized that wasn’t the most beneficial thing because (we were) getting the word out about everything we do at the end of the year,” Hartig said.

Previously, the event was run by Harborside Activities Campus Board and Campus Rec assisted with the event. This is the first year that Rec Fest will be hosted and staffed by Campus Rec entirely.

The event will offer a range of activities including bubble soccer, rock climbing and glow-in-the-dark laser tag. Hartig said she and the planning committee wanted to go big and do something that hadn’t been on campus before.

“We decided if we’re going to do it, we’re going to do it right,” she said. “We don’t want to do all this work just for it to be boring.”

She thinks a big draw will be a dunk tank featuring administration such as Allyson Watson, dean of education and Jacob Diaz, dean of students.

The committee wanted to entice students to mingle with others. Hartig said she wants students to come out and meet other people who have common interests with them to aid in the transition to college life.

“It’s hard coming to college and not knowing anybody. If you go to an event and you love to rock climb and see people doing the same thing, you’re going to feel more at home,” Hartig said.

Campus Recreation won’t always offer these particular activities, but Hartig said if people show interest in this event the organization will set up similar events throughout the year. She said the organization brings the opportunity for students to stay active and relieve stress.

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Campus rec welcomes new waterfront coordinator

By Brianna Rodriguez

Alan Capellin, former USF Sailing team coach, dove into a new position Aug. 1 as Campus Recreation Waterfront Coordinator. The addition to the staff followed a change in funding for the sailing team, which was reassigned from a competitive team to a sport club.

Now that the sailing team has become a sailing club, to keep Capellin on staff, he was given more responsibility in Campus Recreation.

Capellin is now head of the committees involving the boathouse.

Devin Rodriguez | The Crow’s Nest

Campus rec welcomes new waterfront coordinator

By Brianna Rodriguez

Alan Capellin (centered) sets sail into his new position of Campus Recreation Waterfront Coordinator, which involves the boathouse operations in addition to sailing, and powerboat lessons and coaching the sailing club.

Genshaft company raided

By Crows Nest Staff

An Ohio meat processing company founded and run by the family of USF system President Judy Genshaft was raided in June by federal immigration authorities. Agents arrested 146 workers, most of them from Guatemala, on charges of immigration violations.

Genshaft has been a member of the board of the company, Fresh Mark, for years, making $8,000 a year. But she has no role in the company’s daily operations, according to the university and company.

The company was founded by Genshaft’s father, and it is run by her brother, CEO Neil Genshaft. Charges have not been filed against the company.

Compiled from reports by the Akron Beacon Journal and Tampa Bay Times.

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