Reports: Genshaft to retire

By Emily Wunderlich
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Judy Genshaft, the longest-serving president in USF system history, is expected to announce her retirement in a press conference today. The news comes at a critical time for the university.

Since Genshaft became president in 2000, USF has grown in enrollment and stature as a research institution and powerful player in the state and Tampa Bay region.

In July, USF Tampa joined Florida State University and the University of Florida as “a preeminent state university.” To qualify, the university had to meet 11 out of 12 benchmarks regarding average GPA for first-time-in-college students, research spending, student retention and graduation rates, and size of endowment as specified by the Florida Legislature.

The designation will bring an additional $6.15 million to the university this year and put pressure on the St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee campuses to raise their admission requirements ahead of consolidation in 2020.

USF also was awarded a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, another milestone.

Over the years, Genshaft’s star has risen in both academic and business circles as the university system she leads – three campuses now serving more than 48,000 students – grew in stature.

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By Anna Bryson
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Judy Genshaft, the longest-serving president in USF system history, is expected to announce today that she is retiring after 18 years.

Both the Florida Politics website and Tampa Bay Times reported the news Sunday, citing unnamed USF trustees and state officials.

Her retirement, which is to take effect in July 2019, will be announced in a letter to the university community this morning, the Times reported.

In a phone interview with The Crow’s Nest, university spokeswoman Adam Freeman said he could not confirm the news or that Genshaft is having a press conference at 2 p.m. today.

“President Genshaft has not made any announcements about her future,” he said.

In a phone interview with The Crow’s Nest on Sunday evening, Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock said he had no knowledge of Genshaft’s plans to retire.

“You know about as much as I do,” he said. “I’ll be glad to talk about it when I know the facts.”

Genshaft said. “Like any great organization, we now have a clear, consistent brand to guide us as we continue to evolve in the future.”

More than 1,200 interviews were conducted by USF’s marketing department with university stakeholders over the past year, but it is unclear if any students were asked about their opinions on the change.

USF unveils new logo to usher in a new era

By Whitney Elfstrom
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University of South Florida waves goodbye to the Bull logo that has represented it since 2003 and welcomes new branding that has sparked controversy among some students and faculty.

In USF system President Judy Genshaft’s annual fall address Sept. 5, she unveiled the new logo meant to encompass the three USF campuses. This came at the end of the speech in which she touted the university’s accomplishments over the past few years.

Genshaft said that as the university’s reputation grew, it needed to establish a clear message that showed its united front. This included a new logo and branding.

“It became clear that the field is wide open for us to develop and own our identity,” Genshaft said. “Like any great organization, we now have a clear, consistent brand to guide us as we continue to evolve in the future.”

More than 1,200 interviews were conducted by USF’s marketing department with university stakeholders over the past year, but it is unclear if any students were asked about their opinions on the change.

The forest and neon green logo above will replace the green and gold Bull U, which was introduced in 2003, in all academic situations.
THE CROW’S NEST

September 10, 2018

USF St. Petersburg receives $2.2 million grant

By Jonah Hinebaugh
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In an effort to implement proper training for faculty and staff in Florida’s K-12 schools, a $2.2 million grant has been awarded to the USF St. Petersburg College of Education by the Florida Department of Education.

According to a press release from the university, it was chosen “due to its experience with the state network for student mental health services,” said Jordan Krab, the principal investigator for the university’s College of Education.

The Multiagency Service Network for Students with Severe Emotional Disturbance Administration Project housed on campus is another factor for the DOE’s choice, according to Region Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska.

According to SEDNET’s website, it’s a network of 19 regional projects including the

GENSHAFT, continued from P1

She has a compensation package of about $925,000 in pay and deferred compensation, and in 2016 she was the second highest paid president of a public university in the state, after W. Kent Fuchs at UF, according to published reports.

A timeline of turbulence

Genshaft’s long tenure has not been without controversy. In 2001, she suspended and banned a Tampa-based computer science professor named Sami Al-Attar for criticism and controversy over allegations he supported terrorists.

Civil libertarians criticized her for violating his rights to free speech, and some professors warned her it violated his rights to due process.

Two years later, when Al-Attar was arrested on federal charges, Genshaft fired him. He later pleaded guilty to tax evasion and committing non-violent tax fraud, and in 2016 she was the second woman to ever serve as president of the USF system, she has been controversial.

In her 18 years as president of the USF system, she has changed the leadership in St. Petersburg campuses six times – most recently last September, when she abruptly ousted then-Regional Chancellor Sophia Winnieuska for her handling of Hurricane Irma and named Tadlock, 64, as her replacement. That move was criticized, at least among some senior faculty, that Genshaft routinely acted without consulting anybody in St. Petersburg.

The criticism grew louder several months later, when the St. Petersburg campus learned that Florida legislators were planning to abolish the independent accreditation of the St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee campuses and consolidate all three campuses under the control of Tampa.

The legislation was enacted, and consolidation is scheduled to take effect in 2020.

In recent months, Genshaft’s administration has faced opposition efforts by adjunct professors to join a union.

Despite the opposition, in the fall semester, the university’s new logo didn’t represent the union.

In Genshaft’s 18th annual “State of USF” address last Wednesday, Genshaft gave no indication of her future plans. She was elected for a seventh term last spring to be represented by the union.

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Sustainability planner resigns

By Anna Bryson
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Brian Pullen, the university’s first full-time sustainability planner, has resigned after almost three years.

Pullen, who was in the Office of Sustainability has expanded sustainability efforts by implementing projects and initiatives in collaboration with the community.

Under his management, the university achieved LEED certification for Lynn Peppengill Hall and for the Warehouse Lab Building on campus. LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a certification program focused on commercial buildings’ environmental friendliness and energy efficiency.

Pullen also developed the university’s climate action plan in partnership with the city of St. Petersburg, which aims to reduce baseline greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2035 and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

“Brian has been the lead staff person on this campus on driving us toward the combined efforts of Student Government to position us as a lead campus in the USF system in terms of our sustainability efforts,” Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock said.

“His work has really established our position on this campus on driving sustainability and brought together the sustainability efforts between student organizations and administration.

Outside of campus, he established partnerships developing leadership strategies with the Patel College of Global Sustainability in the city of St. Petersburg, Duke Energy and Pinellas County.

“All the clubs and communities were kind of excited doing their own thing,” Pullen said. “Let’s all work together under one umbrella under the Office of Sustainability, and see what we can do in ways of not just bettering our environment but bettering our campus culture here.”

Although previously reported that the future of the sustainability planner role was uncertain, Tadlock confirmed that administration is working on a job description and will start a search to find a replacement.

“Sustainability is going to continue to be one of the three priorities that represents us and give us our distinctiveness so that’s not going to change,” Tadlock said. “It’s going to drive us in a different direction that we need to go and becoming carbon neutral by 2050 and our work with the city and in our research and curriculum programming.”

“I’ve really pushed for better inclusion between the three campuses,” Pullen said. “I think that will be a good opportunity for the next person coming in here to build that relationship with the Tampa campus and Sarasota-Manatee.”

Pullen got his master’s degree in global sustainability from USF Tampa and soon after accepted the job of sustainability planner at USF St. Petersburg.

“I’ll always be a Bull,” he said. “Coming here, it’s a different feel on this campus and I’ve embraced it and I’ve loved it.”

Pullen’s next venture will be sustainability manager for Pechanga Resort and Casino in Temecula, California.

“At a point where I’m ready to grow and right now, I’ve got this feeling in the air in leaving the institution. I’ve seen it grow quite a bit and just the amount of support from students, faculty and staff that I’ve gotten, that’s what’s going to make it hard to leave all this.”

How to be prepared for hurricane season

By Kate Rickman
Contributor

With three named storms in the Atlantic, and Hurricane Florence in September with wether in the most active period of an otherwise relatively quiet hurricane season, we don’t know when a severe storm will swarm, so it is crucial to be prepared.

Guy Van Asten, campus safety and emergency office director said “anything that de-escalates the confusion or stress” is a good idea.

It is important to have a plan of action to avoid as much chaos as possible. Last year, USF St. Petersburg residents were evacuated from the St. Petersburg campus at the last minute.

Then-Regional Chancellor Sophia Wnusiwaska was ousted in September by system president Judy Genschaff over her handling of the evacuation.

Last year was “kind of uncommon,” James Weeds, campus emergency management director, “We know where the shootings will happen, so we get in that situation again, it will go a lot smoother.”

The campus and county have met to plan for how to prepare for another emergency.

“Timeliness is key,” said Michelle Penn, Van Asten’s assistant.

It is important to let your resident assistant know early if your evacuation plan may fall through so they can find another way to help you. If you are an off-campus student, check the county website and allow them to find the closest community shelter.

“I can assure you we will not leave any student by themselves,” Weed said. “We’re going to take care of the students.”

If students want more training on how to be prepared, Van Asten said he is happy to provide more information.

“A lot of times we don’t get enough feedback,” he said.

Both Weed and Van Asten believe there is still a need to interact with the Office of Disabilities to ensure safety accommodations for those in need. Students can help by communicating their needs early so they can be addressed before a state of emergency.

During the hurricane weather, professors are encouraged to hold classes online. If you are off campus while the school is open, let the professor know so they can work with you on any missed assignments.

Excused absences will be at the discretion and will start a search to find a replacement.

Keep your vehicle fully fueled in case of an evacuation. USF St. Petersburg cannot close the school without approval from the county, which often doesn’t come until an evacuation is government-mandated.

Communication is vital make sure you have an evacuation plan with friends or family and sign up for USF St. Petersburg’s hurricane alerts to stay informed.

Daily and accurate updates are found on the University Police Department website and local news channels. Don’t rely solely on social media, where things can get blown out of proportion.

If your family is worried about where you will have to go and when, let them know how they can find information.

After evacuation, students are encouraged to stay home until campus reopens. There is always a recovery period before students return. Unless you have nowhere else to go, it’s better to stay to home or at your evacuation site.

More information about severe weather preparation can be found on the USF St. Petersburg and UFP websites, as well as on the back of every dorm door. There are also videos available in the University Student Center, Residence Hall One and the library.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs looks to revamp itself, a few new faces are arriving in SLC 1400.

Flore Septimus arrived on campus about a month ago as OMA’s new graduate assistant. A Tampa graduate student, her undergraduate experience with OMA led her to the St. Petersburg office.

“I really wanted to gain that experience, what it’s like on the other side and the different perspectives and how I can support a student,” she said. “So that’s really what made me interested in applying for this position.”

Septimus won’t be only the new face among OMA’s key staff members this semester. The office’s new assistant director, Tristan Johnson arrives later this month.

OMA’s previous lead Javier Gonzalez left in April after receiving a dismissial letter in March from Dwayne Isaacs, director of student life and engagement.

Jerrica Stovall, assistant director of activities and programs, said Gonzalez’s position as coordinator of multicultural affairs was reworked to attract applicants with “more experience.”

“The position in its previous form was a program coordinator position and we worked hard to rework the position to get reclassified as an assistant director,” she said.

Johnson was chosen from about 100 applicants. She previously worked as program coordinator of “Our Wisconsin,” a diversity and inclusion program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

“What we also loved was her connections in the on-campus interview,” Stovall said. “Everybody just had a feeling from Tristan like, ‘Wow, we had a conversation and it felt like I had known her for a while.’”

Reworking Johnson’s position is part of the larger revamp that OMA is undergoing. A recent addition to OMA’s student groups is the Office of Multicultural Affairs Program, which merges two other programs, Multicultural Activities Council and Ignite. The group plans “diverse entertainment, cultural celebrations, social and educational programming,” according to OMA’s website.

“OMAPB is basically a rebranding sort of so that we can be a little bit more inclusive of everyone and their identities,” Septimus said. “We want to focus on more than just multicultural initiatives so putting an emphasis on social justice and educating, as well as having fun for celebrations.”

The Office of Multicultural Affairs promotes diversity and inclusion on campus through workshops and trainings and also hosts about five student groups.

Groups under OMA include Black Student Alliance, The HERD Step Team, Gospel Choir, Latin American Student Association, South Asian Association and P.R.I.D.E. Alliance.

Septimus emphasized that OMA is a place where students can come to express themselves.

“If (students are) looking for exploration, if they’re looking for support, if they’re looking for a challenge, that’s what we’re here for,” said Septimus.

OMA has two upcoming events: “Culture Shock,” a panel discussion on Sept. 19th in Davis 120 from 5:30-7 p.m. and “The Real Impact of Fake News” on Sept. 24th in USC Ballrooms from 6-8 p.m.

Information from UW-Madison News is used in this report.

THE CROW’S NEST

September 10, 2018

By Dinorah Prevost
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COURTESY OF JERRICA STOVALL

The Office of Multicultural Affairs participated in this year’s St. Pete Pride Parade. The parade is one of OMA’s annual events.
New PRW courtyard leaves room for desire

By Dylan Hart
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A project redesigning the Peter Rudy Wallace Center for Teachers’ back courtyard is underway. PRW houses a multitude of classes in the journalism, history and politics departments, as well as the offices of the Florida Humanities Council and the Journalism and Digital Communication department and the JDC graduate program.

Benches and tables that sat in the courtyard for years were suddenly removed two weeks ago and replaced with stark black and white stone tables with no chairs surrounding them.

The location of PRW makes both its atrium and courtyard a common shortcut to the parking garage for students and faculty, but beyond those passersby, the courtyard often remains empty in the heat of the fall semester. Yet the air-conditioned atrium is often filled with students before classes. Both students and professors have raised concerns about the lack of any significant shade in the courtyard, even after the redesign.

“It’s a cool design, but I think they could have done more to make it more enjoyable out here,” said Noel Mullins, a senior journalism major. “Shading would have been the more ideal aspect to work on in my opinion.”

The redesign comes after a previous project several years ago that rebuilt the drainage system in the PRW courtyard.

While several large oak trees used to provide shade for the courtyard, the roots caused serious issues for the drainage system underneath, so trees used to provide shade for the courtyard, the roots caused serious issues for the drainage system underneath, so trees used to provide shade for the courtyard, the roots caused serious issues for the drainage system underneath, so trees used to provide shade for the courtyard, the roots caused serious issues for the drainage system underneath, so trees used to provide shade for the courtyard, the roots caused serious issues for the drainage system underneath, so trees used to provide shade for the courtyard, the roots caused serious issues for the drainage system underneath, so trees used to provide shade for the courtyard, the roots caused serious issues for the drainage system underneath, so trees used to provide shade for the courtyard, the roots caused serious issues for the drainage system underneath, so trees used to provide shade for 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THE CROW’S NEST

Daddy Kool hits the sidewalk with record sale

By Dylan Hart
dhart@mail.usf.edu

Daddy Kool Records released its inventory to the sidewalk Saturday for a 98-cent sale.

Daddy Kool Records, 666 Central Ave., is the closest spot to campus to buy music and concert tickets. Since its establishment in 1985, it has been a local hotspot for music, with many a Daddy Kool sticker adorning the laptops of USF St. Petersburg students.

But now, Daddy Kool seeks to push vinyl further into the spotlight — and the sidewalk.

“We try to do a sidewalk sale every month,” Assistant Manager Megan McDonald said. “It’s not always price specific, but this month we decided to do a 98-cent sale because it’s 9/8.”

The store displayed a large collection of music and band paraphernalia, from Barbara Streisand albums to Grateful Dead incense sticks.

Joined by DJ spinning vinyl records on his turntable, legions of visitors shuffled through the collection boxes in front of the record store, looking for hidden gems among the eclectic mix of music.

“It definitely see Daddy Kool as being a part of the vinyl revival,” McDonald said. “People come in who are older and say ‘I couldn’t get someone to take my vinyl 20 years ago!’ But now we pay really well for used vinyl, usually 50 percent of what we put it out for. And then there are lots of younger generations who are buying vinyl.”

Daddy Kool also joins other record stores around the world in Record Store Day, an international event that takes place every April. According to the Record Store Day website, “Special vinyl and CD releases and various promotional products are made exclusively for the day.”

McDonald verified Daddy Kool’s inclusion in the event.

“We’re going to do a Black Friday sale, which is a Record Store Day event, and we buy up exclusives that are specifically made for the day,” she said.

Daddy Kool Records intends to put on another sidewalk sale in October, but a date has yet to be confirmed.

Patrons lined up Saturday to sift through the unsorted boxes of the record store’s vast outdoor collection.

Much ado about Nunthing: A review of ‘The Nun’

By Bryce Lawson

Fans of the horror film genre have been drooling for the newest installment in “The Conjuring” universe.

Corin Hardy’s “The Nun” tries to delve into the backstory of the nun demon from “The Conjuring 2.”

Set in 1952, Father Burke (Dominic Bichir) is a priest who investigates supernatural and demonic cases within the church. With the help of Sister Irene (Taissa Farmiga) and Frenchie (Jonas Bloquet), Burke attempts to solve the strange occurrences at the Carta Monastery.

Throughout the movie, the audience is able to laugh and cry as the creepy nun and her sisters reign down terror.

With the use of flashback scenes, more information about Father-Burke’s past is played out, showing the harsh toll that performing exorcisms has taken on his psyche.

For Sister Irene, the film is a coming-of-age with her aspirations of becoming a nun.

Frenchie is the comic relief from the film. Since he has no connections to the church, he just bumbles about fighting the phantom that come his way.

From a story aspect, writers James Wan and Gary Dauberman left a lot to be desired. All the events make sense, but by the end you are left not caring and just waiting for “The Conjuring 3” instead.

The key flaw with the spin-off films and series is Wan’s participation or lack thereof. His master craft of story and scares can mean the difference in a film just being a dull horror film and a horror classic like “The Conjuring.”

The film largely lacked scares. Almost 80 percent of the scares come off as tacky or just fall flat.

Director Corin Hardy’s skill of creating atmosphere is the scariest part of the film. The spooky Monastery sets the tone, switching between the wondrous catacombs and the graveyard.

“The Nun” secured $131 million in its opening weekend. Despite the haul that ran circles around the $22 million budget, it has garnered 28 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

“Fans of “The Conjuring” series should not waste their time and money going to see “The Nun.” Instead, watch “The Conjuring 2” again.

What was promised in past films and the “too scary for YouTube trailer” is probably one of the most underwhelming horror experiences I’ve had in a while.

Unfortunately, a sequel will probably follow considering the theater was packed. With Halloween coming up, let’s hope Hollywood can deliver us at least one solid horror film this year.

Score 2.5/5

“THE CROW’S NEST” secured $131 million in its opening weekend. Despite the haul that ran circles around the $22 million budget, it has garnered 28 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

Dylan Hart | The Crow’s Nest
**Memes are dying at an alarming rate**

By James Bennett III

Juniour Journalism and Digital Communications

major

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Memes are dying at an alarming rate. The majority of cringe-worthy meme campaigns are intended to make a quick buck. There were rumors that University of California, Berkeley would be starting a “meme studies department,” so it’s obviously making someone money.

This exploitation of the culture contributes to the normalization of memes.

Normification diminishes the value of memes, creating a stagnant cesspool of meaningless repetition that drowns any meme’s potential to be entertaining or culturally relevant. Of course, capitalism isn’t the only thing running memes into the ground; there are plenty of uninspired meme templates and social media accounts contributing to the failing meme economy. The “brother, give me lóóps” cat is essentially the same meme as “can I has cheezburger,” and how many “X is better than Y” templates will we suffer before people realize that even the meta meme is completely banal?

Memes are important to our culture; they provide a form of escapism that allows users to discuss the world around them. I implore readers to consider how their choices in meme production and promotion reflect their values.

We’ve had Drakeposting, a form of escapism that allows users to discuss the world around them. It’s worth mentioning that businesses have been capitalizing on memes for too long. Businesses have been capitalizing on memes for too long. Businesses have been capitalizing on memes for too long. Businesses have been capitalizing on memes for too long.

**Letters to The Editor**

By Joniah Hineaugh

Junior Journalism and Digital Communications

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For those lucky few who are blissfully unaware of the term “meme,” allow me to give a brief explanation.

The term, believed to have originated from biologist Richard Dawkins’ book “The Selfish Gene,” refers to a cultural idea that has been passed along through imitation.

Conveniently, the term also bears a resemblance to the French word “mème,” which translates to “same” in English. Regardless of linguistics, most people understand the term as a joke which has some degree of auditory, physical, or verbal exposure.

Surely each of us have been subjected to at least a few memes here and there. Jenner penus sketches date back as far as wall carvings in Pompeii, “Kidrock was here” could be found accompanied by a sketch of a bald man pokin his nose over a wall throughout World War II, and some shirts depicting “rage comics” were sold in malls across the nation throughout the early 2010s.

Those God-awful T-shirts bring me to my first point: Businesses are capitalizing on memes for too long. Fast food chain Wendy’s ran an advertisement that showed a “meme” in the form of his Jalapeno Fresco. Gucci referenced the “Me vs. the guy she says I like a boss.”

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To make things clear, I don’t have a problem with Wendy’s, but I like this.

Sure, they manage to stay relevant for a short period of time while they review trendy subjects, but their oversaturation and simplicity kills the meme before it has an opportunity to express something worthwhile.

Next, you’ve got content creators who should be inhabited by越过 the memelord for more likes and reposts who blatantly plagiarize their work.

I don’t mean to say that having a meme is wrong. I just think that hopping on the bandwagon in search of approval isn’t as culturally useful as a meme that inspires dialogue or pokes fun at the absurd experiences of human life.

Memes are important to our culture; they provide a form of escapism that allows users to discuss the world around them.

I implore readers to consider how their choices in meme production and promotion reflect their values. Are we a society that cherishes our history over criticism and plagiarism over creativity, or do we want to be a society that values creativity over fighting the mundane and chuckling at uncomfortable circumstances?
Peppermint: a fresh taste of vigilante justice

By Salvador Castillo
Contributor

A rather pleasant surprise, “Peppermint” was an interesting idea: a vigilante film in which the one doing the punishing was a woman. Though that’s not the film’s only merit, as it has quite a few.

The film manages to pass the Bechdel Test, a measure of whether or not a story includes female characters who talk to each other about something other than a man. Whenever women in a fictional story talk to each other about something, it’s usually in reference to Riley’s dead husband or the leader of the gang who killed him.

The film’s pacing is handled well, with the story slowly down to explore the way North’s loss has affected her mentally over the years, between gunfights without it feeling forced.

Garner’s acting is also surprising, since the closest she’s been to a vigilante was with her role as Sydney Bristow in the TV show “Alias” and as Daredevil’s fellow vigilante and love interest Elektra Natchios in 2003’s “Daredevil” and its 2005 spin-off “Elektra.”

Most of her career steers away from action, as well as the rest of the cast, imbues her character’s story with a well-balanced sense of realism and emotional weight, which develops in a natural way throughout the film.

I can confidently say that “Peppermint” is an action film that’s worthy of the audience’s time and money, and it’s, in line with its title, a new and refreshing point of view in the world of vigilante TV and movies.

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Unleash your artistic side on campus with rock painting at the Nelson Polynier Memorial Library from 2 to 5 p.m.

THURSDAY
Want to get into the Halloween spirit early? Join the Museum of Fine Arts for the story of the annual Zombie Thriller Dance, where choreographers will help you learn all the dance moves you need to know for the Oct. 24 performance. It runs from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Calling all Marvel fans! The Harborides Activities Board is hosting a University Student Center to host Avengers: Infinity War for their “Screen on the Green” on the Harbor Lawn. Starts at 8 p.m.

FRIDAY
Grab your baseball glove and get ready to root for the home team as the Tampa Bay Rays take on the Oakland Athletics at Tropicana Field, 1 Tropicana Drive. Tickets start at $15 and the game begins at 7:10 p.m.

SATURDAY
Interested in the artistic side of the Tampa Bay area? Cross over to Tampa and visit the Project Dark Arts premiere for some artistic fun from 7 to 11 p.m. Tickets start at $30 on eventbrite.

What to do this week: Sept. 10 - Sept. 16

By Dylan Hart
dhart4@mail.usf.edu

MONDAY
Interested in the thriving local music and stand-up comedy scene in an upscale setting for none of the upscale price? Head downstairs to SubCentral At The Iberian Rooster, 475 Central Ave.

TUESDAY
Join “Remember Honor Support” at The Coliseum, 535 Fourth Ave. N., to commemorate the Patriot Day with veterans, including guest speaker Master Sgt. Scott Neil. Doors open at 7 a.m.

Pay your respects to the 2,996 people who died on 9/11 at the Student Veterans Organization’s “Roll Call” by the Sembler fountain starting at 11 a.m. There will be a tent with drinks and snacks until about 3:30 p.m. Sign up through the organization’s page on PeteSync.

WEDNESDAY
Are you a dog lover? Then you’re in luck: Hamburger Mary’s, 2901 Tybou Blvd. N., is playing 10 fun games of drag queen bingo for the Passion 4 Pits charity starting at 7 p.m.

UNIVERSITY CITY COLLEGE

COURTESY OF ERIKA HASSON

ERIKA HASSON WANTS students on campus to know that she is approachable. If you see her around campus don’t be afraid to introduce yourself.

“I have a dog, Bella, a snake, Salazar, and my 4-year-old has a fish, Nemo,” Hasson said.

Bella is an Australian Shepherd mix, rescued from the SPCA in 2011.

“We are at least her third family, but I can’t imagine why anyone gave her up. She is more like a 40-pound cat than a dog,” said Hasson.

Salazar joined the Hasson family in 2012 when Hasson’s husband wanted a Ball Python, but instead they agreed on a red corn snake.

“Nemo is the newest addition. Santa brought him to Emily for Christmas,” Hasson said. “He is a blue Beta that lives in her room.”

Hasson enjoys the fall and winter activities in the area. She is looking forward to festivals, parades and pumpkin spice lattes.

Erika Hasson has been a University Police Department for five and a half years but has been a member of the Bulls community since she enrolled as an undergraduate at the university in 2003.

Hasson began working at UPD in March 2013 and holds the job title Master Police Officer, Policy and Standards. Her primary responsibility is to serve as UPD’s accreditation manager.

“Protecting and serving our community is first and foremost on our list of priorities, but we also must follow procedures and policies in order to provide the best service to our community members,” Hasson said.

Find out more about UPD’s mission and vision by checking out their website at https://police. usf.edu.

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USFSP welcomes international students

By Amy Diaz amydiay@mail.usf.edu

September 10, 2018

THE CROW’S NEST

Simone Biasio (left) 24, from Italy and Christian Swanson, 31, from Sweden, talk over coffee during a social gathering of international students at the library. Biasio is here as an exchange student for a semester, Swanson is completing an MBA program for a year.

By Martha Rine

Simone Biasio has only been here for three weeks, but he said he immediately noticed a lot of differences between USF St. Petersburg and his university back home.

“Everything is different. Starting from the fact that we don’t use text messages for example, we use WhatsApp, which is an application for online messaging,” Biasio said. “I got my American number and I was looking at my contract and it said, ‘unlimited text messages’ and I was thinking like, ‘Um, okay. Why? Then I realized everybody uses text messages here.’”

He also feels that his classes are structured differently.

“We are used to different kind of teaching. In Italy, for most of the class it is just the professor speaking and you just take notes,” he said. “Here you know, and maybe because we’re MBA students, the class is very little so it’s very interactive. We do a lot of activities in the classroom, and that way you can be able to try on your own what you’re going to do. It’s nice.”

Biasio hasn’t gotten a chance to do much exploring yet, but he wants to.

“l’m lucky because I have class on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, so I have a long weekend. I want to go to Miami or Orlando. It’s close so why not go?” he said. “The only things I know from Miami come from Baywatch, but I don’t think it works like that.”

Elena Plakhina is also staying at USF St. Petersburg for a semester. She is an associate professor in the journalism department from the University of Tyumen in Russia. She is doing research for her discipline by working with USF St. Petersburg journalism professors such as Mark Walters and Deni Elliott, and spending time in class with students.

“There are a lot of differences for me in the educational system, in the way people communicate with each other, how they spend their time in the university and space,” Plakhina said. “It’s unusual for me but it’s interesting for me to observe.”

She finds the main difference to be the lack of consistent student groups in each class.

“We had, for example, such experience where the whole group of students stay with each other for four years,” she said. “They have the same study, the same classes, they’re all together, they’re all very close and they become best friends.

And here as far as I see, everything is separate. You can change in every discipline and have different courses and teachers. I don’t think it’s bad, it’s better for education. You focus on studying.”

Plakhina initially had trouble believing that anyone studied on campus.

“My first impression was ‘How is it possible to study here? There are so many beautiful things, so many areas for recreation. Is it possible that students are really studying here?’” she said. “But then I understood that it was made exactly for making people want to be here, stay here from the morning to the evening.”

Galina Gorelenkova, a student from Moscow in her second and last year at USF St. Petersburg, can attest to studying.

“I like this school a lot. It’s a smaller school I think, so the professors are more helpful, and the kids are more scholar-oriented, you know,” she said. “At first I was sad that we don’t have a lot of parties, but I’m realizing it’s kind of better especially when you’re studying, because you have to study and it’s a lot sometimes.”

Gorelenkova, a senior criminology major, will graduate in December with her bachelor’s degree.

“I graduated from a university in Russia and got my master’s degree in psychology, and then my family decided that I needed to get a degree from another country,” she said. “I think it’s something that can benefit me you know, and also it helps with my language.”

After graduating, she plans to apply for a work authorization and hopes to get an internship with the United Nations or the Red Cross. For now, Gorelenkova is the president of the International Students Club.

“This is my first club, so I wasn’t very active when I first got here,” she said. “So, this is my last semester and my first time doing something like social activities.”

The club’s first event of the semester was a coffee social held Sept. 6, in the library, which gave new and continuing international students a chance to talk with one another.

Angelica Rodriguez Jimenez, the international student advisor, helped put the event together.

Her role is not only to ensure that students are in compliance, but also to give them the resources they need to have a great experience as an international student while they’re here.

“I’ve been working with international students for five years and I love it,” Jimenez said. “I love doing things like this where everybody can communicate, and everybody is able to just get to know each other.”

The International Student Club is hoping to get more student involvement to build the club and keep it ongoing.

“Everybody’s invited, Americans, international students, domestic students,” Jimenez said. “It’s a place where students of international descent and students who want to know about international students can come together, do some fun things and connect.”

You can find the club on Petesync under “International Community at USFSP” or on Instagram at @aroundtheworldastu.