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Honoring our veterans

By Delaney Brown
Contributor
and Emily Wunderlich
ewunderlich@mail.usf.edu

I t was March 29, 2018, when combat photographer Stacy Pearsall and her service dog, Charlie, arrived at USF St. Petersburg with a mission: to photograph veterans tied to the campus community.

Pearsall, a retired Air Force photographer, was armed with her portable photography studio and one assistant, capturing the portraits of students, alumni, faculty and staff who served their country. The opportunity was arranged by the Places, Spaces, and Art office in collaboration with the Military and Veterans Success Center.

The outcome was a three-month exhibit at Nelson Poynter Memorial Library titled “USFSF Vets: Portraits in Black and White,” part of Pearsall’s larger “Veterans Portrait Project.” Since the project’s beginning, Pearsall has photographed more than 7,500 veterans’ portraits across 30 states. To view more of the project, visit http://www.veteransportraitproject.com/.

Pearsall calls the VPP “an emotionally cathartic, physically healing tool” that began in 2008 as she rehabilitated from combat injuries sustained in Iraq. During her service, she traveled to more than 41 countries and completed three tours of combat, earning the Bronze Star Medal and Air Force Commendation with Valor.

The library exhibit includes more than 20 portraits of campus veterans, along with their stories, written by us at crowsneststpete.com and curated by Ann Wykell, USF St. Petersburg public art consultant. Throughout the semester, we spent countless hours interviewing veterans. We had limited knowledge about the military, so Milton White and Kathryn Benton, director and assistant director of the MVSC, coached us on interviewing techniques and told us what to expect.

We approached the assignment with little direction and an open mind. Our interviews were more than we could have ever hoped for: compelling, honest, personal and powerful.

We found ourselves transcribing every minute of our recorded interviews so we wouldn’t overlook any important details. We spent even more time untangling the interviews to tell each story accurately, as our conversations would often jump all over the place.

But who could help it? When you’re sitting in front of such fascinating people, it’s hard to run out of questions to ask.

The veterans were transparent with us, at times sharing things they hadn’t yet told their families. For some, the interviews were their first time sitting down and reflecting on their experiences.

They shared some of the most vulnerable moments in their lives, and we were honored to listen.

Often, we as a society enter conversations with preconceived ideas. When it comes to veterans, we expect them to be tough, stoic, and unwilling to share, but those ideas couldn’t have been further from the truth. The veterans wanted to share. They needed to be heard.

Our biggest takeaway was what it means to be trusted with someone else’s story. We left each interview feeling personally connected and indebted to our veterans. We felt obligated to represent them in the truest way possible.

We left each interview feeling what it means to be trusted, their stories –– we were merely the MVSC, we encourage all students to pay a visit for yourselves. You’ll immediately feel welcome. You’ll learn so much about the veterans on our campus, and as Jonathan Rowles, one of the veterans involved in the project, puts it, there is so much that veterans can learn about civilian life by interacting with students.

The future of the College of Arts and Sciences remains unclear under consolidation. Here’s how that’s affecting plans to remodel the second floor of Davis Hall.

In an effort to connect with students, Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock boarded the Wanderer on Nov. 6 for another installment of “Sailing with Students,” where no topic was off-limits.

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Editor’s note: There will be no Nov. 19 issue of The Crow’s Nest in observance of Thanksgiving break. Stories will still run online on Monday as scheduled at crowsneststpete.com

By Crow’s Nest Staff

Journalism professors in Tampa have joined their counterparts in St. Petersburg in opposing a proposed merger of USF’s two student newspapers.

In a statement released Nov. 9, the faculty of the Zimmerman School of Advertising and Mass Communication at USF Tampa said the proposal “would gut the two student papers’ abilities to produce timely, accurate and informative news.”

It cited what the professors called the papers’ “long, distinguished histories” and noted that they have “placed untold numbers of journalists into the ‘working press’ of the region and nation.

By Crow’s Nest Staff

Tampa faculty strongly opposes merger

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Tampa faculty strongly opposes merger
By Brianna Rodriguez
blasquez@mail.usf.edu

When the time comes to finally walk across the graduation stage, it’s usually one of excitement. Instead, for students graduating this semester from the College of Arts and Sciences, it’s stressful.

At the end of October, the university sent an email to students graduating from the college, informing them that the commencement time was changed from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Although a three-hour time change doesn’t seem significant, the late announcement caused negative effects for many students.

“It was very sudden and unprofessional,” said Jerry Cano, a senior biomedical sciences major, in a Facebook message. “The email came out on a Friday evening, so even if we wanted to call someone, there wouldn’t be anyone to answer. I had to go and reprint the new invitations, costing me even more money.”

Cano spent an additional $40 on invitations to print out on a Friday evening, so he didn’t use the envelopes from them with the new time. If he had an hour to spare, he would have gone to New York to St. Pete for the first time,” he said in a Facebook message. “He’s specifically trying to see me graduate, and he can’t even do that because he has a flight home at 6 p.m. The airport is 50-75 (minutes) away during rush hour. I am really angry about that. It’s a big deal for us.”

Bloomberg created a Facebook post asking why the commencement time changed. The post sparked many comments from frustrated students that were impacted by the change.

“For other people, grad announcements have to be reprinted, flights need to be changed, gas wasted, and more. It’s a real waste for a lot of us,” she said in a Facebook message. “Have we given the university enough money-wise?”

Lilibel Cano, a 2017 graduate, commented on post on behalf of her brother, Jerry. Although born in the United States, the Canos are first-generation college students whose family is from Puebla, Mexico. Cano explained that graduation is a big deal because of that.

Unlike other students, Mackenzie Hatcher, a senior English major, was looking forward to her husband watching her walk across the stage while he’s stationed in Afghanistan.

“I am definitely annoyed by the time change. My husband is deployed to Afghanistan (8.5 hours ahead) so he would be able to watch me walk,” she said in a Facebook comment. “But now that they shifted the time back, he’ll be sleeping and probably have to watch a replay or something.”

After several attempts to reach out to the university about the reason for the time change, university spokesperson Carrie O’Brion sent The Crow’s Nest an email statement.

“We are very sorry for any inconvenience the change in the commencement times may be causing students and their families,” the email said. “We are committed to helping any student who is experiencing difficulties and ask them to please contact Conference/Event Planner Christine Apple directly at apple@mail.usf.edu. She will work with affected students to find solutions.”

Without explanation, the fall graduation commencement time was changed by three hours, causing dismay among graduating students and their families.

USF-St. Petersburg students graduate Dec. 9 at The Mahaffey Theater, 401 First St. S. Without explanation, the fall graduation commencement time was changed by three hours, causing dismay among graduating students and their families. USF-St. Petersburg students graduate Dec. 9 at The Mahaffey Theater, 401 First St. S.

## MERGER, continued from P1

“The ability for each student newspaper to cover newsworthy matters and student life on their respective campuses, in their own way, free from any interference from administrators, is vital to our school’s academic function and the university’s commitment to the First Amendment and a free press,” the statement said.

The merger was signed by director Wayne Garcia, was sent to Danielle McDonald, an assistant vice president and dean of students on the Tampa campus, and Dwayne Isaacs, the director of student life and engagement in St. Petersburg.

McDonald and Isaacs lead a subcommittee on student involvement that is helping plan the consolidation of the three campuses of the USF system.

When students consulted the editors of either newspaper, the subcommittee made a recommendation for a single publication and the faculty and staff have always been separate – a point both The Crow’s Nest and The Oracle have long, distinguished histories informing students, staff and faculty of important stories at USF. They have both won journalism awards; they both have placed untold numbers of journalists into the working press, in Tampa Bay, in Florida and across the United States.

The ability for each student newspaper to cover newsworthy matters and student life on their respective campuses, in their own way, free from any interference from administrators, is vital to our school’s academic function and the university’s commitment to the First Amendment and a free press.

We urge you to convene a meeting with both faculties, the newspapers’ editors and advisers to discuss a better way forward as we consolidate the USF System. We stand ready to participate and strengthen the journalism of our student publications on all campuses.

## Statement made by Tampa journalism faculty

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The faculty of the Zimmerman School strongly opposes the recommendation of the dean of students and director of student life engagement on the Tampa and St. Petersburg campuses, respectively, to consolidate the student publications The Crow’s Nest and The Oracle.

We especially object to the lack of consultation by the task force subcommittee of either publication and the journalism faculty on both campuses.

Both newspapers serve vital functions, academically and in terms of campus life, and each has a separate identity and unique composition.

USF needs MORE student publications, not fewer. Having a section in a larger, undefined publication would gut the two student papers’ abilities to produce timely, accurate and informative news.

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Davis Hall remodel on hold; plans for third residence hall approved

By Dinorah Prevost
dprevost1@mail.usf.edu

Plans to remodel Lowell Davis Memorial Hall’s second floor are on hold.

Blueprints were originally scheduled to be ready this fall. But Edward Lewis, USF St. Petersburg construction project manager, said they are coming next fall.

Lewis said consolidation is a factor in the delay.

Davis Hall houses the College of Arts and Sciences and is one of the largest teaching buildings on campus. And with administration unsure of whether USF St. Petersburg will retain its largest college in the merger, Lewis is awaiting for Davis.

“It’s hard for us to understand who’s going to occupy the space in the second floor,” Lewis said. “Design is easy, because it’s a part of Main Committee was the choice on the design organization and design. Economic vitality, promotion, a specific four-point approach: building vibrant communities dedicated to revitalizing reputation. The Deuces Live, have been working on redevelopment projects in the area for six years. The Deuces used to be an area thriving with local business and entertainment. The Manhattan Casino brought big name jazz and blues musicians like Duke Ellington and B.B. King. The area began to decline in the 1970s after the installation of Interstate 275, which divided the neighborhood. Many parts of south St. Petersburg have since garnered a bad reputation. The Deuces Live, are paying its r-e-s-p-e-c-t to that,” Brayboy said. “So I thought ‘Wow, when Aretha Franklin died, we already had her song “Freeway of Love” don’t stop at the highway. You can find Ella Fitzgerald at Lorene’s Fish and Crab House at 929 22nd St. S., and Louis Armstrong at Chief’s Creole Cafe, owned by the Brayboys, at 901 22nd St. S. A two-story mural of Prince was also in the district, but Hurricane Irma destroyed the building. In the next couple months, Zulu Painter’s rendition of Franklin with a pink Cadillac inspired by her song “Freeway of Love” will go up at 911 22nd St. S.

The murals on the corridor don’t stop at the highway. You can find Ella Fitzgerald at Lorene’s Fish and Crab House at 929 22nd St. S., and Louis Armstrong at Chief’s Creole Cafe, owned by the Brayboys, at 901 22nd St. S. A two-story mural of Prince was also in the district, but Hurricane Irma destroyed the building. In the next couple months, Zulu Painter’s rendition of Franklin with a pink Cadillac inspired by her song “Freeway of Love” will go up at 911 22nd St. S.

Murals aim to revitalize St. Petersburg jazz scene

By Amy Diaz
amydiaz@mail.usf.edu

The historic 22nd Street South Corridor, also known as the Deuces, is paying its r-e-s-p-e-c-t to Aretha Franklin.

After Franklin’s death in August, The Deuces Live design committee decided to create a mural in her honor.

“When Aretha Franklin passed, we already had Ella Fitzgerald, the queen of jazz, on one wall,” said Carolyn Brayboy, design committee chair. “We wanted the opposite wall to be Aretha Franklin, the queen of soul.”

Brayboy and her husband Elihu, president of The Deuces Live, have been working on redevelopment projects in the area for six years. The Deuces used to be an area thriving with local business and entertainment. The Manhattan Casino brought big name jazz and blues musicians like Duke Ellington and B.B. King.

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The new mural will replace an unfinished mural of a lion by Zulu Painter. Carolyn Brayboy joked that she wished Aretha Franklin was a Leo.
What it means to serve

Campus veterans reflect on their time in the military as part of a new exhibit in the library.

Read all of the stories from "USFSP Vets: Portraits in Black and White" at http://crowsneststpete.com/category/veterans-spotlight/

Milton White
Director, Military and Veterans Success Center
Branch: Marine Corps
Duty: Aviation ordnance division chief
Years enlisted: 1984-2009

“I learned so much about myself, about others, and what causes folks to do things when it comes to their socialization processes.”

Kathryn Benton
Assistant director, Military and Veterans Success Center
Branch: Navy
Duty: Aircraft structural mechanic
Years enlisted: 2003-2013

“All my life, I’ve been in a man’s world and assumed that I can’t do something or that I don’t know about something, whatever the case may be, that I’m not mechanically inclined. I have to work harder just to be perceived as average.”

Bill Heller
Former regional chancellor, USF St. Petersburg
Branch: Army
Duty: Administrative personnel officer
Years enlisted: 1951-1955

“It bothered me that some people (avoided the draft). Those that didn’t go lost two very interesting years of their life.”

Joshua Lovelace
Team manager, Financial Aid
Branch: Army
Duty: Communications specialist
Years enlisted: 2001-2007

“I learned what it meant to be part of something bigger than me and my small group of friends and my family, and that was really the biggest takeaway from me: that sense of purpose and just love for this country. I can’t imagine doing it any other way.”
What it means to serve in the armed forces

Campus veterans reflect on their time in the military as part of a new exhibit in the library. Read all of the stories from “USFSP Vets: Portraits in Black and White” at http://crowsneststpete.com/category/veterans-spotlight/

Albert Moreno
Graduate Student, liberal arts
Branch: Army
Duty: Infantry
Years enlisted: 2004-2006

“I don’t want to be one of those guys reliving my combat days 20 years down the road. I don’t want to be one of those guys trying to make the past tense present tense.”

Bill Benjamin
Manager, Purchasing and Parking Services
Branch: Navy
Duty: Operations specialist
Years enlisted: 1970-1974

“It matured me to see things outside of my immediate environment. They used to say ‘Shape up or ship out,’ and I definitely shaped up.”

Jon Rowles
Senior political science major, Student Government Chief of Staff, student peer counselor
Branch: Navy
Duty: Missile technician
Years enlisted: 2011-2017

“There’s a lot that (veterans) can teach students, but what they don’t know is that (veterans) can learn 10 times more from them.”

Jeremiah Sanders
Sophomore history major, student peer counselor
Branch: Army
Duty: Ranger
Years enlisted: 2013-2017

“(Being in special operations) was like the coolest job in the world to me. They get to use the coolest weapons. They have this aura about them. They’re like jedis almost. To be a part of that was amazing.”
On the evening of Nov. 2, Nancy Van Veen and classics: PC has given us Uncharted, The Last Of Us, Bloodborne, Halo, and Quantum Break.

I'm a fan of all of these games, seeing how I've played all of them to completion at one point or another. Personal favorites from each platform would have to be Bloodborne, The Last Of Us, and the new God of War for console, and Portal, Civilization, and Baldur’s Gate for PC.

Each platform does have its pros and cons. PC’s can handle an exceptional level of graphic detail, allowing for you to fully immerse yourself in the game’s world. The games can also run at an incredible pace, allowing for smooth gameplay and near life-like cinematics and character models.

However, the main downside to PC is the cost. A PC with a decent graphics card ranges between $600 and $900, with some costing $1,200 and above. The price skyrocket when something goes wrong, however, it’s more practical to fix a PC error. All you need is to pop it open, replace the screwy part, and you’re good to go.

Consoles tend to have their components assembled and put into layers, which you have to take apart very carefully so as not to damage any of the components. PC’s have specific areas where you place the components, making it more modular and practical.

Each device has its own strong and weak points. Even if you prefer one over the other, you can’t deny the pros of the other side. This makes you seem more ignorant than anything else, since you’re only focusing on the pros of your choice of platform and pointing out the cons of the other platform.

Also, the whole idea of fighting over which platform is best seems like quite a childish affair. Make the adult decision and enjoy both.

You can play some first-person shooters like Counter-Strike or Call of Duty on PC, since the increased graphics handling can allow you to play at a faster pace, and if you grow tired with that, you can just switch over to console where you can enjoy some decent-looking graphics balanced with easy-to-understand gameplay, like in Uncharted or God of War.

Each platform was made to suit a different gaming agenda, so it’s not fair to pit the two against each other.
The new phase of Ella Jet and Future Soul

By Bryce Lawson
Contributor

Every Friday night from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Ella Jet And Future Soul bring a mix of neo soul vibes with blues rock grooves to Ruby’s Elixir, 15 Third St. N. Playing songs off its debut album “Black Wave Diary,” the band has gained a following and often performs to a standing-room only crowd.

“When the band first started, the shows were much smaller, but now we are starting to see a much larger turnout,” said Robert Vessenmeyer, the band’s manager.

After singing and performing since age 12 and forming the band Future Soul in 2016, the soon to be 21-year-old is ready to show the world the next step in her artistic journey.

“The band’s sound has matured a lot over the years,” said Alberto Perez, 28.

With songs like “Sunflower” dealing with dysfunctional family issues and “Sweet as Sanity,” a song with themes about drug addiction, Jet takes her past experiences and puts them into her music. Although the lyrics have a raw edge to them, her soft vocals lift you up, with many of the band’s songs having an upbeat feel.

With each step Ella takes in her career, from the shows in the early days to her debut EP, she has been progressing as an artist,” Vessenmeyer said.

The band is in the studio working on its upcoming full-length album, “Love Sound,” due for release at the end of the year.

“‘Love Sound’ is the next phase in the band’s evolution,” Vessenmeyer said. “With this album, (Jet) is taking her level of artistry to heights I didn’t even know were possible.

Ella Jet And Future Soul will perform Friday, Dec. 7th at The Hideaway Cafe, 1736 Central Ave., to showcase some songs off the upcoming album. Tickets range from $8 to $10 for general admission and $45 per person for VIP."
As thousands of people woke up on the morning of Nov. 6 to what promised to be a busy Election Day, a small group of USF St. Petersburg students started their day on the waters of Tampa Bay. They were away from the responsibilities of class, work and voting — at least for an hour or two.

The Wanderer set sail with eight people aboard, including Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock, who began taking sailing trips with students last year. No topic was off limits, and students were able to connect with Tadlock and take in the sights on a signature USF St. Petersburg activity.

Dan Marshall, coordinator of adventure and aquatics, sailed the Wanderer but had to rely on the motors on a windless fall day. Still, the sun was shining, and the students relaxed as they enjoyed the St. Petersburg skyline and dolphins swam nearby.

Tadlock chatted with everyone. Conversation ranged from consolidation to the election and the new branding in Tampa. That new Bull is not popular.

Students can sign up for future sailing trips as they are announced. Participants are chosen at random.

Sailing is a unique outreach effort, which gives Tadlock the opportunity to connect with students — something he has stressed in the past as important, especially as the university undergoes so many changes.