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## **Crow's Nest : 2014 : 11 : 10**

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**BEARDS, BEARDS  
EVERYWHERE**

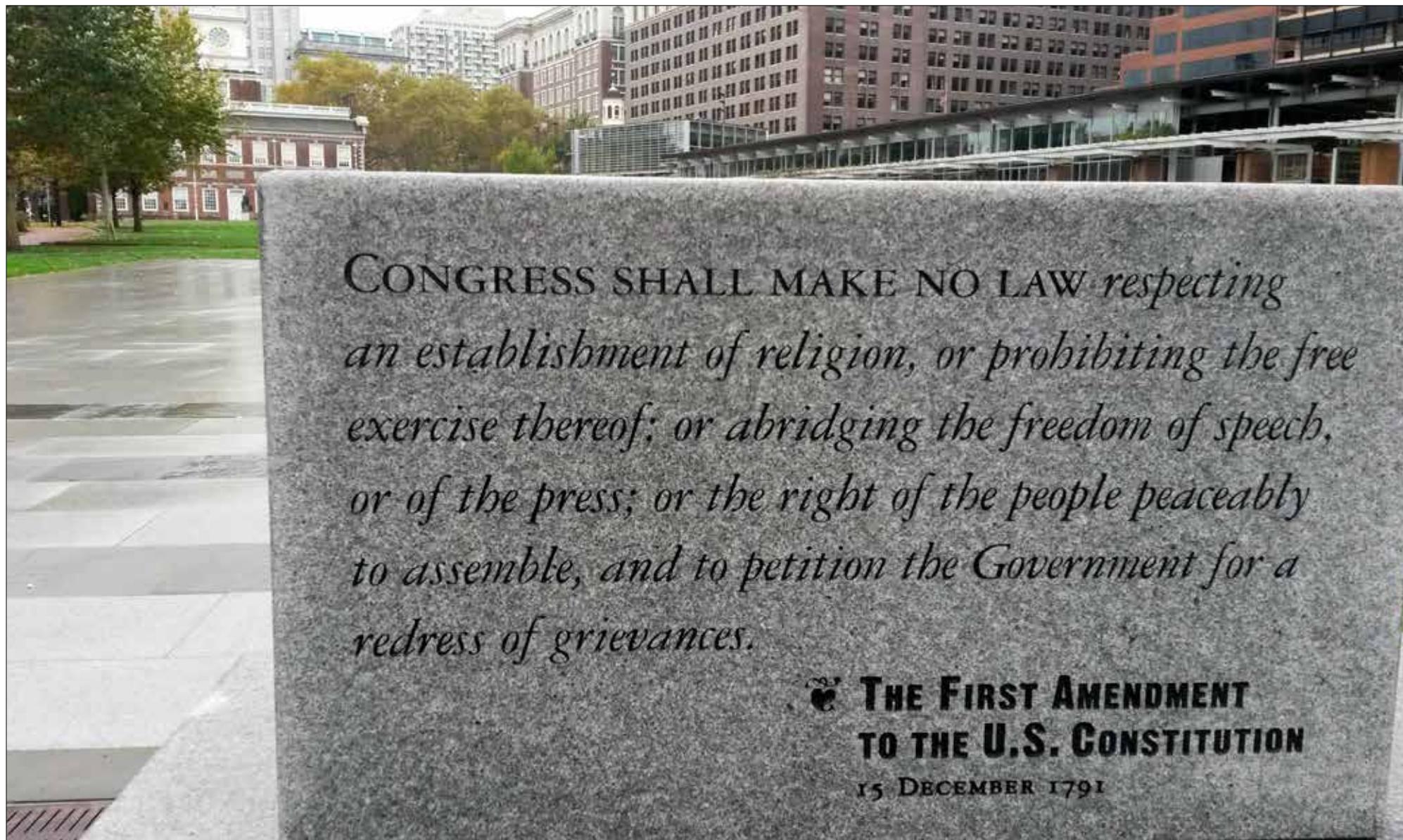
p. 5

**MEET ANDRE  
DAVIS.**

*The receiver is about to play his last home game.*

p. 8

# University speech codes investigated



Jennifer Nessler | The Crow's Nest

This landmark in Philadelphia, Pa. celebrates the freedom of speech afforded to American citizens through the First Amendment.

**BY JENNIFER NESSLAR**  
STAFF REPORTER

The American university is thought of as a place where minds are opened and ideas are shared.

But most universities have speech codes in place that “prohibit expression that would be protected by the First Amendment in society at large,” according to the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

USF St. Petersburg is one of these universities.

The FIRE defends student speech and liberties on campuses across the U.S. They have a database that rates each university's speech codes, policies they say inhibit free speech on campus as protected by

the U.S. Constitution. They review speech codes and rate universities with green, yellow or red lights.

When the FIRE reviewed USFSP this semester, they gave a red light rating, meaning that university speech codes have at least one policy significantly restricting free speech. In USFSP's case, three policies were given the red light and two were given a yellow.

Receiving a red-light rating is common at public universities. In Florida, 10 universities have red-light ratings, and three have yellow-light ratings. Only one university, the University of Florida, has a green-light rating.

Azhar Majeed, the director of the FIRE's Individual Rights Education Program, spoke with

The Crow's Nest about the ratings given to USFSP.

Literal interpretation of speech codes like the ones at USFSP means that students can be punished for speech protected by the constitution, Majeed said.

“It teaches students the wrong lessons about democracy in a free society,” Majeed said. “It creates a harmful chilling effect on campus discourse.”

Majeed has seen punishment for students who violate speech codes vary from campus to campus. Some students are forced to write apology letters. Others are barred from registering for classes for a semester, which Majeed believes interferes with the student's ability to get a quality education. But most

troubling to him is that record of the student's punishment goes into their student file.

“That's something that follows you into your educational career and into your professional career,” Majeed said.

All the red light policies at USFSP are a part of the overall USF system codes and not specific to the St. Petersburg campus itself. Only one yellow light code is specific to USFSP.

The Crow's Nest contacted Jodi Adamchak of the Office of General Counsel for the USF system about the codes.

“We do update them on a regular basis,” Adamchak said. She refused further comment.

Jacob Diaz, the dean of students

at USFSP, said student's freedom of speech is important to the university.

“We want to uphold First Amendment rights,” Diaz said. “That's key.”

Diaz said he has worked with the FIRE at previous universities, and he always takes their perspective into account when reviewing policies. He also shows the policies to students and asks them for their feedback.

“I always find that to be an engaging conversation,” he said.

The intention of the codes is not to chill speech on campus, Diaz said.

When it comes to dealing with student conduct, Diaz said he determines if behavior is in violation of

**Continued on p. 2**

## News Briefs

**CORRECTION:** In a Crow's Nest article last week about bicycle theft, the report mis-named police chief David Hendry.

Class registration for the Spring semester has just recently opened. Make sure to set up an appointment with your advisor to set up your schedule. You can change or make an appointment, use the Academic Advising eSchedule on MyUSF.

Witness two legends side by side at the Dali Museum. From now until mid-February, the Picasso exhibition is in St. Petersburg. It will feature rarely-loaned works from 20 art museums and collections around the world. This includes many paintings, drawings, prints, and sculptures by Pablo Picasso.

### Wednesday, Nov. 12

Interesting in having a serious conversation and free food? Join Real Talk, a monthly discussion between students, faculty, and staff about diverse topics and issues that affect society and world views this Wednesday in the USC Ocean Room from noon to 1 p.m. This discussion focuses on the extent of Ebola's reach.

Blast into the summer cinema hit, Guardians of the Galaxy, with a free screening on Harbor Walk. Starting at 8 p.m. Harborside Activities Board and the University Student Center bring the intergalactic smorgasbord of heroes to an outdoor screen, so bring blankets and a stereo to jam to the classic Awesome Mix hits.

### Thursday, Nov. 13

This Thursday is International Games Day. Head down to the Poynter Library where all kinds of games will be set up throughout day. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy some video, card, and board games.

### Saturday, Nov. 15

The St. Petersburg Chapter, Colonial Dames XVII Century, celebrates the 60th anniversary of its chartering. Starting at 1 p.m., the Chapter will place a marker on the John C. and Sarah Williams House at USF St. Petersburg. Celebrate with cake and comments from Jon Wilson, retired editor for the St. Petersburg Times (now the Tampa Bay Times) and communications consultant for the Florida Humanities Council.

# USF system codes flag red lights

## The First Amendment to the Constitution

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.*

### Continued from p.1

the policies. Then, he confronts the student and engages them in conversation, asking them to take responsibility for their actions. Rarely does the student have to attend a formal hearing process, which is the next step.

Two red-light codes deal with sexual harassment on campus, an issue that has received heightened attention on university campuses this year. A third deals with discrimination and harassment.

"The spirit of them is that we want the community to be safe and whole," Diaz said.

"The FIRE completely recognizes that public universities have the position to protect students from sexual harassment," Majeed said. "But the Supreme Court has laid out clear standards."

The standards Majeed refers to are found in the 1999 decision *Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education*. The Court ruled that punishable conduct would be unwelcome behavior "so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive, and that so undermines and detracts from the victims' educational experience, that the victim-students are effectively denied equal access to an institution's resources and opportunities."

USF codes punish "conduct which may be interpreted as unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature." Majeed said this definition is too vague and may punish protected speech.

The codes also punish sexually-oriented jokes, which are protected by the First Amendment, Majeed said. He encourages students to counter speech they dislike instead of the university prohibiting it.

The codes include examples of

behavior such as sexually-oriented jokes, something Diaz said the FIRE bristles at.

"They think that if I (the student) do carry out any of those examples, I'm going to be punished by the university," Diaz said. That's not the spirit of the codes, he said.

UF's codes were flagged by the FIRE for similar reasons. UF's code called "Sexual Harassment FAQ" was edited in August to reflect the standards set by the U.S. Supreme Court. The change bumped UF's rating to a green-light.

The only USFSP specific yellow-light code is found in the student code of conduct, under the student rights section. It says students have "the right of respect for personal feelings, freedom from indignity, and to expect an education of the highest quality."

Majeed said he sees policies like this at many universities across America.

"As we tell students and administration all the time, no one has the right to have freedom from indignity," he said. "That's just not protected by the First Amendment."

Diaz said this code is listed as a student right, not a policy.

"This isn't necessarily a policy that we could be in violation of," he said.

The perspective of the FIRE is important to Diaz.

"I think what FIRE does is good so far in it complicates thinking," Diaz said. Their ratings allow universities to critically analyze their codes.

To see the codes rated by the FIRE, visit <http://www.thefire.org/schools/university-of-south-florida-at-saint-petersburg/>.

[news@crowstestpete.com](mailto:news@crowstestpete.com)

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education rated USF St. Petersburg's speech codes, and gave it an overall red-light rating. This means that USFSP has at least one speech code that the FIRE believes inhibits freedom of speech. Most of the codes are a part of the USF system, and not specific to USFSP. Here are the codes the FIRE has called to question, including the one code specific to the USFSP campus.

### USFSP-specific code (received a yellow-light):

Student Conduct: Student Rights 14-15

*"The right of respect for personal feelings, freedom from indignity, and to expect an education of the highest quality."*

### Red Light Codes:

USF System Code of Student Conduct: Sexual Harassment 14-15:

*"Sexual Harassment – Behavior which falls into any one of sections listed below as 4.14 (a), (b), or (c):*

*(4.14)(a) Conduct which may be interpreted as unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature."*

USF System Policy 0-004: Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Harassment (Including Battery) 14-15

*"A. The following actions are prohibited:*

*1. Sexual harassment by or between any faculty member, staff, or student, including individuals of the same sex."*

*"B. Examples of prohibited conduct include, but are not limited to:*

*7. Displaying or telling sexually oriented jokes, statements, photographs, drawings, computer images, web sites, videos, slides, graphics, calendars, cartoons, e-mails or other communications."*

*"A. Sexual Harassment (which includes sexual violence) is any of the conduct below:*

*Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: ... Such conduct is sufficiently severe or pervasive so as to alter the conditions of, or have the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with, an individual's work or academic performance by creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or educational environment. This may include off-campus acts of sexual harassment that have effects on campus which may contribute to a sexually hostile environment."*

USF System Policy 0-007: Diversity and Equal Opportunity-Discrimination and Harassment 14-15

*"B. Examples of Prohibited Conduct Include, but Are Not Limited To:*

*1. Writing or displaying letters, notes, or e-mails which are derogatory toward any individual's race, color, marital status, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or veteran status.*

*2. Making comments, slurs, or jokes which are derogatory toward any individual's race, color, marital status, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or veteran status.*

*4. Making gestures or displaying pictures, cartoons, posters, or magazines which are derogatory toward any individual's race, color, marital status, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or veteran status."*

### Other Yellow Light Policies:

USF System Student Code of Conduct: Harassment 14-15

*"Harassment – Conduct which creates an unsafe, intimidating or hazardous situation that interferes with the ability of a USF System student or employee to study, work, or carry out USF System functions."*

# Uncontested election yields 14 SG senators

By JEFFREY ZANKER

Crow's Nest Contributor

The Student Government senate midterm election ushered in 14 senator-elects. The election was uncontested as 14 candidates ran for 15 empty Senate chairs.

A total of 248 students voted online at OrgSync.com with about 906 responses being submitted. Each student voted for 5 out of 14 candidates, which each candidate needed a minimum of 25 votes.

Current SG members expressed excitement about the upcoming senators, seeing potential work and improvement for their government. Senate President Taylor Adams

expressed excitement with the election results.

"It's exciting to have bright candidates running and who want to work with us to improve our campus," Adams said.

Victor Sims, 18, is a junior working with the executive branch of SG in the department of University Relations. His reason for running is to present his idea for a system where students can express their opinions to SG members through technology.

"Too many SG decisions are based on one percent of the student body, which is the student government," he said. "I want to create a

system such as a polling app, where students can look at our bills and decisions and to comment whether they agree or disagree."

Richie Marini, 19, is a freshman majoring in Graphic Design with a minor in Spanish. He's involved with USFSP Office of Multicultural Affairs, works with the Spectrum Mentoring Program and participates in clubs such as the Latin American Student Association and the Gay Straight Alliance. Marini noticed that there's a lack of communication between students and the Senate with no actual representative for student body.

"I want to lend a non-bias

distinctive voice for student body and bring open dialogue between them and the Senate," he said.

Vice President Taylor Russell noted the level of experience for new senators.

"It'll be great to train them," she said. "Some of them have experiences working with student government and the new students are very eager to speak of their plans with us."

The elected senators will be sworn-in in November and begin on-the-job training in January. Their voting ability in senate will be activated next spring.

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# Proposed fees help keep pool plan afloat

news 3

BY JACK MOSCONE  
STAFF REPORTER

After nearly a year of being closed, the USF St. Petersburg pool is scheduled to reopen in mid-March.

Prior to moving forward on the project, the university decided that the best option would be to renovate the pool rather than replace it.

Jozef Gherman, student government chief financial officer, met with administration early last month to discuss possible assistance with funding through an increase in Activity and Service fees.

The annual budget, including the cost of the pool, would be \$1,547,190. This would bankrupt USFSP within a few years, Gherman said. For this to work out, Gherman suggested increasing in A&S fees per credit hour and cut activities, or asking administration to pitch in.

USFSP already has one of the highest A&S fees in the state, \$25.63 per total credit hour.

The repairs to fix the structural damages are estimated at \$440,000; however, if SG cannot get sufficient funds, this may be too expensive. While the revenue collected through increased A&S fees could help support the endeavor, this would distance USFSP even further from the average fee of other universities.

“Construction on the pool is planned to start this week,” said Jim Grant, construction project manager, “and is estimated to take about four months. It should be reopened around March 15th.”

Contrary to what was assumed, the piping in the pool is fine. It is the gutter and drainage system that needs to be repaired.

“Four boxes underneath the pool control the draining, and the problem lies within the main drain at the deep end of the pool,” Grant said. “To fix this issue, the box will be replaced; however, resurfacing the pool and constructing a new bottom will be necessary.”

The depth will decrease from 11

## ACTIVITY AND SERVICE FEES AT A GLANCE

Here are the amounts students pay per credit hour on A&S fees around the state.

**USF St. Petersburg**  
\$25.63 per credit hour

**USF Tampa**  
\$11.71 per credit hour

**University of Central Florida**  
\$11.67 per credit hour

**Florida State University**  
\$12.86 per credit hour.



Emily Wehunt | The Crow's Nest

feet to 7 feet. This tactic is the most cost-effective and efficient way to get the pool back up and running.

The USFSP waterfront pool, which is scheduled to re-open in May, is running into funding issues.

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## Petition for campus parking seeks answers



Kalima Haneef | The Crow's Nest

Between the hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the peak hours for commuting students to be on campus, the parking garage fills quickly.

BY CHELSEA ABRAMS  
CROW'S NEST CONTRIBUTOR

Answers to students' parking woes are coming, but official plans are nearly a year away.

According to Jim Grant, the university construction project manager, USF St. Petersburg plans to expand the current parking garage. Discussions to finalize this, as well as a possible second garage, will begin next year.

“Hopefully, those discussions will generate a more accurate time frame for the development of additional parking facilities as well as their possible locations,” Grant said.

But, for now, students continue to make their voices heard about the parking dilemma.

A petition to improve parking is in the works by Jozef Gherman, the chief financial officer of student government.

“There are complaints of insufficient parking and there is confusion on what the future of parking is at USF St. Petersburg,” Gherman said.

Gherman pointed to the strategic plan, which involves an increase in the student population from 4,700 to 10,000 students by 2024. This plan raises questions about parking, he said.

He stressed the importance of making sure students have adequate parking.

“If students have to spend more time finding parking spaces, it can cause them to be late to their classes,” he said. “Limited parking has more of an impact on students here than we think.”

After hearing complaints from students time and time again, Gherman decided to take a stand.

Gherman has attended USFSP for three years and said he has learned to be a scavenger for parking places. But seeing others struggle with parking as well is what put him over the edge.

“Seeing my fellow Bulls voice repeated frustration and anger, I felt it necessary to take some action to improve the situation,” he said.

Gherman referenced the temporary closure of the parking garage's seventh floor as one of the pressing

issues that has limited parking. The seventh floor, where residents are allowed to park, was closed for the installation of solar panels. Administration allowed residential students to park on the fifth floor of the garage, hindering some commuter students from parking there.

“I believe in this situation the best course of action would've been for Parking Services to not enforce specific parking spot regulation for this period of time while construction is happening, and then resuming enforcement after the parking situation returns to normal,” said Gherman.

Gherman hopes that if his petition is successful, it will show both the students and the administration that students' opinions should be taken into account in future matters.

As a part of the strategic plan, more clear answers about parking will be coming at the end of 2015, which the conclusion of the master plan update. This plan tries to anticipate USFSP's needs for the following 10 year period.

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## After election, political science professor has goals

BY EMILY WEHUNT  
STAFF REPORTER

Loads of money. Scathing, half-true political advertisements. Experience as a state senator.

These are the things Judithanne McLauchlan, USF St. Petersburg political science professor, was up against in her run for the Florida District 22 senate seat. She took the challenge and ran against Republican Sen. Jeff Brandes, who ran unopposed during the last election in 2012.

But on Tuesday's election night, her efforts fell short.

The final vote in last week's election resulted in a loss for McLauchlan, who received a total of 74,662 votes (42.31 percent). Although she lost the election, McLauchlan said she will continue her involvement in politics.

Brandes, who raised millions of dollars during his campaign, spent \$600,000 on a TV commercial slandering McLauchlan by saying she supported state income tax, according to McLauchlan.

Although this commercial continued to air throughout the campaign, Brandes' claim was quickly shot down by Politifact, a political fact checking website.

“He spent so much money to lie about me,” McLauchlan said in an interview with The Crow's Nest.

McLauchlan, a Fulbright Scholar, was encouraged to run last fall. She was well aware of the challenges of running in a midterm election, where the voting turnout rate is usually low. But this did not stop her.

McLauchlan's strong desire to help families in Tampa Bay make ends meet fueled her during the campaign trail. She spent the whole



Courtesy of Judithanne McLauchlan

Judithanne McLauchlan, USF St. Petersburg political science professor, fell short in her run for the District 22 Senate Seat. She ran against Republican Sen. Jeff Brandes, who ran unopposed during the 2012 election.

year campaigning, going door to door and calling voters expressing her desire to make the middle class heard in Tallahassee, and to encourage people to go out and vote.

McLauchlan still hopes to see changes made in the state of Florida and here in Tampa Bay. She wants to see an end put to the “pay to play culture.”

Instead of allowing politicians in Tallahassee to get kick-backs from taxpayers dollars, and giving money to big corporations, McLauchlan planned to work towards having money set aside for education and to help make college more affordable.

“If we don't try, nothing will ever change,” McLauchlan said.

She doesn't consider herself a politician, she says she is a teacher and is happy to be doing what she loves. Had she have been elected, McLauchlan would have worked as both a teacher and a senator.

“As a professor, I would have looked at things in a thoughtful way. I would have done my research and examined information,” said McLauchlan.

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BY AMANDA STARLING  
STAFF REPORTER

Break out the blankies, kids. It's blanket-fort season.

The closet that you have packed with quilts, knits, and sheets has been waiting for this day. There's a reason you kept those Lion King sheets from the 90s. Optimal cozy design, anyone?

The temperatures are dropping outside, or at least enough for shivering Floridians to break out the boots and sweaters. But the cloudy (and sometimes rainy) days are best spent cuddled up in the mass of cozy that was crafted better than any hamster could fathom.

Construction techniques are key. I've learned to take advantage of furniture in the structure portion. Use a couch or entertainment center as the anchoring wall. This allows for more blankets to be used on the interior. If done correctly, your blanket fort should start to resemble a beaver dam. Or if you're super skilled, a boho paradise tent like on Pinterest. Who are you people? Teach me your ways!

Use heavy objects or clothespins (who still has these???) to pin fabrics into place. Or, you could be smart like some friends of mine, and pin blankets to the walls and ceilings. I prefer the classic assembly, however. As a child, I took advantage of using fragile gifts from distant relatives as anchoring objects so I wouldn't feel guilty if the blanket walls collapsed and oops, there goes the creepy fairy snow globe or seed of Chucky-looking porcelain doll that Nana gave me. Sorry, Nana, but they freaked me out.

Find. All. The. Blankets. There is no such thing as too many blankets. Or pillows. Use every potential item in the house. Except the curtains. Maybe you don't want your neighbors to see an adult throwing blankets everywhere and giggling.

Fill your fort with what comforts you. Surround yourself with cozy teddy bear plush. Drag your cat inside for super snuggles. Pile the floor with the finest of your pillows (if not all of the pillows). Bring flashlights- not candles- so you don't burn your magnificent work. It only takes one time... Bring along the Halloween candy stash and continue to gorge yourself in preparation for the holidays. Streeetch that stomach!

Make a party out of it. Invite a few friends. It helps speed up the construction process and expands the creativity of the whole activity. Who doesn't want to go back in time for just an evening? Add some Cards Against Humanity and classic board games to keep the entertainment going. Not into games? Bring a tablet or laptop to screen Netflix.

# Review: The Burg brings community and quality

BY PHIL LAVERY  
CROW'S NEST CONTRIBUTOR

Undoubtedly, there is a local feel to The Burg. Owner Bill Georgiou can be seen welcoming old and new customers, making people feel at home.

The Burg is a small local bar at 1752 Central Avenue in downtown St. Petersburg which offers a variety of craft beers, a unique blend of Greek and bar food, along with a special atmosphere that customers find comfortable and pleasant.

Georgiou, 40, opened up The Burg in 2011. He wanted to take a chance at a new business venture and decided to go with his gut feeling. Since then the bar has grown into that successful business he envisioned just three years ago.

Georgiou credits the good fortune to a combination of a Greek style family restaurant in the form of a bar.

"My mom makes the soups, desserts, hummus, and most of the Greek food," he said.

The menu's variety spans from chicken and waffles to gyros. The menu's got something for everyone, but the chicken lemon soup is a must try. There have healthy salads and lean beef for all the health nuts out there that avoid bar food. It's hard to go wrong when ordering.

"My favorite thing to eat here are the burgers with a healthy plate (vegetable sides)," Georgiou said.

This is not a place that will kill your wallet. The Burg offers food specials between Monday and Thursday, including 50 cent wings on Tuesday and \$5 burgers



Amanda Starling | The Crow's Nest

The Burg offers a variety of beers at their bar, including different variants of Fat Cat.

on Monday. The highest price of a meal is \$10.99, and the portions are large, so be prepared to take home a doggy bag.

The craft beers are reasonably priced, ranging from \$2 and up. With more than 50 beers to choose from you're likely to find what you're looking for as far as selection. The drink specials are half off selected bottles on Wednesdays and Fridays. The exception to this is "Ladies' Night" on Thursdays, featuring half-off selected wines and appetizers.

Customers like J.D. Haley, 43, are drawn to The Burg for more than just the food or beer. Haley says he prefers the atmosphere to other generic bars or restaurants.

"I love the specials, the menu, and of course the Belgian beer selection, but what really keeps me coming back are the people," Haley said. "I always end up meeting someone new and find myself enjoying their company and

conversation. It's not the kind of bar that you walk into and everyone keeps to themselves."

The Burg is the kind of bar that makes being stuck inside during a rainy Florida afternoon fun. Casey Petaruskas, 26, who works at The Burg as a bartender, describes the chemistry between her and her customers quite fondly.

"It's very friendly, family, and local. All around good vibes," Petaruskas said. "When Billy is here, he treats everyone like he's known them for 20 years. We also get a lot seasonal workers from Tropicana field during baseball season. Our customers are family here."

When asked what she liked most about bartending at The Burg, Petaruskas said, "I love the people. The staff's easy going. People that tend to come here seem naturally cool. Laid back."

The Burg is centrally located in downtown so bar hopping to other

## Looking to go?

The Burg is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, but closes at 9 p.m. on Sunday. Friday through Saturday, the bar stays open until 1 a.m. Learn more at [www.the-burgbar.com](http://www.the-burgbar.com)

establishments without the drive is a convenience.

But there's more than food, beer, and people. The Burg participates in a number of downtown events, including a Halloween Pub Crawl and fundraisers. The Burg hasn't left out the local churches or residents. A recent charity event involved donating 15 cases of potatoes to St. Stefanos, a Greek orthodox church in St. Petersburg.

They also do book drives for schools that can't afford books for their students. The last drive raised \$1,500 dollars for a school in St. Lucia, an island located in the Caribbean Sea.

"We had a ton of books and it was a success," Petaruskas said. "We were able to help build this school a library and ship books to fill their shelves."

If you can find a seat, The Burg is a great place to go for the first time. After that, you'll be hooked.

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# Club seeks to change views on feminism and gender roles

BY SAMANTHA PRITZLAFF  
CROW'S NEST CONTRIBUTOR

Promoting feminism. Empowering women. Eliminating gender roles.

These are the goals of the Women's Empowerment Club, a new club at USF St. Petersburg.

Sophomore and club president Katie Wagner said the club was vice president Kristina Sonstroem's and her "brainchild."

"We were passionate about feminism and wanted to bring that passion to campus," Wagner said.

Both Wagner and Sonstroem make it clear that WE's top priorities are to fix the negative connotations of the term "feminism" and to educate the student body on gender equality.

Feminism is still a controversial topic in society. Everyone seems to have their own definition of the

word, which leads to confusion on what feminism is really all about. Oftentimes, feminism is associated with characteristics like "anti-men" and "extremists."

Wagner defines feminism as "equality between men and women socially and economically," in other words, total equality of the sexes. Sonstroem added that it is also about coming together and celebrating successful women in the community.

College campuses throughout the country have problems with issues regarding the empowerment of women and gender equality.

"It's a global problem in the world in general, and USFSP is not an exception," Sonstroem said.

Even though some of these issues are not necessarily widespread at USFSP, WE seeks to help not just USFSP, but the outside community, become more educated about

such issues and give feminism a more positive meaning. WE does this through discussions where students can express their opinions and learn from other students' opinions and presentations.

Some topics WE has discussed so far include healthy relationships, slut-shaming, women's sexuality and trans-feminism. The discussions start out with an ice breaker. Then the topic is presented. The discussions work as an open forum for students to express opinions on the topic at hand. Many of WE's topics so far came from suggestions from club members.

Besides discussions, WE host guest speakers throughout the semester. One week, USFSP professor Judithanne McLauchlan, who recently ran for Florida Senate, came and talked about the role of women in politics. Another week, WE collaborated with PEERS to

co-sponsor an event in which a representative from St. Petersburg CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse) came and talked about domestic violence and local volunteer opportunities.

Wagner says the group hopes to get together and volunteer for CASA and other organizations in the future. They also plan to reach out to more guest speakers.

Next semester, WE plans to team up with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and organize events for Women's 'HERstory' month in March.

All students are invited to club meetings, regardless of gender.

WE meets every other Monday evening. Visit the USFSP Women's Empowerment Club on Facebook or through Petesync for more information on events and club meetings.

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# Breaking Beard: the best of the 'Burg

It's the time of year when we all become extremely grateful. No, we're not talking about Thanksgiving. We're talking about No-Shave November. That time of year when the gentlemen in our lives decide to grow a little scruff on their chins (and hopefully nowhere else).

OK, maybe we're not all grateful. For those of you who have an aversion to beards, we recommend you lock yourself in your house for the entire month. Avoid anything scratchy. Let's just hope your roommates aren't participating in the phenomenon.

In honor of this glorious (or horrifying) time of year, we searched campus for some of the best beards. And wow, USF St. Petersburg has some GREAT beards. Here's what we found.



**Jared Alberico**  
Senior  
Psychology



*Louis Luttrell*  
Senior  
Biology



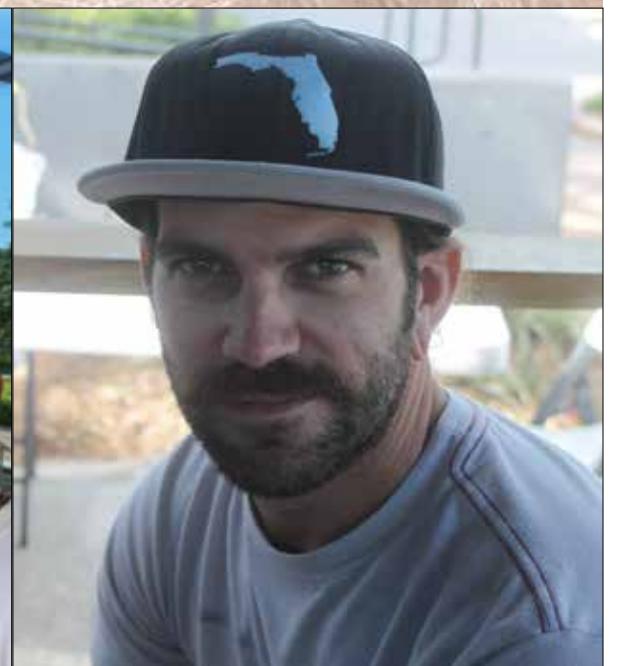
**Jacob Hunt**  
USF Alumni  
The Grind



**Nick Kempton**  
Junior  
Marine Biology



From left to right:  
**Justin Toler**, Senior, Criminology;  
**Cedric Wiggs**, Sophomore, Pre-Graphic Design;  
**Le'Andre Fletcher**, Junior, Education.



**Erik Anderson**  
Senior  
Marine Biology

**the  
crow's  
nest**

The student newspaper at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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Editorial

# University: amend speech codes

*We have administrators who value students' freedom of speech. But our current speech codes, if put into the wrong hands, could threaten students' freedoms.*

Freedom of speech is one of the most precious things about being American.

We're not just saying this because we're journalists. Freedom of speech goes beyond the glamorous portrayal you see of journalists in movies. It affects everyone, from the most prominent public figure to the guy you stood behind in line for food at The Reef.

Speech codes are troubling to us. Students can leave campus and say what they want, without fear of being punished by the law for it. They shouldn't be subject to different rules when they step on to a college campus.

We have not seen our speech codes played out on campus. We don't know of a student, faculty or staff member who has been punished for saying something the

university deemed inappropriate. While this is good news, it doesn't mean our situation is good. Our current codes could be interpreted to the detriment of speech on campus. Just because codes haven't been applied to punish a student doesn't mean that couldn't change in the near future.

We need policies that will protect the free speech of anyone on campus. The codes we have now are vague, and if applied directly, students could be punished for constitutionally-protected speech. They haven't been abused because we have administration who wants to protect our free speech. But what happens when someone who doesn't value free speech gets an administrative position?

Our codes should be enduring. They should protect speech,

regardless of whether we have a thoughtful administration or not.

In *The Crow's Nest* interview with Dean of Students Jacob Diaz, Diaz told us he seeks student opinion on codes. While we think Diaz is a protector of freedom of speech, we still think the codes are problematic and could be abused. And while student input is important, just because a student says that they don't perceive a code to infringe on their freedom of speech doesn't mean that the code doesn't.

Many students may look at the codes and believe they protect their best interests. As a staff, we hate sexual harassment and discrimination. A few of us have an aversion to sex jokes (why do you have to make them?). And no one likes to be criticized.

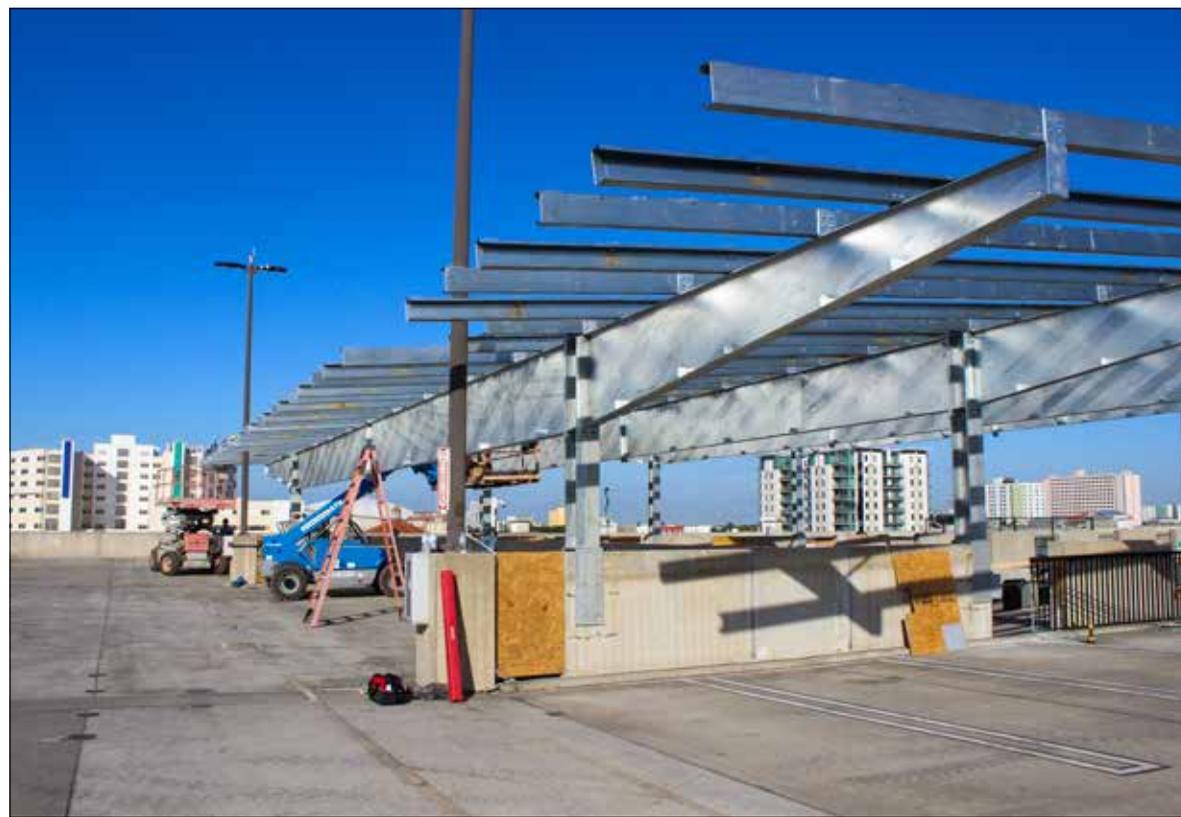
But the constitution doesn't

afford us immunity from these things. Yes, physical harassment should and must be addressed by the university. But we can't ask the university to take action against a student when we hear something we don't like.

In the words of Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis: "If there be time to expose through discussion the falsehood and fallacies, to avert the evil by the processes of education, the remedy to be applied is more speech, not enforced silence."

[editor@crowsneststpete.com](mailto:editor@crowsneststpete.com)

Photo of the week



Amanda Starling | *The Crow's Nest*

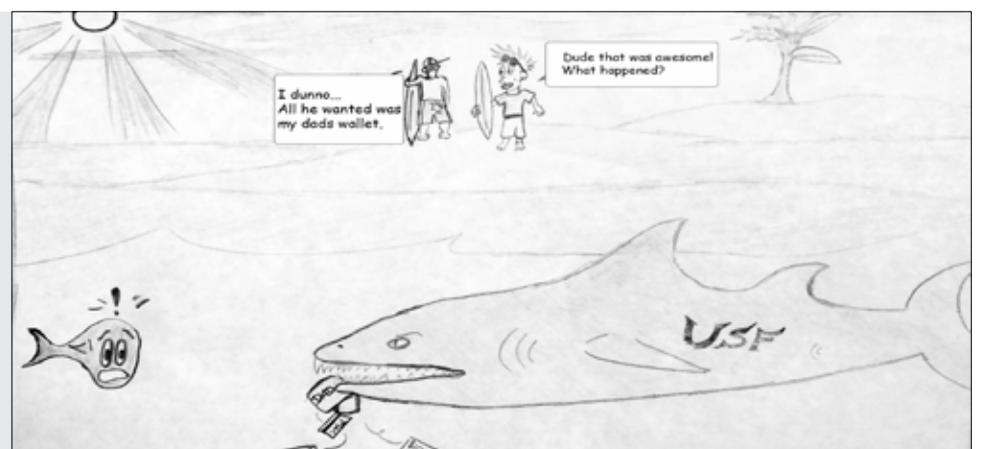
## Clean and green

Construction workers install the 100 kilowatt, 7,100 square foot solar array on the seventh floor of the parking garage last week. The project, a result of a \$1 million grant from Duke Energy's SunSense program, was completed this past weekend.

Submit a picture with a caption for photo of the week to [jnesslar@mail.usf.edu](mailto:jnesslar@mail.usf.edu) by Friday at 5 p.m. The best photo submission will run next week.

# Shark Bites

BY PHIL LAVERY



# Inspiration from a young delegate

op-ed

7

BY JENNIFER NESSLAR  
STAFF COLUMNIST



When I was a freshman in college, I was figuring out how I was going to survive my classes. When she was a freshman in college, Saira Blair was figuring out how to campaign.

And she obviously figured it out. On Tuesday, Blair was elected to represent District 59 in West Virginia.

She is only 18.

Rant, if you wish, that she's too young. Complain about her political views, if you'd like. But I think we need more people like Blair.

As a high school student, I lived much of my life in ignoring politics. I didn't understand it, so I didn't try. Blair, on the other

hand, decided she wanted to run for office at the end of her senior year of high school.

Politics fascinate me, but it makes me incredibly weary at times. It's divisive. Candidates from both ends of the spectrum run scathing, half-true advertisements about each other. Friends and families fight over it. I'm not one to argue, but last week I got into an argument about politics with one of my closest friends. The worst part of it was, we agreed on the issue we were debating. What is it about politics that does this to us?

And among the riff-raff, the in-fighting and the angry words shared last week, we have this gem of a story. An 18-year-old runs for office, and wins.

The whole story gives me faith in the political arena. It's not about fighting. It's exciting to know that even in this age of nasty

political ads, a young woman can still run for office—and win.

Of course, it doesn't hurt that her father is also a politician. But how many candidates can say they campaigned from their dorm room?

She doesn't want to be a career politician, she told several news outlets. But she always wanted to be involved in politics.

Blair realized that she might as well do it now, rather than later in life, Today News reported. Maybe she will struggle with inexperience. It's possible, even likely. But I cannot count the number of times I've wanted to do something but put it off because I could do it later in life. Who knows if I will actually do it later in life? So Blair teaches us an important lesson: Don't put off what you should do now because you think you can do it later.

Did I mention Blair is currently taking 17

credit hours? How many of you are taking 17 credit hours? For the record, I'm taking 12, and I think that's a lot of work while running this paper. (Cover your ears over-achievers and people who can't say no). Too many of us lazily make our way through college, and then we expect our degrees to instantly merit us full-time jobs around graduation.

I'd say people like Blair are going to the ones getting those jobs.

So, let's be inspired by Blair. Her success as a politician is yet to be determined. But at least she's doing something.

Can we say the same?

*Jennifer Nessler, a senior majoring in mass communications, is the editor-in-chief. She can be reached at [jnesslar@mail.usf.edu](mailto:jnesslar@mail.usf.edu) or on Twitter @jnesslar.*

## We're not written in the stars



BY EMILY TINTI  
STAFF COLUMNIST



Your health, prosperity and love-life can be foretold in just around 100 characters – whether you'll fail or succeed, if you should seek romance or lie low for some time. Your future

foreseen with the touch of a button. These predictions are all over the media and are growing exceedingly accessible to anybody who will believe them.

I'm talking about daily horoscopes.

Some people wake up on Monday morning and read their weekly or daily horoscope. They get this general idea of what is expected to happen to them. They fall victim to confirmation bias: when the thing happens, they try to find similar elements of the horoscope and real life and freak out because "it all lines up." It's kind of like a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The problem is, unlike the general personality description of astrological signs, these daily fortunes are inconsistent and usually written for the media.

WikiHow actually has a step-by-step article on how to write your own horoscope. The first step is to make general statements like "a very interesting financial transaction is heading your way." It's hard to tell if this article is laced in sarcasm, or if it's genuinely trying to assist people in writing horoscopes. Either way, it's very telling of just how easy it is to write one.

They don't take into account your age,

culture, environment and experience. They're written by people who probably just want to keep you feeling positive, or like you can something to look forward to -- which isn't a crime, it's just something to take a bit more lightly.

Don't get me wrong, I love knowing peoples' astrological signs. Realizing you match the general descriptions and adjectives of your sign is pretty interesting. And honestly, now that I'm aware of our supposed compatibility, I understand the way my friendships and relationships have carried out. I really want to believe it's all true.

Sure, there's astrology behind all of this, and placements of the sun, moon and stars. And then there's the supposed "lunar effect." But, it would be remiss to not mention that multiple studies have been done and have disproven the accuracy of daily, monthly and general life horoscopes.

Others have found, however, that the majority of people fit the personality details of their astrological sign. Which is pretty cool.

I guess it's all up in the air, left for interpretation. If you want to believe that your daily horoscope will foretell the rest of your day, it's not going to hurt you. Just try not to mold your life to make something happen that, based on science, isn't really all that accurate.

*Emily Tinti, a sophomore majoring in mass communications, is the arts and life assistant. She can be reached at [emilyfaithti@mail.usf.edu](mailto:emilyfaithti@mail.usf.edu) or on Twitter @e\_milyfaith.*

## Knowing myself changed my goals

*"I finally know myself. I know what I want to be. To my younger self, who slowly stretched beyond the comforts of home, I say this: thanks for being brave."*

BY AMANDA STARLING  
STAFF COLUMNIST



I didn't always want to leave St. Petersburg. In an eighth grade class project about my future goals, I wanted to study biology, attend the University of South Florida, and work at a zoo.

Maybe I'd buy a house in Gulfport and enjoy the weekends near the beach. I'd write about it, and maybe that would get me a balance of what I wanted to be.

I didn't know myself at age 14. I didn't know who I wanted to be or where I wanted to go. The dreams of my past seem childish, as if implanted by a complete stranger.

The plan has changed over the years. In high school, I finally admitted to myself that scribbling words and forming them into stories was my real talent. I had a way of taking charming words and shaping them into something more compelling. I followed the passion my instructors fostered to USF St. Petersburg, to part-time jobs in writing, and into the lives of the most fascinating people I could imagine.

College changes people. But I think that a lot of that was in my own hands. Sure, branching out into independent living and working forced me to grow up. I'm taking care of myself and balancing aspects of my life that I had never done before. Making macaroni, rushing to my next shift, and shuffling through pages of my textbooks was more than I had bargained for.

But the bustle of these mandatory activities for survival didn't hold me away from what shaped my personality. Like any college kid, there were some good relationships, some bad, and some mistakes. I dabbled in genres of music, art, and food. I realized I love punk music and can't stand banal

chords and lyrics in country. I prefer the DIY scene for the arts than the amphitheatres and museums (But I won't say no to seeing the Picasso exhibit at the Salvador Dali Museum. Classic.).

Growing into an adult meant pushing myself out of my comfort zone. I've wandered into concerts solo and immersed myself into the music. I've spent evenings alone listening to records and skimming through books, without depending on the company of others. I've worked 40 hours or more a week, raking in a paycheck that builds the bank and my pride. Independence is everything, and I know it's rooted in the strength I've bred.

I left the country for the first time this past summer. I spent a week cruising the Irish countryside, envisioning the inspired literary geniuses that came from this gentle, gorgeous land. I mourned the tragedies that once plagued this nation. I celebrated the blossoming future of a country that has reached peace. I was already planning my next adventures as I boarded the plane home.

I know I want to write. I thirst to see beyond the waters of Tampa Bay. I want to immerse myself in rich cultures that cultivate my passions for arts, community, and life. I know my happiness is tied to my actions, and not to others.

I finally know myself. I know what I want to be. To my younger self, who slowly stretched beyond the comforts of home, I say this: thanks for being brave.

*Amanda Starling, a senior majoring in mass communications, is the managing editor. She can be reached at [astarling@mail.usf.edu](mailto:astarling@mail.usf.edu) or on Twitter @starlingaj.*

8 sports

2014-2015 USF Men's Basketball Schedule

Nov. 14	vs. FLGR	7 p.m.
Nov. 16	vs. JKST	2 p.m.
Nov. 20	@ UAB	7 p.m.
Nov. 23	@ NCST	4 p.m.
Nov. 25	vs. HOF	7 p.m.
Nov. 29	vs. JAC	2 p.m.
Dec. 2	@ ALA	9 p.m.
Dec. 6	@ DET	3 p.m.
Dec. 15	vs. GASO	7 p.m.
Dec. 18	vs. HALL	7 p.m.
Dec. 20	vs. FSU	2 p.m.
Dec. 23	vs. SELA	1 p.m.
Dec. 28	vs. BGSU	3 p.m.
Dec. 31	@ SMU	5 p.m.
Jan. 3	vs. ECU	7 p.m.
Jan. 6	vs. UCONN	7 p.m.
Jan. 11	@ TULN	3 p.m.
Jan. 17	vs. TULSA	11 a.m.
Jan. 22	@ TEM	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 25	@ UCONN	12 p.m.
Jan. 28	vs. SMU	7 p.m.
Jan. 31	@ TULSA	1 p.m.
Feb. 4	vs. TEM	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	@ CINCY	8 p.m.
Feb. 11	@ UCF	7 p.m.
Feb. 14	vs. MEM	12 p.m.
Feb. 17	vs. HOU	7 p.m.
Feb. 21	@ ECU	11 a.m.
Mar. 1	@ HOU	3 p.m.
Mar. 4	vs. UCF	7 p.m.
Mar. 7	vs. TULN	4 p.m.

American Athletic Conference Standings

TEAM	CONF	OVERALL
* - Memphis	4-1	6-3
* - East Carolina	3-1	6-2
Cincinnati	3-1	5-3
UCF	3-1	5-3
Houston	3-2	5-4
Temple	3-3	5-4
<b>South Florida</b>	<b>2-3</b>	<b>3-6</b>
x - Tulsa	2-3	2-7
Tulane	2-3	3-6
x - Connecticut	1-4	2-7
x - SMU	0-4	0-8

(\* = bowl eligible, x = not bowl eligible)



USF Basketball

Both the women and men's basketball teams are set to start their seasons this weekend. The men's team will take on Flagler College on Nov. 14 and the Lady Bulls tip off against Villanova on Nov. 15 at 4 p.m.

USF Women's Soccer

Congratulations to the women's soccer team for finishing second place in the conference tournament. The Bulls lost to the Connecticut Huskies in the AAC Championship Sunday afternoon. After a 2-2 tie, UCONN pulled out the 3-2 in place kicks. Jackie Simpson, Demi Stokes and Leticia Skeete were named to the All-Tournament team.

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Wide receiver reminisces, dreams of future play



Courtesy of USF Athletics

Andre Davis scores on a 51-yard touchdown pass against No. 19 East Carolina back on Oct. 11. Davis, who has broken nearly every major USF receiving record, will play his last home Bulls game at Raymond James Stadium on Nov. 28.

BY ANDREW CAPLAN  
STAFF REPORTER

Andre Davis didn't originally intend to break nearly every major USF receiving record, but he did just that.

At 6-foot-1, the senior wide receiver currently holds 12 USF receiving records, including being the school's all-time leader in receptions, reception yards and touchdowns. And to think, he almost went to Florida State University.

As a child, Davis learned to play multiple sports. He learned to catch the football with his hands at six-years-old from playing catch with his father. A few years later, Davis was ready for organized football at age 10.

"It kinda made me feel like I actually loved football, but I just love sports period, being able to play sports," Davis said. "Football was the first sport that I started playing, then it was basketball, and then baseball."

While attending Jefferson High School in Tampa, Davis received the nickname "Freakshow" after making a one-handed catch in a game during his sophomore year.

"It just stuck, 'cause I kept making plays like that," Davis said.

He recorded 3,158 yards and 40 touchdowns while at Jefferson, which helped him be named a three-time all-state selection. Those numbers propelled Davis into the spotlight of the college recruiting circuit.

The Tampa native always knew he'd play college within the state of Florida, but had trouble deciding between the Seminoles and the Bulls. Davis elected to stay local because of the "family atmosphere" the Bulls showed. It reminded him that he wanted to stay close to his own family. It provided the chance for his family and friends to watch him play under the lights at Raymond James Stadium.

"I'm a big mama's boy," Davis said. "For Mama to be able to come see the games, along with Dad and my little sister and my uncles and my aunts and other family members, that played a big part into why I'm here."

But his family and friends have not just seen him play, they've watched him take control of games, scoring game-winning touchdowns.

On Oct. 18 against Tulsa, Davis

outran a defender and scored on a go-ahead 85-yard touchdown pass from sophomore quarterback Mike White. Davis finished the game with three touchdown receptions, tying the school record. The play also tied the school's longest pass play record.

Davis compared the touchdown to a game-winning 56-yarder he caught against Nevada back in 2012. In the game, Davis had 12 receptions for 191 yards, both USF single-game records.

When off the field and away from football, Davis said he likes to give back by helping younger kids, after growing up watching his mother as a teacher. During his summers he often spends time down at the Loretta Ingraham Recreation Complex, near his old high school.

"That's where I grew up and I love being around kids..." Davis said. "Being a role model for them, I feel like I actually had an opportunity to help kids."

Knowing kids look up to him, Davis has made it a point to stay out of trouble during his years in college. He said in his downtime he likes to just plays video games (NBA2k and Madden), go to the

movies or just listens to some of his favorite rap artists (Yo Gotti, Young Thug and "older" Lil' Wayne).

With his senior year coming to a close, Davis has been forced to think of life beyond USF. He hopes to play in the NFL and said he wouldn't mind staying in Tampa again.

"The Bucs are my team," Davis said. "But I'm open to playing for anybody. Just to have the opportunity to play, it'll be nice."

According to NFLDraftScout.com, Davis is ranked as the 33rd best wide receiver in college football. But before he runs to the pros, he has one last game to play at home on Nov. 28 against an in-state rival, UCF. "Freakshow" said beating UCF was one of the team's biggest goals for the season.

"It's the last home game at Ray Jay, as a Bull, so there will be some feelings involved," Davis said. "I'm definitely going to miss it, being that it's my last game, I'm definitely going to cherish it and try to make it my best one."