

SG presidential candidate withdraws day before first debate



Alyssa Stewart

EDITOR IN CHIEF

With less than 30 hours until the first Student Government (SG) presidential debate, presidential candidate Yusuf Fattah decided to drop out of the race, having his former vice presidential candidate Claire Mitchell run in his place.

This decision may come as a shock to some and was definitely a shock to the ticket involved.

"With a heavy heart we came to the decision together that it would benefit the student body most if we were to restructure

our campaign with me stepping into the president role," Mitchell said in an email to The Oracle.

Fattah announced Sunday afternoon on his platform's Instagram — @goforgold.usf — that he would be stepping down due to "personal issues."

"Over the past week, there was so much going on not only in my work life but in my personal life," Fattah said. "I knew that if I truly cared about the student body, I was not going to be able to give this position all that it deserved as much as Claire could."

Fattah said his decision to step down was made 12 hours before his announcement.

"We wanted to announce it as soon as possible because the people who were going to be on the debate stage are the people who are going to be on the ballot," Fattah said.

The presidential and vice presidential debate will be held today at 7 p.m. in the Marshall Student Center Oval Theater.

SG statutes state that "candidates may withdraw from an election at any time by submitting a [w]ithdrawal form and the remaining candidate shall select and report the replacement to the Election Rules Commission within two business days."

Mitchell said she was fully aware of this situation happening.

"One of the roles of the vice president is to step into the office of president if the president cannot fulfill their duties," Mitchell said. "This is a condition I accepted when first deciding to run during this campaign."

Her new running mate will be

[n See SG on PAGE 3](#)



After Yusuf Fattah withdrew from the race for systemwide president, former vice presidential candidate Claire Mitchell (left) will now run for president with her new running mate Gustavo Spangher (right). **SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE**

Latest renderings of Judy Genshaft Honors College unveiled



Leda Alvim

MANAGING EDITOR

The Judy Genshaft Honors College is one step closer to having its new home on campus, as the latest renderings of the building's interior were announced Feb. 10.

Almost a year since former

President Judy Genshaft and her husband, Steven Greenbaum, donated \$20 million to the USF Foundation to build the new honors college, there's still a long way to go before the building breaks ground.

With the total cost around \$47 million, Dean of the Judy Genshaft Honors College Charles Adams said the building is entirely donor driven. Future funds will consist of donations and fundraisers organized over the next few years.

All the money fundraised goes into a fund, including Genshaft's donation. As of last week, the

fund had around \$21 million in its account, according to Adams.

Adams said because of insufficient funds, there are no dates yet regarding the construction timeline or when it will be open for students and faculty.

"We haven't done a whole lot of fundraising yet just because the architects needed to finish out the interior plans," Adams said. "So if you're trying to sell a building, you can show [potential donors] the exterior — we had that. But then they'd like to know what the thing is going to look like and which spaces are

going to be available for them to support and display their names on."

One of the biggest concerns the new honors college aims to address is creating enough space to meet the needs of growing class sizes.

Currently, the honors college is housed at the John and Grace Allen Building, which consists of five classrooms.

As class size is expected to increase from 2,400 to 3,000 students in the next few years, the architects took that into account when designing the building, according to Adams.

"We're out of space here for the 2,400 students that we have," Adams said. "Now, this is the old administration building, it wasn't designed for a classroom building and we've converted it into one."

Adams said that the new building will be able to house 11 classrooms, more than twice the amount of rooms currently available to honors students.

The 80,000-square-foot building will be five stories and will have classrooms, study rooms and areas to incentivize interactions between students.

[n See HONORS on PAGE 3](#)

HOTTEST NEW WAX BAR
 NOW IN YOUR AREA FOR ALL YOUR HAIR REMOVAL NEEDS
 VALENTINES DAY SPECIALS ALL FEBRUARY LONG, STOP IN FOR DETAILS
FIRST TIME CLIENT
\$19 BRAZILIAN WAX + FREE EYEBROW WAX!

FREE HEART VAJAZZLE
 WITH YOUR BRAZILIAN THIS MONTH

2 12222 N. 56TH ST. TAMPA, FL 33617
 4303 W. EL PRADO BLVD. TAMPA, FL 33629

BOOK ONLINE OR BY PHONE | WALK-INS WELCOME!
BOOK NOW | 813.447.7984
 PAMPERYOURPEACH.COM

THE PAMPERED PEACH
 BODY WAX
 FOR MEN + WOMEN

STUDENT DISCOUNTS AND GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE!
 f t i g o

MacDinton's
 Where the BULLS go to party!


Open Everyday

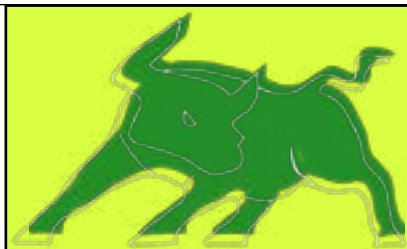
is good for you

locations in
 Tampa | St. Pete

@USForacle

FOLLOW US!





**LOOK FOR THE
 NEXT
 ISSUE
 OF THE
 ORACLE**

**ON
 THURSDAY**



The Oracle

THE UNIVERSITY OF
 SOUTH FLORIDA'S
 STUDENT NEWSPAPER
 SINCE 1966

Editor in Chief
 Alyssa Stewart
 @AlyssaKStewart

Managing Editor
 Leda Alvim
 @thats.leda

News Editor
 Devin Perry

Opinion Editor
 Nathaniel Sweet

Sports Editor
 Brian Hattab
 @BrianHattab33

Copy Editor
 Haley Wirth

Staff Writers
 Jared Sellick
 Nolan Brown
 Hannah Halili
 Lauren Pieper
 Maddie Moure

Graphic Artists
 Aysia Hixenbaugh
 Kennedy Murdock

Advertising Sales
 Victoria Arama
 Kennedy Murdock
 Katelyn Williams

BY PHONE

Editor	974-5190
News	974-1888
Advertising	974-2620
Classified	974-2620

CORRECTIONS

The Oracle will correct or clarify factual errors.
 Contact Editor in Chief Alyssa Stewart at 974-5190.



USF
 ORACLE



/USFOracle



@USFOracle



/USFOracle



@USFOracle

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad go to
<http://www.usforacle.com/classifieds>

HELP WANTED

Sales assistant wholesale fabric distributor.
 Working with Director of Business
 Development for sampling,
 correspondence and product placement.
 Part-time flexible hours and days.
 Contact Don Miller 813-220-7511
www.reliatex.com
 Email donmillerjoat@aol.com

The Oracle is published Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters, and once weekly, Wednesday, during the summer.

The Oracle allocates one free issue to each student. Additional copies are \$.50 each and available at the Oracle office (SVC 0002).

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM





The \$47 million building will include 11 new classrooms, special workspaces and an outdoor amphitheater. **SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE**

HONORS

Continued from **PAGE 1**

The first floor will have an open atrium and a special events space that can be closed off from the main atrium and fit around 150 people.

When not closed off, the floor will fit 320 people and will be the designated place for graduation ceremonies, honor's convocation receptions and even performances, according to Adams. A cafe will also be located on the first floor and will serve light refreshments during events.

Students seeking places to study will find their needs met on the upper floors. The second floor will feature large and small study spaces, the Office of National Scholarships and two classrooms.

With its modern interior design featuring cross-hatched wooden structures, students will have access to the "learning lofts," which are study pods suspended around the upper floors of the building's atrium featuring seating options for small meetings.

Faculty offices will be located

on the third floor, alongside five new classrooms. Above it, the fourth floor will have all the advisory offices and the remaining classrooms.

The fifth and top floor will feature the administrative offices and special workspaces to engage students in the arts, music and even international cuisine.

The workspaces will have a music area where students can practice, a production room to make videos and movies, an art studio for paintings and sculptures and a food and culture studio for students to learn about various cultures through cooking. As for the exterior, the building will feature an amphitheater to host classes as well as student events. The surface of the building will feature a special material that will change colors to different tones of green and gold accordingly with the sunlight.

The architects leading the project are New York-based Morphosis Architects and Tampa-based Fleishman/Garcia Architecture. Adams said that the architects met with students last year to discuss their preferences

on the structure of the building. These meetings resulted in learning spaces catered to the students' suggestions.

One such result is Innovation Exchanges, areas on the second and fourth floors "designed by students," which feature open seating and power outlets.

Adams said that he expects to have the construction drawings finalized within four to five months. The plans will be on hold until the total amount is fundraised to break ground.

Since Adams said the new building hopes to attract eyes from the student body once it's completed, he wants all USF students to feel welcomed to it.

"There's a lot of glass in this building and the reason for that is that I want to be transparent," Adams said. "I want it to be part of the campus, I want people to feel comfortable coming into it and I want it to be integrated with the rest of the campus, not sealed off.

"We are part of this community and not a separate community. This is a place where majors of all kinds come in, and people of all sorts are welcomed."

SG

Continued from **PAGE 1**

second-year accounting major Gustavo Spangher.

With only a couple of hours to make a decision, Spangher said he was initially hesitant to take on the role, especially because the campaign has been active since Feb. 17.

Fattah and Mitchell built the platform "Go for G.O.L.D." which stands for growth, opportunity, loyalty and development. Some of their initiatives include eliminating the +/- sign on a student's transcript, creating a Greek Week and extending the hours of the USF Counseling Center.

However, Spangher said he and Mitchell were able to get together and add initiatives to the platform that he was passionate about.

For example, because Spangher is from Brazil, he added an initiative to create a career fair specifically for international students to find jobs in the local community.

"We were able to incorporate some things that I believe should be advocated for," Spangher said. "People will see in the debate that I will be talking about issues involving international students and concerns I have seen as a Resident Assistant (RA).

"Of course, I respect [Fattah] and I know [Mitchell] and [they] spent a lot of time putting the campaign together but this platform will be built on my ideas as well."

Spangher said he believes Mitchell picked him as a running mate because of his leadership on campus.

Spangher said he was an Orientation Leader last

summer and the former director of fundraising for the Brazilian Student Association. He is currently the president of the International Student Association, an RA and a member of the fraternity Beta Theta Pi.

However, an organization Spangher does not have experience with is SG.

But, he doesn't think that will be a problem for their candidacy.

"Claire has the experience in SG but I will personally bring the outside perspective as a regular student instead of having preconceived notions of how SG is run," Spangher said.

Fattah said he only applied to run for student body president, so by withdrawing his candidacy he won't be on the ballot for another position. However, he said he would explore the possibilities of getting involved in SG in other ways down the line.

In the case that a candidate withdraws from an election, the SG statutes state that "the candidate may not reapply for any position in that given election after the close of applications."

"This was not something that was taken lightly and it's still a decision that I am struggling with," Fattah said. "I apologize to anyone who is disappointed but I want the student body to know that this decision was made with their best interest in mind.

"I would rather sacrifice my personal dreams that have been two years in the making to ensure that the university has the best representation."



MARCH 12-15, 2020 | COCOA BEACH, FL



World Surf League Events:

Ron Jon Quiksilver Men's Pro QS & Jr. Pro
& Ron Jon Roxy Women's Jr. Pro

Wakeboard Pool • SUP Charity Paddle • Yoga
Skateboarding • Kiteboarding • Beach Volleyball
Free Giveaways • SUP/Kayak Fishing Tournament

VANS
"OFF THE WALL"



Hurley

ONEILL

RVCA



OKLEY



Learn About Nursing Degree Opportunities At LMU in Tampa

SNACKS and FACTS



Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Two Sessions — 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. & 5 - 7 p.m.

LMU-Tampa @ AdventHealth Tampa Health Park

(3102 E. 138th Avenue, Tampa, FL 33613)

813.331.4614 • nursing.LMUnet.edu

AdventHealth | **LMU** | Caylor School of Nursing
LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

Hilton


HERD
PERKS

CHECK IN AT EVENTS EARN POINTS GET REWARDED
MARCH 7TH PRIZE WINNER IS HILTON VACATION
PACKAGE TO DESTINATION OF YOUR CHOICE

Hillsborough County marijuana decriminalization is a good first step



Nathaniel Sweet

OPINION EDITOR

On Feb. 19, the Hillsborough County Commission unanimously approved a new ordinance to decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana.

Previously in Hillsborough, marijuana possession for 20 grams or less carried a \$1,000 fine and up to one year in prison.

The new law downgrades a person's first three marijuana offenses to a civil citation and a fine of up to \$500, with education and treatment options. On the fourth offense, however, a person would face criminal penalties.

Because the ordinance was passed by the county, the new rule applies to all jurisdictions including Tampa, Temple Terrace, Plant City and USF.

University Police (UP) spokesperson Audrey Clarke said in an email to The Oracle that UP is waiting on guidance from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office to implement the policy change.

This move is a common-sense step. Far too many Americans are caught up with police, courts and prisons for the victimless crime of using cannabis.

U.S. drug laws ensnare huge numbers of people in the criminal justice system



The new ordinance helps mitigate harmful drug policies, but more needs to be done. **SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE**

each year. In 2018 alone, about 600,000 people were arrested for marijuana possession, making up nearly half of all drug possession arrests for that year, according to data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Report.

These arrests fall particularly hard on black Americans, who face racist biases in the criminal justice system. A 2013 report from the American Civil Liberties Union found that black Americans are 3.73 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than whites, despite similar usage rates between black and white people.

While not as damaging as jail time, arrests can lead to adverse impacts down the line.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, for instance, says in their official guidance that employers can deny someone a job based on their arrest record so long as "the conduct underlying an arrest... makes an individual unfit for the position in question."

Similarly, courts impose hefty fines and fees on defendants facing arrest, trial and conviction, according to an investigation by legal experts with the prison reform group Justice Collaborative.

If those penalties aren't paid

off, they can face jail time, suspended driver's licenses and other harmful sanctions. In effect, these practices criminalize low-income people simply for their inability to pay.

The sum total of these issues is a cycle of stifled opportunity and widening inequality across class and race.

By decriminalizing marijuana, Hillsborough County is taking a positive step toward stopping this cycle before it begins.

However, this policy change should only be seen as a first step. Marijuana offenders still need to pay a potentially hefty fine under the new ordinance, and on the fourth offense they still face criminal charges. Only total legalization at the state level can stop these impacts in full.

At the same time, the new ordinance offers no restitution for people who've been harmed by marijuana arrests in the past.

The county should take this as an opportunity to reflect on the damage that the War on Drugs has done to marginalized communities in Tampa Bay and move forward with a bold strategy to invest in those underserved locales.

Nathaniel Sweet is a senior studying political science.

Florida Legislature should pass vo-tech scholarship bill



Jared Sellick

COLUMNIST

Important legislation that would make community college essentially free for all Floridians whose households make less than \$50,000 has stalled in the Florida Senate after being introduced Jan. 14.

Senate Bill 1004, introduced by Sen. José Javier Rodríguez (D-Miami), would create the Sunshine Scholarship Program that would cover tuition and fees not paid for by federal Pell grants, ensuring that low-income students who want to attend community college or trade school have the financial means to do so.

This bill is a perfect representation of higher education legislation that both sides of the aisle can get behind.

In addition, the legislation requires that those who take part in the scholarship must "reside and work" in Florida for the same amount of time they are enrolled in a Florida institution, otherwise the scholarship will need to be paid back with interest the same as a loan.

For example, if a student attended two years of community college, they would then need to live or work in Florida for at least two years.

This legislation would bring

prosperity to Florida and would be in accordance with a common conservative value that a person has to work in order to get ahead in life. If this bill was implemented, it would give many Floridians the opportunity to access career and technical education, providing more opportunities to save and invest in Florida's economy.

However, the legislation is unlikely to gain traction in the Republican-controlled Legislature because Rodríguez, a Democrat, introduced the bill.

The Legislature needs to look beyond their partisan blinders and engage in these reforms that are necessary to give more Floridians access to higher education.

Florida Republicans have long been proponents of career and technical education at colleges and trade schools. Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a broad education bill that included promoting trade school as an alternative to college in middle and high school and offering vocational training options in high school. The Sunshine Scholarship Program essentially works hand in glove with that legislation.

For a party that's so interested in promoting trade school to ensure we have a prepared workforce, they should also want to make those schools more affordable to underprivileged Floridians.

This bill is an opportunity for true bipartisan action, a rare sight in this Legislature.

Jared Sellick is a senior studying political science.

FLOWERS

Continued from PAGE 8

made history at and you continue to leave your legacy," Flowers said. "Just going in that end zone, I had to show my face because I'm like, 'This is home. This is my second home.'"

If this actually were a Disney movie, the story would end there. Flowers would have been the hero the home team needed to secure its first ever win, and he'd live happily ever after as starting quarterback.

Except this wasn't a Disney movie. The Vipers went 3-and-out on their next drive and Taylor Cornelius, who has started Tampa Bay's last two games in place of the injured Aaron Murray, came back for the fourth drive.

Cornelius led the Vipers to touchdowns on two of their next three drives, but coach Marc Trestman told ABC at halftime

that both quarterbacks would see action in the second half.

But Flowers never saw the field again — even on the drive after Cornelius threw three straight incompletions in a goal-to-go situation from the 1-yard line with the Vipers down by a score late in the fourth.

"We love Q [Flowers], we love what he brings to the table," Trestman said after the game. "He's going to be a part of what we do each and every week. But we're going through a real transformation of trying to get a balance."

The ensuing drive ended on an interception that Cornelius threw right at a Houston defender, for what it's worth, and the Roughnecks walked away with a 34-27 win, which dropped the Vipers to 0-3.

The move to not bring Flowers back puzzled not just fans on social media, who had already been calling for Trestman's

job prior to Saturday, but even Roughnecks players, like quarterback P.J. Walker, who played against Flowers at Temple.

"I thought he did a great job driving the guys down the field," Walker said. "It just shows the excitement level that he brings when he's on the field, man."

Ultimately, Flowers' 4-of-6 passing and 80 all-purpose yards in his three series wasn't enough — in Week 3, that is.

But Cinderella had to wait for her prince to find her after the carriage turned back into a pumpkin — her story wasn't over when the clock struck midnight. Simba's story didn't end when Mufasa died — he lived in exile until he finally overthrew Scar and took his place as king.

The XFL season is 10 weeks long.

Flowers' story isn't over yet. There's still time for his happily ever after, too.

SOFTBALL

Continued from PAGE 8

shot to get comfortable because we're going to throw as a staff."

Corrick pitched all 14 innings against Tennessee on Saturday and Sunday. She limited the Vols to three runs on 10 hits while striking out 11.

The Bulls' offense complemented Corrick and Ponn's performance, finding a spark against the Panthers on Friday. A three-run home run from Bethaney Keen highlighted a Bulls lineup that went 12-for-29.

"I think we were predators at the plate," Moore said. "I think for our girls it was kind of like, 'Thou shall not pass,' so I was really happy after a good week of practice to see them come in and really go after it."

USF's hot bats carried over to Saturday's walk-off wins, which saw two players hit their first

career home runs.

Junior Kyndall Williams walked off Tennessee with her first, while fellow classmate A.J. Carter's trimmed a two-run deficit against the Panthers in the sixth.

To round out the weekend, the Bulls edged the Vols 3-2 thanks to three runs scored in the third. Tennessee began a comeback effort in the seventh, bringing the game within one, then loading the bases after a two-out walk from Corrick. A pop up to Williams at shortstop ensured the Bulls' perfect weekend.

Sunday's win was the Bulls' fourth against a top-20 team in the span of a week. That only keeps the ball rolling, according to Moore.

"It shows them that they belong," she said. "When you come out and beat some good teams, it starts the momentum."

Bank Local... Anywhere

On Campus • Across the Country • Around the World

With the USF Bulls VISA® debit card.

Use for gas, travel, groceries, entertainment, online purchases and more.



- Free mobile and online banking
- 5,000 branches nationwide for easy deposits*
- 30,000 fee-free ATMs*




* Through the CO-OP network. Federally insured by NCUA.

USF TRANSPORTATION DAY

Feb 27 2020

MAKE YOUR MOVE



FEBRUARY 27TH 10:30AM-3:00PM | USF HOLLY DRIVE

Join us for the second annual USF Transportation Day! USF Holly Drive will be closed from USF Myrtle Drive to USF Genshaft Drive, for students, faculty, staff and visitors to enjoy a totally car-free zone! Enjoy fun and interactive activities on the open street.

HOSTED BY THE USF CENTER FOR URBAN TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH
SEE FACEBOOK FOR MORE DETAILS

Commentary

No happily ever after in Flowers' homecoming



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

It was shaping up like a classic Disney movie.

The natives were restless, and the only thing that would satisfy them was a change under center.

When the Tampa Bay Vipers' had to settle for a field goal on their first drive in the XFL team's home opener Saturday against the Houston Roughnecks at Raymond James Stadium on Saturday afternoon, the chants were almost as unanimous as they were expected: "We want Flowers."

They were referring, of course, to former USF quarterback Quinton Flowers.

The desire for Flowers wasn't anything new. Fans had been calling for him to receive more playing time — Flowers only saw limited action Weeks 1 and 2 — via social media since the team's debut Feb. 9.

When the Vipers' next drive stalled near midfield, boos echoed throughout the stadium. The crowd wanted to see Flowers in action at Ray Jay for the first time since Nov. 16, 2017, when USF defeated Tulsa on his Senior Day.

Adding to the drama were the 9,600 square-foot video boards at the north and south ends of the stadium. During one timeout, they showed a fan holding up a USF Flowers jersey, while another time, they just showed Flowers standing on the sideline.

Both times, fans cheered — though not as loudly as when Flowers led the Vipers onto the field for their third offensive series.



Quinton Flowers warms up before the Tampa Bay Vipers' home opener at Raymond James Stadium on Saturday. ORACLE PHOTO/BRIAN HATTAB

The crowd, announced at 18,117, could have easily passed for twice as much in the moment. Even stadium public address announcer Pat Donovan was overly enthusiastic announcing Flowers' name.

"It was a great feeling, just knowing that people believe in you, because all my life, I've been

doubted," Flowers said. "All my life, I've been going against the odds. So for me to go out there and have respect from the fans, day in and day out, whenever I'm on the field, I'll do whatever it takes for them."

It was hard not to be romantic about Flowers' homecoming, especially when he led the

team to its first ever offensive touchdown on a seven-play, 58-yard drive, capped off by a 7-yard keeper by the man of the hour himself, who then took his helmet off and celebrated as if he were still playing for USF.

"It was a great feeling, knowing that this is where you

See FLOWERS on PAGE 7

Softball

No-hitter and walk-offs highlight Bulls' big weekend



Nolan Brown

STAFF WRITER

A little over a week ago, USF was 0-6. The Bulls had lost all four opening-weekend games

and dropped the opening two the next.

Now, they are 6-7, fresh off a 4-0 weekend after defeating both FIU and No. 12 Tennessee twice at the USF Invitational.

"Even when we were 0-6 ... I don't think that really phased them," interim head coach Jessica Moore said. "That shows they're enjoying the process and that they trust us as a coaching staff"

Factor in that the four wins came via a no-hitter — the program's 27th — against FIU on Friday, walk-offs in back-to-back games against Tennessee and FIU on Saturday and another win over the Volunteers on Sunday, and the Bulls had a big weekend.

"We're feeling really awesome right now," senior AnaMarie Bruni said. "It's something that we definitely needed — just to pick up on a little win streak

here."

Bulls' junior ace Georgina Corrick only allowed one run in Friday's 7-1 win over the Panthers, though it was scored on an error in the third. Other than that, it was lights out. Corrick threw the first six innings, striking out 11. Freshman Vivian Ponn completed the no-hitter with a scoreless seventh.

The decision to bring Ponn in was to take the pressure off

Corrick as well as grow pitchers the Bulls can rely on, according to Moore.

"We have to continue to cultivate," she said. "Georgina can go out and maybe she throws a no-hitter solo, but I can also get Vivian out there to help finish off this game for us. We know what we're going to get out of [Corrick]. Now we have to continue to give the other guys a

See SOFTBALL on PAGE 7