

USF

UNIVERSITY of SOUTH FLORIDA *System*

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the
USF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
SUMMER 2017

Helping the Unseen

USF researchers help protect those hidden in plain sight or lost in a crowd



TEDxUSF

inspires ideas worth spreading

TEDxUSF SPEAKERS TALKED OF surviving cancer, turning adversity into positive change, and noninvasive ways of diagnosing and treating neurological disorders.

One by one, six TEDxUSF speakers took the Marshall Student Center Ballroom stage in March to share stories from their own lives — and to challenge members of the audience to live theirs differently.

TED, short for technology, entertainment and design, is the nonprofit behind the popular TED Talks series, in which speakers share cutting-edge ideas, or as the organization's popular tagline goes, “ideas worth spreading.”

TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events. This is the fourth year USF has held TEDxUSF.

Presented by the USF Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, the theme of this year's TEDxUSF was “Limitless,” an adjective speakers used to describe everything from the possibilities after surviving cancer to alternative ways of organizing our society.

PHOTO

“I refuse to be limited by something that may or may not happen,” said Marleah Dean Kruzel, PhD, the first speaker of the evening, as she recounted her mother's battle with breast cancer and her own experiences since testing positive for BRCA2, a genetic mutation that increases one's risk for the disease.

Photos: STAHL & COOPER PHOTOGRAPHY | Courtesy of USF Student Affairs & Student Success





PHOTOS (Left to right)

Sal Morgera, PhD, professor of Electrical Engineering, presented research about the brain; Bernd Reiter, PhD, professor of comparative politics, discussed “the crisis of liberal democracy;” Nick Joyce, PhD, psychologist, spoke of ways to manage

thoughts and feelings; Emily Pickett, a junior studying communications, talked about adaptation, due to her experience of losing an eye to retinoblastoma as a child; and chemistry student Yasmin Ezzair spoke of her experiences as a Muslim girl.

YOUNG ALUMNI *on fire*

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME A SUPERSTAR before age 35?

Never say never.

When asked “Why?” ask “Why not?”

Apply the perseverance, courage and skills you learn from your parents, coaches and alma mater.

USF’s 10 Outstanding Young Alumni shared these and other insights during the Alumni Association’s first Outstanding Young Alumni awards ceremony in May. The honorees represent world-class achievement in business, athletics, art, health and governance. They also exemplify what it means to be a Bull: They’re leaders, self-motivated, strive to excel, and give back.

“Listening to the other award recipients during our panel discussion, I realized we’re all basically the same. We think the same. We’re motivated in the same ways,” says artistic photographer and award recipient Amy Martz, ’04.

USF has honored a single Outstanding Young Alumnus as part of the fall USF Alumni Awards since 2004. The new Young Alumni awards recognize the fact that the USF System now has more than 100,000 millennial alumni – nearly a third of all graduates – many of whom have achieved remarkable success.

Be amazed and inspired – learn more about our Outstanding Young Alumni on pages 60-63.

Want to nominate a graduate for the 2018 awards? Find award criteria and other information at usfalumni.org/oyaa or email Christina Cameron at cmccameron@usf.edu.

– PENNY CARNATHAN '82 | USFAA



PHOTOS USF’s 2017 Outstanding Young Alumni are, top from left: Florida Rep. Daniel Wright Burgess Jr., '08; Dr. Dorothy M. Russ, '05; Amy Martz, '04; Jason Pierre-Paul; Stephenie Davis, '15. Bottom from left: Eric J. Biel, '13 and MBA '16; Amanda Evora, '12, USFSM; Ryan Gilliam; Iris A. Elijah, '08; and Brad Kendell, '03, Life Member.

First Look



PHOTOS: MATT MAY

CELEBRATING *Frida*

DANCEUSF STUDENTS CELEBRATED the art and life of artist Frida Kahlo during the College of the Arts' Spring 2017 Dance Concert. The piece was a collaboration by ballet instructor Paula Nunez and modern dance assistant professor Andee Scott, who found their inspiration in eight of the painter's works. TheatreUSF senior Diana Negron played Kahlo, and senior costuming students Jennifer Bajana and Sarah York designed masks of Kahlo (pictured).

Concertgoers were also treated to *One Tuesday Afternoon*, choreographed by guest artist Kara Davis; *Actions to Relate to Oneself*, inspired by the work of sculptor Richard Serra and choreographed by visiting professor Erin Cardinal; and *Catalyst*, by professor Bliss Kohlmyer.



First Look



First Look





ZOO partnership helps save manatees



THEY MAY NO LONGER BE considered “endangered,” but the growing manatee population faces challenges. Many of them continue to suffer gashes from boats, cold stress and respiratory problems caused by red tide.

To help improve the health of Florida’s manatees, still considered a threatened species, the USF

College of Public Health partnered with Tampa’s Lowry Park Zoo to create a Veterinary Public Health Postdoctoral Fellowship. The fellowship, funded through the Joy McCann Foundation, provides USF postdoctoral students who are veterinarians with a full-time position at the zoo and specialized research training to advance their education.

“Public health is about preventing disease in human populations, but it’s extremely exciting to add the animal population to our work,” says Kathleen O’Rourke, professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the USF College of Public Health. “In this program, the college works with the zoo to train veterinarians in evidenced-based research and epidemiology to help improve the overall health of animals.”

During the two-year program, students study epidemiology and biostatistics and conduct research for publication, as well as learn health care skills, clinical techniques, hands-on rescue and rehabilitation, and animal nutrition.

Melissa Nau, (*pictured at center*) postdoctoral fellow at USF and full-time veterinarian at Lowry Park Zoo, is one of the first fellows to train through this collaborative program.

“This opportunity is unique as it allows me to further my education in epidemiology and research. This background is going to be a huge benefit to my career as a zoo veterinarian,” Dr. Nau says.

Ray Ball, director of medical services at the zoo, hopes the collaboration will provide a better understanding of factors influencing the overall health of manatees and other animal populations.

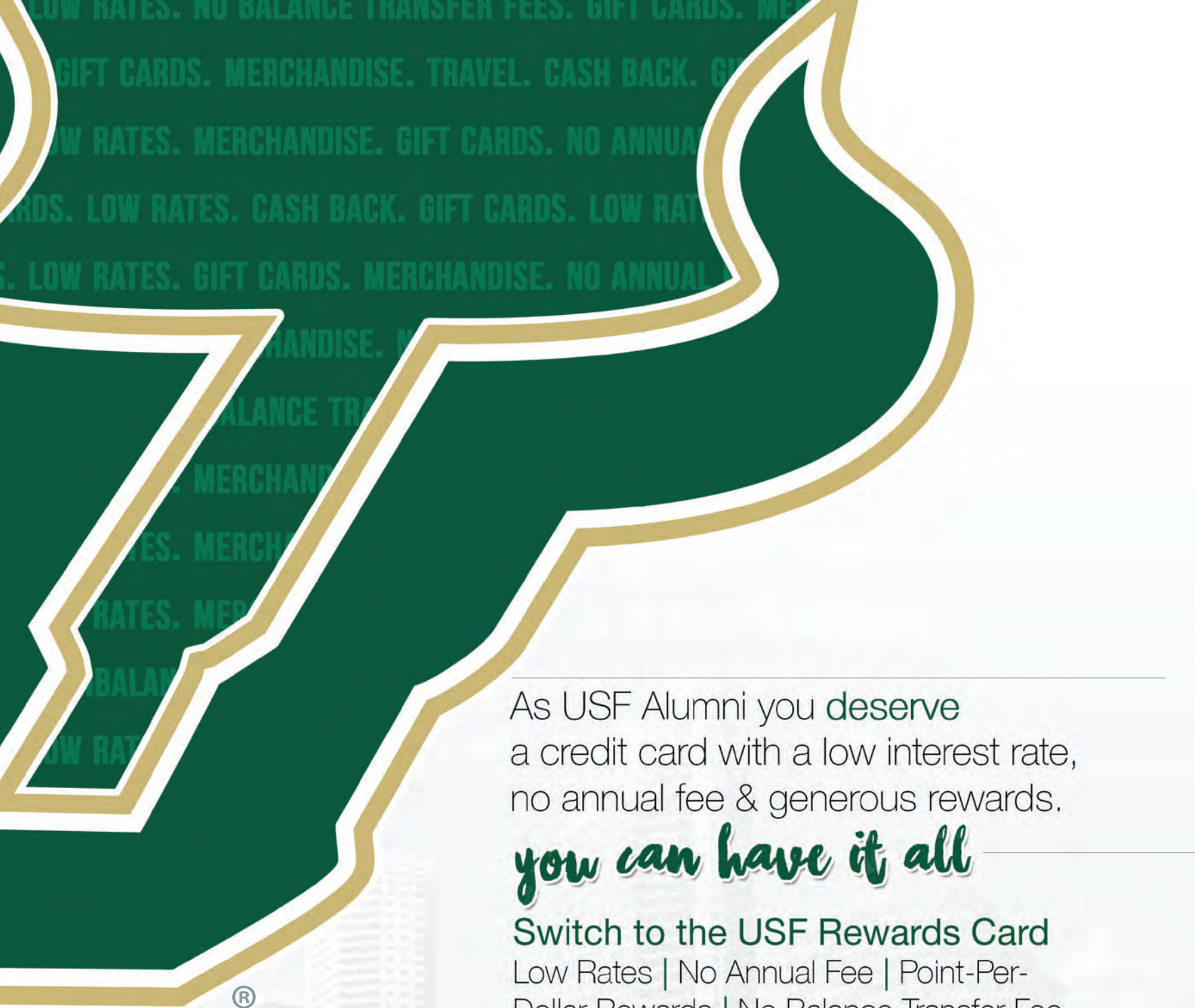
“Through this partnership, we’ve conducted a 25-year retrospective epidemiological survey of every manatee that’s come through the hospital,” he says.

“We know why and where they were admitted, the age they were admitted, how long they were here, did they survive and where they were released. Looking retrospectively, we can also study their obstacles and challenges – looking at blood values, prognostic indications, pregnancy and reproduction rates, as well as help evaluate and predict survivability and discover ways to help them live healthier lives.”

Tampa’s Lowry Park Zoo has treated more than 400 manatees over the last 20 years, with 70 percent of recovered manatees in the last several years returned to the wild. This partnership could aid in the recovery of even more of these beloved sea mammals.

Photos: RYAN NOONE | USF

– VJOLLCA HYSENLIKA | USF Health








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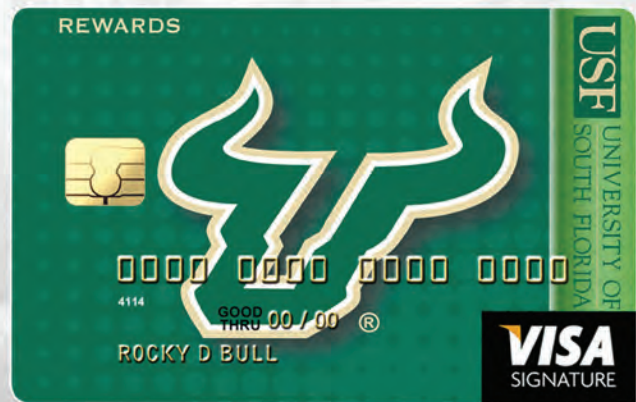
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34 Cover Story Helping the unseen

From research that aims to understand and inform public policy about human trafficking, to alumni, faculty and staff who work with refugees, USF's community is standing up for the vulnerable, who are often hidden in plain sight.

46 Getting here is just the beginning

Congolese refugee Sadiki Bertin (*pictured*) arrived in Tampa about seven months ago. Lutheran Services Florida, led by COO Christopher Card, PhD '10, helped him transition to life in the United States.

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Photo: SANDRA C. ROA | USF

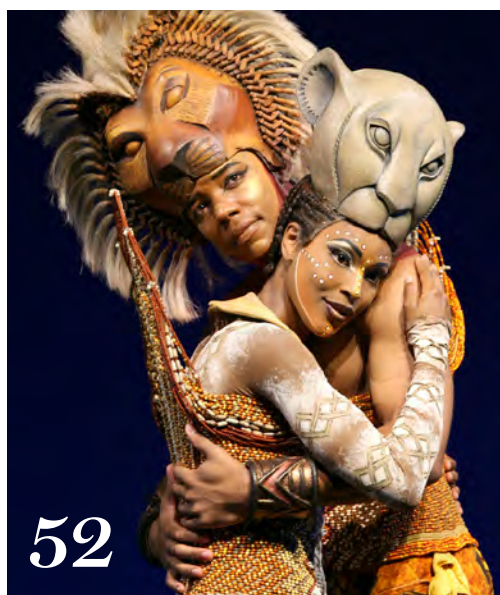
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Photo: JAY NOLAN

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Photo: © DISNEY



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Cover design: Mark Leaning | USF

From the President

Photo: MATT MAY



HELPING TO CARE FOR AND protect our world's most vulnerable people is what drives the work of numerous faculty, students and alumni across the USF System. They have discovered their professional calling in the search for solutions to the global refugee crisis, engaging with community partners to welcome and aid refugees, and in helping rescuers better understand and assist those who are exploited. Vulnerability is a reality for millions in every corner of the world today, whether as refugees, immigrants, or other sorts of displaced persons.

Sometimes, these same populations become more susceptible to human trafficking.

Elizabeth Dunn, the assistant director of the Global Disaster Management, Humanitarian Relief and Homeland Security program in the USF College of Public Health, creates service learning projects for her students, who established a morning and after-school program for refugee students, as well as a youth soccer program. Research by USF St. Petersburg Assistant Professor of Criminology Joan Reid is assisting with educational materials

that help teens identify early warning signs of human trafficking. Christopher Card, who earned his PhD from the University of South Florida and teaches at our School of Social Work, serves as chief operating officer for Lutheran Services Florida, which works directly with refugees to connect them to new homes, jobs, and support services within the community.

Most of us have never experienced extended periods without a home: many days and nights without the familiar bookends of sleeping and waking in your own bed each night. The feeling of belonging nowhere is just one of the life situations experienced by our world's most vulnerable. I hope as you read this issue of USF Magazine, whether in your office or your own home, you take a moment to appreciate the everyday ease of the four walls around you. There is a freedom in belonging.

**JUDY GENSHAFT, PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
SYSTEM**

STUDENT SUPPORT

Big data and case management send student success soaring

DIVING INTO BIG DATA and borrowing from the health care approach to personalized patient case management, USF has developed a toolkit that's dramatically boosting student success and garnering national attention.

Two of the metrics used to measure student success – graduation and retention rates – have shot up since 2009, when the university launched its student success initiative. The six-year graduation rate increased from 48 percent to nearly 70 this year, and retention of first-year students climbed to 90 percent, a goal achieved ahead of schedule.

Additionally, USF eliminated the gap in graduation rates by race, ethnicity and income, exceeding national averages.

“At USF, we believe that all students can and will succeed if given the opportunity,” says Paul Dosal, vice president of Student Affairs & Student Success.

What changed?

Over the course of several years and with the guidance of the Student Success Committee, USF implemented various programs, policies and services to remove obstacles from students' paths to graduation. Those efforts resulted in significant gains in both retention and graduation rates, but in 2012, the progress plateaued.

Then committee members and administrators hit upon the idea of using real-time student data and predictive analytics so immediate action could be

taken when a student appears on the verge of faltering. The university partnered with Civitas Learning, a higher education technology and data science platform, to get real-time data that takes into account dozens of factors, including class attendance and performance. If students start to slip, the system flags them immediately – no waiting for mid-term grades, which may be too late – to determine if they need extra support.

That's where health care-style patient case management comes in. In 2016, a team representing student support services throughout the university was created so that the issues revealed by the data system could

be addressed quickly. The Persistence Committee includes representatives from advising, financial aid, career services, the counseling center, and housing, among others. With

help from a team that includes academic advocates, the Persistence Committee coordinates outreach to students identified weekly via the Civitas platform.

A number of national organizations have recognized USF's breakthrough. In 2016, Eduventures ranked the university as the nation's top performer in overall student success and tapped it for its Innovation Award. The Education Trust recently ranked USF number one in Florida and sixth in the nation for black student success. USF is also one of a small group of universities recently selected by the Foundation for Student Success to mentor three universities/colleges and share its roadmap for student success.



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University

GRADUATE STUDIES AT OXFORD, ENGLAND

Frost Scholarship supports Florida students since 2014

PATRICIA FROST, A MEMBER OF the Florida Board of Governors, built a 28-year career as an accomplished teacher and principal for the Miami-Dade County and Broward County public school systems. Her husband, Dr. Phillip Frost, is a successful entrepreneur and physician. They share a deep-rooted passion for promoting scientific literacy and inspiring Florida's future leaders to train in science and technology.

The first Frost scholarship recipients began their graduate studies at England's University of Oxford in 2014. Since then, the Frost Scholarship Programme has offered up to 10 top students each year from the State University System of Florida, and recently the University of Miami, the opportunity to study, full time for one year, master's courses in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM fields) at Oxford.



The Frost Scholarships afford Florida students international experience while continuing their education in STEM-related fields. Opportunities such as this further prepare our students for careers in high-demand areas.”

– Marshall Criser III

These future leaders are fiercely dedicated to scholarly pursuits ranging from pharmacology, medical anthropology, and archeological science to mathematics and computer science. Many want to incorporate research into their careers and, thanks to the Frost Scholarship, they will be adding the world-renowned University of Oxford to their resumes.

Of the 39 Frost scholars selected statewide over the program's history, nine are from the University of South Florida, including three this year from USF's Honors College. (See opposite page for USF Frost scholar profiles). USF tied with the University of Florida for

the most 2017-18 Frost scholarship winners. Applicants are selected only after completing Oxford's highly competitive graduate admissions process.

With generous support from the Phillip and Patricia Frost Philanthropic Foundation, the program covers 100 percent of university and college fees as well as a stipend for living expenses.

“The Frost Scholarship Programme provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students to gain international experience while pursuing an advanced degree in a STEM field,” says Marshall Criser III, State University System Chancellor. “We are pleased to recognize these remarkable students as well as the generosity of the Phillip and Patricia Frost Philanthropic Foundation.”

USF's 2017-18 Frost scholars – Shane Clark, Razanne Oueini, and Luis Regalado – all graduated from the Honors College in May. With impressive undergraduate records at USF, all three are pursuing studies in health-related fields.

“As a freshman, I never imagined I'd be going to Oxford after graduation. Fortunately, I heard about the Frost scholarship opportunity from the Office of National Scholarships and the Honors College,” says Oueini, who earned dual bachelor's degrees in chemistry and music studies at USF.

“The opportunity to learn and gain experience from faculty in the Department of Pharmacology at the world's premier institution for higher education is one that cannot be matched. To me this scholarship demonstrates the immense value of education in various STEM fields and the need for these disciplines to advance our communities.”

Before beginning their studies in October, Oueini, Clark, and Regalado will participate in an exclusive weeklong orientation at one of Oxford's oldest colleges, Exeter College, to introduce them to academic life at Oxford.

– ANNE DELOTTO BAIER '78 and AMY HARROUN '05



Shane Clark

Cell and Molecular Biology '17

Master's Program at Oxford: Pharmacology '18

After completing his master's degree at Oxford, Shane will begin medical school to become a pediatrician with a possible specialty in pediatric oncology.



Razanne Oueini

Chemistry and Music Studies '17

Master's Program at Oxford: Pharmacology '18

After graduating from Oxford, Razanne plans to attend pharmacy school, become a pharmacist, and work in academia.



Luis Regalado

Biomedical Sciences '17

Master's Program at Oxford: Global Health Science '18

After graduating from Oxford, Luis plans to attend medical school, become a surgeon, and contribute to the epidemiological research of chronic diseases.



Ricci Allen

Biomedical Sciences and Psychology '16

Master's Program at Oxford: Clinical Embryology '17

After graduating from Oxford, Ricci plans to attend medical school and specialize in obstetrics and gynecology.



Maie Khalil

Biomedical Sciences '15

Master's Program at Oxford: Medical Anthropology '17

Maie is currently performing research on the implications of globalizing clinical drug trials at Oxford and plans to pursue a PhD in anthropology with a goal of positively impacting global policy.



Kaitlin Deutsch

Environmental Science & Policy and Environmental Biology '15

Master's Program at Oxford: Biodiversity, Conservation and Management '16

Kaitlin is currently working on her PhD in entomology at Cornell University. She is focused on the decline of native pollinator species worldwide and plans to become a research scientist.



Michael Esteban

Civil Engineering '15

Master's Program at Oxford: Water Science, Policy, and Management '16

Michael is currently working at a civil/environmental engineering design firm in Florida and plans to complete his professional licenses to design solutions for global water resource issues.



Ivana Lam

English Literature and History '15

Master's Program at Oxford: History of Science, Medicine and Technology '16

Ivana will begin her PhD in history at the University of Bristol (Bristol, UK) this fall and plans to become a global health infectious disease educator.



Jessica Goodman

Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Classical Civilizations '14

Master's Program at Oxford: Archaeological Science '15

Jessica is currently completing international archeological research and pursuing her PhD in classical and near eastern archeology at Bryn Mawr College.



PHOTO Evolutionary biologist Ryan Carney's research ranges from the study of dinosaurs to the use of geographic technologies to predict epidemics of mosquito-borne diseases like Zika.

ILLUSTRATION Deinonychus and Archaeopteryx are displayed using 3D virtual reality.

EMERGING EXPLORER

Using virtual reality to learn more about dinosaurs

A KEY PIECE OF EVIDENCE proving how dinosaurs evolved into modern-day birds could soon be studied across the world.

University of South Florida biologist Ryan Carney, PhD, MPH, MBA, has created interactive holograms of dinosaurs, including the Archaeopteryx, which is believed to be the missing link in understanding the origin of birds and flight. Only 12 fossils have been discovered, all in Germany. His work is so groundbreaking that the National Geographic Society just named Carney one of 14 inspiring and gifted scientists on its list of 2017 Emerging Explorers.

Carney, a USF assistant professor of digital science with expertise in evolutionary biology and epidemiology, digitizes fossils using X-ray, lasers and photogrammetry, then brings them “back to life” with computer animation. Using virtual reality and augmented reality, paleontologists and students could interact with the dinosaurs in 3D, allowing them to better understand their anatomy and motion without having to travel to a museum.

These technologies are also integrated into Carney's Digital Dinosaurs course at the University of South Florida's Center for Virtualization & Applied Spatial Technologies (CVAAT) and Integrative Biology Department. Students use the same techniques to visualize, animate, and 3D print specimens for research and educational purposes, helping foster enthusiasm for STEM fields.

Carney is the first USF faculty member to receive the honor of National Geographic Emerging Explorer, a distinction that comes with \$10,000 for research and exploration. This prestigious award recognizes those who are already making a difference and changing the world.

In June, he will present a TED-style talk titled *Digital Science, from Archaeopteryx to Zika* at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, DC.

National Geographic also cited Carney's innovative epidemiological research in selecting him to join the society's trailblazing Emerging Explorers. Carney uses geographic technologies to help predict and prevent epidemics of mosquito-borne diseases. Ongoing work includes developing software for detecting Zika outbreaks, which he says will be made freely available worldwide in the fight against this pandemic.



Photo and illustration courtesy Ryan Carney

“My epidemiology research focuses on surveillance and control of mosquito-borne diseases, particularly the flaviviruses like Zika, dengue and West Nile,” says Carney, who collaborates with researchers at the USF College of Public Health. “Given that there are no cures or vaccines yet available, prevention and abatement are the only solutions for containing outbreaks. With that goal, my work leverages technologies like GIS and the DYCAST early warning system as powerful tools for fighting disease – from predicting epidemics to the strategic targeting of control efforts.”

For more about Carney's work, visit ryancarney.com.

– TINA MEKETA and ANNE DELOTTO BAIER '78 | USF

New degrees meet new demands

New degrees to be offered in the fall will give students at all three USF System institutions an opportunity to prepare for satisfying jobs in areas of growing demand.

Personal financial planning

With the number of qualified financial advisors expected to decline dramatically due to retirement and tightening of industry regulations, USF's Muma College of Business will offer an undergraduate degree in personal financial planning. Demand is projected to grow by 30 percent over the next several years, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. More than 50 percent of financial advisors in the country are over 50 years old, while only four percent are under 30 years old.

The program's curriculum is being built by Laura Mattia, a Certified Financial Planner with a doctorate from Texas Tech in personal financial planning. She came to USF in August 2016.

Entry level salaries for financial planners average about \$58,000 a year, with mid-career salaries in Florida at nearly \$120,000. A survey by *U.S. News and World Report* ranked the occupation as No. 4 in job satisfaction.

Risk management and insurance

USF Sarasota-Manatee's College of Business risk management and insurance program arose from meetings with local insurance company executives who say broad turnover is starting to take place. As with financial planners, insurance professionals focused on risk analysis, underwriting, wealth management and other critical areas are beginning to retire.

Only one other public university in Florida offers a bachelor's in the major; USFSM introduced it as a minor last fall.

"I think it gives USFSM a competitive advantage as far as attracting students to an industry that's a lot deeper than just sales," says Keith Mercier, president of the West Florida subsidiary of CBIZ Insurance Services. "People often think insurance is just about sales. It's much more than that."

College dean James Curran says two insurance classes, an internship program and an elective are currently offered and together comprise the insurance minor. Three more classes covering life and health insurance and wealth management will be added, along with two faculty members.

Conservation biology

The only master of science thesis-based degree of its kind in Florida's university system will be coming to USF St. Petersburg. It will complement the institution's thriving undergraduate degree program in biology.

The new graduate program will address a regional need for biologists with training in conservation, ecology, organismal biology, and taxonomy. Students who successfully complete the degree will be eligible for jobs in conservation biology at government agencies; non-profit agencies that protect natural resources; environmental consulting firms; and at aquaria, and zoological and botanical gardens.

The median salary for careers in conservation biology ranges from \$59,000 to \$75,000 with an anticipated job growth rate of 2 to 13 percent through 2024.

"This new program, and others like it at USF St. Petersburg, is preparing students to become leaders in creating and leading community, state, national and international efforts in conservation and sustainability," says Martin Tadlock, regional vice chancellor of academic affairs at USFSP. "We have tremendous faculty members engaged in this work, and highly supportive community partnerships to help us in that preparation."



Photos: GREG BRYON and SANDRA C. ROA (center)



HEARD ON CAMPUS

Academy Award-winner Viola Davis

Fresh off her Academy Award win for Best Supporting Actress in *Fences*, Viola Davis spoke to thousands of USF students and alumni as part of the University Lecture Series.

She spoke mostly of her life before fame – before her 2010 Tony Award and starring roles in the box-office hit *The Help* and ABC-TV's *How to Get Away with Murder*. She grew up desperately poor with an abusive father, classmates who chased her, hurling stones and racial epithets, and no plumbing, she said. Watching *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* as a child inspired her to become an actress.

But even as she found success, she realized "I was running from not owning my own story."

The student-led lecture series brings several speakers to USF each year. There's no charge for admission.



MUMA COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Florida business analytics forum draws hundreds

THE MANTRA THAT DATA NEVER SLEEPS was hammered home during the inaugural Florida Business Analytics Forum at USF's Muma College of Business in April.

Guest speakers came from across the nation to address a crowd of more than 250 who packed the atrium at the college. They came to hear the pioneers in data collection, research, analytics and creativity, themes the college has undertaken in many of its courses. It's a



field of study emerging as a driving force in the corporate world and has been undertaken by the faculty at the college, which has achieved a national level of recognition for its research along these lines.

"Technology is allowing us to increasingly base our decisions on a variety of valuable data, which is collected in myriad ways," said USF President Judy Genshaft in her welcoming remarks. "Data, as some people say, never sleeps. Nevertheless, having more information is only

field of study emerging as a driving force in the corporate world and has been undertaken by the faculty at the college, which has achieved a national level of recognition for its research along these lines.

Photos: RYAN NOONE / USF



PHOTOS Pioneers in the emerging field of business analytics came from across the nation to address a crowd of more than 250 who packed the atrium at the Muma College of Business.

Keynote speaker Ron Kohavi, distinguished engineer and general manager for Microsoft's Analysis and Experimental Team.

helpful if we understand how to analyze it and apply it in meaningful ways. That is what this forum is all about.

"Today's forum has brought together true leaders in analytics – considered the best in the world – who will inform and excite you about analytics-driven innovation."

Analytics ruled the day, as each speaker laid out the importance of this ever-evolving science that may be on the verge of changing the way businesses market their products to the consumer.

"Analytics are a key focus area for this college," said Muma College of Business dean Moez Limayem. "We have faculty who are experts in business intelligence, decision sciences and information systems, of course, but we do more than house a lot of really smart professors.

"We teach students to use that data to shape their ideas, to come up with creative solutions to business challenges, to defend their decisions," he said. "And we are doing so in a way that bridges the gap between academia and industry, through practice center projects, certificate programs and other training options."

The keynote speaker, Ron Kohavi, works with Microsoft and said his company constantly bases experiments on data analytics as a way to improve products and bump revenue. He said little tweaks here and there can result in tens of millions of dollars in boosted profits.

Kohavi, considered the guru of modern data analytics who is widely recognized for revolutionizing online testing platforms, is a preeminent authority on data and analytics and the retrieval of pertinent statistics.

"I am shocked at how good we are in coming up with new ideas," he said. Microsoft is considered one of the leaders in data analytics, but it takes failures to learn anything, he said. Failures happen about a third of the time as do successes. The other third: a flat no change.

"We do about 300 experiments a week in Bing, MSN and Microsoft Office," he said. "A single treatment is exposed to millions of users, sometimes tens of millions." Still, data analytics can be tricky.

"The best data scientists are skeptics," he said. "Any figure that looks interesting or different is usually wrong."

The audience included cutting-edge business leaders, corporate executives and invited faculty from across the nation, all of whom are learning new criteria on which to base decisions that can make or break the bottom line. Data, they were told, grows exponentially with Internet browsing and purchasing, social media engagement, GPS traffic and health and business transactions that generate massive amounts of data; data that can be mined and used to make strategic business decisions that can mean

the difference between plummeting revenues or untold success.

Khanh Luc, '99, a lead technician with Jabil, said she has taken data science classes at USF and will take some new ideas from the forum back with her to Jabil.

"This is the first data analytics forum for me," she said.

Heather Cole, president of Lodestar Solutions, a company that helps businesses understand data analytics and how it can help increase revenue, is no stranger to the field of study.

"But the next step," she said, "is how the heck do I deliver this data to businesses? Even small businesses can benefit from this.

"But this forum," she said, "was awesome."

The forum, which also featured Raghav Madhavan, managing director and chief data scientist for UBS Financial Services in New York, and Omar Besbes, associate professor at Columbia University's business school, showcased the culture of analytics-driven innovation and put on display USF's reputation in the state, the nation and the world as one of the leading universities in big data and analytics research.

Industry observers agree that without the right data, business leaders are simply people with uninformed opinions. Big data holds important implications for businesses of all sizes and types. According to software giant Domo, in each minute, Facebook users share 684,478 pieces of content, Google receives over 2 million search queries and consumers spend \$272,070 on web shopping and within these numbers lie clues that can bump profits. Business leaders are beginning to learn that paying attention to such data can help them make informed decisions affecting the directions of their corporations.

Other presenters at the forum were Tracy Bell, '89, senior vice president of enterprise media monitoring at the Bank of America; Joe Kwo, chief information officer at Fintech, Jim Stikeleather, MBA '87, USF Trustee who has written about data and analytics for the *Harvard Business Review*, and Brian Fuhrer, '84, senior vice president of product leadership for Nielsen.

Balaji Padmanabhan, a professor with the college's Information Systems Decision Sciences department and director of the Muma Center for Analytics & Creativity, along with Wolfgang Jank and Tim Heath, put together the event.

"We want this to be an idea generator for your businesses," he told the audience.

— KEITH MORELLI '78 | Muma College of Business



PHOTOS

Left: A newborn is monitored in Tampa General Hospital's NICU.

Pg. 19: Professor of pediatrics Dr. Terri Ashmeade observes a newborn.

Engineering professor Dr. Rangachar Kasturi and doctoral student Ghada Zamzmi.

MEDICAL ENGINEERING

Facial recognition software helps measure pain felt by newborns

FOR GENERATIONS, NURSES TENDING to newborns have been able to tell the subtle difference between a baby's cry of hunger and that of pain.

That ability to distinguish those differences is now being combined with continuous facial expression recognition software in hopes of offering a new way to help health



Babies cannot tell us when they are experiencing pain, or how intense their pain might be.”

– Terri Ashmeade, MD

care providers more precisely gauge whether a baby is experiencing pain or simply needing a diaper change.

Neonatal experts in the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine are partnering with facial expression recognition experts in the USF College of Engineering to

build data that combines known information collected through facial expression recognition capabilities with the knowledge from nurses who have years of training and on-the-job experience using the neonatal infant pain scale (NIPS).

“Our intent is to develop a methodology and technology to allow us to better detect when the patients we are caring for experience pain,” says Terri Ashmeade, MD, MS '09, professor of pediatrics in the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine and chief quality officer for USF Health.

“Babies hospitalized in the NICU experience many painful procedures and research has shown that these painful experiences are associated with altered development of the infants' brains and can impact them long term. Babies cannot tell us when they are experiencing pain, or how intense their pain might be. So the most important thing about this research is that, by coupling computer vision technology with vocal responses, we can have a fuller understanding for what our patients are experiencing and know when we should intervene. And that precision in knowing when they are feeling pain would prevent us from exposing babies to medications they don't need.”

The preliminary study looked at 53 infants in the NICU at Tampa General Hospital. Using small video cameras attached to infant incubators, the researchers

collected footage of the young patients before, during and after scheduled procedures and interventions. The footage was examined later through facial expression analysis software and was also coupled with vital signs that were measured in sync with the footage, with audio that was also collected, and with near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS), which measures oxygen levels in the brain.

All of those datasets – facial expressions, body movements, sounds of crying and vital signs – were combined and then matched with the nurses’ own professional expertise of what particular cries and facial expressions mean, the NIPS score. The resulting overlay could provide a tool in a NICU that would constantly monitor a baby and then alert the health care team when there is evidence the baby is feeling any distress from pain. Currently, these NICU-skilled nurses build in typically hourly assessments of the infants to gauge a NIPS score – the new technology would offer round-the-clock monitoring.

This use of computer vision and pattern recognition adds a new dimension to existing software, says Rangachar Kasturi, PhD, the Douglas W. Hood Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, USF College of Engineering.

“USF’s expertise in computer vision and pattern recognition is well known, so naturally we have a strong interest in using it to help this population,” Dr. Kasturi says.

“The key difference here is that we’re not trying to recognize or identify a face, we are measuring the baby’s muscle movement and how their creases and lines move, to determine if they are experiencing pain. We are comparing the nurses’ scores with those we get from the technology to determine how accurate our scores are. We want to replicate what these talented nurses do so the babies can be constantly monitored.”

In gauging facial expression, capturing known meanings in babies can be difficult, says Ghada Zamzmi, a doctoral student in the USF Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

“There are common expressions such as happy, sad, angry, etc. that we know about adults, but those cannot be applied to newborns,” Zamzmi says. “In this study, we are capturing the facial muscle movements in video, or optical flow, and classifying them as relating to pain or no pain. In addition to facial expression, we are automatically analyzing other signals, such as sounds, body movement, and heart rate to increase the reliability of detecting pain in case of missing data. We believe developing an automated multimodal system can provide a continuous and quantitative assessment of infants’ pain and lead to improved outcomes.”

This type of technology and assessment could be used beyond the NICU, including for any patient who is not able to communicate directly with their health care team about whether or not they’re experiencing pain, such as

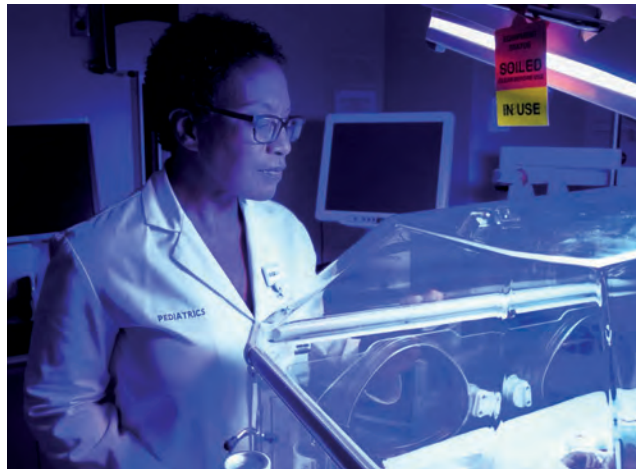


Photo: RYAN NOONE | USF

patients with dementia, Dr. Ashmeade says.

NICU babies are some of the most vulnerable patients and require multiple medical procedures – even surgeries – that are painful, Dr. Ashmeade says.

“These newborns, many of them born prematurely, cannot communicate their feelings, which is why and how the nursing staff has become the go-to experts for gauging the babies’ needs,” she says. “While we have had many successes in neonatal care and improving survival of our babies, what we really want to focus on is a great outcome. Anything we can do to foster appropriate development, especially of the brain, is what we want for these babies.”

In addition to Ashmeade, Kasturi and Zamzmi, researchers on the study included: Chih-Yun Pai, MS '16, Dr. Dmitry Goldgof, and Dr. Yu Sun. This preliminary research was supported, in part, by a 2016 USF Women’s Health Collaborative Seed Grant. The team has applied for further funding from the National Institutes of Health and expects to hear if an expanded study is approved by fall 2017. In June, the research will be presented in Norway at the Scandinavian Conference on Image Analysis, which is sponsored by the International Association for Pattern Recognition.

– SARAH WORTH '86 | USF Health



PHOTOS

Jenings is the first guide dog in training being raised by Anthony Loffler through the USFSP Puppy Raisers club.

Opposite page:

From left, USFSP Puppy Raisers Club president Stephanie Campos, with members Melissa Simpson, Michael Oravits and Paige Sharp.

Anthony Loffler and Jennings.

CAMPUS LIFE

USFSP embraces ‘Puppy Love’ culture of guide dogs

PRECOCIOUS PUPPIES HAVE BECOME A STAPLE of campus life at USF St. Petersburg. In a new first for the USF System, USFSP has established a Puppy Raisers Club, partnering with Southeastern Guide Dogs (SEGD) to enable students to assist in raising and training future guide and therapy dogs.

“Our ultimate goal was always to have students raising future guide dogs on the university campus,” said Kathy Saunders, ’83, a volunteer area coordinator for southwest Pinellas County for SEG D. While taking graduate classes at USFSP, she decided to start a campus club to help recruit new puppy raisers.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity for civic engagement for the students,” said Deni Elliott, chair of the USFSP Department of Journalism and Media Studies. Elliott, who is visually impaired and has been aided by guide dogs for more than 17 years, serves as the club’s faculty advisor. “It’s also a great opportunity for people on campus to learn

about disabilities and how people with at least one type of disability get around. It furthers our university mission to promote diversity.”

To create the club, Saunders sought tips and guidance from other college campus puppy raiser clubs around the United States, including Rutgers University. Once she had drafted a constitution and bylaws for the club, she applied to establish the club at USFSP.

The student organization operates with three levels of members: puppy raisers, puppy sitters, and general members. Puppy raisers currently can only live off campus and have to train the dogs throughout the day to meet strict standards. Sitters must be trained and can handle the puppies but do not reside with them. General members support the club but do not raise or handle the dogs.

Elliott and Saunders have worked to further change the culture at USFSP with the help of Jake Diaz, dean of Students, by establishing the “Puppy Love” Living Learning Community. Thus far, eight students have signed up to live in the new LLC in Residence Hall One this fall. Up to four students will live together in a suite, and one puppy will be assigned to each suite.

Anthony Loffler, a political science senior, was the first



of USFSP's two puppy raisers. Loffler, 25, lives off-campus with Jennings, a 7-month-old female yellow Labrador. He takes her with him to class and to coffee shops while he studies. Michael Oravits, 20, became an official raiser of Howie, a 3-month-old lab, in March. Oravits spends six to eight hours per day training Howie and brings him to the Debbie Nye Sembler Student Success Center on campus, where he serves as the center's unofficial mascot.

In addition to working with puppies on campus, some USFSP students have completed internships at SEGD in the organization's Genetics and Reproduction Department. Biology junior Stephanie Campos is one of the students who recently completed an SEGD internship. During the spring semester, she performed data entry, prepared medications for the dogs, and learned about the female heat cycle and how to monitor the dogs via blood work and progesterone.

"Going behind the scenes and watching the process really put things in perspective—seeing all those people work together to achieve one common goal—was an incredible experience," Campos said.

— Stories by CASEY CRANE '06 | USFSP

Alum receives Pulitzer for investigative journalism

ERIC EYRE, A USF ST. PETERSBURG JOURNALISM ALUMNUS, was named a Pulitzer Prize winner in April. The prestigious award in the category of Investigative Reporting was given for his story series on the opioid drug crisis and related overdoses in West Virginia. The report uncovered that drug wholesalers unloaded 780 million hydrocodone and oxycodone pills into the state over a six-year period, during which time 1,728 West Virginians fatally overdosed on the medications.

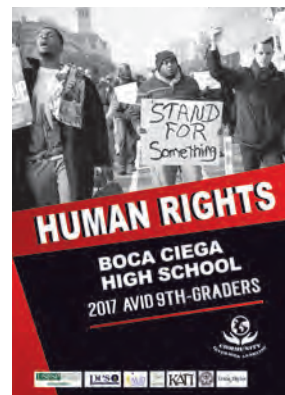


"It's really a testament to years of grinding it out as a beat reporter doing investigative projects on the side over the course of 25-plus years," says Eyre, 51, a statehouse reporter for the *Charleston Gazette-Mail* in Charleston, W.Va. Eyre began working there after receiving a master's degree in mass communication from USFSP in 1998. He has reported on topics that include education, health, business, and state government and legislature. "So many people, including the professors at USFSP, have helped shape my reporting."

After graduating with a bachelor's degree from Loyola University of New Orleans in 1987, Eyre worked as a journalist for several years before enrolling at USFSP in the late 1990s. He was the recipient of a Poynter Fund Fellowship, which paid for his tuition and provided a stipend.

In 2006, Eyre was named an Ethics Fellow at The Poynter Institute.

Students help high-schoolers write human rights book



USFSP GRADUATE STUDENTS Trace Taylor and Nicole Darbois, '07, are making a difference in the lives of 65 local high school students with the guidance of education faculty member AnnMarie Alberton Gunn, PhD '10. The trio designed and implemented a human rights writing workshop with ninth-graders at Boca Ciega High School. The resulting content was published in a book, *Human Rights*, this spring.

The project was born from Taylor and Darbois, who were enrolled in independent studies with Gunn.

"They shared a lot of the same goals, so I introduced them and we all met to discuss the idea of completing a joint project," says Gunn. "They talked about their expectations and designed a writing curriculum that focused on universal design for learning and social justice issues."

Darbois, a high school teacher at Boca Ciega High School, and Taylor met in mid-January and developed a plan for the workshop. By early February, they were teaching the curriculum to Darbois' Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students.

The high school students studied and researched topics relating to human rights and engaged in college-level conversations via an online discussion board. They watched videos and read articles and books relating to the human rights topic of their choice.

The publication of the book was celebrated at a book signing event in April in the USFSP University Student Center. The event that showcased the work of the student authors was a collaboration between the USFSP College of Education, Boca Ciega High School, the USFSP Bishop Center for Ethical Leadership, Kappa Delta Phi, and the nonprofit Community Leveraged Learning.

COMMUNITY RESEARCH

Offering hope and new skills to prisoners

ONCE A WEEK, TWO USF SARASOTA-MANATEE professors trade in their campus classrooms for an entirely different educational experience: They teach entrepreneurship at a state prison.

Since September, Dr. Jean Kabongo, an associate professor of business, and Dr. Jessica Grosholz, an assistant professor of criminology, have spent three hours each Monday teaching business skills to inmates at Hardee Correctional Institution, an hour east of the USFSM campus.

The class, Introduction to Entrepreneurship, teaches how to launch and grow a small company, but it also delves into lessons the professors hope impact their students during and after their incarceration.



Once they serve their sentences they'll come out, and when they come out they must be prepared to do something to be reintroduced to society once again."

– Jean Kabongo

The idea, they explained, is to encourage the inmates to develop entrepreneurial mindsets by recognizing opportunities, generating ideas and researching ways to support their ventures. Indirectly, the class teaches them to focus on a single goal and recognize that it's OK to stumble and start over – the fate of many entrepreneurs.

"Once they serve their sentences they'll come out, and when they come out they must be prepared to do something to be reintroduced to society once again," said Dr. Kabongo, who teaches strategic management and entrepreneurship.

The 10-week course concluded in late April with a graduation ceremony. During the ceremony, the inmates made minute-long "elevator pitches" describing their companies and products. Afterward, they received certificates of completion and a book by inmate-turned-



entrepreneur Joseph Robinson.

The course was one of the most in-demand ever offered at Hardee – 900 of the institution's 1,500 inmates signed up when it was introduced last September. Prison officials narrowed the class to 15 to make it manageable.

Though many of the inmates lack a formal education – the course's only requirements are to be able to read and speak English – they pored over the material voraciously, arriving each Monday eager to learn.

"It was probably one of the most rewarding experiences of my career because of how appreciative they were that we were even offering the class," Dr. Grosholz said.

The final class proved especially moving. As the prisoners came forward to present their elevator speeches, they offered heartfelt thanks to Drs. Grosholz and Kabongo. Some, among them Derrick Johnson, struggled to keep their emotions in check.

"Prison is a hard place, a hard place, and the fact that you come out every week from a university, it just means a great deal to all of us," he said.

The inmates described an array of businesses, from a landscaping venture, to a mobile car-detailer to a women's mixed-martial arts (MMA) facility. The MMA community apparently lacks skilled trainers for female fighters. As the sport's popularity grows, it's only a matter of time before more women clamor for expert trainers to up their performances.

The professors agreed that many of the ventures could become successful businesses, however their main interest is whether the inmates exhibit changes in mindset.

Because they couldn't locate studies relevant to their ideas, the two decided to conduct their own program evaluation, which led them to Hardee. Recently, they

PHOTOS

Left: Dr. Jessica Grosholz, assistant professor of criminology.

Right: Dr. Jean Kabongo, associate professor of business.

received a \$10,000 grant from the USF System to aid their efforts.

The classroom where the classes are held sits in a one-story, concrete-block building across a compound rimmed by chain-linked fencing and razor wire.

Once inside, it resembles any other, with a white board, rows of desks and a water fountain. One difference emerges, however: The room lacks modern technology, such as computers, which forces the inmates to write everything on paper by hand – not that they seem to mind.

One inmate, Richard Meissner, said he appreciates learning something, anything, to help on the outside. He's up for parole in May 2018 and hopes, if released, to start a landscaping business. "For an ex-con, I think it's something I can do right out the door."

For other inmates, just learning is enough.

"I like spending my time learning and doing something different from everything else in here," said Robert Anderson, 57, who proposed selling organic beauty products as an online retailer and wholesaler to beauty suppliers. "Between the two, I think there's a market for these products."

The professors said they've never felt anxious or threatened. They're monitored constantly by safety devices attached to their belts, and if not for the location – and the students' matching light-blue uniforms – they might be in any adult-education class.

There is one difference, though: The Hardee students welcome homework. It eats up the long hours between sessions.

"They were like sponges, absorbing as much information as we could give them," Dr. Grosholz said.

– RICH SHOPES | USFSM

USFSM STUDENT HONORED AS 2017 NEWMAN CIVIC FELLOW



Campus Compact, a Boston-based non-profit organization working to advance the public purposes of higher education, has announced the 273 students who will make up the organization's 2017 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows, including USF Sarasota-Manatee's **Corinne Tucker**.

Tucker is one of just 16 students from Florida to earn the designation and the only student within the USF System. She is a dedicated fourth-year psychology student involved in many extra curricular activities on behalf of women's rights and education equity on and off campus.

BIG *Numbers* Top 20

MILKEN INSTITUTE RANKS USF IN TOP 20 OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

USF is ranked 19th in the nation out of 200 universities analyzed by the prestigious Milken Institute in a new report examining how institutions are faring in turning basic research into technologies, products and companies – a process known as "technology transfer."

The report, "Concept to Commercialization: The Best Universities for Technology Transfer", underscores USF's rise as a leading national research university and a leader in generating new United States patents, spinoff companies and commercialization agreements.

7th *in the nation*

USF RANKED NO. 7 IN THE U.S. AMONG "GOLDEN AGE UNIVERSITIES"

USF is the seventh best public university in America and 34th best university in the world, according to new rankings released earlier this year comparing universities founded between 1945 and 1966.

The "Golden Age Universities" rankings unveiled by the *Times Higher Education (THE)*, a global higher education news publication, offer a unique analysis of USF and like-aged institutions. Traditionally rankings show how USF, founded in 1956, compares with all U.S. and international universities, most of which were established more than 100 years earlier.

USF is the only university in Florida and the southeastern United States to be ranked a Golden Age University among 201 global universities.

10th *in the nation*

CENTER FOR ENTREPRENSURSHIP AMONG THE BEST IN THE WORLD SAYS AACSB

USF's Center for Entrepreneurship, recently ranked No. 10 in the nation for the quality of its curriculum, was named among top 35 programs on the planet in April.

The ranking came from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the world's largest global education network. The announcement said that the entrepreneurship educational program at the University of South Florida was recognized for its commitment to creating and implementing cutting-edge interdisciplinary entrepreneurship educational programs for all USF students and "fostering entrepreneurship in the next generation of business leaders."

Athletics



PHOTOS

Above: USF Football kicked off the 2017-18 season with the spring game at Corbett Stadium on April 15.

— Stories by TOM ZEBOLD
USF Athletics

FOOTBALL

Football: Looking ahead

NEW HEAD COACH CHARLIE STRONG'S USF football program is building a ton of momentum for the 2017 season and the surge of fan support started back on April 15.

Corbett Stadium, USF's on-campus soccer home, welcomed its largest crowd yet for the spring game that came down to the wire. Senior receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling hauled in two touchdown catches during his 123-yard day and his 51-yarder made the difference in the Green team's 15-14 comeback win over the White team.

"We're going to need this crowd and we're going to need it each and every week," Strong said. "Like I said, we're a big-time program, so we have to carry ourselves like we're a

big-time program. We need support and it's going to come from our fans."

USF's skyrocketing spring game attendance was a further reflection of what the program accomplished in 2016.

Last season, USF finished its record-breaking 11-2 run ranked No. 19 nationally and the Bulls also ranked third in the country with an increase of 10,961 fans per game for seven home games in 2016, according to data released by the NCAA this April. USF saw average attendance in Raymond James Stadium increase from 26,578 fans per game in 2015 to 37,539 in 2016. The increase of 41 percent year-over-year ranked as the fourth-largest percentage increase nationally.

Tickets for 2017 continue to sell at a rapid pace with season plans currently available on USFBullsTix.com. Ticket mini plans and group sales are available to purchase

starting May 15, while USF alumni, faculty and staff get a 20 percent discount on all tickets. Fans also can purchase tickets for current and former members of the Armed Forces by participating in the Seats for Soldiers program on USFBullsTix.com.

Three Bulls go pro in 2017 NFL Draft

After making program history, USF matched its highest total since 2013 with three Bulls selected in the NFL Draft.

USF all-time leading rusher Marlon Mack became the first Bulls running back to get drafted when he went to the Indianapolis Colts in the fourth round. Rodney Adams became the program's highest-selected receiver when the Minnesota Vikings picked the St. Petersburg native in the fifth round.

Tackle Kofi Amichia became USF's third-ever offensive lineman to get drafted by going to the Green Bay Packers in the sixth round. USF football saw its total of NFL Draft picks rise to 28 in 20 years of the program, with 17 in the last seven years.



PHOTO
USF all-time leading
rusher Marlon Mack



PHOTO USF System President
Judy Genshaft and Athletics
Director Mark Harlan welcome
Head Coach Brian Gregory.

Photos: USF ATHLETICS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

New coach for men's hoops

USF FOUND JUST WHAT IT WAS LOOKING FOR and more in Brian Gregory, the new head coach of the men's basketball program.

Gregory was introduced as the 10th men's head coach in program history in front of a packed Sun Dome Arena Club on March 22. Gregory spent nearly a decade as an assistant coach under Michigan State head coach Tom Izzo and was a consultant for the Spartans last season.

"When I set out to find a new leader for our basketball program, I had very specific characteristics at the top of my list," Director of Athletics Mark Harlan said. "An experienced head coach, high integrity, championship background, a program builder and a coach who develops and graduates players. Brian Gregory checks all these boxes and so much more."

Between Georgia Tech (2011-16) and Dayton (2003-11), Gregory has led programs to six 20-win seasons and six NCAA appearances in 13 seasons as a head coach. He's only two wins away from No. 250 in his head coaching career and he's coached 24 players that achieved their NBA dreams.

"Coach Gregory brings championship experience to USF and a proven ability to identify, recruit and develop student-athletes who excel on the court and in the classroom," USF System President Judy Genshaft said.

Gregory was anxious to start building the program from his first day on the job and he's assembling building blocks at a furious pace. Within two weeks of his press conference, Gregory put together a coaching staff that includes Scott Wagers, a highly successful recruiter in Hillsborough County, along with Tom Herrion, a former head coach at Marshall and College of Charleston.

Gregory's other coach hiring is a name that should ring a bell with Bulls fans. New assistant Chad Dollar played for the Bulls from 1990-93 and was on the roster for USF's 1991 NIT and 1992 NCAA tournament teams.

"I am thrilled about bringing Chad Dollar back into the USF men's basketball program," Gregory said.

Gregory and his staff immediately hit the recruiting trail to find talent that will help put USF back on the national men's basketball map. By the second week of May, USF's signee list was up to six players – Justin Brown, David Collins, TJ Lang, Nikola Scekcic, Laquincy Rideau and Alexis Yetna.

Under his watch, Gregory promises to fully utilize the Bay Area and the state of Florida in the recruiting process.

"There's too many good players, recruits, coming out of this area," he said. "... We have to do a much better job of that and we're going to do it."

Photos: AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP



PHOTO

Justin Roberts (right) is mobbed by his teammates after clinching the win for the Bulls.

— Stories by TOM ZEBOLD
USF Athletics

TENNIS

Spring of rings

USF ATHLETICS' SPRING OF RINGS started with a sweet tennis sweep at the American Athletic Conference Championships.

USF's impressive seventh-seeded women's team defeated the top three seeded teams to capture their second American title, capping things off with a 4-2 upset of No. 1 seed Tulsa in the championship match. Conference coach of the year Cristina Moros' Bulls began their NCAA tournament run against Miami in Gainesville on May 13.

USF's men's squad captured its fourth consecutive American crown by rolling past the No. 8 and 5 seeds before handing rival UCF a 4-1 loss in the title match. Ashley Fisher was named conference coach of the year in his first season as head coach of USF, which opened the NCAA tournament against Duke in Athens, Ga., on May 12.



Sports highlights

MEN'S GOLF

USF men's golf completed a pair of league three-peats on the way to the Baton Rouge (La.) Regional, the program's fifth straight NCAA postseason appearance.

USF secured its third consecutive wire-to-wire victory at the American Athletic Conference Championship, finishing 15 strokes ahead of Cincinnati and Houston on April 25. Shortly after, Steve Bradley was named conference coach of the year for the third straight season.

BASEBALL

USF baseball's 2017 season has already been filled with remarkable feats.

Prior to the postseason, USF reached 40 wins for the first time since 1996 after defeating both Florida State and Florida on the road, a program first for a season. USF set another program single-season record with 572 strikeouts after earning top 25 rankings in both major college baseball publications for the first time since 2013. Head coach Mark Kingston's Bulls built a lot of momentum by winning 19 straight games, the second-longest streak in program history.

On top of all that, USF raised nearly \$13,000 for the Vs. Cancer Foundation and Tampa General Hospital in an effort to increase awareness of childhood cancer. USF has raised nearly \$40,000 for the Vs. Cancer Foundation and TGH since joining the fight three years ago.



PHOTO
Marcus Epps

PHOTOS: USF ATHLETICS

SOCCER ALUMNI

Men's soccer stars ink MLS contracts

TWO FORMER USF MEN'S SOCCER STARS ARE NOW officially members of Major League Soccer.

Marcus Epps signed a contract with Philadelphia after the Union selected the midfielder 25th overall in the MLS SuperDraft on Jan. 13. Lindo Mfeka inked a multi-year contract with San Jose after being drafted 28th overall by the Earthquakes.

Epps and Mfeka became USF's first draftees since 2015 and increased the Bulls' total to 23 MLS draft picks.

STUDENT ATHLETE SUCCESS

USF Athletics honored 73 student-athletes taking part in the university's spring commencement ceremonies at the Sun Dome the weekend of May 5 to 7.

This marked the program's largest graduating class since 2012; more than 100 student-athletes graduated from USF in the 2016-17 school year. USF Athletics posted a program-record 86 percent graduation success rate among student-athletes in the latest reporting.



Unstoppable

Helping a memory and the music of WSMR live on

BY DAVE SCHEIBER
USF ADVANCEMENT

CLASSICAL MUSIC FLOWS through Ernie Kretzmer's warmly furnished waterside home in Sarasota like the air he breathes. Tucked in a peaceful nook beyond the bustling shops of St. Armands Circle, the house has radios in every room – from well-worn portable transistor models to modern components to a special hook-up that triggers compositions from the genre's greats whenever his garage door opens.

"I counted 19 of them," Kretzmer says in a soft voice, his 92-year-old eyes sparkling through wire-rimmed glasses at the sheer size of the diverse collection.

The ageless works of the masters, broadcast around the clock on WUSF's classical station WSMR, comprise the soundtrack of a quiet yet extraordinary life.

“

I want the station to succeed in the future, and for people to appreciate radio. I want to keep it alive.”

– *Ernie Kretzmer*

They connect through the decades to a young boy in Nazi Germany comforted during thunderstorms at night by his father playing violin pieces from Mozart, Schubert and Beethoven and other legends, and his mother's gentle duet notes on the piano.

They reach back to the tiny radio he would often hide under the covers in bed near Cologne, pretending to sleep while instead listening to the calming masterpieces broadcast from major European cities. They accompany his move to America, the doctorate he earned in electrical engineering from prestigious M.I.T. and an impressive 34-year career at Bell Laboratories, inventing numerous devices related to electronic sound wave and data transmission.

And they lead today to a landmark gift Kretzmer has given WUSF Public Media to name Classical WSMR's master control studio. While undisclosed, the amount will make a profound impact on the region's only completely classical music station, which serves as a portal to the arts, and features more than 30 performances each year from the studios at USF Tampa and USF Sarasota-Manatee. "I want the station to succeed in the future, and for people to appreciate radio, which is somewhat of a dying art," he says, his words tinged with the accent of his home country. "I want to keep it alive."

WUSF general manager JoAnn Urofsky explains that Kretzmer's gift will allow the station, still in its relative infancy, to flourish in maturity. "It will help set us on firm financial footing, so that we can plan for a robust future serving the community with classical music," she says. "And it will ensure that our music will touch people's lives for years to come."

Specifically, she notes, Kretzmer's investment will provide much-needed support – beyond funds raised during annual campaigns – to stage more live performances, enhance partnerships with local arts and cultural organizations, promote opportunities for students to learn about classical music, and motivate others to give as well.

"This gift takes the station from existing to thriving," Urofsky adds. "And that's what we will remember Ernie for – that he made the difference."

Ernie and his late wife Alisa made the difference for so many organizations in their adopted hometown – starting with a gift to the Sarasota Music Festival in the mid-1980s, then giving across the board to such local arts organizations as the Sarasota Ballet, the Sarasota Orchestra and Sarasota Opera. Their love grew out of heartbreak and a shared passion for the arts. Yet to fully understand its depth, you need to know what transpired before their paths crossed some 35 years ago.

The Kretzmers were like so many German Jews caught up in the rising tide of the Third Reich, yet among the lucky families to escape before it was too late. A friend in England offered a lifeline, vouching for the family and allowing them legal passage to Great Britain in 1939.



PHOTO Ernie Kretzmer's Sarasota home is filled with music and memories. His radio collection spans every room, with music from Classical WSMR playing constantly and the grand piano his late mother played when he was a child is proudly displayed.

Unstoppable



PHOTOS
Ernie Kretzmer's gift bears the name of his wife Alisa, who passed away in 2015. Their shared love of classical music and the arts inspired his gift.

An M.I.T.-educated electrical engineer, Kretzmer's career at Bell Labs spanned 34 years.

A year later, believing their children would have a better future in America, Dr. Eugene Kretzmer and his wife Lilli managed to secure visas in London. And the entire family – including 14-year-old Ernie, his older sister and maternal grandmother – boarded one of the last boats bringing immigrants to the pre-war United States, with British warships providing an escort to fend off German submarines.

Ernie attended high school in New York City, mastering English easily and displaying an unusual aptitude for technical arts – with an ongoing love of radio and tinkering with electronics. After the family relocated to Worcester, Mass., he was eventually accepted at M.I.T., earning his master's and doctorate there. As a teaching assistant, Kretzmer even invented a pre-transistor device called a phase meter that earned him healthy royalties and ample attention.

He was soon recruited by Bell Labs, moving to New Jersey. And it was there he met his first wife. They had a son and daughter and built a full life together. But sadly, after 27 years of marriage, she succumbed to cancer and died in 1981, leaving Kretzmer with a void that seemed impossible to fill.

That changed on New Year's Day 1982, when a mutual friend introduced him to a woman who had moved to New Jersey from Israel, Alisa. She had also been recently widowed and they soon fell in love and



married, bonded by a common interest in the arts. Kretzmer's retirement was at hand, and the couple decided to make their new home in Sarasota, which Ernie had once seen described in Time magazine as "a cultural pearl of Florida."

The rest is Sarasota philanthropic history. They became angels to every major arts organization in the city, avid attendees of multiple events virtually every week – and constant listeners to WUSF's classical offerings on Ernie's many radios. "I remember when I first met them early in my career, and how excited they were to tell me that they had been to four live music

“

This gift takes the station from existing to thriving. And that’s what we will remember Ernie for – that he made the difference.”

– JoAnn Urofsky

performances that day,” Urofsky says. “I just remember how genuinely happy they were.”

By then, they were already official members of the station, supporting both radio and TV. They went on to become founding members of Classical WSMR and its 24-hour format in 2010, helping with the creation of the Sarasota Broadcast and Performance Studio on the USF Sarasota-Manatee campus. Ernie began sponsoring matching challenges for WSMR, encouraging listeners to give – a practice he enjoys to this day. The couple even took a station-sponsored classical music cruise and sightseeing trip in Europe, singing sweetly to each other on bus rides between cities. All the while, Ernie and Alisa derived pleasure from making the world a better place through giving.

“They were guided by the tradition of ‘tikkun olam,’ which is Hebrew for ‘repair the world,’” says Veronica Brady, senior vice president of the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, the Sarasota-based organization that partnered with the Kretzmers to handle much of their philanthropic efforts. “That spirit of giving back – giving to do good – is central to Ernie. And I’ve had many a donor say to me, ‘I’ve seen Ernie Kretzmer supporting this, I think I will as well.’ I loved to see the joy that Ernie and Alisa had together in their commitment to each other, and that commitment translated to their philanthropy.”

When Alisa grew ill several years ago, Ernie’s commitment to supporting the things she loved – that bonded them as husband and wife – never wavered. He was devastated to lose her in 2015, but channeled his grief into a memorable, deeply meaningful gesture. Working with WUSF Associate Development Director Kathy Jordan, he decided to honor his late wife with the naming of the Ernie and Alisa Kretzmer Studio, a change that will take place pending approval in June from the USF Board of Trustees.

On a recent morning, he stands in his living room reflecting on his life as a Mozart concerto plays in the background. A Feurich grand piano rests in a corner – the same one played by his mother in Germany, and later by Alisa. A nearby shelf holds an



Photos: Courtesy of USF Advancement

array of plaques honoring the Kretzmer’s generosity, including Outstanding Individual Philanthropist from the Southwest branch of the Association of Fundraising Professionals – nominated by five different organizations. Several feet away, a poster board displays dozens of photos of Ernie through the years, with Alisa featured prominently – a 90th birthday gift from his personal assistant. Ernie has kept it in a central spot so it is never far from view. “I never grow tired of looking at it,” he says, smiling.

Her presence is forever a part of him. So, too, are the soothing works that connect his past and present, from childhood fears in Germany to sunset years in Sarasota. They play from morning until night on his radios, keeping the memory of his cherished late wife, and the classical music he loves, living on in timeless harmony. ■

PHOTO
From left, USF System President Judy Genshaft, Kretzmer, WSMR classical host Bethany Cagle and personal assistant Dorathea Sandland at a WUSF Leadership Society Event in 2015.

\$991,822,482 REASONS TO SAY THANK YOU!

The USF: *Unstoppable* Campaign has raised more than \$990 million from people like you. Together we are Unstoppable. Read more about the campaign at www.unstoppable.usf.edu.



Helping the Unseen

USF faculty, students and alumni apply their expertise and time to stand up for the vulnerable



BY RACHEL PLEASANT, '03, '16

THEY'RE ALL AROUND US. In the waiting room at our doctor's office, in our classrooms, maybe even right next door.

Yet, despite their prevalence, refugees and victims of human trafficking often remain unseen, even hidden, in our communities.

Often referred to collectively as "vulnerable populations," refugees and human trafficking victims endure unthinkable hardships, face unimaginable challenges, and present complex issues that University of South Florida System researchers are working to address.

Their findings are informing government agencies and aid organizations, building awareness and a sense of responsibility among the public, and ultimately, easing the vulnerability of these most vulnerable populations.

USF faculty, students and alumni are also well represented among those in the Tampa Bay region volunteering their time and expertise to welcome and support persons forced to flee their homes due to civil strife, systematic violations of human rights or disasters (see sidebar pg. 42).

Hu·man Traffick·ing

The United Nations defines human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by force, abduction, fraud, deception or coercion for the purposes of exploitation, though the most common by far are sex and forced labor. Another widely accepted definition is more succinct: modern slavery.

21 million
victims worldwide

\$150 billion
annual industry

3rd *highest cases*
in the United States:
Florida

84% *women*

30% *minors*

Sources: International Labour Organization,
National Human Trafficking Hotline



Almost 30 years ago I had my first experience with human trafficking. I was teaching self-esteem classes, and there was a 13-year-old girl in my class. One day, she asked if she could start bringing her 4-year-old sister. I agreed. There was something just not right about the little sister. I just knew something was wrong. I was so conflicted that I reported it. The authorities found that the girls' grandmother was trafficking them. It changed my life and inspired my life's work. My message to others is if you see something or feel something in your gut, report it. You could save a life.

— Dotti Groover-Skipper, '92, anti-trafficking coordinator for the Salvation Army's Florida divisional headquarters

Identifying trafficking risk factors and entrapment schemes

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, a U.N. Agency, estimates there are 21 million human trafficking victims worldwide, who supply an industry worth \$150 billion annually. According to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline, Florida had the third-highest number of cases of human trafficking in 2016, with 550. Of those, 84 percent involved women; 30 percent involved minors. To be clear, human trafficking happens everywhere, but within the state, one of the areas with the most reported activity is Tampa Bay.

Dottie Groover-Skipper and other experts say that for all that is known about human trafficking, there is still much to learn.

How do traffickers find their victims and who is most at risk?

How can trafficking be prevented?

Why do victims who have been rescued often return to their traffickers?

These are the questions USF researchers are working to answer.

USF St. Petersburg assistant professor of criminology Joan Reid, '04, MA '04 and PhD '10, has identified factors that put individuals at risk of being trafficked as well as the strategies traffickers use to ensnare their victims.

Reid is now using her data to develop materials that will raise awareness among teens, empowering them to identify warning signs and take appropriate steps to prevent trafficking. Earlier this year, she presented her research to the Florida Statewide Council on Human Trafficking; Attorney General Pam Bondi chairs the 15-member committee that includes Groover-Skipper.

Reid's extensive review of human trafficking cases in

Florida, published earlier this year in the *American Journal of Public Health*, found that sexual abuse is the strongest predictor of human trafficking among both underage males and females, but neglect, exposure to family violence, and emotional abuse were also predictive for one or both sexes.

Disturbingly, Reid also found that females with intellectual disabilities are especially at risk.

"The percentage of girls with intellectual disabilities among sex trafficking victims was 30 percent, which is significant because only 1 to 3 percent of the general population has an intellectual disability," Reid said.

"Among girls who have intellectual disabilities, there is often a lack of sexual education. They don't have enough awareness of sex to understand the difference between sex and romance, a boyfriend and a john. They are very easy to manipulate."

Even children who aren't intellectually disabled can easily fall prey to trafficking schemes, Reid says, because traffickers are adept at identifying and exploiting weaknesses of any kind.

Her research revealed traffickers begin relationships with their victims by offering them what they want most. For victims who come from abusive or broken homes, that might be love and attention. For victims who come from poverty, that could be food, clothes, or a cell phone. For victims seeking to belong, it could be friendship; traffickers often use young girls to recruit new victims.

Once they've endeared themselves to and gained the trust of their victims, traffickers begin to shift the relationship.

Traffickers "normalize sex," Reid found, by exposing their victims to pornography, taking sexually explicit photos of them, or joking with them about prostitution. They give their victims drugs or move them away from their families and friends,



PHOTOS

Above: Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman, PhD, researches the emotional ties between the trafficked and their captors.

Joan Reid, PhD, researches the factors that put individuals at risk for trafficking.

thereby deepening the victim’s reliance on the trafficker.

Then the trafficker demands that the victim begin making money to repay his or her generosity. The person who first seemed to be a friend has morphed into a pimp.

“One of the traffickers in my research was quoted as saying, ‘If you promise them heaven, they’ll follow you to hell,’” Reid says.

As victims endure the horrors of human trafficking, the relationship with their trafficker shifts yet again.

“There is trauma bonding that happens between the trafficker and the victim. Many victims will develop Stockholm syndrome, meaning that even after all they’ve been through, they still trust and feel affection for their trafficker,” Reid says.

Reconceptualizing traffickers and rescue

The emotional ties between traffickers and the trafficked is at the heart of research assistant sociology professor Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman, PhD, is conducting with “adopted daughters” in Brazil.

“I’m talking about women, largely black women who are poor, who have been ‘taken in’ by wealthy families under the guise of adoption, without any formal legal documentation

or transfer of guardianship. They are taken in with the promise that they’ll be well educated and have opportunity. Sometimes that happens, but many times it doesn’t,” Hordge-Freeman says.

Instead, “adopted daughters” often live in slave-like conditions. They spend their days cooking, cleaning, and caring for the family’s children, while receiving little to no pay and enduring physical and emotional abuse. Many are not allowed to attend school, even as the children they raise go on to become doctors and lawyers.

Most women in Hordge-Freeman’s Fulbright-funded study are in their 50s and 60s. Several were “adopted” as small children and some have few, if any, memories of their biological families. However, one woman is only 19, proving the “adopted daughters” problem persists even today.

Dire as the conditions with their “adoptive” families prove to be, even when given the option to leave, most women in Hordge-Freeman’s study refuse. If they do leave, they soon return.

“They stay for both structural and individual reasons. Without education, limited social networks, and lack of economic self-sufficiency, their survival outside of these families would be difficult. However, there is also an important individual reason that is linked to affective ties. In some cases, they have raised three generations of the same family, and they don’t have families of their own. All their networks are completely connected to this one family,” she says.

“The women realize they’re being exploited, but they feel they belong with this family.”

Hordge-Freeman, whose forthcoming book on Brazil’s “adopted daughters” will be titled *Second Class Daughters: Informal Adoptions as Neo-Slavery in Brazil*, is now applying her work in Brazil to American trafficking victims. One of the most glaring similarities, she said, is the bond between victims and perpetrators. The affective ties that exist between the two sides hinder rescue efforts.

“In many cases, the victims may actually return to their traffickers as a result of practical economic considerations, difficulties in reintegrating into society, and, or, due to the affective ties to the trafficker,” she says.

Helping victims successfully transition out of their situations, Hordge-Freeman said, will require long-term, trauma-centered support services and therapy to fulfill whatever needs the trafficker was meeting.

Hordge-Freeman’s research will help rescuers better understand and assist victims.

Groover-Skipper, who says she and the trafficked prefer to use the word survivor rather than victim, works in resourcing, training and expanding the Salvation Army’s shelter and housing options for trafficking survivors and helping communities create their own programs. She agrees that human trafficking survivors require extensive, multifaceted support services.

“The real work begins after the rescue. The survivors need mental health services. Many suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. They lack employability and

life skills. Those who have been trafficked since they were children have trouble even making small decisions, because they've always had someone telling them what to do. I've seen them struggle to choose between yellow and green bed sheets," she says.

Research-based trafficking prevention and intervention

Because trafficking victims will forever bear the psychological scars of their abuse, Groover-Skipper said prevention and early intervention are imperative. She recently worked with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to train strip club owners to identify signs of human trafficking.

Internet safety is an important component of human trafficking prevention and a research focus of Assistant Professor of Instructional Technology Nathan Fisk, PhD. The internet, he said, is much more effective as a forum for marketing the "services" of human trafficking victims than it is for luring victims. Nonetheless, online predators do pose real dangers to children and teenagers — especially when children and teens are struggling with problems in their offline lives.

"There really is no difference in our online and offline lives," said Fisk, a member of the first cohort of Fulbright Cybersecurity scholars. "The kids most likely to be victims online are the ones who feel they have no one to talk to offline."

Fisk said what the shopping mall and roller rink were to previous generations, the internet is to today's children. It's where they meet and socialize with friends, where they feel most like themselves.

His studies have found that parents and caregivers should view internet use as an indicator of their child's overall wellbeing.

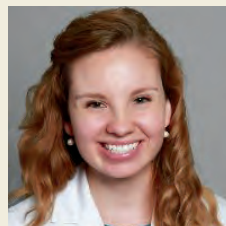
"If your child is disappearing online for long hours at a time, and much longer than he or she used to, do you know why? Have you tried to engage them? The healthier our children are offline, the less susceptible they are online," he says.

Assistant Professor of Criminology Bryanna Fox, PhD, a former FBI agent, researches the role of social media in human trafficking investigations. She and graduate student Michelle Jeanis have developed trainings for Tampa Bay law enforcement agencies on how to use social networks to raise public awareness of missing persons potentially at risk of being trafficked.

"Social media is the milk carton of the 21st century," Fox says.

Fox, Jeanis and a team of undergraduate students are also currently examining data from NamUs, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, and the Doe Network, to develop typologies of missing persons, including traits of those who have become trafficking victims, which will aid law enforcement agents in their investigations.

Student perspective



Human trafficking, behind the scenes

PHYSICIANS ACROSS MANY SPECIALTIES are treating trafficked persons in their practice. Yet, they are not trained to recognize human trafficking or know how to intervene. Studies have shown that 88 percent of U.S.-born sex trafficking victims reported receiving medical care while being trafficked. This puts health care providers in a key position with these vulnerable individuals to aid in identification, prevention and intervention, but only if they are educated about the clinical presentations of human trafficking. In an effort to increase health care's capacity to fight human trafficking, I worked behind the scenes at my medical school's simulation center, creating a clinical scenario centered on treating a trafficked person for my fellow students to learn from.

This case was designed to expose future physicians to the complexity of human trafficking. The simulation center provides a learning environment to explore uneasy feelings in difficult clinical scenarios and practice building trust. It is okay to become flustered and misspeak — this experience is formative; however, when the students are the practicing physicians in a few short years, stakes are higher.

Watching through the two-way mirror, I saw students grow. Most were courteous; however, few took the extra effort to build a certain degree of trust with their distracted patient sitting on the examination table. This patient's clipped responses to questions often intimidated many students, leading them to shy away from asking heavy questions about her history with abuse.

Patients benefited the most from those students who were compassionate. Students who succeeded built a relationship by being empathetic. They looked beyond the exterior of a stoic young woman and offered her confidentiality, demonstrating respect for her decision to disclose. Their tone was non-judgmental and gentle when they took notice of her brandings that signaled her trafficking history. The objective of the case was not for the student to learn how to be a knight in shining armor, but to discover the uneasy feeling of knowing that something is not quite right — a feeling that so many providers describe. With this unease it is crucial to introduce the concept of empowering patients and gaining their trust, understanding that each interaction with trafficked persons can build his or her resolve.

What I hope for when standing behind the glass is that students will understand that this interaction can help the trafficked person gain control over their decision to leave. That we, as health care professionals, are not here to merely tell patients that they must leave their trafficker. Rather, our aim should be giving them tools to be able to leave successfully, with their own self-reserve. One of the most important tools recommended is to give access to the National Human Trafficking Hotline through 1-888-373-7888 or texting HELP or INFO to 233733. The lines are available 24/7 and connect victims to numerous resources across the United States, equipping victims with the knowledge to safely escape trafficking.

Michelle Lyman | USF Health Morsani College of Medicine

Michelle Lyman is a rising fourth-year medical student in the SELECT Program at the University of South Florida. She currently lives in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where she completed her third-year clerkships. She is interested in public health and patient advocacy.

Excerpted with permission from *In-Training*, the online magazine for medical students.

Ref·u·gee

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees defines refugees as those “forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence ... a refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.”

*According to **UNHCR's 2015 Annual Global Trends Report**, global forced displacement increased in 2015, with record high numbers. By the end of the year, **65.3** million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide – **5.8** million more than the previous year.*

*On average **24** people worldwide were displaced from their homes every minute during 2015 – some **34,000** persons per day.*

Source: UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency - Global Trends Forced Displacement in 2015



Every day, I would watch the news about the Syrian refugee crisis. One day, I said to myself, 'I have to do something about this.' I came up with a plan, convinced my parents, wiped out my bank account, and bought a ticket to Greece. I raised \$12,000 — \$2,000 more than my goal— on social media before I left. I arrived at Lesbos on Dec. 31, 2016. Lesbos is a Greek island and the site of a Syrian refugee camp. The people arriving there have paid smugglers to take them across the Aegean Sea. They make the trip even in the worst conditions, because it is their only chance of escaping the violence at home. They are freezing and soaking wet when they arrive. I remember my shoes got wet while I was helping refugees off one of the boats, and I thought, 'I need to buy some boots.' The refugees have left everything behind. They can't simply buy a new pair of boots. Later, I made a video of myself walking through an area of Syria that had been destroyed. I realized that none of the refugees wanted to leave. They didn't even know where they were going. They only knew they had to leave.

— Sameer Jagani, who is studying for his master's degree in Medical Science, has raised more than \$100,000 to aid Syrian refugees

As for intervention, health care practitioners play a crucial role, says Vinita Kiluk, MD, assistant professor of general pediatrics at USF Health Morsani College of Medicine. She conducts trainings for medical students, residents and experienced physicians on trafficking. Telltale signs they should be watching for, Kiluk said: avoidance of eye contact, tattoos of barcodes or dollar signs, and domineering family members or friends who speak on the patients' behalf.

"Traffickers aren't going to bring their victims to the doctor until the situation has grown very serious. Say the victim has asthma, the trafficker will try to treat that at home, with cough medicine, or anything he or she thinks might help, before they come to the doctor," Kiluk says.

"That's why it's so important for physicians to be aware and sensitive to these warning signs. If they don't help then, they might not get another chance."

Medical students who volunteer at USF's BRIDGE Clinic learn about human trafficking not only in their medical school coursework but also during an orientation session at the start of their volunteer service. They're also trained to ask new patients about their backgrounds, including any history of rape or other trauma that might signal they are being trafficked, said Lucy Guerra, MD, a faculty advisor at the clinic.

Humanizing the refugee experience through education

In 2016, the Florida Department of Children and Families reported Hillsborough County accepted 5,084 refugees.

Only Miami-Dade, with 41,185, accepted more refugees. Statewide, the majority of refugees are from Cuba, but other top countries of origin include Afghanistan, Burma, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Iraq and Syria.

Graduate student Sameer Jagani has seen firsthand the desperation that leads refugees to flee their countries — and the gratitude they feel when they are accepted elsewhere. But for most people, the refugee experience is shrouded in mystery and misconception.

USF researchers are working to change that because, they say, understanding is central to the successful integration of refugees into American society.

"Refugees leave their countries because of war, terrorism, or threats against themselves or their families. They leave because it's either leave or be imprisoned, tortured or killed," said Jody McBrien, PhD, an associate professor in the School of Education at USF Sarasota-Manatee whose research focuses on refugee students.

"So many people misunderstand the definition of a refugee. They often think refugees are here illegally or that they pose a threat to society. Research and policy show that such beliefs are false."

In educational settings, where McBrien has concentrated her research, the language barrier poses the greatest challenge for refugees, but a close second is a lack of integration.

The more support refugee students receive, for instance through after-school programs and athletics, the more successful they will be and the more they can enrich the educational experiences of other students.

“The more compassion and understanding refugee students are shown, the better they can help other students understand the refugee experience,” McBrien said. “We can start dispelling some of the stereotypes surrounding refugees in our classrooms.”

McBrien uses her research in her classes at USF Sarasota-Manatee, preparing a new generation of educators to be positive influences in the lives of refugee children.

Putting research into action

McBrien’s research has shown the power of connection and community for refugees, and Elizabeth Dunn, ’07, ’08 and MPH ’11, assistant to the director of the Global Disaster Management, Humanitarian Relief, and Homeland Security program in the USF College of Public Health and an adjunct faculty member, sees the difference it makes every day.

About 10 years ago, as an undergraduate student majoring in marine biology at USF, Dunn was required to complete an interview with someone with whom she had virtually nothing in common. She chose to interview a Bosnian refugee.

“It made me think about when I was 8. I thought I had problems, but they were nothing compared to what he went through. That interview led me to change my career path,” Dunn said.

Dunn would go on to earn undergraduate degrees in economics and international studies, and later a Master of Public Health from USF. She’s since worked with post-conflict recovery efforts in countries around the world, as well as here in the United States as a volunteer with the American Red Cross.

Through the Red Cross, Dunn learned of the Tampa Bay Refugee Task Force, an organization headed by USF alumna Janet Blair that unites refugee service providers. Dunn serves on the Task Force’s mental health and youth subcommittees.

Dunn has found numerous ways to bridge her work on campus and in the community, and in doing so has inspired her students to get involved in refugee assistance as well.

In fall 2016, in response to slashed budgets for programs for refugee children, Dunn and her students, as well as students from the USF College of Education, with assistance from the Task Force, initiated an after-school program at the University Area Community Development Center in Tampa and a morning program at Hunter’s Green Elementary School in New Tampa. Dunn’s students have since created a nonprofit organization and a youth soccer program. They’re serving nearly 150 refugee children.

Dunn has observed positive changes both within the refugee children and her students.

“The refugees have survived. They are resilient. They just need to be empowered to succeed. They want to work and make a difference, and do things to make the world a

USF in action

These are just a few examples of how USF faculty, students and alumni are welcoming refugees to the Tampa Bay region and working to help them succeed:

- Janet Blair, MA ’94, is head of the Tampa Bay Refugee Task Force, a coalition that unites organizations serving refugees throughout the community. USF alumni, faculty and students also work with numerous other programs providing refugee services.
- USF researchers and students contributed to the creation of Tampa Bay Gardens, a community garden that gives refugees a space to grow food to feed their families and forge connections with one another.
- USF students and alumni participate in numerous initiatives throughout the community, including welcoming refugees when they arrive at the airport, serving as translators, and collecting items and funds to help refugees start their new lives in America.
- Each fall, USF hosts a National Welcoming Week Festival to celebrate refugees and immigrants, the diversity of their cultures, and their contributions to American society.
- In March 2017, USF’s Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement organized “Passages,” an event to simulate the vetting process refugees must complete before they can enter the United States.



Photos: SANDRA C. ROA | USF



PHOTOS

Above: Hussien Abdulwafi, USF doctoral student in education, coaches refugee children via a program developed by Partners in Engaging and Empowering Refugees (PEER), an organization founded by faculty, students and alumni.

Page 42, top:
Riyza Jose, a co-founder of PEER, with USF faculty, students and alumni. Jose hosted a table during the event to sign up volunteers and sell T-shirts to raise funds.

Pages 42-43: Student volunteers showcase their work with refugee organizations on campus and in the Tampa Bay community during the United We Stand event hosted by students from the Disaster and Humanitarian Relief Student Collaborative. Participants at the event learned about volunteer opportunities, cultural tolerance and refugee programs around Tampa Bay.



better place. With the right support, I've seen that happen so many times.

"I see my own students develop a world awareness and a selflessness. They're putting a human face to the population we're studying. They're seeing refugee children as kids who just want to play soccer because it's a beautiful day outside. Many are choosing to go to work in the field, with the State Department or with refugee camps overseas."

Jagani is one such student whose career aspirations have changed because of his interactions with refugees. Before entering medical school, he plans to earn a Master of Public Health with a concentration in Global Disaster Management and Humanitarian Relief. He continues to spread awareness of the refugee situation in Syria, receive donations through his website, youcaring.com/soaw, and plans to return to the country to volunteer with relief efforts.

Human trafficking victims and refugees as lessons in human rights

Human trafficking and refugee resettlement are issues in and of themselves, but crossovers do occur. It's not hard to imagine scenarios in which refugees, struggling to learn a new language and way of life, could be taken advantage of by labor traffickers, for instance. Dunn herself has worked with refugees in such situations.

Whether considered separately or combined, human trafficking and refugee resettlement are central to the study of human rights, says Rachel May, PhD, associate professor of Latin American Studies and director of USF's Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean.

May, who in 2014 helped to organize a landmark conference on human trafficking through a partnership with U.S. Southern Command, said trafficking and refugee resettlement are frequent topics of classroom discussion and, increasingly, the subjects of master's theses. An



PHOTO

Refugee children play soccer in a program developed by PEER, which leads activities such as soccer to help build community among refugee youths.

PHOTOS: SANDRA C. ROA | USF

understanding of both are critical for all students, regardless their intended field of study, she says.

“The antislavery movement is central to how we define human rights ... As a nation we have an obligation to the international community to protect refugees. It is fundamental to international law and human rights,” she says.

“These are issues that can be seen through an epidemiological lens and addressed through an interdisciplinary approach. These are complex issues that require the kind of complex thinking that researchers and students across the USF community are engaging in every day.” ■



Learning English

Students use refugee stories to help new refugees learn English

ANTHROPOLOGY PROFESSOR ROBERTA BAER, PHD, AND HER STUDENTS are creating reading materials that will help new refugees learn English — and feel less alone as they adjust to life in America.

In fall 2016, students in Baer’s newly created Oral Histories course conducted interviews with 21 refugees.

Those interviews have since been transcribed and turned into stories written on a fourth-grade reading level. After some finishing touches, they will be bound and made available to Caribe, a division of the Hillsborough County Public Schools that provides English-language instruction to refugees.

Copies of the book, titled *American Stories*, will also be provided to libraries throughout the Hillsborough public school district.

A grant from USF’s Office of Community Engagement & Partnerships funded development of the course and the cost to transcribe the interviews. Baer’s graduate assistant, Emily Holbrook, has conducted much of the work to finalize the book of stories.

Baer said both the connections the students have made with the refugees, and the materials they have created, are powerful.

“The students have started to realize the challenges that refugees face, and for the refugees, the chance to connect and begin to interact with an American is very interesting,” she says.

“The refugees have left everything behind. What they have left is their stories. It is a wonderful contribution to record their stories and turn them into a useful product that will help new refugees.”

Baer expects the book to be complete by August. Then she and a new class of students will begin volume two.



PHOTO Sadiki Bertin relaxes during a meeting with other Congolese refugees in Tampa. He arrived here about seven months ago and works as a dishwasher; in his former life, he was a teacher and social worker.

Getting here is just the

BY KIM FRANKE-FOLSTAD

BEGINNING

Lutheran Services Florida, led by COO Christopher Card, PhD '10, helps refugees build new lives

YOU EXPECT TO SEE GRATITUDE, AND YOU DO.

These young men, five refugees from the Congo, are grateful to be in the United States and safe. They're happy to be in Tampa, particularly, where the weather and the people are warm and welcoming.

What you don't expect – at least not to this degree and not so soon after their arrival – is their determination to make the most of the chance they've been given. To build a community that contributes and someday produces leaders. To remember their home even as they make a new home here.

"We are looking to do our best in Tampa," Sadiki Bertin says. So he and his friends and fellow refugees – five on this night, but sometimes more – gather often to discuss their challenges and how to overcome them. In a tidy Tampa home filled with children and the smell of something delicious on the stove, they crowd around a single laptop to work out their plans.

They got here and that was, of course, the major hurdle. To be approved for resettlement in the United States was a dream come true.

But language impedes them now. It slows them down. More importantly, it slows down their children, who can't do their schoolwork and can't turn to their parents for help. No one speaks any of the languages they know except, maybe, French. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a country with more than 200 languages and dialects, but few people learn English.

"We have a lot of talent, and we cannot show our talents because of the language barrier," Bertin says.

That's not a complaint, though. It's a goal.

Lutheran Services Florida gets about two weeks' notice to find a place for a refugee or a refugee family to live. In that time, the non-profit agency must help find work, a school, and to check off a long list of necessities required by the federal government – everything from a sofa and mattress to light bulbs, pens and paper.

Then a representative meets the family at the airport and takes them to their new home (or sometimes, temporarily, a hotel) and helps them settle in. The organization continues its support as they become a part of the community, assisting with

medical referrals, cultural orientation, language tutoring and other social services.

Bertin, the four men meeting with him and their families have all been served by this Tampa-based agency. The organization has been doing this work officially since 1982, when it was established as Lutheran Ministries of Florida. But unofficially, Lutheran churches here have been assisting refugees since 1975, when the Vietnam War ended and thousands sought safety in the U.S.

Congregations in Florida reached out with food, clothing and temporary homes. As time passed, their

efforts became more organized, with the churches sponsoring employment programs to help refugees build better lives. In 1980, when thousands of Cubans arrived during the Mariel Boatlift, the churches stepped in again.

Since 1982, Lutheran Services has served more than 150,000 refugees fleeing religious and political persecution in oppressed and often war-torn countries. Ninety-five percent of the refugees it works with come from Cuba, with the balance from Central America, Haiti, Bosnia, the Congo and elsewhere. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service is one of nine partner agencies chosen by the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants to assist refugees upon their arrival in the country, and Lutheran Services is one of its affiliates.

“These are people who have seen a lot of pain, chaos and disruption in their lives,” says Christopher Card, PhD ’10, president and COO of the agency. “We get to sort that out. And it works most of the time.”

An important part of that effort is providing high-quality services in a collaborative manner, says Card, who came to Lutheran Services in 2012 and also works as an adjunct instructor at USF’s School of Social Work in the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences.

Over the years, the organization has built strong relationships with local charities, churches and employers, adds Lourdes Mesias, director of LSF Immigration and Refugee Services.

Churches and charities help with bike drives, and provide bedding, household and hygiene supplies. Housing can be challenging since landlords must accept tenants with no credit history or references. Transportation options for refugees are usually limited to the bus, a carpool or a donated bicycle, but employers know the workers come with energy and strength, she says. “Business owners come back and say, ‘Let me help.’”

Most get entry-level jobs. Bertin, a teacher and social worker in his homeland, has been working as a dishwasher. Others land on assembly lines, or in the hospitality and landscaping industries.

A lot depends on the economy and the current job market but outreach coordinator Greg Musselman, ’77, is always out there “making miracles,” Mesias says.

Like Bertin and his friends, Lutheran Services aims to build a foundation for refugees that leads to their success in the community, and to create citizens who will someday vote and lead. “They want to be self-sufficient,” Mesias says.

It’s a plus to be in Florida, which is truly a melting pot, she says. “This is a country of immigrants. Florida believes that and supports that. This is refugees helping refugees.”

Even with their limited English, Bertin and his friends spend much of their time translating for others. They go to schools to help parents communicate with teachers.

PHOTO Left to right, Issa Saidi, Patrick Bulambo and Sadiki Bertin listen during a meeting at Jerome Swedi’s Tampa home. The group of men and their families are Congolese refugees.



They go to clinics to help interpret conversations between doctors and patients. Their phones ring constantly and they always take the calls, they say, even if it means getting little sleep.

“We will teach each other how to change and live as Florida people,” Bertin says. “This is a place for opportunity.”

It’s this kind of ambition that fuels the volunteers and employees at Lutheran Services – and it’s what they see in most refugees, Card says.

“There’s a lot of tragedy and heartache in this work. What keeps me coming back are the success stories. A lot of the media talks about failures – crimes or things that didn’t go well. But those who work at it see the success.” ■



How to Help:

Lutheran Services Florida appreciates donations of money, furniture, bicycles and household goods. Volunteers are also needed.

“What do you like to do?” asks COO Christopher Card. It can be anything from teaching children about your hobby to practicing English with a refugee. “If nothing else, you can pray for the organization and the staff that serves us,” he says.

For more opportunities to help, go to www.lsfnet.org or contact Terri Durdaller at terri.durdaller@lsfnet.org.

Photo: Courtesy of Lutheran Services Florida



PHOTO Christopher Card, PhD '10, is chief operating officer for the nonprofit Lutheran Services Florida, which has served more than 150,000 refugees since 1982. Card also teaches at USF's School of Social Work.



From your Alumni Association

My Fellow Bulls,

A FEW WEEKS AGO, OUR ALUMNI FAMILY GREW by 6,500 after a marathon nine commencements over four days. We now number 321,000 proud graduates, which is phenomenal – especially considering that just 53 years ago we had exactly 325.

We've come a long way since that first parking lot ceremony on Dec. 22, 1963, and I'm not talking about our 100 percent recycled caps and gowns! Long before they graduate, today's students get a hand up from thousands of alumni through scholarships, leadership programs, and mentoring activities that teach skills and provide the sense of belonging crucial to their success.

Alumni support doesn't end when they walk across the stage. Since 2013, your Alumni Association has given every new graduate a complimentary one-year membership, which helps them stay connected to USF and their fellow Bulls and provides invaluable resources as they launch their next chapter.

If you're a fairly recent graduate receiving this magazine for the first time, you may not realize it comes to you as one of the many benefits of your membership. In these pages you'll find insightful articles that take a deep dive on national conversations, such as this issue's focus on coping with the highest number of world refugees ever recorded. You'll also learn about new research and innovations at USF that address global concerns, from cybersecurity to climate change.

We hope our new graduates and all Alumni Association members take advantage of this and other benefits. And when your complimentary membership expires, we hope you'll become paid members -- for life. I hope you agree that giving back is "just the right thing to do!"

Alumni Association membership is one of the main ways all of those thousands of alumni and friends give the next generation a hand up. Your membership supports scholarships – more than \$5 million and counting. It grows leaders through three student groups: USF Ambassadors, Order of the Golden Brahman, and the Student Alumni Association, USF's largest student organization with more than 6,000 members.

Programs and activities such as networking dinners for students and alumni and CampU for incoming freshmen help equip our youngest Bulls for success today and beyond.

We know there's power in numbers – just look at all we've accomplished since that first sand-swept parking lot convocation:

- No. 1 in the nation for student success (National Research Center for College & University Admissions)
- No. 9 in the world for U.S. patents granted to universities
- No 1. most veteran-friendly university in the United States (*Military Times magazine*)

Help USF continue charging ever upward by joining your Alumni Association if you're not a member; signing up your spouse or parent or child if you are; renewing your annual membership; or becoming a Life Member.

Remember, you don't have to be an alumnus to become a member of your Alumni Association. You just have to want to make a difference at our great university.

Go Bulls!

BILL McCAUSLAND, MBA '96
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, USF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
LIFE MEMBER 2331

Meet your 2017-18 USF Alumni Association Board of Directors



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Heart of a LION

*The Lion King's' Nala,
Broadway star Kissy Simmons, '98,
always returns to her pride*

BY KIM FRANKE-FOLSTAD

SHE WILL WEAR YOU OUT.
In a good way.

Kissy Simmons is one of those people – all energy and good humor and pluck.

At USF, she came in as a track star and left as a star ... period. On graduation night in 1998, when everybody else was getting a diploma, she was debuting on the stage at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center (now the David A. Straz Performing Arts Center).

Just three years later, Simmons was cast as Nala in the first national tour of Disney's "The Lion King." In 2004, the young woman who'd been recruited as a USF high jumper made the leap to the Broadway stage as Simba's smart and independent love interest. She played the part for nine years, including on Broadway, on tour, and in Las Vegas.

"I didn't know how anything was going to work out, quite frankly," says Simmons, 42, of the grab bag of goals she had back in college. She changed her major five times, and thought about journalism as a job or maybe getting her master's degree. She finally settled on a bachelor's in speech communication, but athletics and performing were her true passions.

"It's the story of my life," she says. "I was always into everything. Girl Scouts, band, cheerleading, drama, chorus. I ran my mom crazy."

She still has to pinch herself, sometimes, she says, to be sure this is all for real. That a girl from a town with just one traffic light, Floral City, is in New York City surrounded by a million lights. That she's performed at Carnegie Hall and at the White House.

But it gets better.

Simmons is married, for 18 years now, to her college sweetheart, Anthony Vaughan, a 2000 engineering grad. The two have a 5-year-old daughter, Sadie.

"I saw him first," Simmons says of Vaughan. He was a junior, she was a freshman, and they hadn't yet met, but she said to herself, "That's the boy I like." She didn't know

he was a track athlete, too, until she ran into him when they both showed up for their team physicals, and again at their first team meeting.

They were married at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. "And they ran it like a performance," she says.

When she took the touring gig as Nala, Vaughan went with her. He got a merchandising job with the company, then started doing fitness training for people in the show (including her). And that was it – he'd found his calling, too, and he is now a successful personal trainer in New York.

Daughter Sadie is named for her grandmother and, like her mother, she loves both big city and small town life. When they see family in Florida, Sadie immediately takes off her shoes and visits with the goat in Simmons' grandmother's front yard.

Simmons credits much of her success to the people in her hometown who saw something in her. Her church family, who encouraged her to perform. Her mother, of course, who named her Kissimmee for the Florida city, but said from the start that Kissy would be her "star name." And a teacher, Cheryl Israel, at Citrus High School.

"She was smooth," Simmons says. When Simmons said she didn't want to sing with the school's show choir, Israel talked her into playing the piano. Then she was cajoled into singing in group numbers – but insisted no solos. "And then it was, OK, just this one solo."

When Israel asked her to try out for the part of Rizzo in the school's production of Grease, Simmons balked. "I've seen Grease and Rizzo is a white girl," she told her teacher firmly.

Israel replied, just as firmly, "In my production, she's whatever color I want her to be."

When she moved on to USF, Simmons found more mentors who helped her have it all – a student life (she pledged the Zeta Upsilon chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha), an athletic career (she competed as a heptathlete), and opportunities to perform. They rearranged schedules to



make it work and even made sure she had something to eat.

“Everybody wants you to do one thing and be good at that one thing,” she says. “They saw more and they made it possible.”

Simmons is grateful for the choices she’s had, and glad for the route she took. She’s still at it, performing in concerts, often for Disney, and occasionally on TV, including appearances on *30 Rock* and *Smash*.

“Sometimes, if there’s a little drought, you question yourself, ‘Is there another passion I’m suppressing?’ But No.

“There is no other thing I would rather be doing,” she says. ■

Meet the Top 10 Bull-led businesses of the

2017 USF Fast 56

THE 56 FASTEST-GROWING BULL-LED BUSINESSES OF 2017 range from restaurants and IT companies to environmental consultants and health care management specialists. Their 65 Bull leaders became the newest class of Fast 56 Award recipients during a dramatic countdown to the No. 1 fastest-growing business – DCE Productions – in April.

This year, the awards' fifth anniversary, one company held a unique honor:

Flatwoods Consulting Group, Inc. became the first five-time Fast 56 recipient under the leadership of its president, Shannon Gonzalez, '98 and MS '04, Life Member,

The Accelerator Award, recognizing the business with the largest percentage of cumulative growth and more than \$150 million in annual revenue, went to Curant Health and CEO Patrick Dunham, '89. RIPA & Associates took home the Apex Award for the business with the highest annual revenue of all 56 companies. The site development company is led by CEO and owner Frank P. Ripa, '73.

The Fast 56 Awards identify, recognize and celebrate the fastest growing Bull-led businesses; the number represents USF's founding year, 1956. They're presented by the USF Alumni Association and sponsor USF Federal Credit Union. Here are snapshots of the top 10 Fast 56 businesses and their leaders. Find the complete list of inductees on page 56.

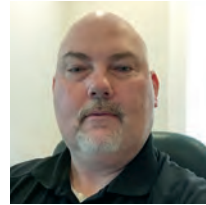


DCE Productions
Tampa

Dcelive.com

Bull Leader:
Andrew J. Hafer, '88 and MBA '90, Life Member, CEO

DCE develops and conducts technically sophisticated events for organizations around the globe. Hafer is also CEO of a second Fast 56 company, Dynamic Communities, Inc.



Impulse Healthcare Solutions
Tampa

Impulsehcs.com

Bull Leader:
Shawn Boorum, '98, Life Member, Co-founder and Managing Partner

Impulse is a health care IT services and technology organization providing services including clinical application and website security for health care systems, hospitals and clinics.



Harmony Healthcare LLC
Tampa

harmony.solutions

Bull Leader:
Christopher HG Brown, '87, CEO

Harmony is an Inc. 500 company and a leading provider of health care revenue cycle management strategies and workforce solutions, with expertise in clinical information management.



MyArea Network
Tampa

www.myareanetwork.com

Bull Leader:
Scott Conlon, '07, CEO

MyArea is a digital media company that provides local content, advertising and promotions that engage users in more than 75 markets across the United States.

1



2



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4





Lukos
Tampa

lukos.com

Bull Leader:
Garth Arevalo, '13, CEO and Co-founder

Lukos delivers professional services to the federal government, including training and operations support, support to acquisition programs, systems engineering, and research and development support.



VIBEngineering
St. Petersburg

www.vibengineering.com

Bull Leader:
Sara E. Calhoun, MS '98, President

VIBEngineering is a traffic engineering firm that offers services in transportation planning, design, and Intelligent Transportation Systems integration and construction engineering inspection.



Playbook Public Relations, LLC
Tampa

playbookpublicrelations.com

Bull Leader:
Sally Dee, '94 and MBA '11, Life Member, President

Playbook is a full-service PR and marketing firm offering public relations, crisis communications, social media management, website design, content marketing, brand creation and SEO services.



TeleVoIPs
Brandon

Televoips.com

Bull Leader:
Grant Baxley, '07, Life Member, CEO

TeleVoIPs provides hosted voice and onsite telecommunication solutions to businesses across the United States. Its advanced platform allows for real-time phone number provisioning, integration and analytics.



Quantum Peak Consulting, LLC
Tampa

www.quantum-peak.com

Bull Leaders:
Terri Gower, '94 and MBA '97, Owner and Partner
Scott Gower, '98, Partner

Quantum Peak is an accounting and finance consulting company specializing in services ranging from day-to-day accounting to providing contract CFO services for clients.



CREModels
St. Petersburg

www.cremodels.com

Bull Leader:
Mike Harris, '02, Managing Director

CREModels provides consulting and due diligence services to the commercial real estate industry. Focus areas also include financial analysis and modeling, underwriting, lease administration, technology and marketing.

5



6



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9



10



The 2017 Fast 56

Accelerated Waste Solutions, dba JUNK SHOT App
 Atlantis Constructors of SW FL, Inc.
 Atlas Professional Services, Inc.
 Bessolo Design Group, Inc.
 Big Sea, Inc.
 Bill Mariotti Site Development Co., Inc.
 BlueGrace Logistics
 Cardinal Roofing
 ClearTrust, LLC
 Colliers International Tampa Bay
 Cox Fire Protection, Inc.
 CREModels
 Curant Health
 DCE Productions
 Dealers United

Dynamic Communities, Inc.
 Environmental and Geotechnical Specialists, Inc. (EGS)
 Flatwoods Consulting Group Inc.
 Florida Wellness Medical Group
 Forge Engineering, Inc.
 Harmony Healthcare LLC
 Hinck Private Wealth Management
 HOLY HOG BARBECUE
 Hydra Engineering & Construction, LLC
 Impulse Healthcare Solutions
 Identity Fusion, Inc.
 Intex Builders, LLC
 Junto Design Studio
 JVB ARCHITECT, LLC
 Kinney Engineering LLC
 Kirkpatrick Price Inc.
 Lair Services
 Leverage Digital
 Little Greek Fresh Grill
 Lukos
 Matcon Construction Services, Inc.
 McKay Advertising + Activation

Medical Collection Group, LLC
 Medical Staffing Solutions Inc.
 Moreno Bakery Inc.
 MyArea Network
 myMatrixx
 Nsquare, Inc.
 Playbook Public Relations, LLC
 Quantum Peak Consulting, LLC
 Rain Japanese Restaurant and Sushi Bar
 Raney's Inc.
 Red Rook, Inc.
 Renyold Gosselin and Karen Tillman-Gosselin,
 Smith and Associates Real Estate
 RIPA & Associates
 Sea Level Solutions
 Square Foot Advisors
 TeleVolPs
 VIBEngineering, Inc.
 VoltAir Consulting Engineers, Inc.
 Wildlands Conservation, Inc.



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Please drink responsibly. © 2017

Congratulations to the Fastest Growing Bull Businesses

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CHANGE. MADE HERE.

More than 1,000 first-year and transfer students gathered at the Corbett Soccer Stadium at the University of South Florida to pose for an aerial photo of the class of 2018. The students formed the letters USF on the field. [August 2014]
Times Photo | Skip O'Rourke

Tampa Bay
Times

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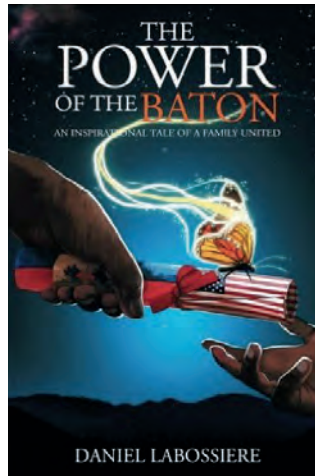


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Book shares journey of mind, spirit

WHEN DANIEL LABOSSIÈRE, '89, emigrated from Haiti during the François “Papa Doc” Duvalier era, his new home in the United States was not quite what he expected.

“My family migrated to escape political persecution, oppression and unbearable economic conditions,” he says. “Moving only changed the source of those perils.”

USF, however, changed his outlook and fortunes. After earning an accounting degree, he started Computer Mate, a successful IT company. In November, he published his first novel, *The Power of the Baton: An Inspirational Tale of a Family United*, chronicling his story.

“My four years at USF ... provided the foundation for the man I would become,” he says. “I gained greater appreciation not just for a country that I once felt had no place for me, but also for the diverse people with whom I share this planet.”



SAVE the DATE

OCT. 9 - 14

HOMECOMING 2017

Visit usfalumni.org/homecoming for details as they develop

- Oct. 12 Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony
- Oct. 13 Alumni Welcome Home Party and Running of the Bulls Night Parade
- Oct. 14 USF vs. UMass @ Raymond James Stadium and Pre-game Spirit Tent

The USF Alumni Association salutes our 2017

10 Outstanding Young Alumni

BY PENNY
CARNATHAN '82

Each of our 10 Outstanding Young Alumni, Bulls age 35 or younger who've distinguished themselves in their professions, has a story and resumé that will take your breath away.

Eric J. Biel

Criminology '13 and MBA '16

Eric Biel is co-founder and COO of Tembo Education, a social enterprise bringing early childhood education to impoverished areas of the world via text messages. Biel was a USF graduate student when he and five other students created Tembo in response to the 2015 Clinton Global Initiative Hult Prize challenge: Create a start-up that will provide basic educational needs to 10 million young children in developing countries by 2020. In a field of more than 20,000 international competitors, Team Tembo was the only U.S. representative to advance to the finals for the \$1 million prize. Named to Forbes magazine's 30 Under 30 Social Entrepreneurs list for 2016, Tembo began in Nigeria, where it's on track to serve 7,200 children by year's end. It's scheduled to launch soon in the United States.

Biel also works as an administrative specialist for USF's Department of Child and Family Studies and is a doctoral student in USF's Curriculum and Instruction program.

Florida Rep. Daniel Wright Burgess Jr.

Political Science '08

While a freshman at USF, Rep. Burgess became Florida's youngest elected official when he won a seat on the Zephyrhills (Fla.) City Council at age 18. He became mayor of the city at 26, and now is serving his second term representing District 38 – Zephyrhills and surrounding communities including Wesley Chapel and

Dade City – in the Florida Legislature. In 2016, he was instrumental in sponsoring legislation that ensures chronically ill children receive educational services. In 2017, he helped sponsor more than two dozen bills. He is chair of the House Insurance and Banking Committee.

Burgess holds a law degree from Barry University and is a captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corp of the U.S. Army Reserve, where he has received numerous awards. He works as an attorney practicing in business and contractual law with *Lucas Magazine*. He and his wife, Courtney, are the parents of Adeline and Daniel III.

Stephenie Davis

Marketing '15

As president and CEO of Davis Industrial (formerly BMG Conveyor Services of Florida) for nearly nine years, Davis has led her business to numerous accolades while serving as a role model for women in the male-dominated conveyor industry. Under Davis' leadership, Davis Industrial cracked the Inc. 5000 list after gross revenues grew by more than 880 percent in seven years, and was a 2016 finalist for Tampa Bay Small Business of the Year. Davis purchased the business at 21 years old and learned the challenging art and science of industrial conveyor services from the ground up. She adopted her own progressive approach to management, which has led to high team morale and low turnover.

Davis is a tireless supporter of numerous charitable causes, from Meals on Wheels to Red Hills Wounded Warriors and serves on the American Cancer Society's Ambassadors' Board.

Iris A. Elijah

Africana Studies and Economics, '08, Life Member

As the assistant general counsel for the State University System Florida Board of Governors (BOG), Elijah provides a range of legal services to those who oversee Florida's 12 public universities, including the BOG, its staff, and the chancellor. Elijah started work there in February 2015, becoming the youngest lawyer ever, and the first African American, to serve in this capacity.

Additionally, Elijah holds leadership positions in a number of professional organizations, including the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division and the Florida Association of Women Lawyers. Her volunteer work, from feeding the homeless to speaking with university students about professional development and leadership, has garnered multiple awards.

In her years at USF, Elijah was an active student leader and volunteer. She was the executive director of the Campus Activities Board, a Student Ambassador, programming director for the University Lecture Series, and organized the kickoff and after-party for Stampede of Service in 2006.

Amanda Evora

General Business Administration USFSM, '12

A world champion figure skater, Evora competed in the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver with skating partner Mark Ladwig. The two finished 10th, the highest ranked U.S. pairs team. She has won five U.S. championship medals, multiple international competitions, and was a Team USA member for 10 years. In 2013, Evora

Forever Bulls



Eric



Daniel



Stephenie



Amanda

Photos: MATT MAY



Iris

Ryan



Amy



Brad



Dorothy



Fason



and retired hockey player Scott Thornton placed first in Canada's competition TV show, Battle of the Blades, winning \$100,000 for their charity, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation

Today, Evora works in Ellenton, Fla., as a professional figure skating coach who has helped her clients win national championships, including three pair teams who won gold medals in 2016.

Evora is a stalwart Bulls supporter, consistently giving of her time to USFSM and its students. She stresses the importance of education, a particularly powerful message for student athletes given that she pursued a bachelor's degree at night and on-line for seven years as she trained and competed.

Ryan Gilliam

After an Academic All American Collegiate football career at USF, Gilliam traded in his cleats for a suit and began building his business from the ground up. Today, he and his wife, Alysia, co-own Pediatric Behavioral Services, an Orange Park, Fla.-based healthcare organization dedicated to helping children with autism and other developmental challenges. He invests in real estate and is the CEO of the Florida-based coaching consultancy Creating Success Associates.

Recently, the NCAA tapped Gilliam to be a part of its After the Game Task Force, a national 11-member group that includes thought leaders from NCAA Division I, II and III schools. It's charged with developing a strategic direction for helping student athletes transition into the marketplace.

Gilliam's the author of *The Cost of Greatness*, a guide to starting and growing a business interwoven with his personal story of faith and family. Ryan and Alysia are the parents of two children, Ryan Jaden and Peyton.

Brad Kendall

Communication '03, Life Member

In 2016, Kendall and his two teammates won the silver medal in the Rio Paralympic Games for sailing in the Sonar, a 23-foot keelboat. That same year, the team also won gold in the Para World Sailing Championship in the Netherlands and became the first adaptive team ever to win Sailing World Cup Miami's Sunbrella Golden Torch Award, given to the top American performer at North America's Olympic and Paralympic classes regatta.



USF opened my mind. It's not just the courses that you take, college very much changes the way you think and plants seeds that grow for years to come.”
– Amy Martz

Kendell, the son of a world-class sailor from New Zealand, grew up racing in Clearwater. In 2003, he was gravely injured in a plane crash that took the lives of his father and a friend, and resulted in the amputations of both his legs.

He's the co-founder and a volunteer coach at the non-profit Never Say Never Pirate Camp, where children with disabilities learn to sail. A senior project manager and estimator for KHS&S Contractors, he has one daughter, Piper.

Amy Martz

Communication, '04

Tampa-based photographic artist Amy Martz is celebrated for showcasing her unique perspective of visual environments with images that provide a refreshing and unexpected viewpoint, compelling people to experience even the mundane on a visceral level. Her unconventional and artistic approach results in work that intrigues viewers to further explore the architecture, artisanship and history of what gives urban landscapes character and makes them desirable.

Martz is the featured artist for Tampa's only four-star hotel, Le Meridien, where her Best of the Bay award-winning Tampa Discovery Moments art collection is displayed throughout the guest rooms, lobby and the hotel brand's award-winning arrival artwork. She has multiple pieces in the City of Tampa's permanent artwork collection and in many commercial and private collections worldwide.

Martz is a Second Screen Cult Cinema board member and former Tampa Preservation Inc. board member. She and her husband, Michael, co-own Martz Creative, Inc., and have a daughter, Myla.

Jason Pierre-Paul

Pierre-Paul, "The Haitian Sensation" defensive end for the New York Giants, has been an NFL star since the team drafted him in the 2010 first

round. He helped lead the Giants to the 2012 Super Bowl title and has been selected to two NFL Pro Bowls. After a fireworks accident in 2015 resulted in the loss of his right index finger, Pierre-Paul returned to the gridiron. He has become an outspoken public safety advocate with regards to fireworks.

Born in Deerfield Beach, Fla., to parents who emigrated from Haiti, Pierre-Paul was a star high school basketball player. After breaking his leg on the court and at the urging of his school's football coach, he took up football – a brand-new game for him -- in his junior year. In 2009, he enrolled at USF where he was named First Team All-American by Pro Football Weekly and First Team All-BIG EAST. He was drafted at the end of his junior year.

Pierre-Paul has a son, Josiah.

Dr. Dorothy M. Russ

Biomedical Sciences, '05, Life Member

After earning a bachelor's degree at USF, Russ went on to obtain a law degree at the University of Florida in 2008 and a medical degree at Meharry Medical College in Nashville in 2011. She completed her residency in family medicine at Mayo Clinic and went to work as a physician at a clinic serving homeless people. Today she's the medical director of The Russ Group, LLC, which provides primary and urgent care. She also offers pro bono legal services through the Northeast Florida Medical Legal Partnership.

A 2015 National Bar Association and National Medical Association "Top 40 Under 40," Dr. Russ serves on the board of the Jacksonville Urban League and is president of the Jacksonville Urban League Young Professionals. She's a member of the Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Junior League Jacksonville, through which she dedicates countless community service hours, from reading to schoolchildren to mentoring pre-medical and pre-legal students. ■

Where's Rocky?

Thanks to his many globe-trotting friends, Rocky goes places where no bull has gone before. If he joins you on your next trip, share your Bull pride by sending your photo and details to the USF Alumni Association.



a Proud Bull wife and mother Carolyn Vallone, married to Almondo Vallone, Criminology '82, and mom to four alumni, introduces Rocky to George Washington at the first president's home in Mount Vernon, Va.

b Rocky and Juanita Cook, Sociology '84, Life Member, practice their orienteering skills during a visit to Ketchikan, Alaska. The two were on an Alaskan cruise.

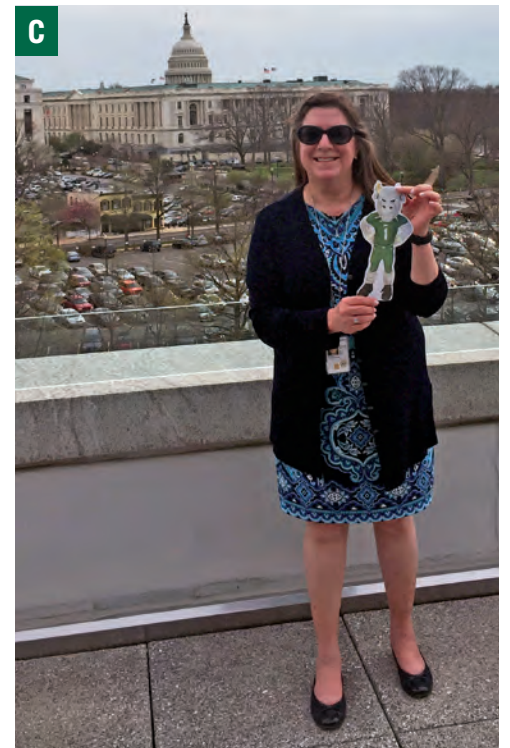
c U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Cathy Peek McEwen, Political Science '79, Life Member, 2016 Distinguished Alumna, enlists Rocky's help lobbying legislators on the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2017. The two squeezed in time for "the best crab cakes in the world" at the 116 Club.

d Braving the snow in just his basketball shorts, Rocky joins Julie Wernicki, Psychology '07, Life Member, at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

e Take your best guess where Kenneth Imperial Sr., Electrical Engineering '87, and Rocky are hanging out! "I finally remembered to bring Rocky with me on my last business trip," Imperial says.

f On a visit to the Newseum in Washington, D.C., Rocky quickly finds a souvenir in the gift shop. He toured the news museum with Bull sisters Peggy Tyre, Nursing '77 and MS '86, and Penny Carnathan, Mass Communications '82.

Email your high-resolution photo (300 ppi) and details to pcarnathan@usf.edu or mail to Penny Carnathan, USF Alumni Association, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., ALC100, Tampa, FL 33620-5455.



Chapters & Societies



Bulls make an impact

Working together, alumni make a positive impact on the world around them, whether it's helping students achieve their educational dreams through scholarships or pitching in for a cause.

a Members and friends of the Austin, Texas, Alumni Chapter celebrate their second-place finish in the 4th annual Sunshine State Stroll, a charity event involving alumni groups from five Florida universities. The proud Bulls are, clockwise from center back row: Ron Palmer, MEd '16; Michelle D'Aquino, '11; Ron McCracken; unidentified; Aly Collins, Cece Collins, Crystal Arroyo, '07; Brad Heath, '85; Rick Bronstein, Brett Bronstein, '04; and Christina Bronstein, '06.



b Music society jazz night
Music Alumni Society members greet concert-goers during their second annual Jazz Reception and Concert, a chance to socialize and enjoy free refreshments before a USF ensemble performance. Ticket sales for prize drawings benefit the Music Society's scholarship fund.



Bulls stay together

Alumni chapters and societies host socials, networking events, fundraisers, watch parties – all great reasons to get together. There's power in numbers and staying connected makes Bulls a force to be reckoned with when it comes to supporting each other and the USF System.

c The Greater Tampa Alumni Chapter and friends roll out for a day of beer sampling and Bull socializing during the Brew Bus Social, a tour of local breweries that included beer, round-trip transportation and – best yet – the chance to win Green and Gold swag.

d New York City Alumni Chapter members give a warm Florida-style welcome to new-to-the-Big Apple Bull Evelyn Barbos, '16. Enjoying brunch at the popular Santina restaurant are, from left, Evelyn, Brandon Schuster, '14; Klenton Perry, '15; and Bianca Echtler, '16.

e More than 80 USF graduates living in Polk County, Fla., gather to kick off the new Polk Alumni Chapter. For information about getting involved, email polkalumniusf@gmail.com.



Chapters and Societies

*No matter where
you live, you'll
always be a Bull!*

The USF Alumni Association has alumni chapters all over the country. We also have college and special-interest societies for like-minded alumni. It's easy to get involved. Just email the contact person of the group you'd like to visit.

INTEREST-BASED GROUPS

Anthropology Alumni

Brian McEwen
bmcewen@cachillsborough.com

Architecture Alumni

David Hunter
David.Hunter@morganstanley.com

Bulls Varsity Club

Abby Ritter
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Black Alumni

Verlon Salley
usfblackalumnisociety@gmail.com

Clinical Psychology Alumni

Demy Kamboukos
usfclinpsychalumni@gmail.com

College of Behavioral and Community Sciences

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College of Business Alumni

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Lockheed Martin – Oldsmar

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Heather Willis
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Contact us to learn about all the benefits of making a gift to help us continue our important work.

GEOGRAPHICAL GROUPS

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Tallahassee

Lisa Ann Gidula
usfalumnitally@gmail.com

Save The Date



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Class Notes



published by the National Academy of Public Administration. Sanders is the vice president of Booz Allen Hamilton and is on the board of advisors for USF's Florida Center for Cybersecurity.

80s

JANICE S. ASH, Engineering Science '87 and MSCE '89, Life Member, has received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the USF College of Engineering. Ash is the manager of the Southeast Municipal and Utilities Group for Ayres Associates.



ROBERT CHACON, Management '85, has retired as an FBI special agent after 27 years of service. Chacon relocated to Los Angeles with his wife and two rescue

dogs, where he now works as technical advisor for the TV show *Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders*.

SUSAN D. DILLENGER, MA Library and Information Science '81, Life Member, has retired after 26 years as library director for New Port Richey (Fla.) Public Library. She received the Florida Library Association's Lifetime Achievement Award at its annual conference in May.

MARGIE GENTER, New College '83 and MA '89, has been nominated for two prestigious awards by Goodwill Industries International. The Edgar J. Helms Award for Staff recognizes an individual who demonstrates unselfish service to people with disabilities, and the Robert E. Charlotte Watkins Award for Excellence in Mission Advancement honors achievement by a local Goodwill organization. Genter is vice president of Goodwill Manasota, serving Manatee and Sarasota counties.

60s

DICK PUGLISI, Political Science '64 and MA '69, (*above, second from right*) was awarded the 2017 Frances A. Stavros Career Education Champion Award at the annual Ford Next Generation Learning Conference co-sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the Pinellas Education Foundation. Puglisi is director of the USF College of Education's Gus A. Stavros Center for Free Enterprise and Economic Education.



RHEA LAW, Management '77, Life Member, has been appointed to the Tampa Electric Co. local board, which will oversee operations for Tampa Electric and TECO Peoples Gas

for corporate owner Emera. Law is chair of the Florida offices of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC. She holds an honorary doctor of medicine degree from USF.



THOMAS OLDT, Political Science '72, has been named second vice president of the Florida Bar Foundation, a statewide charitable organization dedicated to

providing greater access to justice. Oldt owns Thomas R. Oldt Investment Services LLC.



RON SANDERS, Management '73, had his book *Building a 21st Century Senior Executive Service: Ensuring Leadership Excellence for Our Federal Government*

70s

ALLISON DEFOOR II, Geography '76 and MA Criminology '79, was inducted into the USF College of Behavioral and Community Sciences Criminology Wall of Fame as a Distinguished Alumnus, having attained the highest level of professional accomplishment while demonstrating strong personal integrity.



GORDON GILLETTE, Mechanical Engineering '81 and MSEM '85, Life Member, has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the USF College of

Engineering. Gillette is the president and CEO of Tampa Electric & president of Florida Operations, a 2016 USF Distinguished Alumnus and a USF Foundation executive board member.

CHRIS REDHEAD, Finance '86, Life Member, is vice president of Sequoia Financial Group's Tampa office. The firm was recognized in *Barron's* magazine's Top Advisor Listing for 2017, the sixth consecutive year it has achieved the ranking.

CLAUDIA E. REINGRUBER, Accounting '80, Life Member, has merged her firm, Reingruber & Company, P.A. of St. Petersburg, with Saltmarsh, Cleaveland & Gund of Nashville, Tenn. Founded in 1991, Reingruber & Co. specialized in health-care accounting and consulting. She and her team have joined Saltmarsh's Tampa office.

VLADIMIR RODRIGUEZ, General Business Administration '86, has joined Accent Distributing as a dedicated territory manager for Puerto Rico and the rest of the Caribbean. Rodriguez was previously a manager at GF Professional Window Tinting LLC.

CHRISTOPHER F. SCHEMEL, Criminology '87, Chemical Engineering '92 and MSCH '94, has been awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from the USF College of Engineering. Schemel is the president and founder of Delta Q Consultants, Inc.

90s

KATHLEEN H. ARMSTRONG, PhD '96, has been nominated for the Kosove Distinguished

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Class Notes

Graduate Teaching and Service Award. Armstrong is a professor and director of pediatric psychology at USF's Department of Pediatrics.

REBA CARDILLO, Accounting '91, is celebrating 20 years of business as the president and owner of Southern Pension Services (SPS) in Tampa. SPS provides third party retirement plan administration consulting for companies offering retirement plans to their employees.

DAVID DALTON, Criminology '93 and MA '10, Life Member, was inducted into the USF College of Behavioral and Community Sciences Criminology Wall of Fame as a Distinguished Alumnus, having attained the highest level of professional accomplishment while demonstrating strong personal integrity.

JULIUS DAVIS, Electrical Engineering '93 and MBA '14, Life Member, has been awarded the Entrepreneurial Excellence Award from the USF College of Engineering. Davis is the president and CEO of VoltAir Consulting Engineers, Inc., which was a 2015 and 2017 USF Fast 56 Award recipient.

ERIC EYRE, MA '98 USFSP, has been awarded the Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting for his stories exposing the massive amounts of opioids flowing into West Virginia counties. Eyre has been an investigative reporter with the *Charleston Daily Mail* for 18 years.

VICTORIA FORTUGNO-OLIVER, Social Work '94, has been named director of Empath Partners in Care's Hillsborough County services, where she will be responsible for supervisory support of case management and supportive services. Fortugno-Oliver was previously the director of client services for the non-profit Francis House, which serves the homeless.



attorney specializing in real estate and estate planning.

DEBORAH J. GALONSKY, Political Science '97, has joined the newest law firm office of Baird Managalas Brockstedt LLC in Greenville, Del. Galonsky is an

LYNN HANSHAW, Political Science '96, has received the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award for her work in providing legal assistance to veterans. Hanshaw is an attorney with Langford & Myers, P.A. in Tampa.

JOHN HUFFMAN, Communication '90, has been appointed director of research at the Columbus, Ohio, center of Aimpoint Research. Huffman has more than 20 years' experience in market research and was previously the director of customer insights for Hertz Global.

ROBERT KANTOR, Communication '94, Life Member, has been appointed senior vice president for sales and corporate culture at Zennergy, LLC. Kantor was previously the founder and CEO of Suncoast Coffee Service and Vending, serving the Tampa Bay area.

MELISSA LARKIN-SKINNER, Psychology '92 and MA Rehabilitation Counseling '97, has been named CEO of Florida operations for Centerstone, a not-for-profit behavioral healthcare provider for people with mental health disabilities and disorders. Larkin-Skinner is a licensed mental health counselor.



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JEREMY RAMOS, Computer Engineering '99, has received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award from the USF College of Engineering. Ramos is the vice president of engineering at Priatek.

SANDHYA SRINIVASAN, MPH '97 and MED '03, has been appointed chair of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health's Learning Futures Forum where she will lead members in assessing online educational practices. Srinivasan is the director of the USF College of Public Health's Office of Educational Technology and Assessment.



LT. COL. GREGORY SUBERO, Geography '96, has retired from the U.S. Air Force after a distinguished career that included service as the U.S. Air Attache' to Qatar and work as a counter-terrorism officer in the Pentagon. Subero's major decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and Meritorious Service Medal. A ceremony was held in his honor at USF, where he received his commission through the ROTC.

BETTY VIAMONTES, Accounting '95, MAcc '97 and MBA '03, Life Member, published her third novel, *The Dance of the Rose*, and saw her first novel, *Waiting on Zapote Street*, make The Latino Author website's list of top ten nonfiction books of 2016. Viamontes is the current chair of FICPA Healthcare Conference.

SHIRLEY WHITTLE, General Business Administration '97, has joined the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance, the largest professional association in the insurance industry. Whittle is a practicing attorney with her own law firm, Whittle Law, P.A.

00s

CHERYL ALTMAN, Management '00, has joined ForeSite Residential Real Estate as a broker associate. She previously held the same position at Charles Rutenberg Realty.

DR. MARTHA DUCATEL, Biomedical Sciences '06, and **DR. WATSON DUCATEL**, Anthropology '06, have opened a joint practice, Healthy Bodies

Medical Dental Center in Brandon, Fla. Martha, a dentist, and Watson, an internist, provide a team approach to health care, offering a holistic approach that includes education.

KAREN DYER, MPH '08, MA '08 and PhD '13, has joined the Veterans Affairs Center for the Study of Healthcare Innovation, Implementation and Policy as a research health scientist. Dyer was previously a postdoctoral research fellow at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine.

DR. JENNIFER FERGESON, Biomedical Sciences '05, is the lead author of a medical article published in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, the most prestigious allergy journal in the world. Fergeson recently completed her internal medicine residency at USF.

GARIN FLOWERS, Mass Communications '09, Life Member, received a 2017 Florida Associated Press Broadcasters Professional and College Contest award. Flowers, a reporter for Tampa Bay's CBS affiliate WTSP 10News, won in the feature/light news category for his feature titled *Grieving Mom Receives Free Car from Stranger*.



PAM IORIO, MA History '01, Life Member, has been appointed to the Tampa Electric Co. local board, which will oversee operations for Tampa Electric and TECO Peoples Gas for corporate owner Emera. Iorio is president and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, former mayor of Tampa, and a 2014 USF Distinguished Alumna.



BRENDA (JOHNSON) JACOBSEN, MBA '01, has been appointed CEO of Life Cross Training (LIFE XT), a Chicago-based human performance program used to increase resilience to stress and maximize productivity. Jacobsen was previously the CEO of Lakeside Occupational Medical Centers.



NICOLE JAGUSZTYL, MA Psychology '07 and PhD '10, has been named director of information management and reporting at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa. Jagusztyl was previously an institutional research officer.

ALICIA LONG, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences '09 and MA '11, has been appointed chair of the Pura Belpré Award selection committee. Long is the reference instruction librarian at State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota.



CARLTON PARKE, History '00, has been named head of school at The Gooden School, a private Episcopal K-8 school in Sierra Madre, Calif. Parke was previously head of school at LaGrange Academy in LaGrange, Ga.

MEG ROSS, Management '04 and MA Criminal Justice Administration '08, was inducted into the USF College of Behavioral and Community Sciences Criminology Wall of Fame as a Distinguished Alumnus, having attained the highest level of professional accomplishment while demonstrating strong personal integrity. Ross is a lieutenant in the USF Police Department.



VIJAY VASWANI, Accounting '04, has joined Bennett Thrasher, a top 100 public accounting and consulting firm in the country, as managing director of its transaction advisory services. Vaswani previously served as director of mergers and acquisitions at EarthLink.

DANNY R. VERPAELE, Communication '08, has been promoted to defensive coordinator for the Valdosta State Blazers football program, where he will also retain his position as linebackers coach. Verpaele has been with the VSU program for one season.

10s

AMIE CANTER, Criminology '10, has developed an innovative new teaching method for elementary students, which she uses in her Advanced Concepts for a Better Future classroom at the Merit School in Stafford, Va. She recently published an Advanced Concepts white paper and launched a website to share her methods, which allow accelerated students to dig deeper into complex subjects.

SARAH COIT, Theatre and Music Studies '13, became a semi-finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in New York after being named a winner in the Rocky Mountain Region Auditions. A mezzo-soprano, Coit is a resident artist at the Utah Opera.

JESSICA CRONK, Mass Communications '10, was named 2017 Tampa Bay Woman of the Year by the Westchase Charitable Foundation for raising more than \$28,000 for area families affected by serious illness or tragedy. Cronk is the product marketing and event manager at YourMembership software provider, a sponsor of the Woman of the Year competition.

KAITLIN DEUTSCH, Biology and Environmental Science & Policy '15, was awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. During her studies, Deutsch discovered a deformed-wing virus found in honey bee colonies.

JAMES DOYLE, Information Technology '12, has invented a product for creating an ice cream protein shake dessert called FREEZINda, which he's now manufacturing.

ELISHA E. EKOWO, Public Health '16, has joined the WestCare Foundation in Miami as an HIV prevention specialist for the High Impact Prevention Program.



ANTHONY GAENZLE, Mass Communications '10 & MS Marketing '12, has joined Saxton & Stump LLC as the director of marketing and communications.

Gaenzle was previously the manager of digital and content strategy for Raymond A. Mason School of Business at the College of William & Mary.

LAURA K. MERRELL, MPH '10 and PhD '16, has joined the Department of Health Sciences at James Madison University in Virginia as an assistant professor. Merrell was previously a graduate research assistant at USF.

MOLLY C. MURPHY, MPA '15, has been named executive director of Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida. Murphy was previously a government analyst for the Florida Department of Financial Services.

ASSALLY RATTANACHANE, Management Information Systems '13, has been promoted to associate at JPMorgan Chase & Co. She's a graduate of the firm's corporate development program.

JAMES ROWE, Management '10, has been named assistant defensive backs coach for the Washington Redskins. Rowe was previously the defensive coordinator for the Division II Valdosta State University Blazers.



JAMI WORLEY, Psychology '11, Life Member, was one of 250 students to graduate from Stetson University College of Law this spring. Worley distinguished herself

as a research fellow in Stetson's Veterans Law Institute and as an Equal Justice Works Summer Corps Member.

In Memoriam

Alumni

- WILLIAM F. "BILL" ANDREWS JR.**, Finance '83, Feb. 9, 2017
MICHAEL CASAGRANDE, Accounting '75, April 27, 2017
HERBERT RAYMOND CLINE, History '03, March 24, 2017
DIANE S. DEW, Elementary Education '78, Jan. 13, 2017
DR. CYNTHIA G. ENLOW, Biology '91 and MD '95, Life Member, Dec. 18, 2016
LEROY LORENZA FLEMMINGS, Music Education '72, Feb. 13, 2017
CAROL E. GOLDSMITH, Special Education '79, Feb. 20, 2017
NANCY H. HANIGAN, Elementary Education '79, March 19, 2017
CARIN LEE HOUCK, Political Science '88, March 13, 2017
PATRICIA BAILEY MCLEOD, English '69, April 14, 2017
KENNETH MIESNER, Special Education '93 & MEd '99, Feb. 22, 2017
JAMES FOREE MOORE JR., Elementary Education '65, Life Member, March 5, 2017
TERRI P. MURPH, Mass Communications '87, May 2, 2017
LESTER WAYNE NEWBERRY JR., ME '69, April 17, 2017
CLAYTON SAMUEL NEWMAN, Special Education '73, April 7, 2017
JOHN D. POUCHER, Business and Office Education '73, April 14, 2017
MONA (SHIRLEY) RENNER, Social Sciences Interdisciplinary '68, March 20, 2017
CESAR RIVERO, Accounting '71, Feb. 13, 2017
KRISTA A. PURVIS ROBERTS, Early Childhood Education '81, April 25, 2017
SALLIE LOUISE SCHROYER, Distributive and Marketing Education '86, Feb. 6, 2017
RAYMOND JOSHUA SHEDDEN, Economics '05, April 20, 2017
MAGED SHOUKRY, Biomedical Sciences '11, April 10, 2017
STEPHEN EUGENE SHULER, Physics '07, March 1, 2017
JOSEPHINE SPOTO, Humanities '90, March 16, 2017
LAWRENCE HOWELL WALL, Marketing '66, Life Member, March 11, 2017
PATRICIA AILEEN WAYTOVICH, MA Reading Education, '68 and EdS '71, Feb. 12, 2017
DAWN WEIST, Interdisciplinary Studies '01, Feb. 20, 2017
JEFFREY L. WILKS, Criminology '87, March 10, 2017

Faculty and Staff

- WINSTON LEE ADAIR JR., PHD**, Professor, Molecular Medicine, April 6, 2017
RALPH BENNETT, Physical Plant Operations, April 20, 2017
DARRELL J. FASCHING, Professor Emeritus, Religious Studies, March 1, 2017
RICHARD GAGAN, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Feb. 23, 2017
JOHN A. JACKSON, Information Technology, March 11, 2017
DR. IRVIN STRATHMAN, Assistant Professor, Morsani School of Medicine, March 25, 2017

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Send Class Notes submissions and high-resolution (at least 300 ppi) photos to pcarnathan@usf.edu or mail to Penny Carnathan, USF Alumni Association, Gibbons Alumni Center, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., ALC100, Tampa, FL 33620-5455

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