

USF

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA
MAGAZINE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the
USF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
SUMMER 2020

USF responds: COVID-19

**A VIRTUAL
world**

**USF HEALTH
at the forefront**

**ALUMNI
step up**

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COVER FEATURE

The following stories detail just a few of USF's many responses to the pandemic.

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Told to stay home, consumers stock up



COVER: 3D-printed nasal swabs designed by USF Health to address COVID-19 virus testing shortages are in use around the world.

Photo: Allison Long | USF Health

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From the President

Dear alumni, friends and supporters of USF:

I HOPE YOU AND YOUR families are well.

As has been true throughout the Tampa Bay region and the nation, “normal” took on unexpected new meanings for USF as faculty, students and staff confronted the coronavirus pandemic. In mid-March, thanks to the herculean effort of faculty and staff, we successfully transitioned all of our courses – more than 5,200 – to remote instruction, together with all of the critical services we provide to our students. Although we could not physically gather to celebrate the achievements of our spring graduates, we did hold virtual commencement ceremonies to offer the Class of 2020 the recognition it richly deserved.

USF Health experts and researchers have been at the forefront of our region’s response to the pandemic. From serving on the front lines, to producing face shields and testing swabs, to conducting clinical trials and sharing expertise with community leaders and businesses, and so much more, USF faculty and staff members continue to provide invaluable service as we navigate this unprecedented challenge. The series of stories that begins on page 20 offers insights into some of USF’s many efforts.

Recognizing the financial challenges many of our students face, we created the USF United Support Fund to help them meet critical needs, including paying rent, buying groceries or covering unexpected educational expenses. As of late May, more than 1,500 donors contributed nearly \$337,000, and 87 percent of the gifts came from USF alumni, faculty and staff. We have been able to assist more than 300 deserving students.

Many of you have generously donated to the United Support Fund as well as other funds that support the university’s COVID-19 efforts, including the important research being conducted by our scientific and medical experts, and food pantries that continue to serve our students on all three campuses. We have launched a comprehensive effort to support our many pandemic-related initiatives, #BullsUnited in Action. Please turn to page 18 for details.

We have worked diligently over the last several weeks to develop plans to resume normal operations for the university, and we have every intention of resuming face-to-face instruction and some activities during the fall, with necessary modifications and precautions.

While the pandemic has captured much of our attention throughout the spring, we also have moved forward with other important initiatives. We introduced the USF Principles of Community, culminating nearly six months of work from our broadly representative Principles of Community Task Force. That process incorporated feed-



Photo: RYAN MCONE | USF News

back from nearly 5,000 survey responses and in-person town hall forums on each of our campuses.

The Principles of Community, designed to help reinforce a campus climate of mutual support among faculty, staff and students, are: excellence with equity, diversity with inclusion, freedom with responsibility, dialogue with respect, and transparency with accountability. Please visit usf.edu/president/principles-of-community to learn more.

Also, as you may recall, our three separately accredited institutions will consolidate into One USF on July 1, as required by Florida law. Consolidation brings many benefits to our campuses and the entire region. There will be expanded opportunities for students and faculty, and multiple counties and communities will be home to a Preeminent Research University – one of only three in Florida. There will be greater access to our remarkable faculty and research and our important economic development initiatives. More information is available at usf.edu/system/board-of-trustees/system-consolidation.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, our community has demonstrated tremendous commitment, compassion and resiliency. The University of South Florida is and will always be a beacon for optimism and hope. As I wrote in an op-ed published in the Tampa Bay Times, this pandemic has illuminated our mission as a public research university more clearly than ever. The op-ed is available at www.tampabay.com/opinion/2020/05/08/how-the-pandemic-reaffirms-usfs-mission-steve-currall.

Thank you for your support of our students, faculty and staff. I wish you and your families a safe and healthy summer.

Steven C. Currall
USF President and Professor

Graduate programs among the nation's best

USF OFFERS SOME OF THE BEST graduate programs in America, according to *U.S. News and World Report's* (*U.S. News*) 2021 rankings. Eighteen programs are ranked in the top 100, with notable increases across several individual programs. Rises in the rankings underscore USF's continued upward trajectory as a top global research university.

Of particular significance:

- The USF Morsani College of Medicine moved into the top 50 for the first time, at No. 47.
- Audiology ranks the highest of any USF graduate program receiving a new ranking this year, at No. 18.
- The chemical engineering graduate program showed the most improvement from last year's rankings, moving up 19 spots to No. 66. USF's civil and environmental/ environmental health programs both showed double digit increases over the previous year.
- The physical therapy program rose 30 spots from the last time *U.S. News* ranked physical therapy programs in 2017, now at No. 49.
- In Education: Overall ranking, USF's program improved 12 spots and now sits inside the top 75 for the first time.

Full list of USF's top 50 programs:

- Audiology – 18
- Engineering: Environmental/Environmental Health – 35
- Medical: Research – 47
- Nursing: Master's – 47
- Nursing: Doctor of Nursing Practice – 48
- Physical Therapy – 49
- Engineering: Industrial/Manufacturing Systems – 49

Full list of USF's top 100 programs:

- Speech-Language Pathology – 55
- Clinical Psychology – 56
- Engineering: Civil – 64
- Engineering: Chemical – 66



- Pharmacy – 68
- Education: Overall – 73
- Fine Arts – 73
- Engineering: Computer Engineering – 86
- Engineering: Overall – 92
- Business: Part-time MBA – 97
- Engineering: Electrical/Electronic/ Communications – 97

U.S. News does not provide new rankings for all graduate programs each year, but several USF programs maintain a top 25 position:

- Industrial and Organizational Psychology – 2
- Public Health – 16
- Criminology – 22

These rankings come on the heels of *U.S. News* ranking USF No. 44 among public institutions on its list of best national universities in September 2019. Over the past 10 years, no other public university in the nation has risen faster in *U.S. News's* national university rankings than USF.

According to *U.S. News*, its methodology uses data from expert opinions and statistical indicators when measuring a program's ranking, examining qualities students and faculty bring to the educational experience and graduates' achievements linked to their degrees, such as job placement and research impact.

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Large photo: CLIFF MCBRIDE; inset photos: AUBRA VON J. USF

The region honors **USF Grads**

While the coronavirus epidemic may have halted traditional ceremonies, the Tampa Bay region honored the Class of 2020 during virtual commencement weekend in May. The iconic Sunshine Skyway lit up with green and gold, as did Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg and Tampa's SunTrust Financial Centre's ziggurat, Old City Hall, the trees in Curtis Hixon Park and bridges along the Riverwalk. The Tampa Bay Lightning posted well wishes for the graduates on its social media accounts and the Glazer Children's Museum in downtown Tampa projected a congratulatory message on the side of its building. The city of St. Petersburg also donated space on six digital billboards to recognize the graduates.

First Look



Photos: Courtesy of USF Alumni Association

Ring in the PRIDE

RECEIVING AN OFFICIAL USF CLASS RING is a rite of passage for USF students. They're not eligible for one simply by enrolling at USF, or even completing their freshman year.

"Only students who've successfully completed at least 75 hours of course work – 62 percent of their journey to a bachelor's degree – can order one," says Alumni Association Executive Director Bill McCausland, MBA '96, Life Member. "We recognize this point in their journey because getting there is a major achievement, and one that should make them and their families proud."

Hundreds of students had signed up to receive their rings at the association's Spring Class Ring Ceremony but – like other prized USF traditions – the event was canceled in deference to the global coronavirus pandemic. Instead, their rings arrived in the mail with a special note and gift from the Alumni Association.

Despite the change in plans, the resilient members of the Classes of 2020 and 2021 focused on their prize – a striking symbol of their accomplishments and lifelong connection to USF. Many captured their pride in photos, including, at left, Hannah Driscoll and Ekaterina Koptenko, and below, Alliyah Edwards.

USF alumni are also eligible to order class rings and participate in the association's Class Ring Ceremonies. The next will be in the fall; visit www.usfalumni.org/classring for updates.

- PENNY CARNATHAN, '82, Life Member | USFAA



University



Photo: Isaac | PUD014394

Above: The Ichetucknee River flowing through Ichetucknee Springs State Park in northern Florida.

Five springs were sampled to serve as a mirror for the Floridan Aquifer, including Ichetucknee, Jackson, Manatee, Rainbow and Volusia.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Scientists conduct first census of viruses and bacteria living in Florida springs

LIKE OXYGEN, YOUR BRAIN STEM AND LOVE (for the romantics out there), the Floridan Aquifer falls into the category of things we can't see but also cannot live without.

One of the largest and most productive aquifers in the nation, it provides drinking water for 10 million people in Florida, Georgia and Alabama. It also feeds hundreds of crystal-clear springs, several that are home for beloved manatees in Florida's chilly months and provide endless recreational fun for humans year-round – adding plenty of zeros behind the state's revenue budget. It's also no surprise to informed Floridians that this precious ecosystem sitting at least 1,000 feet beneath their flip-flops faces a slew of threats, from sea level rise to nutrient pollution from agriculture, urban development and more. The degradation in the health of the aquifer is no stranger to the headlines.

It is surprising, however, that a study reported in the science journal *mBio* is the first to characterize the viruses and prokaryotes (bacteria and archaea) that live in the Floridan Aquifer. By comparison, scientists know volumes more about viruses and bacteria that live in the ocean.

"It really shocked us that this hasn't been done before," says Mya Breitbart, senior study author and professor in USF's College of Marine Science.

The team, whose field and lab work was led by doctoral student Kema Malki, used an inflatable raft to retrieve samples in May-June 2017 from five springs across northern Florida that serve as a mirror for the Florida Aquifer as a whole, Breitbart says. They used microscopy and genetic techniques to investigate the abundance and composition of viruses and prokaryotes in the spring water and also assessed health-related water quality parameters, such as nutrient concentrations and dissolved oxygen levels.

The five springs were: Ichetucknee, Jackson, Manatee, Rainbow and Volusia. Each spring discharges upwards of 246 million liters of water every day – the volume that would be needed to fill 100 Olympic-sized swimming pools. (It would take the average American residence 6.5 years to fill up just one Olympic pool based on average water use.)

The bacterial and viral counts were 100 to 1,000-fold lower than what scientists usually detect in surface seawater, rivers and lakes – and lower than what others have reported in other groundwater systems. The communities were dominated by bacteria and the viruses were similar to those found in other aquatic environments, Malki said.



In total they sequenced nearly 60 novel viral genomes, including both single- and double-stranded DNA viruses (ssDNA and dsDNA viruses) that infect bacteria and eukaryotes.

Drilling down into the results held many surprises.

“Our original hypothesis going in was that the communities living in each spring would look similar because the springs are fed by the same aquifer,” Malki says, “but they don’t look similar at all.”

The unique community signature characterizing each spring suggests that groundwater microbial communities are influenced by land usage around the spring sites, Malki says.

Another surprise was the fact that Ichetucknee Spring was dominated by single-stranded DNA viruses whereas most aquatic ecosystems are dominated by larger, double-stranded DNA viruses.

“We know so little about these single-stranded DNA viruses,” Breitbart says, “and we have a lot more to learn about the roles they play in aquatic ecosystems.” The team used a relatively new technique to prep the DNA samples that allowed them to amplify both ssDNA and dsDNA viruses whereas previous methods only detected the dsDNA viruses.

That wasn’t all.



Photo: AMANDA SOSNOWSKI | Terrane Visions

“The concentrations of phosphate and nitrate we found in certain springs were very high compared to the concentrations reported in other groundwater environments,” Malki says.

Jackson Spring took the trophy for having the highest nitrate concentration – 10 times higher than Volusia, for example – and Volusia Spring had the highest concentration of phosphate. It was two times higher than any of the other spring sites.

“We knew there was a growing water quality issue in the springs but didn’t expect the numbers to be that high,” Malki says.

The team hypothesizes that these varying nutrient concentrations and distinct bacterial and viral communities are related to differences in land use around each of the spring sites. The waters feeding Jackson Springs are surrounded by forests and agricultural lands while Volusia has the most urbanized springshed. The bacterial and viral counts in Volusia were 10 times higher than the other sites.

“We’d need to drill down further to really know what’s going on here,” Malki says, “but we can confidently say that each spring site is different even though they are all fed by the same aquifer.”

The team is working on a slew of follow-up studies to help them better understand the ssDNA viruses, to assess the springs seasonally, and more. “We really needed this baseline in place,” Breitbart says.

The study was funded by the National Science Foundation.

KRISTEN KUSEK, MA and MS '98 | College of Marine Science

Above: Lead author Kema Malki performed the lab work for the study, the first to characterize the viruses and bacteria that live in the Floridan Aquifer, at the USF College of Marine Science.

Above left: The team used an inflatable raft to retrieve samples. In the raft are Malki and student Paige Boleman taking samples at Ichetucknee Springs.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience receives \$50,000 grant

USF ST. PETERSBURG was one of just five universities in the southeastern U.S. to be awarded an AT&T Climate Resiliency Community Challenge grant. The university's Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (iCAR) is receiving \$50,000 for a project that will leverage citizen engagement and crowd-sourced data to identify climate vulnerabilities in local communities.

The Community Resiliency Information System (CRIS) is designed to "make smart cities smarter" by allowing residents from diverse communities to collect data and communicate directly with elected officials through their smartphones, says Barnali Dixon, executive director of iCAR and professor of geographic information systems and remote sensing.

"Our goal with CRIS is to gather information and intelligence from the people," Dixon says. "Residents know more about their own neighborhood than anyone else. Using CRIS, we can harvest that information to build a system that offers two-way communication between community members and policymakers. That way, policymakers are not just handing out policies – they're able to cultivate information and resources from the community they intend to benefit."

AT&T's Climate Resiliency Community Challenge was launched to address resilience in the face of extreme weather and climate change. The proposals were selected through an application process that included a review by a panel of climate and resilience experts from

such groups as the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions and World Wildlife Fund.

"Last year, we shared with the public the rich climate datasets that we're using in our own risk analysis so that others can assess their vulnerability," says Andrea Brands, director of corporate social responsibility at AT&T. "We're now making funding available to the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and four other universities so they can launch innovative research on climate impacts and community responses. The universities will work with local governments to conduct climate risk analysis and help boost community resilience.

"The Community Resiliency Information System is unique in that it features community-driven data, with a strong emphasis on equity so that a range of socioeconomic levels are included," she adds. "This is at the heart of what we are hoping to accomplish, helping prepare communities for future changes and address a variety of needs."

For Dixon, the Climate Resiliency Community Challenge fits neatly into her mission at iCAR, which seeks to foster resilience for coastal communities.

"CRIS will create an information system that can be used outside St. Petersburg, promoting resilience in other communities as well," she says.

Grateful for having been selected for AT&T's Climate Resiliency Community Challenge, Dixon looks forward to continuing her mission of creating resiliency solutions that have real-world impacts.

"This is not just an academic exercise," she says. "We can do something here that's going to help everybody."

- DYLLAN FURNESS | Marketing and Communications

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Sarasota-Manatee campus unveils research experts database

THE USF SARASOTA-MANATEE CAMPUS has created a database of research experts to encourage greater engagement between the campus and community it serves on topics of local and global importance.

Faculty members frequently conduct research on issues that connect them with local arts communities, business leaders, civic groups, schools and other organizations. The campus supports these connections and encourages the groups, and others, to further engage faculty through the database, which includes faculty profiles, photos, links to curricula vitae, contact information and search words to help identify experts to collaborate on research or provide analysis and commentary on social trends and other matters.

"With our faculty involved in so many different areas of research, it became important to stay current with who is doing what research and who is an expert in which specific field," criminologist Murat Haner says.

Haner and Melissa Sloan, an associate professor of interdisciplinary social sciences, collaborated for two years to create the database, which is supported by the campus' Office of Research.

"Our original intent was to provide faculty from other academic institutions and our community partners with a tool to help them find researchers in their areas of interest," Haner says. "We are excited that the database has been opened to the public and hope that this resource will generate additional collaborations. We also have many students working directly with faculty on research projects. They can now use our database to search for professors with research interests similar to their own."

To view the database, visit <http://expertise.usfsm.edu>.

- RICH SHOPEL | Communications & Marketing

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Food insecurity study prompts school lunch changes

LOW-INCOME TEENAGERS facing food insecurity were more likely to eat cheese sandwiches during school lunch and be bullied because of it, according to a recent study conducted by USF researchers. The study was designed to learn about the ways in which teens face food scarcity and changes they would like to see.

“School environments are one of the places where teens get most of their food,” says Sarah Bradley, graduate student in the Department of Anthropology and author of the study. “For some teens who are food insecure, it may be the only full meal that they get.”

The study centered around different focus groups in four Pinellas County community centers in collaboration with the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County and Feeding America. Teens expressed their opinions about the quality, quantity and amount of time they were given to eat a meal. Researchers also found that school environments present challenges for teens where they can be stigmatized as being poor.



We focus a lot on children, we focus a lot on adults, but teens are often understudied and not well understood in terms of the effects of food insecurity on their health and well-being.”

– David Himmelgreen

Schools provide a standard lunch, but many teens purchase additional supplements as an “upgrade” to their meal. Teens behind on their food fees would receive a cheese sandwich instead of a hot lunch, making them a target of bullying.

Researchers used Photovoice in the study, allowing participants the time and space to collect their data from their own experiences. As a method, the photographs provide a tangible communicative artifact. Researchers and participants presented their findings with a Photovoice exhibit in a public forum attended by school administrators who heard firsthand from the teens.

“When I was sitting in that audience I was hearing my customers talking directly to me,” says Lynn Geist, director of food and nutrition for Pinellas County Schools. “I sat there thinking, ‘I have to fix this, we can do better than this.’”

Cheese sandwiches were already being pulled from schools, but Geist learned that there was more work to be



Photo: iStock | iStock

done. Moved by the teens’ stories and desire for better food quality and presentation, Geist initiated the Student Food Connection Taste Testing program to collect teen feedback about menu items.

“To see an actual material outcome come from this project is very validating and it’s very energizing. It makes you want to continue to do this work,” Bradley says.

Bradley began the project with support from David Himmelgreen, professor and Department of Anthropology chair. One of the main goals was to raise public awareness about teen food insecurity.

“We focus a lot on children, we focus a lot on adults, but teens are often understudied and not well understood in terms of the effects of food insecurity on their health and well-being,” Himmelgreen says.

Aside from teens expressing frustration about the stigma and bullying, the research also showed that teens served as a buffer to younger siblings by eating less at home. Some teens also reported turning to shoplifting food items such as canned food or candy.

Himmelgreen’s main research focus has been on the linkages between food insecurity and health in different populations and settings. He helped establish the Center for Food Advancement of Food Security and Healthy Communities with Feeding Tampa Bay, one of several university-food bank partnerships in the country. The center provides research expertise with emergency food relief as well as field research opportunities for students.

“Food is social. Food binds people together. Relationships are established around food. Anthropology brings both theoretical and methodological tools to understand food and how people navigate food scarcity,” Himmelgreen says.

– SANDRA C. ROA | USF News



Original artwork
“Festering in the 8th
Circle” by Michael
Congdon.

Below: Veteran student
Michael Congdon
photographing a USF
athletics event.



Photo: TRAVIS PENDERGRASS | USF Athletics

UNIVERSITY NEWS

USF photography workshop giving valuable exposure to local veteran

WHEN MICHAEL CONGDON MEDICALLY RETIRED from the U.S. Army, a future in photography was not something he had in mind. But, thanks to an out-of-the-box suggestion from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and support from USF staff and faculty, the former soldier found a passion for the art form and is already earning national exposure for his work.

Congdon joined the military in 1998, serving in field artillery and recruiting before injuries to his legs and back forced him to retire. After 15 years as a soldier, he planned to pursue business and marketing, first at Hillsborough Community College (HCC), then at USF. But something was missing. He says a chance conversation with a VA vocational rehab counselor first introduced the idea of photography to him – and after taking his first class, he was hooked.

“I knew I had the background to work in business and marketing in my civilian life, but it really wasn’t something that I wanted to do, and

I knew this was my chance to restart a whole different chapter in my life,” Congdon says. “Once I dove into photo and art, it really became what I love doing.”

Congdon transferred from HCC to USF with an associate degree in business but made the switch to fine arts immediately. While taking courses to earn a bachelor of fine arts degree, he heard about the Breaking Barriers program from a friend and fellow student-veteran.

Breaking Barriers is a three-part workshop hosted and administered by the USF Contemporary Art Museum in collaboration with USF’s College of The Arts. Since its inception in 2018, the program has provided community support for local veterans through an educational and arts-based experience. And while Breaking Barriers is not art therapy, the program, as well as art in general, can have a substantial impact.

“Photography has become extremely expressive and therapeutic for me,” Congdon says. “It’s really been a way for me to get my mind off some of the traumatic experiences I’ve had, and I think it’s really helped me mentally and emotionally.”

Congdon says the Breaking Barriers program has provided him opportunities he likely would never have received. His work has been shown at the Contemporary Art Museum and been judged at the Veterans Creative Arts Festival. In fact, Congdon won Best in Show at the regional competition in Tampa and even had his work shown to U.S. Second Lady Karen Pence during her visit to the James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital.

“It was really surreal,” he says. “To have your work shown to someone in that position was incredible.”

In November, Congdon will exhibit some of his photography at the national Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Along with continuing to show his work, he plans to pursue a master of fine arts degree in fine arts and says he’ll be forever grateful for the support and guidance he’s received at USF.

“I don’t know that I could ever say enough about the faculty and staff at USF,” he says. “The entire art department is really incredible and the support they’ve given me is something I don’t think I would have ever gotten elsewhere.”

- AARON HILF | USF News



HONORS AND AWARDS

Jack Edwards, Zach Withers named Goldwater Scholars

TWO JUDY GENSHAFT HONORS College students, Jack Edwards and Zach Withers, were named 2020 Goldwater Scholars, chosen out of nearly 1,300 students nationally who were nominated through a highly selective process. The scholarship is the most prestigious undergraduate award in the country for science research and provides \$7,500 for educational expenses and research support.

Edwards, a junior majoring in physics and minoring in mathematics, has been researching in associate professor David Basanta's lab at Moffitt Cancer Center for the past three years. There, he uses physics and computer science to model tumor growth in a way that includes space limitations and considers ecological effects. "If we can use ecology and mathematics to model how tumors evolve, it can lead to the development of more successful treatment strategies," says Edwards, who credits Basanta as his mentor. "He is a fantastic teacher and showed me how beautiful evolutionary theory can be."

Together with Basanta as the supervising primary investigator (PI), and colleague Andriy Marusyk as second author, Edwards has submitted his work to I-Cell for publication, and it is currently in pre-print for a special edition.

Also a junior and physics major (with a mathematics minor), Withers has worked for the past three years in the labs of Dmitri Voronine, assistant professor of physics and medical engineering, and chemistry Professor David Merkler. Withers' work with Voronine has focused on the energy transfers and quantum effects in nano-cavities. "Our investigations can lead to the engineering of advanced new technology and devices," Withers says. "The energy transfer, and our ability to control its intensity, has implications for the improvement of semi-conductors and transistor-like devices."

Withers and Voronine (as PI) have had their work published in the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics

Engineers) Journal. Withers claims his work with Merkler has led him to consider interdisciplinary research in the fields of physics and biochemistry and was influential in his pursuit of undergraduate research at USF.

In addition to this research, Withers also completed a Research Experience for Undergraduates with Sarath Witanachchi, professor and physics department chair. For this work (funded by the National Science Foundation) a team of eight USF undergraduate students worked with Witanachchi for five months in an effort to create a new renewable energy source. The goal of this technology was to make additional electricity accessible to rural and tribal villages in Africa. After their research, the team traveled to Botswana for testing. The new device concept doubled the power generation capability for several rural villages.

Both Edwards and Withers plan to pursue their doctorates and enter meaningful scientific careers. They worked with the university's Office of National Scholarships (ONS) and its director, Sayandeb Basu, on their research goals and Goldwater applications. ONS works with USF stu-

Left: Jack Edwards is majoring in physics, with a minor in mathematics.

Below: Zach Withers is pursuing a physics major with a mathematics minor.



Photos: Courtesy of Judy Genshaft Honors College

dents to identify prestigious scholarship opportunities and craft competitive applications. "Dr. Basu was a fantastic mentor throughout this entire process," Withers says. "He asked the important questions and helped me identify my research trajectory and explain why I am passionate about this work."

Edwards also appreciates the importance of Basu's mentorship. "He said to me once that 'the application process is the gold in the Goldwater,'" Edwards recalls. "Working with him on this application helped me to fine-tune my future plans and research interests."

"Both of these students have such bright futures," says Charles Adams, dean of the Judy Genshaft Honors College. "Undergraduate research is both valued and promoted throughout our university and I am proud, but not surprised, to see how our faculty and staff have mentored Jack and Zach."

The two award recipients (tied for the most of any Florida university) bring USF's Goldwater Scholar tally to 13. Previous scholars have gone on to earn other nationally competitive awards and study at internationally prominent institutions as they work on research projects.

- AMY HARROUN '05 | Judy Genshaft Honors College

Athletics

Photos: Courtesy of USF Athletics



Bulls stay #USF during spring at home



JUST ONE PRACTICE INTO HIS FIRST SEASON as a head coach, the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically altered Jeff Scott and the USF football team's plans, but Scott quickly refocused the Bulls and plugged into the mission of "Taking a Challenge to a Championship."

With in-person interaction out of play for most

of the spring, USF utilized technology and a strategic plan well in continuing the effort of building a culture of excellence and remaining "United from Start to Finish."

Microsoft Teams and Zoom were valuable avenues Scott and the team utilized to remain connected and carry on with important program tasks during social distancing.

"Really, my message to our players is everybody around the country is facing the same challenge that we have – being at home and not being able to have practice, and meetings, and all those things," Scott says. "But the way we respond to this challenge, the way that we attack it every day, the consistency that we have, the attitude that we bring could be a competitive advantage for us during this time."

Scott learned a lot about his players' dedication during meetings that took place numerous times each week through the spring. Depending on the day, Bulls gathered online as a team, by position groups, or with coordinators to keep making progress in the new offense, defense and special teams playbooks.

"I've been really pleased with the way our guys have engaged, the

way they've responded and been involved with our meetings," Scott says. "I feel like our coaches have done a great job of really holding our guys to a schedule each day, whenever we have been allowed to have those meetings."

Strengthening a sense of community in the Bay area and beyond also remained essential business.

Scott's home webcam was operating often as he interacted with nine different constituent groups, including fellow USF coaches and senior leadership. From late March to mid-May, he met with more than 300 donor/alumni participants on six video calls set up by the Bulls Club, the USF Alumni Association and USF Athletics' ticket department.

In April, Scott joined USF President Steven Currall, Life Member, and Vice President of Athletics Michael Kelly, Life Member, for the university's virtual town hall that saw about 3,500 participants sign in live from all across the Tampa Bay region.

Scott also checked in with a large USF football alumni group and was a special guest during a Vinik Sports & Entertainment Management MBA class. By then, Scott already had spoken with USF's Greek leadership on campus while members of his coaching staff attended more virtual meetings with Bulls Club members.

"It's just been in a different way than maybe we all envisioned, but the response has been really good," says Scott, who also spent an evening virtually with many corporate partners and sponsors.

Meanwhile, Scott helped keep the media buzz surrounding the program's new era constant. By mid-May, he had done more than 35 interviews with national and local media outlets.

USF's 2020 season schedule – ranked as the second-strongest in the nation on ESPN.com by Phil Steele – remained a popular topic. Another was recruiting success, even from home, that's leading to potentially the Bulls' strongest class in recent years.

"I think the response that we've gotten from the high school coaches and from the recruits and their families has been very strong," Scott says. "I think they can feel the energy and excitement that surrounds our program right now and that there's a lot of really good things ahead of us as a program."

Spring 2019 grad Laksa's WNBA dream comes true

FORMER USF HOOPS STAR KITIJA LAKSA, pictured at right, made the program proud once again in April, when the sharpshooter was selected 11th overall by the Seattle Storm in the 2020 WNBA Draft.

"This is definitely a crazy feeling, a dream come true," says Laksa, a Bull from 2015 to 2019, and just the third first-round WNBA draft pick in school history.

Producing many notable numbers in college helped Laksa become the sixth WNBA Draft pick in USF history.

Despite her senior season being cut short three games in due to a knee injury, Laksa still ranks sixth on the school's all-time scoring list (1,764 points) and third in career points per game (17.8). The two-time WBCA All-America honorable mention remains the Bulls' career leader in free throw percentage (.896) and ranks second on the three-point field goal percentage chart (.391).

Laksa also broke USF's junior single-season scoring record with 717 points in 2017-18 while making her third straight NCAA tournament trip with the Bulls.

Laksa returned to the court this past season for TTT Riga, a EuroLeague team in her hometown, before becoming the Bulls' first WNBA Draft pick since 2016.



60 Bulls projected to graduate this spring

WOMEN'S SOCCER STANDOUT ANDREA HAUKSDOTTIR, pictured below, center, was among the impressive group of 60 student-athletes to be featured in USF's spring 2020 virtual commencement ceremony.

The latest total of Bulls projected to earn their degrees increased USF Athletics' number of graduates to nearly 350 since the 2016-17 school year.

Four years after arriving all the way from Kopavogur, Iceland, Hauksdottir fulfilled her dreams of studying and playing soccer in America. The two-time American Athletic Conference Midfielder of the Year and four-year starter helped USF capture league titles in each of the past three seasons that were all capped off with NCAA tournament trips.



APR success

USF ATHLETICS ACHIEVED more academic success with a record 13 programs logging perfect single-year scores and the department posting an overall record 995 single-year score when the NCAA released its most recent Academic Progress Rate (APR) data in May.

All 16 of the Bulls' evaluated programs logged a multi-year APR score of 959 or better, a baseline that improved by 12 points from the last report, far exceeding the NCAA's minimum APR standard score of 930.

The NCAA's 2020 multi-year APR scores comprise data from the previous four academic years. Latest single-year totals were from 2018-19.

HerdPerks winner

SUPER STUDENT SUPPORTER BILLY FERRIS was the HerdPerks grand prize winner of a new 2020 Ford EcoSport SE.

The freshman from Michigan totaled the most points out of 9,857 USF students who activated the HerdPerks app and checked in at USF Athletics events throughout the 2019-20 season. Ferris was surprised with the exciting news during a Zoom call that included 12 USF head coaches, Vice President of Athletics Michael Kelly and Terry Mullane, vice president/general manager of Parks Ford.

Stories by **TOM ZEBOLD**
USF Athletics

BULLS UNITED

for students in need

By KILEY MALLARD
USF Foundation

TO SAY THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC disrupted our lives would be the understatement of the year. Instead of coming back from spring break to finish out their semester on campus, students had to quickly adjust to online-only courses. Some had to move back home as residence halls closed. And many lost jobs — and with them, income.

Recognizing the urgency of the moment, President Steven Currall launched the USF United Support Fund — an unprecedented fundraising effort for USF — to help students meet essential needs, such as paying rent, buying groceries or covering unexpected educational expenses.

“There’s nothing more important than the health and wellness of our community and the impact of each gift provides much-needed relief to our students,” Currall says. “The outpouring of support for USF students through gifts to the United Support Fund has been extraordinary.”

Alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the university dug deep and without delay.

Within 48 hours, the fund surpassed \$75,000, and by press time, more than 1,500 donors had given nearly \$337,000. The total includes signature \$20,000 gifts from USF Trustee John ’78 and MCE ’00 and Naida Ramil ’89 and USF Trustee Les ’66 and Pam Muma, along with a \$10,000 gift from USF Health faculty member Dr. Arthur Herold ’75. In addition, Jeff and Penny Vinik made a \$50,000 gift through the Vinik Family Foundation. An incredible 87 percent of gifts came from USF alumni, faculty and staff.

“It is remarkable how quickly this effort was launched, and even more so how quickly — and generously — the

community responded,” says Noreen Segrest, Life Member, interim senior vice president of advancement and alumni affairs and USF Foundation CEO. “We are so appreciative of the rapid response from our USF family and friends.”

More than 1,800 students applied for the financial aid, with more than 324 students receiving funds at press time.

Senior Amber Hernandez was among the initial recipients. “It honestly kind of feels like a nightmare that you can’t wake up out of,” Hernandez says. “It’s crazy not to be able to go out or even hug or kiss your family members or see your friends.”

Hernandez, who returned to her parents’ home in Miami when classes moved online, said even with being at home, she was stressed about money, which was affecting her schoolwork. A public health major, Hernandez needed a special computer program for one of her classes, which she typically would access at the computer lab on campus.

Her adviser pointed her toward the United Support Fund. The funds she was awarded allowed her to get the computer she needed to finish her coursework.

“I’m really grateful, and it just makes me so happy that help is out there. As a USF Bull, I’m getting the help I need. One day, I want to do the same for somebody who’s in my shoes,” she says.

Before the pandemic started, senior Brianna Rodriguez worked in downtown St. Petersburg at Karma Juice Bar. When the city issued a stay-at-home order for all nonessential businesses, her shifts were cut.

“Thankfully, I’m pretty good at saving money, so I have been able to pay rent up till now,” says Rodriguez, a mass communications major on the USF St. Petersburg campus. “The money really helps me to be able to feed myself and with any other extra costs. We don’t know how long this is going to go on.”

Rodriguez is thankful she was selected to receive support from the fund, and hopes more students can benefit from it.

“The fact that this was an option and this was out there for students, I think it’s awesome,” she says.

One of the most stressful parts of this pandemic for Jordan Logan has been the transition to online-only coursework.

A junior public health major, Logan is taking six classes, including Chemistry II, Biology I, labs for both of those as well as Professional Ethics.

“It’s a lot harder, because I have to learn how to focus myself, rather than being in a library where I can just focus on that,” Logan says.

Logan also lost the income he would normally receive as an employee of his father’s lawn care business, further compounding his stress.



#BullsUnited
in action

Join the Bulls United effort

In partnership with the USF campuses, colleges and units, the USF Foundation has launched a monthlong giving initiative running through June 30, 2020 to support our students and community impacted by COVID-19. We encourage you to visit usf.to/action to view the many ways USF is navigating this global crisis and make your gift of any size to a project that supports USF students. Together we are #ONEUSF.

Philanthropy

He applied for help from the United Support Fund after learning about it from both his girlfriend's mother, a USF alumna, and one of his professors. The funds, which he used to pay some of his bills and buy groceries, helped relieve some of the stress he's been feeling and allowed him to focus on his classes.

"I am beyond thankful. When you want to perform and get high grades, but you are worried about money, life can get messy. It's super helpful and takes a lot of stress off of a student's back with all this going on," he says.

Even though she is a seasoned teacher, with 17 years in special education, Lora Reese has been working as a long-term substitute teacher while she finishes her doctorate at USF. When schools closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak, her income vanished.

"I didn't want to commit to full-time employment knowing I would be leaving once I finished the doctorate," she says. "But unfortunately, when the virus kicked in it put me in a position where those of us who are contract employees don't get paid."

Already a two-time USF alumna — Reese received her undergraduate degree from USF Sarasota-Manatee and her master's from USF St. Petersburg — she praised the university's communication during the pandemic, which is how she learned of the United Support Fund.

Reese used her award to pay for her last semester of tuition, keeping her on track to finish her doctorate in education specializing in curriculum and instruction.

"So I can stop stressing about that," she says.

To the donors, she says thank you for believing in educators and future educators. "By contributing to the success of those in the field of education, you're not only supporting short-term goals, but creating opportunities for our young people coming up in very challenging times."

Before COVID-19, Nisuka Williams worked two jobs, one at the USF St. Petersburg Campus Recreation Center. She has since been furloughed from both jobs.

Despite this setback, Williams has stayed positive and says not working has made the transition to online classes easier since she has more time to study.

"The only drawback is not being able to constantly bother my professors with every little question," says Williams, a senior biology major originally from West Palm Beach. "Now I have to write it out nicely in an email."

Williams learned of the United Support Fund through the regional chancellor's weekly email messages.

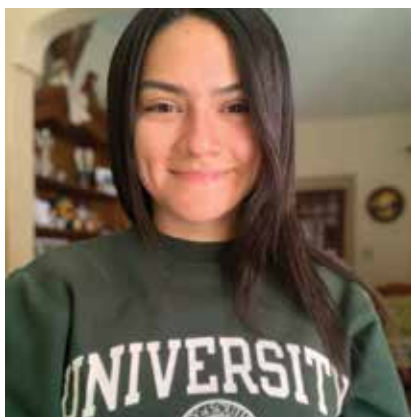
"I was like, 'This is amazing!' I looked at the donors and was like 'Wow, these are regular community members who donated to this,'" she says.

Williams says pretty much all of the funds will go toward rent.

"My two jobs almost covered rent, so because I don't have those, this really helps out," she says. "I was shocked and touched that people got together so quickly and thought of the USF community. That was just really nice."

Thiago Bonafe De Oliveira came to USF from Sao Paulo, Brazil, to study electrical engineering. Thankfully, his parents are able to send him financial support to help cover his living expenses, but the COVID-19 outbreak has affected the conversion rate between the Brazilian real and the U.S. dollar.

"I used to get around \$600 or \$700. Now I get like \$500, because of the whole conversion rate. I lost \$150-



\$200 of the total income from what my parents send me each month," he says.

On top of that, Bonafe De Oliveira also lost his on-campus job as a housing services clerk, which provided \$500 a month.

He says the award he received from the fund helped him afford his rent.

Bonafe De Oliveira says there are a lot of international students who are in the same situation, and many have had to go home.

"Thank God, there's this funding at USF," he says. "I know all of the international students who have heard of it have applied for this."

For now, Bonafe De Oliveira is hoping to change his visa to allow him to work off-campus, and brainstorming ways to reduce his expenses.

"If I'm not thinking about school, I'm thinking about my financial situation," he says. ■

L to R, from top left:
Amber Hernandez,
Brianna Rodriguez,
Jordan Logan, Lora
Reese, Nisuka Williams,
Thiago Bonafe De
Oliveira.

Photos: Courtesy of USF Advancement; Illustration: Myra Dillmer; USF Communications & Marketing

Behind the SCENES



By **TOM WOOLF**

THE SPRING SEMESTER ACROSS USF'S THREE CAMPUSES was filled with the normal activities of university life – lectures and quizzes; faculty holding office hours; students meeting with advisors; faculty and staff meetings; group fitness classes; intramural sports.

Except that “normal” took on a whole new meaning.

The coronavirus pandemic suddenly sent USF faculty, staff and students into an online world. Teaching and learning and student services went virtual. Most everything did – from doctoral defenses to departmental baby showers, from career fairs to a 5K run (which drew nearly 800 participants). The spring semester ended with a first-ever virtual commencement for nearly 7,500 members of the Class of 2020.

As the pandemic spread across the country in early March, an email to faculty from Ralph Wilcox, USF's provost and executive vice president, set the stage for what was to come.



“As we seek to provide educational access to students outside the classroom, as may become necessary, we are developing instructional resources, support and technological alternatives to face-to-face course delivery, utilizing our learning management tool, ‘Canvas,’” he wrote.

Behind the scenes, Innovative Education and Information Technology mobilized to transition more than 5,200 courses to remote instruction following spring break in March. It was, in the words of Cindy DeLuca, who leads Innovative Education, “a herculean effort.”

The effort included the creation of online toolkits to help guide faculty and students through the transition. Using multiple online workshops and chats with instructors, DeLuca’s team helped faculty prepare during the week of spring break. Under normal circumstances, a learning designer works with a faculty member for at least one full semester to develop a course for online design and delivery.

As DeLuca, associate vice president and assistant vice provost, explains it, “The design process includes organizing the course structure, creating meaningful interaction between the faculty and their students, using the most appropriate mix of technologies to develop innovative and interactive content, aligning learning objectives, content and assessment, and ensuring the course is accessible and follows national standards for best practices in online course development.”

And, while 35 percent of faculty have been certified to teach online, “there was still a large percentage who had no prior experience in the online modality,” she adds.

Those who did have online teaching expertise also played an important role in helping less-experienced faculty make a successful transition.

“Faculty who had gone through our traditional design and development process became college experts who guided their colleagues in the use of tools, teaching approaches and best practices in online learning,” DeLuca says. “Quality course design ... this is what my team focuses on every day in Innovative Education. Online teaching was new for many faculty members, and we were impressed with how the faculty came together to transition their courses to remote delivery while staying true to our core value of student success.”

Also central to the successful transition to the virtual world were the 450 members of the Information Technology team.

“We accelerated all of the strategies that we had planned to do in a semester, in a week,” Sidney Fernandes, vice president and chief information officer, says, adding that IT lived by the hashtag “#InaWeek”.

“We had to take a workforce that was primarily at a singular location and enable them to work as if in an office, but at home,” he says. “We had to make sure students who were used to being in class and getting services in person could do all of that from home. We have agile teams, and they were functioning at peak capacity while being remote.”

A crucial element in maintaining continuity for faculty, staff and students was moving everyone to Microsoft

Teams, a secure, cloud-based chat and group collaborative workspace. IT had moved USF Health to that platform last fall and planned to transition all USF students later this summer.

“We moved more than 50,000 student accounts, as our hashtag says, in a week,” says Chief Technology Officer Patrick Gall, ’06.

While that effort was a success, the IT team also knew the new communications platform would likely mean the now-remote Help Desk would have to field many questions.

“We knew it would be inundated,” Gall says, noting volunteers were recruited from across IT and temporary staffing was arranged as well.



We accelerated all of the strategies that we had planned to do in a semester, in a week. IT lived by the hashtag #InaWeek.”

— Sidney Fernandes

The Help Desk experienced the predicted increase in call volume when classes resumed after spring break, responding to 1,000 inquiries per day compared to a normal volume of 200.

There were other needs to meet as well, including development of an institution-wide laptop/webcam loan program for faculty and students. That was accomplished through a collaborative funding effort involving IT, Student Government and the USF Libraries.

“The supply chain was disrupted, nothing was coming out of China,” says Beth Reid, director of business operations for IT. “If you wanted computers, you had to act quickly and you got what you got. We were able to secure 130 laptops for students at very good prices. Then we had requests from some students for webcams, and we were able to find some. We found another 40 laptops for USF Health’s practice plan after they discovered some of their desktops didn’t have WIFI capability.”

A request from a college dean prompted Fernandes and his team to create a process for students to schedule virtual drop-in appointments with advisors. Another application had to be created – within three days – to facilitate the new pass/fail system for courses. Approval of the federal CARES Act necessitated another new application so students could apply for financial assistance. Using Microsoft Teams, IT helped USF Health implement telehealth so patients could consult remotely with physicians.

“Given all of the variables of what could have gone wrong with all of these new processes, we believe this has gone relatively well,” Fernandes says. “We’ve solved problems. The clients we have spoken with have said this whole transition has gone way better than they might have expected.”

Lessons LEARNED

By SARAH WORTH '86

THE SEVERE ADULT RESPIRATORY SYNDROME coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2), the agent that causes COVID-19, is a novel and deadly strain of a relatively common benign class of viruses. In fact, coronaviruses cause a quarter of common colds. Just a few months ago this new virus was unknown. Now, the world's most brilliant medical minds are focused on every detail, and knowledge about COVID-19 is expanding exponentially on how to diagnose, to treat and to prevent this pandemic.

It's a valiant effort and an incredible example of the power of academic medicine and its unity on a global scale. But it's still early. We are still in the midst of this pandemic.

Leading experts at USF Health offer perspective on the past few months, what they've experienced and what they've discovered about society, our institutions and themselves.

While most hindsight concerning existential events has the vantage point of years of reflection, we have only months. Still, reflections are important. So, what are the lessons learned thus far? What valuable experiences will be remembered and which will prove useful in this and further epidemics?

BE RESOURCEFUL, AND REACT EARLY AND QUICKLY. Those are some of the key lessons of the past six months learned by Dr. Charles J. Lockwood, senior vice president for USF Health and dean of the Morsani College of Medicine.

Resourcefulness has been displayed on many fronts, he says, but one of its earliest manifestations came when we realized that there was an acute national shortage of viral collection kits for COVID-19.

As cases began popping up in Florida and complete testing kits were not available, Lockwood turned to the resourcefulness of USF Health faculty to create nasal swabs and viral transport media that are included in the kits.

"We recognized almost immediately at USF Health that we must be able to test for this virus to track it and contain it," Lockwood says. "USF Health began producing its own transport media using a World Health Organization 'recipe.' And for the swabs, I approached Dr. Summer Decker, who directs our USF Health Morsani College of Medicine Department of Radiology 3D printing facility, and asked if she could develop a nasopharyngeal flocked swab prototype and mass produce it. And she did. Within a couple of days, she, the 3D printer company FormLabs and Northwell Health in New York were able to design, perfect and produce this really outstanding swab that had outstanding viral collecting capacity."

The result: Faculty ingenuity and resourcefulness led USF Health to manufacture more than 50,000 nasal swabs and 10,000 viral transport media specimens, and build and supply thousands of testing kits to local hospitals and for Hillsborough County. Moreover, the 3D flocked swab formula has been disseminated across the nation and globe.

Another example of resourcefulness was exemplified in resolving another testing bottleneck: Ensuring there were adequate assays for COVID-19 in the lab. An assay is a procedure for measuring



the biochemical or immunological activity of a sample. The plethora of different manufacturers making the COVID-19 assays, and the incredible demand for testing capacity, resulted in a critical shortage of the reagents necessary in the assay process.

“Working with our infectious disease faculty, the Esoteric Testing Lab team at Tampa General Hospital stood up six different platforms so they always had reagents to run assays from different manufacturers,” Lockwood says. “Initially it was 50 assays a week, now it’s close to 1,000, and they continue to ramp that up.”

Reacting early and quickly was another key lesson learned, he says, which played out on many fronts, including launching a mature telehealth platform, converting the entire USF Health educational program to remote learning, and standing up multiple clinical trials within several weeks.

Over a matter of days, USF Health shifted hundreds of in-person appointments into virtual telehealth appointments, an effort that helped patients stay connected with USF Health specialists for much-needed care.

“We literally stood up telehealth in a week and went from zero to 1,000 telehealth visits a day in just a few weeks, and had very high patient satisfaction,” Lockwood says.

By early May, USF Health had conducted more than 22,000 telehealth appointments.

For remote learning, medical students over just a few days connected to nearly every part of their curriculum.

“We completely ‘virtualized’ our curriculum for the medical school and other USF Health schools in one week,” Lockwood says. “We use Microsoft Teams for small-group learning, patient simulation, standardized patients, and lectures. You name it, it’s all online now. That is going to be a vast treasure trove of additional learning material even if we go back to small-group learning.”

And for clinical trials, USF Health was quick to start an array of clinical research, opening several dozen trials examining potential treatments for COVID-19, including participation in several national studies. The typical start-up timeframe for new clinical trials in an academic medical center is 90 days or more. USF Health has been able to start up COVID-19 trials in five days or less. Communication, collaboration and prioritization from many areas enabled the success, including budget and contract analysts, onsite legal counsel, USF Institutional Review Board (IRB), central IRBs, investigators, study teams and regulatory manager.

C COVID-19 WILL UNDOUBTEDLY linger in our immediate future, Lockwood says.

In this “new normal,” from a scientific perspective, he says, a lot will depend on having novel medications that prevent death, developing an effective vaccine while avoiding a phenomenon called antibody-dependent enhancement, where giving the vaccine

Over a matter of days, USF Health shifted hundreds of in-person appointments into virtual telehealth appointments, an effort that helped patients stay connected with USF Health specialists for much-needed care.



Photo: USF Health communications

makes you even sicker than if you get COVID-19.

From a public health perspective, this new normal will depend on us.

“For most of us, the ‘new normal’ will look very much like the main Tokyo train station did last time I was there about five years ago,” he says. “Most people wore masks then, and many wore gloves, and they don’t shake hands. It’s perhaps what we need to do. We have to get used to wearing face masks, we have to get used to washing our hands a lot and using hand sanitizers and washing and cleaning all public surfaces.”

This new normal may also depend on our behavior as a species, he says, noting that the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic reflects another manifestation of the impact of over-population and over-development and disruption of natural habitats. In the case of COVID-19, Lockwood says, it was that of the bat.

“That encroachment allowed bats, which carry a large number of different viruses, including coronaviruses, to come in contact with domesticated animals, and that led to the Wuhan incident,” he says.

“Maybe, in the end, Mother Nature will have taught us a lesson, that we won’t need to encroach on natural habitats anymore, and we will stop unrestrained population growth and development.”

Maybe, in the summer of 2020, with COVID-19 only a few months old, we have shown how nimble we can be. Lockwood adds, “And perhaps we’re so much better than just nimble.”

'A journey like no other'

USF Health experts share reflections on unprecedented challenges of COVID-19



Bréchet

"I believe that two very important lessons should be remembered from this pandemic:

- **The importance of diagnostics:** Therapeutics and vaccines are obviously very important but diagnostics is at the heart of the surveillance and control of epidemics; this has been underappreciated and we need to reinforce our capacity to very rapidly react. As an example, the Coalition for Epidemic Prepared-

ness and Innovations has been shaped after the Ebola crisis in 2014-2015. It merges large foundations (Bill & Melinda Gates, Wellcome Trust), governments, industrial partners, WHO, etc., and aims to prepare in advance vaccines for known viruses and to rapidly react to new viruses (such as presently COVID19). We should think of similar organizations in the future for diagnostics.

- **Harmonization of the public health strategies.**

A major hurdle in the present attempts to control the COVID-19 pandemic has been the lack of consistency from one national policy to the other, or even at the state and county levels in the USA. Significant progress in Global and One Health epidemics has been achieved after the SARS-CoV-1 and Ebola, yet we need to work on much more efficient mechanisms for coordination, including performing in advance 'scenarii' that should allow us to evaluate and anticipate all aspects of the problems (including economic, behavioral etc..)."

Dr. Christian Bréchet

Professor of Medicine
Senior Associate Dean for Research for Global Affairs in the Morsani College of Medicine
Associate Vice President of International Partnerships & Innovation, Morsani College of Medicine
President of the Global Virus Network

"I learned that courage, the primary virtue, was essential to function as a physician in a time of plague. Courage to demand clinical trials, to push yourself to learn every day about a complex adversary, to always maintain your humility and humanity in the face of nature's worst."

Dr. John Sinnott, MA '74

Chair, Department of Internal Medicine, Morsani College of Medicine
James Cullison, MD, Professorship in Medicine, Internal Medicine, Morsani College of Medicine



Sinnott



Kim

"Even in a time of uncertainty, it's amazing what a motivated team of health-care workers and scientists can accomplish. Although COVID-19 is far from over, I've met and worked with a huge number of amazing people who are eager to pitch in to prepare our community."

Dr. Kami Kim

Professor of Medicine, Morsani College of Medicine
Director, Division of Infectious Disease & International Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Morsani College of Medicine

"Public health emergencies of this magnitude are some of the most complex issues we face as a society.

At times like these, people will rise to the occasion if they see a need, receive clear and unifying messages from leaders, are educated about what they need to know and what they can do, and are guided as to where to receive reliable updated information with regularity. As we enter these uncharted waters together, it is a true test of our values and grit to envision our world on the other side of the calamity and learn from the evolving science and experience and adapt moving forward. It is in this context that USF has critical roles to play as an institution of advanced learning, a provider of health care, a leader of



Levine

creative and innovative solutions and a valued community partner."

Dr. Marissa J. Levine

Professor, College of Public Health
Director, Center for Leadership in Public Health Practice



Lakshmi

“It’s been a journey like no other. As an epidemiologist, I train for outbreak and pandemic management. However, it is hard to imagine that any amount of training would have prepared us for a pandemic of this speed and magnitude. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, I have witnessed displays of immense solidarity and courage in my colleagues and in our community at large. We came together as a collective conscience despite being physically separated. Lastly, as a physician, a mother, a wife and a friend, I have mourned the loss of physical presence during first breaths, joyful tears and final goodbyes. As we look to the future for hope and near normalcy, we march on. We are prepared to provide the best care for the community, every day and every step of the way, no matter what new challenges come our way. Together we have overcome unprecedented challenges that were once unforeseeable and unimaginable; together we will overcome this invisible enemy.”

Dr. Seetha Lakshmi

Assistant Professor of Infectious Disease, Morsani College of Medicine
Associate Hospital Epidemiologist, Tampa General Hospital

“The COVID-19 pandemic has been correctly characterized as a public health crisis, which means it requires a coordinated public health response. What has been reinforced to me in this situation is how much the public health system relies on the public to achieve its aims. Without any native immunity, treatment or a vaccine, our only tools are education, engagement and persuasion, all designed to secure the cooperation of the public. We’ve witnessed incredible resiliency and ingenuity – just look at the number of people making masks, finding new ways to celebrate life events, and finding new ways to connect on social

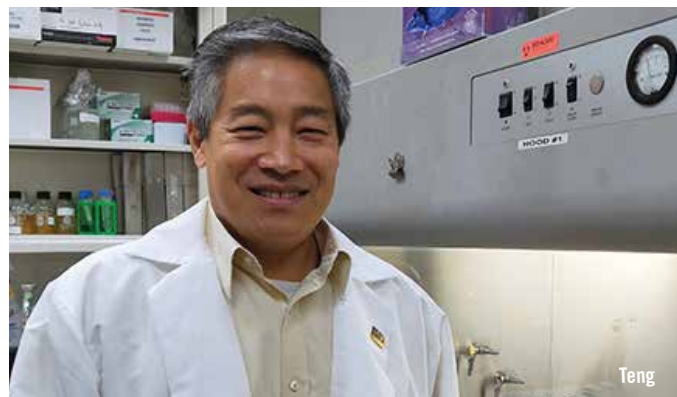
media. Many people have heeded the stay-at-home orders and are wearing face coverings on their limited outings. On the other hand, people are understandably frustrated and growing angry at the consequences of those orders. We can never forget that health and the economy are inextricably linked and that we need both to thrive as a society. COVID-19 is a formidable foe, but if we can mobilize the collective strength of our communities, we will defeat it.”

Donna Petersen

Senior Associate Vice President of USF Health and
Dean of the College of Public Health



Petersen, at right



Teng

“What I learned from the COVID-19 is that there are three essentials for fighting a pandemic or any other disaster: leadership, communication and charity. Strong leadership, with a clear view of the facts, paves the way for well-constructed and forward-thinking plans for all the phases of reaction and recovery. Our Tampa Bay leaders deserve credit for their response to COVID-19, the effectiveness of which is shown in our relatively lower case and fatality numbers compared to other regions in

our state. Good communication between policy officials and the public is important for both explaining to the community at large the extent of the issues and the reasons for the measures taken in response. It also gives the public more confidence that the leaders know what they are doing, especially when they call for stringent measures like social distancing. Finally, charity on all levels is paramount. Charity is not merely donations; charity is treating each other with respect, helping when you can, and believing the best of people until proven otherwise.

Fighting COVID-19 has underscored the incredible array of talent that we have on our faculty. This dire situation has brought together researchers and health-care professionals to focus on finding solutions. Our 3D-printed nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs, which were designed and lab tested in less than two weeks, are a perfect example of the possibilities when our faculty work as one in a collegial and efficient way. Now, with the help of our amazing medical students, we are able to provide our clinical affiliates with NP swabs to ease the shortage of commercial NP swabs.”

Michael N. Teng

Associate Professor of Molecular Medicine, Morsani College of Medicine
Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Science, Taneja College of Pharmacy

USF-designed 3D nasal swab is being used the world over to facilitate testing of patients

THE USF-DESIGNED 3D PRINTED NASAL SWAB that broke into national news in late March is now being used by several hundred hospitals and academic medical centers around the country, many state governments, including Ohio, Massachusetts and Virginia, and international agencies and health care facilities.

Widespread use of the nasal swab was one of many goals when it was announced March 28 that USF Health; Formlabs, a leading 3D printing company; Northwell Health, New York's largest health care provider; and Tampa General Hospital had successfully designed, tested and begun producing a 3D printed nasal swab to address emergency shortages that hospitals and health care teams were facing as testing for COVID-19 increased.

The worldwide interest in the swabs kicked in quickly after the announcement and hasn't let up since, says Dr. Summer Decker, MA '07, MS '08, PhD '10, associate professor in the Department of Radiology in the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine and director of 3D Clinical Applications.

"We are grateful that we were able to work as a team to get this solution out so quickly in order to hopefully help many people. The response has been overwhelming," Decker says. "It's been very rewarding to speak to

so many hospitals across the world to hear their experiences and see how we can help. This situation has stripped away many of the barriers between us so we can work together for the common goal of saving lives."

The nasal swab design came about when, after identifying in mid-March that nasal swabs for testing COVID-19 were in high demand and extremely limited in supply, a team from USF Health's 3D Clinical Applications Division created an initial design, working with Northwell Health and collaborating with Formlabs to develop prototypes and secure materials for a 3D printed alternative.

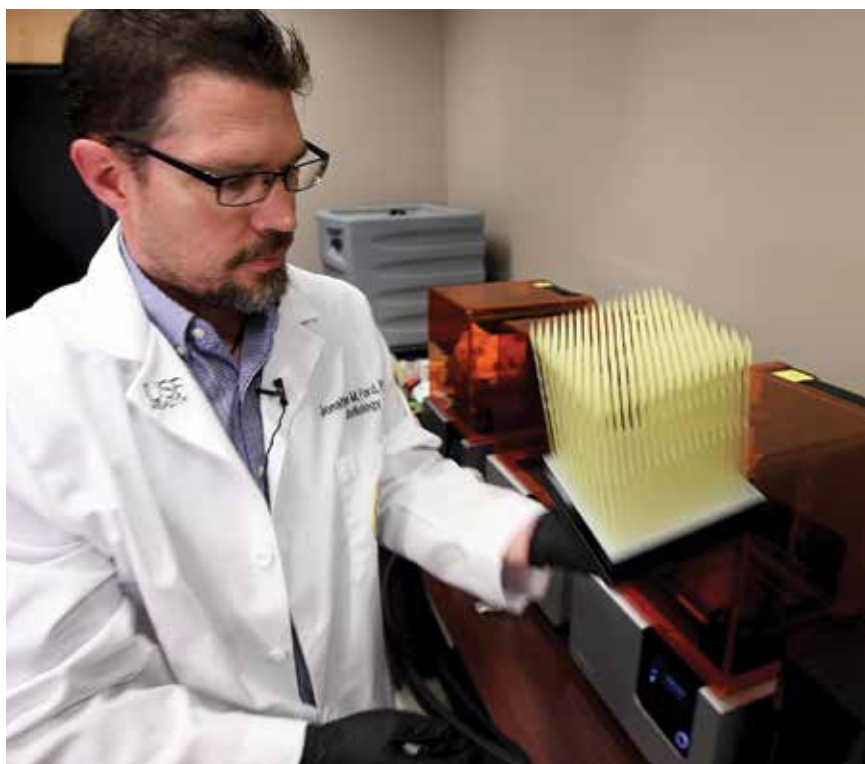
Over the span of one week, the teams worked together to develop a nasal swab prototype and test it in the USF Health and Northwell Health labs. In two days, USF Health and Northwell Health, using Formlabs' 3D printers and biocompatible, autoclavable resins, developed prototypes.

Key milestones in testing the swabs were conducted by USF Health faculty researchers in the departments of Radiology and Infectious Diseases in collaboration with Northwell Health, including validation testing (24-hour, three-day, and leeching), and rapid clinical testing at Northwell Health and Tampa General Hospital. All testing showed that the 3D printed nasal swabs perform equally to standard swabs used for testing for COVID-19.

Once that clinical validation was complete, 3D printers at USF Health and Northwell Health began producing the swabs and providing them to their patients – USF Health has produced swabs for its patients and that of some of its affiliates, including Tampa General Hospital, Moffitt Cancer Center and the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital.

"To see the widespread adoption of USF Health's nasal swab test has been particularly gratifying, and I cannot speak highly enough about Dr. Summer Decker and her team for taking the initiative to meet this pressing need. Health care providers all across the nation are now better equipped to diagnose and prevent the spread of COVID-19," says Dr. Charles J. Lockwood, senior vice president for USF Health and dean of the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine.

In addition to Lockwood and Decker, faculty from across USF joined in the design and creation of the 3D printed nasal swabs, including: Jonathan Ford, MS '09, MS '10, PhD '13; Dr. Todd Hazelton, '87, MD '93; Gilberto Jaimes, '13, MS '14, Howard Kaplan, MEd '14; Dr. Kami Kim, Dr. John Sinnott, MA '74; Michael Teng and Dr. Jason Wilson, '00, MD '08.

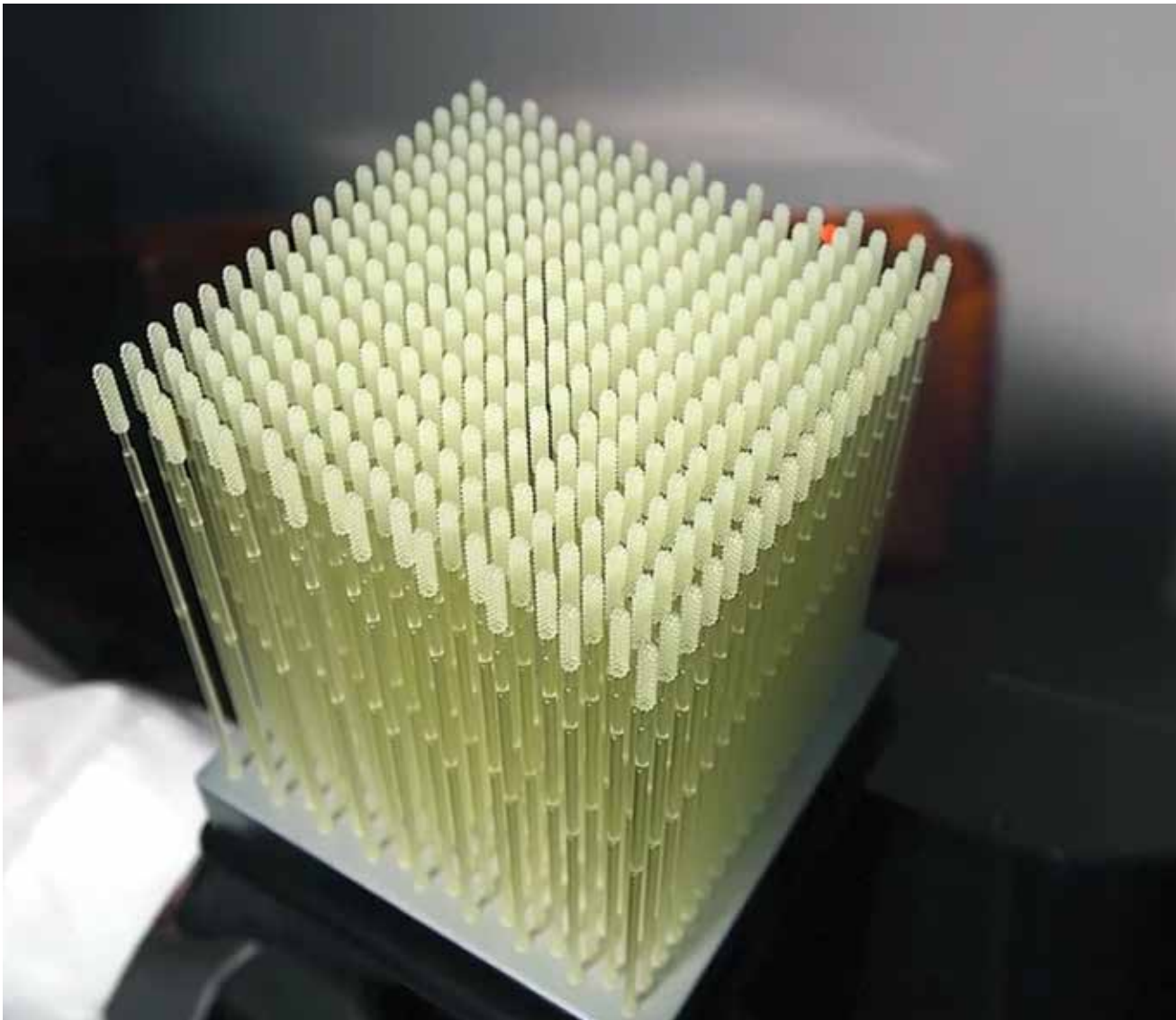


- SARAH WORTH '86 | USF Health



Opposite page: Jonathan Ford, a biomedical engineer in the Morsani College of Medicine's Department of Radiology, holding nasal swabs.

Left: As of late May, 50,000 nasopharyngeal swabs had been produced for USF Health and its affiliates, including Tampa General, Moffitt Cancer Center and the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital.



Photos: ALLISON LONG | USF Health

Engineering lab helps protect doctors, nurses

MICHAEL CELESTIN DESCRIBES the USF College of Engineering's Mini-Circuits Design for X Laboratory as "a maker-space/hacker-space."

"It is a safe environment for students from all over USF to come, learn, collaborate and share projects and skills," says Celestin, '06, MChE '08, PhD '13, senior research engineer.

The lab's high-tech tools, particularly the laser cutters and 3D printers, attract engineering majors and students from other disciplines – in normal times. However, since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, Celestin and his team have turned the lab into a manufacturing space to assist frontline health care workers.

"There were many minds that independently and simultaneously began thinking about leveraging existing resources around the time that the pandemic started to become big news in the U.S.," Celestin explains. "At that point, it was no longer a piece of news from another country or something that was distant – it was here and something needed to be done."

Engineering Dean Robert Bishop reached out to Celestin to ask how they could assist USF Health and Tampa General Hospital, USF's teaching hospital, as COVID-19 cases began to surge.

"We worked closely with our local medical community and value their feedback," Celestin says. "What we heard was very clear: Comfortable and disposable face shields



for scaling up," Celestin says. "The difference between making 20 and 200 face shields is quite striking and not what one might expect."

The lab can manufacture 575 shields per day, and as of mid-May had produced nearly 10,000. All of the units are delivered to USF Emergency Management, which compiles the list of requests and prioritizes distribution based on metrics and need. Celestin says the bulk of the shields have gone to USF Health and Tampa General Hospital, though additional units have been delivered to the USF College of Pharmacy and the USF Police Department on the Tampa and St. Petersburg campuses.

Celestin and his team also have been using 3D printers to manufacture ear reliefs "to alleviate strain and discomfort for those who have to wear face masks – as opposed to face shields – all day."

He credits the college's development team with providing necessary funding and help; Alex Saltos, '17, MS '19, the manager who assists with optimizing design and scheduling student work times; and "an amazing group" of student assistants who perform the bulk of the assembly work.

"What we're doing is helpful to nurses and doctors, but they are the real front-line heroes, not my team," Celestin says. "We're just trying to protect them."

Bishop stresses the importance of responding to the community's needs during the health crisis.

"In practice, the face shields project has made us more connected not only with the health care professional, but with the local community that we serve," he says. "Engineering is all about helping people."

- TOM WOOLF | USF News

“ “ In practice, the face shields project has made us more connected not only with the health-care professional, but with the local community that we serve.”

– Robert Bishop

that didn't need to be cleaned or fussed with worked best."

He also points out that while face shields at best would take one to three hours on a 3D printer, his team can produce one in 49 seconds and for under 49 cents per unit in materials. Those materials include mylar, elastic and foam.

The original face shield design was an open source design from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which Celestin and his team "modified and improved for throughput, durability and the unique natures of the materials we were able to procure."

"We re-published the plans as open source in addition to providing insight into the tripping points and challenges



Photos: The Mini-Circuits Design for X Laboratory produces 575 face shields a day for health-care professionals.

OPEN MEDICAL SHIELD V4
Operation: Bull Shield
DESIGN FOR X LABORATORY
Mini-Circuits
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
www.eng.usf.edu
 UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA

Photos: Courtesy of Michael Celestin

Rapid Response Grants program explores treatment, technologies from multiple angles



Illustration: Shrek Bill Oxford

USF has invested nearly \$340,000 in a new Rapid Response Research Grants program that seeks to address the pandemic by exploring potential treatments for COVID-19 infections, developing new technologies to help prevent the virus' spread, launching efforts to protect public safety and managing the emotional impacts of the virus. Funding from the Florida High Tech Corridor Council also will support some of these projects.

Among the projects:

- **Antibodies and immunity:** This project is exploring the presence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies and potential immunity using a combination of tests to determine which will best detect whether a person is immune to the virus or not. The research is important to determine whom among the medical staff are potentially immune to SARS-CoV-2, who can return to work safely because they have developed an immunity to the virus, and will allow researchers to recalculate a more accurate fatality rate among the general population. Principal investigator: Dr. Kami Kim, Morsani College of Medicine and director of the Division of Infectious Disease & International Medicine.
- **Susceptibility in different ethnic backgrounds:** The project is attempting to understand the disproportionate SARS-CoV-2 disparities among ethnic groups. COVID-19 victims are disproportionately represented by those with pre-existing cardiovascular conditions (hypertension and heart failure) and by specific ethnic groups (African-Americans and Hispanics) who have double the infection rates and mortality in some of the disease hotspots. The project would explore important unanswered questions on racial disparities and

COVID-19, including whether ethnic differences in infection rates and cardiovascular complications are solely due to socioeconomic disparities, or if there are cellular-level or other medical explanations. Principal investigator: Dr. Thomas McDonald, Morsani College of Medicine, USF Health Heart Institute.

- **Contact tracing app:** Researchers are developing a new approach to contact-tracing via the Bluetooth-LE signal of smartphones that would advance contact tracing for communicable diseases. The first phase of the research would develop a secure system for critical organizations, allowing their members to report their condition and to isolate/test members who have been in contact with confirmed cases. A second phase of the project would allow for volunteer participants to report their condition and learn if they have been in close contact with confirmed cases without revealing their identity. Principal investigator: Jean-Francois Biasse, College of Arts & Sciences and director of the Center for Cryptographic Research.
- **Hurricane shelter operations during a pandemic:** This research will outline key considerations for sheltering and evacuation in the era of COVID-19. The potential risk of COVID-19 infections spreading among shelter residents and between shelter residents and staff increases with proximity. The researchers plan to address these complex concerns by conducting a gap analysis of current shelter plans and available resources that meet national guidelines and best practices. Principal investigator: Jennifer Marshall, College of Public Health.

A full list of the 14 interdisciplinary projects, selected from a field of more than 125 proposals submitted by USF researchers, is available online at USF Research News, at usf.edu/research-innovation.



USF Health leads clinical trials, seeking medication treatment protocols, treatments, cure

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF APRIL, USF Health researchers launched several clinical trials as part of the worldwide effort to reduce the severity of illness and even prevent COVID-19.

In connection with Tampa General Hospital, USF Health researchers are leading the examination of a range of medications and treatment protocols that could impact the disease at a symptoms level for patients and at the cellular level of the virus.

“The USF Health Office of Clinical Research and supporting parties are making strides that we’ve never made before,” says Rachel Karlnoski, PhD ’07, director of Clinical Research Operations for USF Health.

“The typical start-up timeframe for new clinical trials in an academic medical center is 90 days or more. Our goal for COVID-19 trials was five days or less and we have succeeded. Communication, collaboration and prioritization from our budget and contract analysts, onsite legal counsel, USF Institutional Review Board, central IRBs, investigators, study teams and regulatory managers have enabled our success.”

The united, expedited efforts paid off and now USF Health and TGH are conducting multiple front-line studies that link to larger efforts across the country, all in sync for finding treatments and cures for COVID-19.

In addition, there are several COVID-19 translational research projects taking place across USF Health.

The work may contribute to worldwide efforts to accelerate the discovery and validation of new technologies to diagnose and prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2, as well as finding potential new treatments for COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the new coronavirus.

The studies are being conducted by scientists across disciplines including biochemistry, infectious diseases and international medicine, medical engineering, nursing, pharmacy, public health, structural biology and virology. The ambitious translational research initiative supplements the joint clinical trials launched last month by USF Health and Tampa General Hospital.

“Many fundamental questions remain about this newest coronavirus, including how it functions, the ability of antibodies to convey immunity, and whether genetic differences in certain populations affect their susceptibil-

ity to COVID-19 infection or severity of the illness,” says Dr. Stephen Liggett, associate vice president of the USF Health Office of Research and vice dean for research in the Morsani College of Medicine. “Our faculty and student researchers have been quick to mobilize their talent and resources, because they want to do whatever they can to find answers — both to help fight this pandemic and to prepare for future outbreaks.”

Clinical trials

One of the overarching research efforts is the inclusion of data related to COVID-19 as part of a national registry tracking many aspects of the virus and those infected with it, such as pregnant women and their babies. USF Health and TGH providers are actively submitting information to this registry.

Additional clinical trials looked at treatment options, including sarilumab to determine effectiveness in blocking inflammation in the lungs in hospitalized severely ill patients; remdesivir, an antiviral drug that may help kill the virus; hydroxychloroquine for severely ill patients as treatment, for health care workers as prevention, and for outpatient treatment in those who are not severely ill; and Ruxolitinib in critically ill patients to determine the impact of the medication in easing or stopping the associated cytokine storm, when the patient’s immune system becomes overwhelmed and attacks healthy cells.



The typical start-up timeframe for new clinical trials in an academic medical center is 90 days or more. Our goal for COVID-19 trials was five days or less and we have succeeded.”

— Rachel Karlnoski

Teams are also studying convalescent sera/plasma from people who have recovered from COVID-19 in those who currently have the disease.

Other studies are looking into ways for treating pneumonia associated with so many cases of patients with COVID-19; assessing the safety and anti-coronavirus response of combined suppression of host nucleotide synthesis in hospitalized adults with COVID-19; and testing Brequinar, an antiviral drug for treating COVID-19.

Translational research

Among the new translational research projects underway, or being scaled up, are: antibody tests and immunity; susceptibility in different ethnic backgrounds; protective antibodies and vaccines; portable biomedical testing system; and targeting viral replication.

Some of the COVID-19 related projects build upon the knowledge and insights USF Health scientists have acquired using advanced technologies to study the underlying molecular and cellular biology of other viruses and pathogens, including respiratory syncytial virus and HIV.



Public Health FACULTY work across the state to monitor, fight spread of disease

By DONNA CAMPISANO

IN MID-MARCH, College of Public Health Dean Donna Peterson sent an email to the college's faculty with the subject line "an unprecedented opportunity."

The email was sent just as USF and the country were bracing for the coming onslaught of COVID-19 cases. It asked faculty to work with the Florida

Department of Health and emergency operations management in various counties and capacities across the state to monitor and fight the spread of the disease. This, in addition to teaching their online courses and continuing with their research.

All in all, roughly a dozen faculty members responded to the call, doing everything from contact tracing to compiling medical profiles on those who had died from the virus to procuring personal protective equipment (PPE) for hospitals and health-care centers.

What were their experiences like? What will they remember weeks, months and years from now? Five of the faculty members shared their stories.

On difficulties getting people to adhere to guidelines

Marie Bourgeois, '91, MPH '06 and PHD '10, assistant research professor, was deployed to hard-hit Miami-Dade County where she worked to put together medical history profiles on those who died from COVID-19, many of whom, she said, had COPD, diabetes and/or chronic kidney disease.

"We were sending people into nursing homes and assisted living facilities where patients had been identified as having the virus, instructing the staff on vulnerabilities they might have. In one home a nurse told us that (COVID) patients who were smokers would still insist on sneaking outside for cigarettes. They had the masks with them because the facility required them all to follow safety protocols, but they would scrunch them down under their chins to smoke. She was afraid they would catch on fire. But there is such a thing as free will. You're not necessarily going to convince an 85-year-old who has survived the Great Depression and World War II that you have a significant amount of control over him/her. She couldn't get them to see the risk of a virus that could kill them when they had already lived through such tumultuous times."

On preparedness (or lack of it)

Elizabeth Dunn, '07, '08 and MPH '11, instructor, current doctoral candidate and recipient of the college's 2020 Excellence in Teaching Award, is working with the Hillsborough County Office of Emergency Management securing PPE for health care professionals. She's also placed 16 students in positions around Hillsborough County, assisting with COVID-19 support, logistics and coordination efforts.

"The lack of PPE available has been most unexpected – and a surprise to me personally. I believe planning prior to this large-scale event – on a national level – regarding supply chain disruptions should have been anticipated and taken into account. It would have helped us understand what sort of medical equipment, supplies or medications would be in short supply due to an interruption (in manufacturing or distribution). That being said, however, this whole experience has shown how progressive our county and the city of Tampa are in taking a whole-community approach to tackling these challenges regarding COVID-19 as they arise. Our emergency management officials are responding and coordinating along with health department experts and USF Health. Instead of each of us working in silos, we're working together. One good example: We're launching a research project to look at COVID-19 considerations as we prepare evacuation shelters for the upcoming hurricane season."

On fear of the virus

Matawal Makut, MPH '12 and MBA '15, faculty instructor and medical doctor trained in Nigeria, was deployed to rural Madison County where he traced contacts of COVID-19 patients.

"Honestly, I am really excited at this opportunity to experience public health in action. We constantly teach our students about epidemiological concepts, but being able to personally apply such concepts in the middle of a pandemic has been a great experience so far. Yes, fear of the virus is real, and I have told myself the only way to stay safe is to observe the basic precautions of social distancing, washing my hands regularly and using hand sanitizer. I also wear an N95 mask since I am with the health department and they sometimes swab patients. We've signed up to do this job and it will be great to contribute my quota and flatten the curve while also staying safe."



Elizabeth Dunn takes inventory of N95 face masks for the Hillsborough County Office of Emergency Management Operations.

On community

Stephanie Marhefka, professor and assistant dean for research, worked remotely for Monroe County, tracing contacts and entering/studying data.

“When I began calling contacts of confirmed cases for their daily monitoring, I was surprised at the response. I was calling from my cell phone – a 917 area code – when the contacts were likely anticipating a call from a number starting 305. I didn’t expect many contacts to answer – but they did! My next surprise was that they appreciated the phone call. They thanked me for following up. It seemed that in this time of fear and so much ambiguity, the calls brought them comfort. They were grateful to know that someone was looking out for them. Previously, when I was entering data from forms staff had completed during contact monitoring, I was thinking about ways to automate the monitoring process. Wouldn’t it be more efficient if we use a texting system to complete the monitoring? But now, I realize that the monitoring process may be important for supporting people through a very difficult time. What must it feel like to know you were exposed to someone with COVID-19 – especially for someone who is elderly and/or has underlying health conditions that put them at high risk for poor outcomes? Maybe that call helps some people to feel a little less alone at a time when they fear death is about to come knocking on their door.”

I would do this again in a heartbeat. I feel a responsibility to use the skills I have to educate and prevent (disease) and help people get through this.”

– Deidre Orriola

On professional responsibility

Deidre Orriola, MPH '06, adjunct faculty member, also deployed to Madison County and performed contact tracing, including going to individual homes.

“Things are up and down. We had our first death today in the county from COVID-19. But we have also cleared many people from self-isolation and monitoring. I cleared five today. I made my last call and sent them a letter that they were being released from monitoring, although they are advised that Florida is still under a stay-at-home order. That’s rewarding and feels good. At the end of the day I fist-pump in the air and say, ‘Yay! We got five released today!’ I would do this again in a heartbeat. I feel a responsibility to use the skills I have to educate and prevent (disease) and help people get through this. We’re gradually seeing that curve flatten and I am proud to show my children that this is what I’m doing to help.”

What have we learned? What needs to change?

Donna Petersen, dean of the College of Public Health, looks back – and ahead

SIX MONTHS AGO, IF YOU ASKED someone what public health was, you probably would’ve heard something vague. “It has something to do with health care, right? And keeping people healthy?”

Yes. And yes again.

But it’s that and a whole lot more. Especially when viewed through the lens of a pandemic.

“When we’re at our best, we’re preventing disease and threats to health,” says Donna Petersen, dean of USF’s College of Public Health and senior associate vice president of USF Health. “And when we do that, people forget we’re there. We hope this pandemic has helped people realize that public health matters, and we need to make investments in it.”

What else has COVID-19 taught us? Petersen offers hindsight and highlights:

Do you think we were prepared for this pandemic – for its scope and virulence?

Public health experts have been preparing for a pandemic for years. We’ve been arguing that we need more trained staff, more materials and supplies, more surge capacity in the health-care system. All the things people were saying we didn’t have enough of, and they were right. It’s not that COVID-19 caught us unaware. We’ve been training for this. But we weren’t sufficiently prepared. It’s hard to get people to invest in things that you hope won’t ever be needed.

Stand 6 feet apart. Wash your hands for 20 seconds. These measures have been drilled into us. And still the virus spreads. Short of a vaccine, what else is in our toolkit to combat COVID-19?

We have good public health messages and good data collection, and we’ve conveyed the information regularly, honestly and transparently. But it’s not always enough. Some people will heed the advice, some will ignore it and still others will think it doesn’t apply to them. So the next step is engineering solutions --for example, those Plexiglas shields you see at the supermarket that protect you and the cashier from transmission of the virus. But that’s just one step. We also have policy directives to try and force people to change behavior, things like the safer-at-home order. We don’t like to do this. We hope we can just persuade people to do the right thing. But sometimes you have to force them.



Left: Donna Petersen is dean of USF's College of Public Health.

Photo: ERIC YOUNGHANS | USF Health Communications

In a way, you and your public health colleagues are soldiers and this is your war. How do you feel about going to battle?

Ideally you want to anticipate and prevent these things. But when that doesn't happen, for whatever reason, you have to be able to respond. I'm incredibly proud of our alumni, students, faculty and staff all over the world working on the front lines. And if they're not on the front lines, they're trying to keep other public health efforts going in the wake of COVID-19, because [things like housing and food insecurity] don't stop because there's a pandemic. When the Florida Department of Health asked our faculty, students and staff to step up, they did. One hundred-fifty have been deployed, many doing contact tracing. And that's a valuable part of the toolkit. This is what we train people to do and it's marvelous to see them in action. It's exciting on one level, but we wish we weren't doing it. We would much prefer to capture this early and prevent the spread.

What can we do better next time?

Making sure people have easy access to health care is tops on the list. I also hope we recognize the power of paid sick leave. When people have symptoms of any kind of illness, they need to not go to work and still get

paid, and they need to be able to get to a health-care provider. We still don't know how many people have not sought care for COVID-19. We're relying on people who feel sick or who may have been exposed to bring themselves to the attention of a health-care worker. And if they don't have health-care coverage, or they're afraid to take a day off, then we don't get a good sense of how many are carrying and spreading the virus in the community. Those are compelling issues we have to continue to debate and find a solution for.

So, when all this is said and done, do you think people will know what public health is?

I hope people will gain an appreciation and respect for public health and what public health professionals do. I also hope they'll be more supportive when we ask for investments in the public health infrastructure, so we can effectively respond to challenges in the future. When you open a newspaper today, it is all about COVID-19. But we will come back to a day when we talk about whether it's safe to eat lettuce. And when we do, I hope people realize that, 'Hey, those are the same people who told me to stay at home and wash my hands. Maybe I should listen to them about the lettuce!'

- DONNA CAMPISANO | College of Public Health



Above: Chris Scott, center, co-owner of Belleair Market, poses with Tony Hernandez of RCS Food Bank, left, and Vince Eady, right, and Scott Boing of Sysco Foods, on the ground.

Right: Anddrikk Frazier has been helping small business owners weather the pandemic.





ALUMNI make it their BUSINESS to help

By JOEY JOHNSTON, '81

C OVID-19 HAS CHANGED nearly every aspect of American life, especially the progress of small business. But USF alumni have stepped up in their communities, making it their business to help. “You hear over and over how small business is the backbone of our economy,” says Eileen Rodriguez, regional director of the USF Small Business Development Center. “It’s so true. It really hurts to see how many of them have been severely affected by the COVID event.

“But what we’re seeing is how innovative these small businesses really are. They can really turn on a dime, just pivot and completely change the products and services they’re selling in order to be more relevant to the needs of right now.”

Rodriguez, MS '87 and MBA '02, Life Member, leads an agency serving a 10-county chunk of Florida. It offers assistance to existing and prospective small businesses, continuing to grow a 40-year-old network.

During the coronavirus pandemic, Rodriguez has been heartened by the can-do attitude of Bull-owned and -led businesses.

“Small business owners are unique people,” she says. “They have a passion for what they do. They do everything in their power to help their businesses continue to work.

“Now we have come to a time when almost everyone needs alternate solutions. It’s inspiring to see businesses helping people with that same level of passion.”

Here are just a few examples of business leaders who’ve found creative ways to lead with their hearts.

On borrowed time

Nick Vojnovic, MBA '12, owner of the 43-restaurant Little Greek Fresh Grill chain, says he’ll forever be indebted to the USF community for its support during his time of need. In 2019, Vojnovic contracted myelofibrosis, a rare

blood cancer that required a stem-cell transplant.

“So many people have helped me. I’m very eager to help in any way I can, Vojnovic says. “Things are tough all around with the COVID, no doubt, but I feel like I’m on borrowed time.”

So when Vojnovic learned of shortages in the Feed-A-Bull food pantry for financially struggling students on USF’s Tampa campus, he swung into action.

Little Greek has donated about 100 hot meals per week – two for every student who uses the food pantry – and he’s on the 100-meal donation rotation for Hillsborough Hope, a non-profit agency that aids the homeless.

Additionally, Little Greek’s Fowler Avenue location offered buy-one, get-one-free deals for anyone affiliated with USF.

Fast-food businesses relying on takeout and drive-through customers dropped about 20 percent of their business during spring COVID restrictions. Fast casual restaurants (like Little Greek) declined about 40 percent, Vojnovic says.

But Little Greek’s Fowler Avenue location, adjacent to USF’s campus, has skewed those economic stats. Its business declined by 80 percent, understandable considering the ghost-town USF’s once-bustling campus suddenly became.

“You have ups and downs in life and no doubt, this has been very difficult,” Vojnovic says. “But even in tough times, you know other people have it worse. We want to give back.”

Energizing small businesses

Former USF basketball player Anddrikk Frazier, '01, Life Member, is managing partner of Integral Energy, which provides natural-gas services and alternative fuels to public, private and governmental entities. Many of the clients are restaurants, hotels and fitness facilities — so 60 percent of his company’s customer base closed in the spring with another 15 percent on reduced service.



Above: Nick Vojnovic provided free meals to hungry students and others in need.

In January, Frazier had heard from a fellow Bull, an infectious diseases physician, about a “nasty” virus that had just showed up in the Seattle area. Frazier’s friend warned him repeatedly that it could spread like wildfire, so Frazier began modifying his business in late February.

“Our company is still being hurt, but without the precautions, it could have been catastrophic,” he says.

“This is a different crisis than the (financial) crisis we experienced in 2008 and 2009. This is a bottom-up situation, a completely different kind of paralysis. People are already struggling and now they’re not working. However we can, we want to help with solutions.”

Integral Energy has partnered with an electric-cart company to facilitate delivery transportation for his small-restaurant clients. The restaurants can manage their deliveries without incurring delivery service fees.

His company is also connecting small businesses to communications networks, such as the Tampa Chamber of Commerce. And it gathered attorneys and accountants for a small-business seminar.

“When small businesses fail, it’s bad for all of us,” he says. “So we’re focusing on doing all we can to help these businesses stay open. You want the high tides to raise all boats. If the most disadvantaged person on my team can’t contribute, then it’s not good for my team. That’s the way I view business.”

The gift certificate challenge

Jay Nault, ’83 and MBA ’84, Life Member, president/CEO of Storage Zone Self Storage and Business Centers, has 35 locations in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. While constantly traveling from his home base of Jacksonville to other market areas, he developed an affection for the local mom-and-pop restaurants.

So he selected 50 of them, sometimes working through area agencies, and purchased \$1,000 worth of gift certificates from each.

“But bringing \$50,000 to a problem like this is like

bringing a squirt gun to a forest fire,” he says. “It’s nice, but all by itself, it’s not going to make a huge impact. But what if others were inspired to do something similar?”

Nault proposed the Hometown Restaurant Gift Certificate Challenge (for details, see www.MyStorageZone.com). He challenged Storage Zone’s vendors, suppliers and stakeholders — along with competitors, neighboring businesses and individuals — to purchase small-restaurant gift certificates and use them as holiday gifts or employee incentives.

Nault sought to provide operating cash and more customer traffic for the restaurants, which he describes as “the heart of every community.”

“For most small independent restaurants, this has become a real disaster,” Nault says. “They were ordered to close and many didn’t have fully developed delivery or takeout options.

“I’ve been in small business my whole life. So my heart really goes out to small-business owners who, through no fault of their own, have basically been put out of business by this pandemic. The great food, the service and the familiarity of these restaurants are such a part of our lives. We just want to help.”

Taking it to the bank – the food bank

About six years ago, USF Sigma Nu fraternity brothers Chris Scott, ’92, Life Member, and Alumni Association board member Bruce Van Fleet, ’73, Life Member, purchased a convenience store in Pinellas County’s Belleair Bluffs community. They transformed it into the Belleair Market, branded it as “Your Corner Store,” and quickly made it a go-to for home-cooked meals, catering, gourmet food, fine wines and cigars.

“We like to think we’re unique,” Scott says. “Early in the day, we can be more of a grab-and-go kind of place. Later in the day, we might be more of a wine-and-cheese shop.”

In late March, the Belleair Market became a lifeline. When one of its suppliers had a surplus of inventory



“Hopefully, we eased some tension. At times like this, we all need more compassion and empathy. I hope we were an example for that.”

— Desiree Chubb

because of decreased demand from restaurants, the Belleair Market bought pallets of the food, which it donated to the RCS Food Bank.

All told, the partners gave 2,150 pounds of food — enough to feed 17 families of four for a week.

“The Sysco truck delivered the food to us, then the RCS truck picked it up,” Scott says. “And that wasn’t the end of it. That RCS truck driver kept in touch with Sysco and got more food donations. So it was truckload after truckload of food that might have gone to waste and instead was used for a worthy cause.

“As difficult as this time has been, you see so many good people and good things coming out of it.”

Some good has come to Belleair Market as well.

Despite drastic reductions in some areas, such as catering, delivery has picked up and the prepared family style meals are popular with walk-in customers.

“I think we have been fortunate,” Scott says. “So far, we’ve been able to keep the business where it needs to be. If we can help the community that has been really good to us, it’s all the better.”

Brewing a solution

On St. Patrick’s Day, St. Petersburg’s 3 Daughters Brewing shut its tasting room and brewery to the public due to COVID-19. Owner Mike Harting had one question

for his director of quality assurance, Desiree Chubb, ’19, USF St. Petersburg.

“Do you know how to make hand sanitizer?”

Chubb, one of two certified beer chemists in Florida, said she did.

And away they went.

After a 39-day odyssey, the firm had produced 4,290 gallons of what had become a hard-to-find commodity. They gathered it in whatever containers they could find, from 4-ounce tubes to 5-gallon buckets, and distributed — free of charge — to hospitals, first responders, airlines, nursing homes, gas stations, private businesses and individuals.

Every batch was produced in 30-gallon containers, mixed by paddles normally used for concrete, and tested for quality.

“We are a charitable company and we want to help our community,” Chubb says. “It kept us busy and really gave us a feeling of satisfaction.”

Chubb consulted with the World Health Organization to get the correct mixing ratios. The sanitizer ingredients — ethanol, isopropyl alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, glycerin and distilled water — were mostly donated by other companies.

On the first distribution day, they offered 450 4-ounce bottles to anyone who stopped by. But the offer drew crowds so 3D Brewing found a safer way to share.

At the same time, it continued brewing its mainstay while also becoming a sudden media darling. The company’s response to the pandemic was featured in newspapers, television news shows and even the nationally syndicated LIVE with Kelly and Ryan program.

“I think I will smell hand sanitizer the rest of my life,” Chubb says. “Our business is brewing, so there’s no chance we’re going in a new direction like Purell.

“He (Harting) has always done things like this and he wanted to help. Hopefully, we eased some tension. At times like this, we all need more compassion and empathy. I hope we were an example for that.” ■

Center: Jay Nault launched the Hometown Restaurant Gift Certificate Challenge to help small restaurants in his market areas.

Above: Desiree Chubb, ’19, who majored in biology at USFSP, developed the recipe for 3D Brewing’s hand sanitizer, which the company gave away for free.

Calling all students: Sarasota-Manatee bridges the gap

WITH THE MID-SEMESTER SHIFT to remote instruction due to the coronavirus pandemic, staff at USF's Sarasota-Manatee campus wanted to make sure students had the resources and support they needed to successfully continue their studies.

The nine staff members reached out by phone to students – all 2,100.

Brett Kemker, regional vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, says that when he learned that faculty and students were having difficulty connecting via email, he felt “the best thing our student success team could do was reach out to students personally by phone, just to check in and offer our support. The call-outs have been very well received.”

He related a conversation an academic program specialist had with a student enrolled in an online program.

“The student really appreciated the call, saying ‘I didn’t know if you knew I existed,’ since he already was fully online,” Kemker says.

Megan Dudley, a sophomore majoring in interdisciplinary social sciences, says that in her time as a student at the Sarasota-Manatee campus, “I’ve never felt more connected to a school than when I received a call from Student Services.

“I was asked if I had any trouble adjusting and if they could be of assistance,” she says. “I was pleasantly surprised at the amount of concern they had for my academic success.”

Before the call was over, Dudley was able to schedule a phone appointment with a student advisor. “This call made me very appreciative of the amount of support from USF Sarasota-Manatee, and they could not have been more helpful at a time like this.”

Kemker looks forward to having his staff continue making the calls “even when we get back to normal.”

“It’s not a call saying ‘you need to do this or that,’ it’s just reaching out and making an honest connection,” he says.

- RICH SHOPE | Communications and Marketing



University students flock to Pen Pal program

AS UNIVERSITIES AROUND THE WORLD moved to remote teaching and learning during the spring semester, students from USF and universities around the world turned to a time-honored concept to stay connected: the pen pal.

The College Pen Pal initiative was launched by the COMPASS student experience office at USF's St. Petersburg campus after USF moved to remote instruction in March.

Less than 48 hours after the program was announced on Instagram, more than 700 students from universities across the country and all three USF campuses signed up to correspond with a like-minded pal while practicing social distancing.

By late April, the COMPASS office had matched nearly 1,600 students from 227 institutions, including 240 USF students. The vast majority are from the United States (including the University of Hawaii, Manoa), with additional sign-ups from Canada, Zambia and South Africa.

“I thought of the idea the first week students were away from campus, when we were scrambling to think through how to engage them from afar,” explains COMPASS Program Coordinator Meredith Mechanik. “My first thought was to keep the program within USF, but there’s something really powerful about the fact that college students around the world – regardless of their major or where they live – are having a shared experience. With that in mind, we leaned into the opportunity for them to connect with someone they likely never would’ve come across otherwise.”

To participate, students can go to bit.ly/collegepenpal. Links are also available on USF's social media pages. After filling out the online form, participants will be matched with one another by members of the COMPASS program.

It is up to participants how frequently they want to correspond.

- CARRIE O'BRIEN | Marketing and Communications



Food pantries respond to growing demand

AS THEY DID THROUGHOUT THE SPRING SEMESTER, food pantries on USF's three campuses are continuing to help meet the needs of students.

All three pantries have experienced high demand, indicating how the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on many sectors of the economy has directly affected students, from lost jobs to reduced family support due to changing financial situations.

Here's a look at the three pantries:

Tampa campus

Stacey Struhar, MPH '18, a registered dietitian with Student Health Services, says the Feed-A-Bull food pantry served nearly double the number of individuals who normally visit it during the spring semester. Feed-A-Bull was created in 2015 through a partnership between USF and Feeding Tampa Bay. Struhar says that although the pantry's services are usually limited to students, under the current circumstances, it is open to faculty and staff who may be in need as well.

"As a registered dietitian, I recognize the importance of having enough food to eat, and how this can impact success in school or work," Struhar says. "Through the pantry, we provide a variety of nutritious foods to those in need, which is especially important during these difficult times."

Feed-A-Bull has experienced an outpouring of support. Through USF Dining, Aramark donated 650 pounds of fresh produce, baked goods, fruit juice, dairy products and protein. The pantry also received donations from local businesses, the USF Bookstore (Follett), a staff food drive and from individuals looking to help, but Struhar says the increased demand has led to the need for even more donations.

Students on campus and in off-campus housing may need support throughout the summer, says Susanna Perez-Field, '94, Student Health Services' communications and marketing officer. "We don't know how long COVID-19 will impact businesses, and once businesses are operational, how long it may take students to be financially solvent again."

The pantry is located in the Student Services breezeway, near the Office of Financial Aid and the ID Card Center. Donations are being accepted at that location during the pantry's operating hours: Tuesday, 9 a.m.-noon; Wednesday, 1-4 p.m.; and Thursday, 3-5 p.m. If the donation is large, or help is needed with unloading, donors can pull up to the loading dock (take USF Willow Drive until it ends) and call the pantry at 813-974-5884.

For information about Feed-A-Bull's services, or to learn more about how you can help, visit usf.edu/student-affairs/student-health-services/services/feed-a-bull-food-pantry.aspx.

St. Petersburg campus

Between late March and mid-April, the Support-A-Bull Market distributed more than 500 pounds of food to a growing number of students.

That number almost equals the total amount of food the pantry

had distributed since it opened last September, according to Joseph Contes, the assistant director of student outreach and support who manages the Support-A-Bull Market.

The pantry, which transitioned to online ordering to promote social distancing, provides food such as pasta, breads, fruit and vegetables. Hygiene products including soap and toothpaste are also provided to students. In addition, through a partnership with SPCA Tampa Bay, the pantry also provides food for dogs and cats. Support-A-Bull is available to all students enrolled at the USF St. Petersburg campus.

As the number of food orders grew, the pantry also saw an outpouring of donations from the community.

"We are tremendously thankful that when the demand increased for the services we provide here, our donors and their donations increased to match it," Contes says.

The Support-A-Bull Market is a collaborative effort, with participation from multiple campus departments to keep it running. The pantry receives a monthly food donation from RCS Pinellas, and financial support from the university's Town and Gown organization.

To support the Support-A-Bull Market, food donations can be dropped off inside the University Police Department lobby, 530 3rd Street South.

To learn more, visit usfsp.edu/student-outreach-and-support/food-pantry.

Members of the community can also provide support by visiting giving.usf.edu/how/herdfunder/support-bull-usf-st-petersburg.



Sarasota-Manatee campus

The campus' Support-A-Bull Pantry opened at the end of March, relying on campus donations and the Sarasota-based All Faiths Food Bank, which provides non-perishable items.

The pantry, accessible to both students and their families, was created by Allison Dinsmore, assistant director of student success, Bart Stucker, coordinator of orientation and recreation programs, and the campus' Food and Housing Insecurity Committee, comprised of students, faculty and staff.

"As members in our campus community experience challenges during these unprecedented times, basic essentials continue to be foremost on the minds of many students," Dinsmore says. "The pantry is an opportunity to support our students holistically, so they can be successful academically."

Students can shop for groceries through an online portal and then pick up their items at a discreet campus site. A worker distributes the items in plain packaging at a curbside location.

The pantry provides more than non-perishable food items as it broadens the support it offers to students.

"The one trend we've seen is that support is needed in other items besides food, such as soap, shampoo, diapers and baby wipes," Dinsmore says.

To learn more, visit usfsm.edu/campus-life/support-a-bull-food-pantry.aspx.

Supply Chain

IMPACTS

What happened to all the toilet paper?

IN NORMAL TIMES, shoppers browse the aisles of the grocery store, pick what they want or need, toss it into the cart and move on their way. They never consider the process it takes to get that product onto the shelf. But since the COVID-19 outbreak and spread, greater importance and awareness have been placed on the pre-sale process known as supply chain management.

That's the process that begins with gathering raw resources that make up the product, its manufacture, storage and distribution, and ends with it being put on the grocery store shelf. No one takes note when the products are there, as they usually are. Toilet paper, meats, pantry staples and other items deemed necessary in what may be an extended period of quarantine have been missing and everyone is wondering why.

Faculty and staff of the USF Muma College of Business' Monica Wooden Center for Supply Chain Management & Sustainability are keenly aware of the process and Director Elaine Singleton explains it all.

Q. Why are stores running out of some items and not others?

A. People are following orders – or strong suggestions – to “stay home.” Commodities such as paper goods, meat and dairy are flying off the shelves due to panic purchases (six to eight weeks of stockpile purchases in some cases) multiplied by millions of shoppers. Shoppers are buying greater quantities of household staples less frequently. Are households really consuming six to eight weeks of paper towels in a one-week period? Of course not.

Additionally, in normal times half of American food expenditures were at restaurants and other such establishments and now almost all meals are being made in the home kitchen. A distribution system that was built to supply restaurants with bulk items is struggling to adapt to smaller packaging for home use.

Why? Unlike consumer-packaged foods, bulk wholesale foods do not endure the same rigid labeling disclosure requirements. There are plenty of restaurant-ready products (industrial-size single-ply toilet paper, bulk meats, dairy, bread) but require re-packaging for consumer grocery

sales. The FDA has lifted labeling requirements for a short period to enable faster retro-packaging and distribution of these products.

While stores are slowly recovering and replenishment frequency has increased, this classic “demand shock” in the supply chain will change the selection and assortment of available grocery items for the foreseeable future.

Q. Why isn't the supply chain for these stores keeping up with the demand?

A. The current demand has surged simply due to the complete change in lifestyle – “Stay home and stay safe” – and this is driving radical change in shopping behavior.

The demand plan for these commodities, up until the COVID-19 event, was operating with inventory distribution based on classic demand-trend data. But, the shock of COVID-19's arrival propelled demand to six to eight times the normal consumption. Unfortunately, the panic has driven unnecessary stockpiling when the reality is that the same demand exists for paper goods (as an example) and not the artificial spike.

People are doubling down on commodities deemed critical for long-term home isolation and buying patterns driven by the “demand shock” are the root cause.

While supplies exist, the supply chain disruption is similar to a dam or blockage requiring new flows and outlets to release pent-up demand. There is no supply quantity issue but rather a complex supply process management issue:

- Grocery stores carry an average of 40,000 items.
- Twenty percent of the items represent 80 percent of the sales.
- The U.S. imports approximately 50 percent of fruit sold, with 20 percent of our vegetables imported from Mexico.
- Approximately 70 percent of paper products are manufactured in the U.S. with raw materials sourced from the U.S./Latin America.
- Top U.S. imports from China are concentrated in pharmaceutical, electronics, apparel and textiles along with many other raw materials supporting U.S. manufacturing.



The demand shock origin and consequence cycle in broad terms:

- The Chinese Lunar New Year in January drove factory workers back to interior hometowns at the same time COVID-19 began to emerge, forcing residents to stay at home.
- Chinese factories closed and all downstream supply activity was halted or delayed.
- As supply was restored to Western countries, the virus arrived in the U.S. and “stay at home orders” followed.
- The demand for health-related products and grocery staples doubled and tripled due to the mass purchase and hoarding behavior.
- Restaurant/wholesale food surpluses increased even as retail demand created shortages.
- The virus migrated from urban concentrations to rural manufacturing communities affecting meat, poultry and dairy processing/packaging plants.
- At the same time, change management tactics were slow to implement relative to the shift from business/wholesale packaging to consumer packaging.

Q. What lessons are to be learned from this crisis in terms of availability of products?

A. Here are some key points to consider: (1) Crisis planning must include multi-tier supply chains to implement alternative ways to meet “demand shock” scenarios. As an example, alternative outlets, such as restaurants (versus grocery stores), are experiencing the opposite effect with an overabundance of supply and the need to deal with surplus. Many have quickly pivoted to the e-commerce channel as a method to stay in business and relieve overstock. (2) Product distribution channels must include planning models that consider temporary “demand shock” and include methods of procurement and distribution that are multi-tiered.

Q. What are some of the challenges that must be overcome?

A. Can manufacturers diversify to produce consumer-ready products? Can steps to market be eliminated? Can changes be made in packaging and ancillary branding that speed up product availability?

Q. What’s the best way out of this retail problem?

A. We must make use of mass media and store-level controls to help people avoid panic purchases. We must remember that commodity supply is on the way. Unlike the historic Depression era, the supply is available and will slowly replenish. Stores are already limiting quantities of high-demand items at point-of-sale to tamp down hoarding behavior. If third-party distributors are stockpiling inventory creating artificial supply deficiencies, they should stop. And, finally, manufacturers and distributors must focus on essential foods/household products.

Some distributors already are beginning to adapt. In late March, according to Reuters, “Amazon will only receive vital supplies at its U.S. and U.K. and other European warehouses until April 5, its latest move to free up inventory space for medical and household goods in high demand as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.” This continued into April and May, but full normalization is not expected for months.

Q. Will it get worse before it gets better?

A. As states begin to follow federal guidelines for reopening, consumer buying patterns will evolve to “supply-based” purchases manifested in fewer available varieties, repackaged goods and uneven product flows to retail. However, if a combination of above steps is implemented, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

There are other options for consumers to cut down on the use of some commodities: Use cloth towels rather than paper towels. Go back to basics using recipes that call for scratch ingredients that provide nutrition and protein-based meals rather than buying canned or packaged food. Use regular soap and water for household cleaning. ■



Photo: ANNE SCOTT/USF Communications & Marketing

5 minutes with Bill



PENNY CARMICHAEL | USFAA

My fellow Bulls,

Finally, USF feels *almost* normal again!

No, students haven't returned to campus. Neither have most staff, faculty and visitors. But this unnatural quiet is, at least, typical for June. Summers always mean fewer people and cars on campus, so pulling into a nearly empty Gibbons Alumni Center parking lot feels a lot more natural today than it did in April!

The solitude, I know, has been the least of worries for some of you. COVID-19 has been devastating on too many levels. But it has also revealed Bulls' remarkable strength of character and resourcefulness. I'm even more proud to call USF "my school" when I read about people like the USF College of Nursing grads who ran straight into the fire when they took their skills to New York City. And the many problem-solvers at the College of Engineering who so ingeniously and quickly developed ways to alleviate shortages of crucial medical supplies.

Those are just two of thousands of examples of USF faculty, staff, alumni and students who've stepped up during this pandemic. They demonstrate our ideals and values put to the test – and passing with flying colors. Need a smile? Read about the creative and generous ways some of our Bull business leaders have extended helping hands (page 37).

Even as we cope with today's challenges, your Alumni Association – like all of you – is planning for when we can be together again. Many of your favorite spring events were rescheduled for the fall, and we're working to re-engineer them so we can enjoy safe but meaningful celebrations. On Sept. 11, we'll celebrate the 56 fastest-growing Bulls-led businesses in the world at the USF Fast 56 Awards. Our six Outstanding Young Alumni, a truly humbling group of accomplished professionals aged 35 and younger, will be recognized Nov. 19.

We also have Homecoming Week, Oct. 4-10, to look forward to, and the Alumni Association's Birdies for Bulls Golf Tournament on Nov. 9.

In the meantime, your Alumni Association – proudly represented by diehard Bulls volunteer alumni group leaders around the world – has been working to keep us all together while we're apart. Our alumni groups have organized virtual parties, like the Latino Alumni Society's Cinco de Mayo celebration, and "get-togethers" featuring surprise visits by USF President Steven Currall and special guests including new football head coach Jeff Scott and vice president of USF Athletics Michael Kelly.

Those groups are also exploring alternatives for events beginning in August. The Engineering Alumni Society's 24th annual Bullarney Extravaganza fundraiser, originally planned in March, is now scheduled Aug. 29. The Greater Tampa Alumni Chapter is awaiting guidance from the state before moving forward with plans for its fifth annual Bulls Block Party on Aug. 22. Yes, we may look a little different at some of these events but, I assure you, green and gold goes with everything – including gloves and masks!

I hope you'll follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn to stay entertained, in the know, and most important, connected to your fellow Bulls. Watch for contests and giveaways, because we know prizes are always a sure day-brightener. And check out our new Go Bulls! Beat COVID! page at www.usfalumni.org. It has everything from USF coloring pages for you and the kids to Zoom meeting backgrounds to links to USF coronavirus updates.

We're here for you, fellow Bulls. We'll get through this together and our USF community will emerge stronger, smarter and more resilient on the other side.

Until then – and until we can again shake hands and share hugs – we'll be throwing our Horns Up! From two Rockys away.

Bill McCausland, MBA '96

*Vice President and Executive Director, USF Alumni Association
Life Member No. 2331*

Your Alumni Association Board

The USF Alumni Association's board of directors includes Bulls who've demonstrated a firm commitment to USF's success and are association Life Members and Circle of Excellence donors. It also includes a USF presidential designee; a USF Board of Trustees representative; and two students – the student government vice president and the USF Tampa Ambassadors president. Non-voting, ex-officio directors are the senior vice president for USF Advancement, and the association's executive director.

The board sets policy and guides the direction of the association as it builds mutually beneficial relationships between USF and USF alumni.



These board officers will serve through June 30, 2020.

Clockwise from top left:
Chair: Randy Norris, '79
Chair elect: Monique Hayes, '01 and MPA '06
Past chair: Merritt Martin, '04 and MPA '06
Secretary: Justin Geisler, '04 and MBA '06
Treasurer: Bill Mariotti, USFSM '15



Directors:

Arthur Bullard Jr., '74 and MBA '82
Jennifer Condon
Troy Dunmire, '00
Maggie Fowler, '93
Maribel Garrett, MA '95
Raymond Gross, '69
Fadwa Hilili, '13 and MAcc '15

Andrew Jones, '11
Andrew Ketchel, '10 and MPA '12
Karla Stevenson Mastracchio, '03
Ruben Matos, MPH '92
Brigid Merenda, '97
Dr. Valerie Riddle, '84 and MD '89
Lauren Shumate, '10 and MA '14
Christine Turner, '97

Bruce Van Fleet, '73
Tonjua Williams, MA '96
Liz Wooten-Reschke, '01 and MPA '06

Student representatives:
Travis McCloskey, Student Government vice president
Brielle Iacobino, USF Ambassadors president

Ex-officio directors:
Noreen Segrest, '82, Interim senior vice president for USF Advancement and Alumni Affairs; interim CEO USF Foundation
Bill McCausland, MBA '96, USF Alumni Association executive director



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60 years later, grateful Bull still paying it forward

By MELISSA WOLFE '13, Life Member

BEFORE USF WAS BUILT, Dominic “Dick” Puglisi and his friends had little hope of ever earning a college degree. None of their parents had gone to college. Even the idea of attending college seemed as out of reach as a trip to the moon. Instead, they made more practical plans for life after high school. Ray Fernandez would work in his father’s neighborhood grocery store. Fred Garcia had a job selling paint. Puglisi’s father planned to train him as a barber but passed away before he had the chance. “I’ll never forget my cousin John Parrino saying that his godparents, who owned the Ferlita Bakery, told him not to worry as they already had a bread route picked out for him,” says Puglisi.

But the new university in their backyard changed everything.

In 1960, the year Puglisi and his friends graduated from high school, USF began accepting applications. The young men applied and were accepted as members of the charter class – the inaugural class of students at the fledgling university.

“USF was the defining experience of my life,” says Puglisi, ’64 and MA ’69. “Most people don’t understand how absolutely critical USF was, especially for us in Ybor City. There were six or seven guys who grew up together in the old neighborhood, all children of immigrants, who became members of the charter class. We were so proud, so gratified to be accepted. It made an enormous difference in our lives.”

More than 60 years later, Fernandez, ’64, is a pediatric neurologist practicing in Tampa. Garcia, ’64, Life Member, who earned a degree in physics, now owns a company that services Department of Defense contracts. Parrino, ’64, is a clinical psychologist in Atlanta. Another Puglisi friend from the neighborhood and member of USF’s charter class, Anthony Scolaro, ’73, became a respected principal in the Hillsborough County Public School System. Puglisi’s younger brother, Vincent, ’66, followed him to USF and went on to receive his doctorate in chemistry from the University of Texas.

While his friends and family used their experience at USF as a launching point for their careers, Puglisi dedicated himself to advancing the university that changed his life.



Dominic “Dick” Puglisi arrived at USF in 1960 and never left. He has served as a faculty member and an assistant dean, and is the chair and director of USF’s Gus A. Stavros Center for Free Enterprise and Economic Education.

Photo: SIERRA ZARIELLO '17 / Advancement

FOREVER BULLS





USF was the defining experience of my life. We were so proud, so gratified, to be accepted. It made an enormous difference in our lives.” – Dick Puglisi

“Dr. Puglisi’s impact on the College of Education is immeasurable,” says Dean Robert Knoeppel. “He has served as a faculty member and as an assistant dean but he’s best known for his leadership as chair and director of the Gus A. Stavros Center for Free Enterprise and Economic Education. Under Puglisi’s leadership, the Stavros Center at USF is recognized as the premier center for economic education in the state of Florida.”

The Stavros Center provides teacher training programs, curricula development and other strategies to ensure that free enterprise and consumer economics concepts reach students in today’s classrooms.

Considered the model free enterprise center for Florida, the Stavros Center hosts more than 100 workshops and programs each year, providing training for more than 2,500 teachers – more than the other four centers in the state combined.

When Puglisi took over as director in 1980 at what was then called the Center for Economic Education, he determined the best way to help teachers was to create partnerships within the community. He cold-called local business leaders like Frank Morsani – for whom USF’s Morsani College of Medicine is now named – and asked them to teach Tampa Bay area teachers about business and how the economic system works.

“It wasn’t a hard sell,” says Puglisi. “Mr. Morsani said, ‘Of course, I’ll do that for you.’ He thought it was so important, he brought the general managers from all five of his dealerships to hear the message he delivered to the teachers.”

By the end of the ’80s, Puglisi had dozens of CEOs teaching at the center. That’s how he got to know Gus Stavros, a successful entrepreneur and ardent proponent for education, who believed so strongly in the center’s mission that he donated more than \$2 million to support it. The brick-and-glass building on the USF Tampa campus and endowed chair are now named in his honor.

Under Puglisi’s leadership, the 40-year-old Stavros Center has been recognized for excellence in economic education at the local, state and national levels. It has received numerous awards from the Florida Council on Economic Education for best programming in statewide competition. It has also received three national Leavey Excellence in Private Enterprise Awards.

Walking into the USF Gibbons Alumni Center last year, Puglisi was shocked to find 100 of his closest friends, family and colleagues gathered to honor him.

They traveled from all over the country, coming together on Sept. 12, 2019 to celebrate an extraordinary milestone for an exceptional man — Puglisi’s 50th year as an educator at USF.

But they had another surprise for him.

In recognition of his five decades of service, the group raised \$54,000 to endow the Dominic “Dick” and Janet Puglisi Endowed Stavros Center Fund, to support the center’s education, research and service mission.

To the man who dedicated his life to advancing the university and enriching his community, there is no more fitting gift.

“Being a faculty member in the College of Education and my leadership role at the Stavros Center is truly my way of giving back,” says Puglisi of his own contributions. “My wife and I are thrilled to create a first-generation scholarship through my estate. If I can help students come to USF after I’m gone, that will be a wonderful legacy to leave behind.”

USF history professor John Belohlavek, a friend and one of the co-conspirators who lured Puglisi to his surprise celebration, says the educator’s work will endure for generations, as the teachers he influenced pass his lessons on to countless students.

It’s a gratifying concept for a man who knows well the transformative power of education. In many ways, the Ybor City kid with down-to-earth dreams has rocketed to the stars. ■



Photos: Left, SIERRA ZARRELO, '17 / Advancement; Pg. 47, ELIZABETH ENGASSER, '15 / Education

Above: Puglisi’s acceptance letter to USF’s charter class is proudly displayed in a frame. “We were so proud, so gratified to be accepted,” he says.

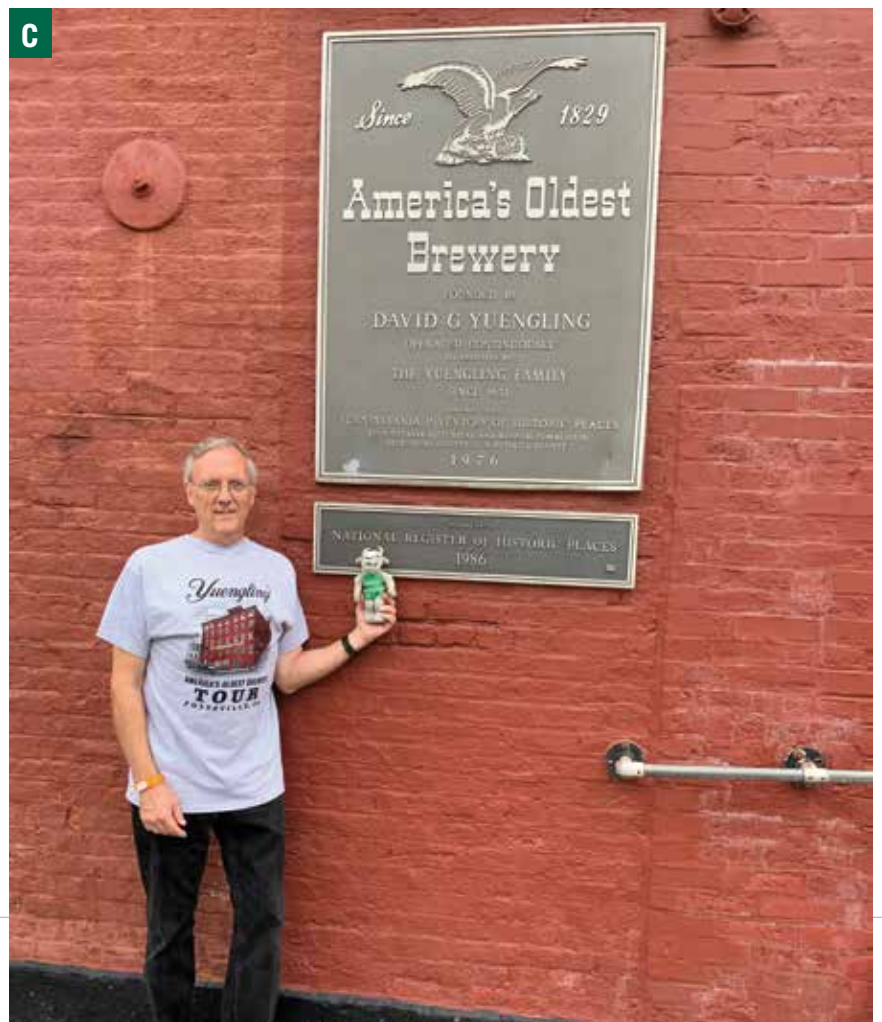
Opposite page: Friends and family surprised Puglisi last year with a celebration of his 50th anniversary as an educator. They included, left to right, Dominic A. Puglisi; Francesca Puglisi Edwards, ’09 and MSM ’12; Tim Edwards, ’13; future Bull Parker Edwards; Puglisi, ’64 and MA ’69; and Janet Puglisi, ’81 and MBA ’84.



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WHERE'S Rocky





With more than 358,000 alumni around the world, Rocky finds friends wherever he travels. If he jumps in the suitcase on your next trip, pops up at a wedding, or photobombs your family portrait, email your high-resolution pictures (300 ppi) and details to Penny Carnathan at pcarnathan@usf.edu, or mail to her at USF Alumni Association, 4202 E. Fowler Ave. ALC100, Tampa, FL 33620-5455.

a Former SunDoll **Dina Busciglio Sheridan**, '98, keeps a firm grip on Rocky as strong winds blast Edinburgh Castle in Scotland. The two visited in the wake of mega-storm Dennis earlier this year.

b Dog-sledding the Continental Divide with **Monty Weigel**, '76, Life Member, and **MaryAnn Weigel**, Life Member, Rocky pauses for a breather somewhere between Togwotee Pass and Brooks Lake, Wyoming. Monty is a past chair of the USF Alumni Association.

c Soaking up the nostalgia, Rocky and **Alan Creveling**, '73, Life Member, visit D.G. Yuengling & Son brewery, America's oldest brewery built in 1831. Alan was born nearby at Pottsville (Pa.) Hospital 120 years later.

d Rocky joins **April (Monteith) Grajales**, '01 and MBA '03, Life Member, and **Braulio Grajales**, MA '07, Life Member, in the Blue Mountains near Sydney, Australia. The three took a pre-corona honeymoon cruise to Australia and New Zealand. April is a past chair of the USF Alumni Association.

e After exploring 13th century Caernarfon Castle in northern Wales, Rocky takes a break with sisters, from left, **Peggy Tyre**, '77 and MS '86; **Tracey Shadday**, '80 and MPH '94; and **Penny Carnathan**, '82, Life Member.



Chapters & Societies

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

The USF Alumni Association's chapters and societies connect Bulls with one another – across the country and around the world. Through social events, professional networking, fundraising and community service, among other activities, alumni groups help USF grads and friends support one another, our university, and current students. They play an important part in the Alumni Association's mission to provide meaningful ways for Bulls to make an impact; protect USF through advocacy; share pride in our great university; and stick together.

It's easy to get involved! Just email the contact person of the group you'd like to visit.

Interest-Based Groups

Anthropology Alumni

Samantha Cleveland
sdpimentel@usf.edu

Black Alumni

Erica Daley
usfblackalumnisociety@gmail.com

College of Business Alumni

Samantha Fitzmaurice
sfitzmaurice@usf.edu

Engineering Alumni

Robert Andrew
randrew@tampabay.rr.com

Entrepreneurship Alumni

Samantha Cleveland
sdpimentel@usf.edu

Geology Alumni

Matt Wissler
usfgas@gmail.com

Kosove Scholarship Alumni

Justin Geisler
justingeisler@hotmail.com

Latino Alumni

Melizza Etienne
Luz Randolph
USFLatinoAlumniSociety@gmail.com

LGBTQ+ Alumni

Todd St. John-Fulton
usflgbtqalumni@outlook.com

Library and Information Science

Megan O'Brien
usflisalumni@gmail.com

Lockheed Martin – Oldsmar

Brent Lewis
brent.a.lewis@lmco.com

Medicine Alumni

Catherine Warner
cwarner1@health.usf.edu

Music Alumni

Arupa Gopal
Tanya Bruce
usfmusicalumni@gmail.com

Patel College of Global Sustainability

Julie Cornwell
Arnel Garcesa
pcgsnetwork@gmail.com

Pharmacy Alumni

Patti Shirley
pshirley@health.usf.edu

Psychology Alumni

Markia Lumpkin
usfpsychba@gmail.com

Public Administration Alumni

Mike Rimoldi
mike@rimoldiconstruction.com

Public Health Alumni

Natalie Preston-Washington
nataliep@usf.edu

Rugby Alumni

James Callihan
Sean Masse
usfbullsrugbyalumni@gmail.com

USF St. Petersburg

Samantha Cleveland
sdpimentel@usf.edu

Geographical Groups

Asheville, N.C.

Chad Johnson
USFAshevilleBulls@gmail.com

Join us on TEAMS!



Check for get-togethers at usfalumni.org

Since March, USF chapters and societies have hosted virtual happy hours, Bulls football meet-ups with Coach Jeff Scott, speaker series and other events. Alumni group leaders, some of whom are pictured here sharing ideas in a planning meeting, have found creative ways to stay together at home.

Atlanta

Lara Martin
 usfalumniatlanta@gmail.com

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Brett Bronstein
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Broward County

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Charlotte, N.C.

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Kate Duffy
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Fort Myers/Naples

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Orlando

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Saudi Arabia

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Tallahassee

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Tampa (Greater Tampa)

Chloe Lipking
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Class Notes

1970s

WILLIAM A. GOOCH, JR., Engineering '70 and MSE '70, is retiring after 41 years as a senior materials engineer. He is president of WA Gooch Consulting Inc. of Palm Harbor, Fla., and emeritus guest researcher in the protection division of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

MICHAEL GRAVES, Criminology '79, was appointed to the Florida task force on opioid abuse. He's the elected public defender for the Fifth Circuit, which encompasses Lake, Hernando, Citrus, Sumter and Marion counties, Florida.



SALLIE ANN KELLER, MA Mathematics '79, was elected to the National Academy of Engineering for the development and application of engineering and statistical techniques

in support of national security and industry. Keller is a distinguished professor of bio-complexity and public health sciences at the University of Virginia.

1980s

DR. DAN BOGGUS, MD '82, was inducted into the Lake County (Fla.) School District's Alumni Hall of Fame for his commitment to Tavares High School, his alma mater, in Tavares, Fla. He has served as the football team's volunteer team doctor for 30 years.

BOB CARNAROLI, MA Guidance and Counselor Education '89, was appointed principal of North Forsyth High School in Cumming, Ga. He previously served as the lead counselor and administrative assistant at North Forsyth High School; lead counselor and assistant principal at West Forsyth High School; and assistant principal at Denmark High School.



JEAN DUNCAN, '83 and MS '88, was presented the City of Tampa's Josephine Howard Stafford Memorial Award, which recognizes current

and former City of Tampa female employees who demonstrate outstanding commitment to their position and the community. Duncan was recently promoted to administrator of infrastructure and mobility for the city. She previously served as director of transportation and stormwater services.

RICH FERRARI, MBA '87, joined the board of directors of HeartBeam, Inc., a California-based cardiac diagnostic health company. He is a Silicon Valley venture capitalist who co-founded and is managing director of De Novo Ventures.

ELIZABETH MENENDEZ, Finance '84, Life Member, has been named the 2020 president of the Florida Certified Commercial Investment Member Chapter of the West Coast District. She's a sales professional with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Properties Group.

1990s



BRIAN LAMB, Accounting '98 and MBA '17, Life Member, has received the Person of Vision Award from Preserve Vision Florida. Lamb is the Global Head of Diversity and

Inclusion for JPMorgan Chase; a member of the Florida Board of Governors overseeing the state's public universities; former chair of the USF Board of Trustees; a USF Outstanding Young Alumnus; and a Donald A. Gifford Alumni Service Award recipient.



KIMBERLY A. ROSS, Accounting '92, Life Member, has joined WeWork as chief financial officer. The commercial real estate company provides shared work spaces. Ross has

more than 25 years of experience in senior financial roles at large, global enterprises. She is a USF Distinguished Alumna.

2000s

LAURA CRADY, Computer Sciences '05, was awarded the Fellow of Information Privacy designation from the International Association of Privacy Professionals. Crady is a data protection strategist for CVS Health.



JOHN LAURENT, Finance '07, joined Wauchula State Bank as a commercial lender. He has helped gain new business customers and expand services to existing customers since joining the bank in 2017.

KAILEY MCNERNEY, Long Term Care Administration '09, was reappointed executive director at Life Care Center of Longmont, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility in Denver.

HEATHER MITCHELL, Education '04, was promoted to USF Advancement administrator at the Judy Genshaft Honors College. She was previously the development specialist in the USF Foundation's Office of Gift Planning.

ARIADNE "ARI" RODRIGUEZ, Communication '09, was promoted to vice president of talent and culture at LeadingResponse, which specializes in marketing and client acquisition for the professional services industry. She joined the company in 2016 and previously served as director of human resources.



ANDREA SCOTT, PhD '05, will be the provost at George Fox University in Newberg, Ore., effective July 1. She was previously the dean and professor of marketing at the

Jabs School of Business at California Baptist University in Riverside, Calif.

2010s

ANSON ANGAIL, Accounting '14, has joined The Siegfried Group as an associate manager and national road warrior. Angail is a USF Muma



Send us
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notes!

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

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College of Business "25 Under 25" honoree and formerly worked as an acquisitions analyst at Landeavor, a real estate development company in Tampa.

SHAUNA-KAY CAMPBELL, Management and Marketing '13, Life Member, has joined Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati as an assistant brand manager. She previously was the associate category brand marketing manager with Walmart.



FRANK A. CIRILLO, Economics and Political Science '16, Life Member, has joined the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Prices and Living Conditions, as an economist in information and analysis, publications and tables. He was previously an accounting associate with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in the Washington, D.C., area.

EMILY K. CRAIN, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences '11, has joined GrayRobinson, a Florida-based full-service law firm and lobbying firm, at its Lakeland office. Crain previously served as a law clerk and paralegal at Leeper & Associates PA.



KELSEY (VOLWILER) DEGAETA, Marketing '14, is leading the U.S. expansion of Offspring, Inc., an Australian-based company that produces all-natural diapers, baby wipes and cleansing spray. She is a co-owner of Pure Family Products, LLC, of Punta Gorda, Fla.

NAOMI DANIEL, International Business '17, has joined Lidl US as a financial analyst in Washington, D.C.. Previously, she served as a global finance and business management analyst with JP Morgan Chase.

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Class Notes



JAQUIRA DÍAZ, MFA '12, was named a 2020 Whiting Award recipient in nonfiction writing for her memoir, *Ordinary Girls*. The award includes a \$50,000 cash prize. The book previously received the Florida Book Awards Gold Medal.

RYAN ELFALLAH, Accounting '17, has joined Intecrowd as an assistant Workday financials consultant. He previously served as a business consultant for ADP, LLC management services.

ZOE KNAPKE, Finance '16, was promoted to investment banking associate with JP Morgan Chase. A USF Muma College of Business "25 Under 25" honoree, he previously served as investment banking analyst.

KRISTYN KUZIANIK, Psychology '19, has joined USF Foundation's development team as the development specialist for the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences.

MONICA MARTINEZ, Health Sciences '16, was named project manager at Advocate Health Advisors in Tampa. She previously worked at

Health Services Advisory Group in Tampa as a project manager on Medicare contracts.



JENNIFER MORGAN, Marketing '16, is the new assistant director of development for the USF College of Arts and Sciences. She previously worked at the USF Judy Genshaft

Honors College.



ROCHELLE A. NIGRI, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences '13, has been named to the Morgan Stanley Pace-setter's Club, a global recognition program for financial advisors who have demon-

strated the highest professional standards and first-class service early in their careers. She's a financial advisor with the Bellwether Group in Morgan Stanley's wealth management office in Sarasota.

NANCY ROMERO, General Business Administration '17, was named Manatee County Tax Col-

lector's Employee of the Quarter. She joined the agency in 2017 and is an assistant manager-in-training.



DAN SIDLER, Marketing '11, USF Sarasota-Manatee, was promoted to vice president of Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance in Lakewood Ranch, Fla. He was previously the alliance's director of communications and marketing.

JEREMY TINTER, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences '12, was selected by American Ambulance Association as a 2020 Mobile Healthcare "40 Under 40" honoree. The award recognizes exceptional industry professionals aged 40 and younger. Tinter is the director of clinical services at Sunstar Paramedics, 911 ambulance transport service for Pinellas County, Fla.

JAIME (MAGUIRE) UANINO, MPH '19, has joined the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control as pediatric services program coordinator. She previously taught English to non-native speakers in Columbia, S.C.

JEREMY WING, Management '12 and MBA '16, has joined JP Morgan Chase as executive director of foreign exchange product management. He was previously the company's vice president for Treasury Services foreign exchange product management.



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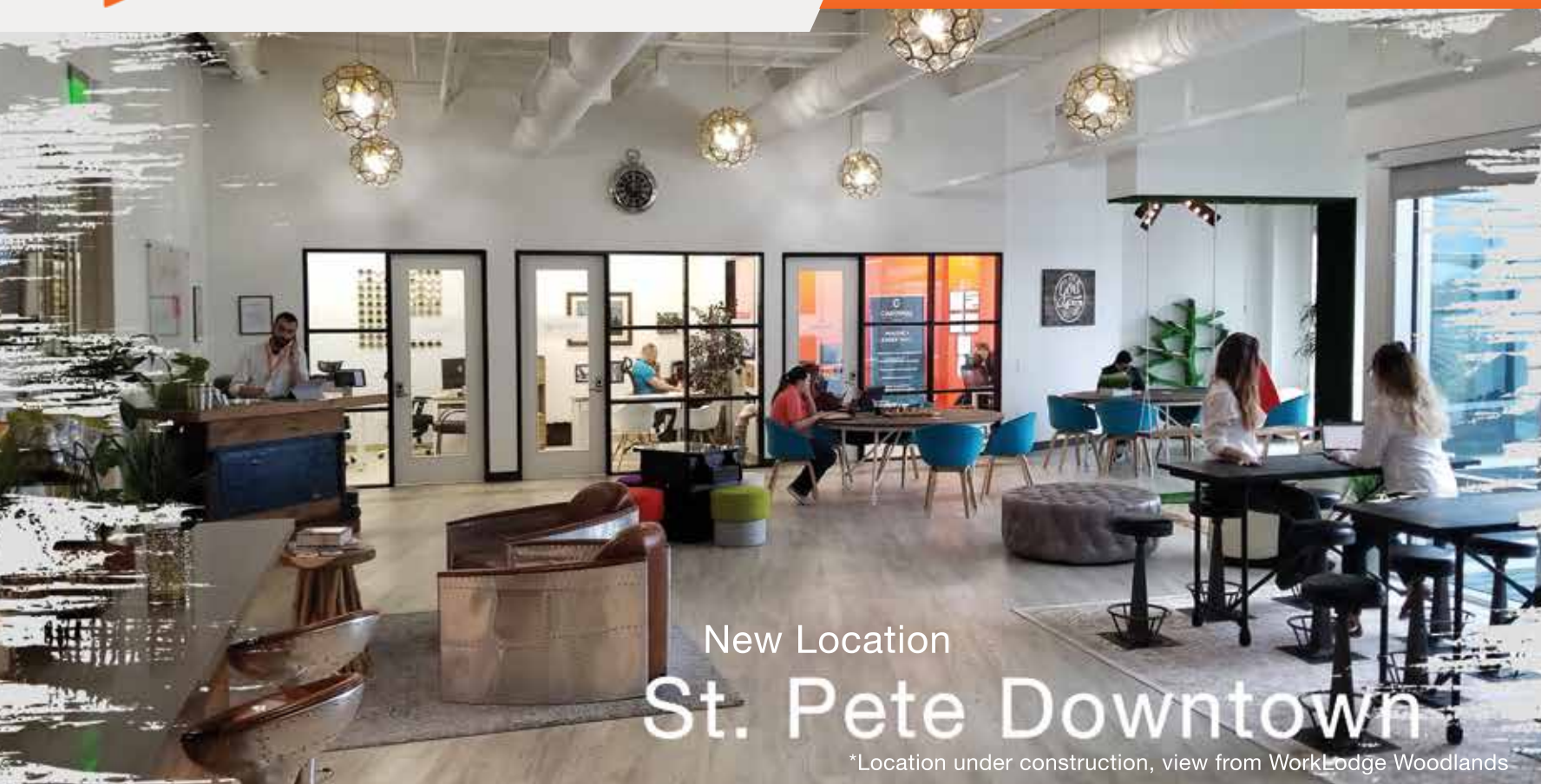
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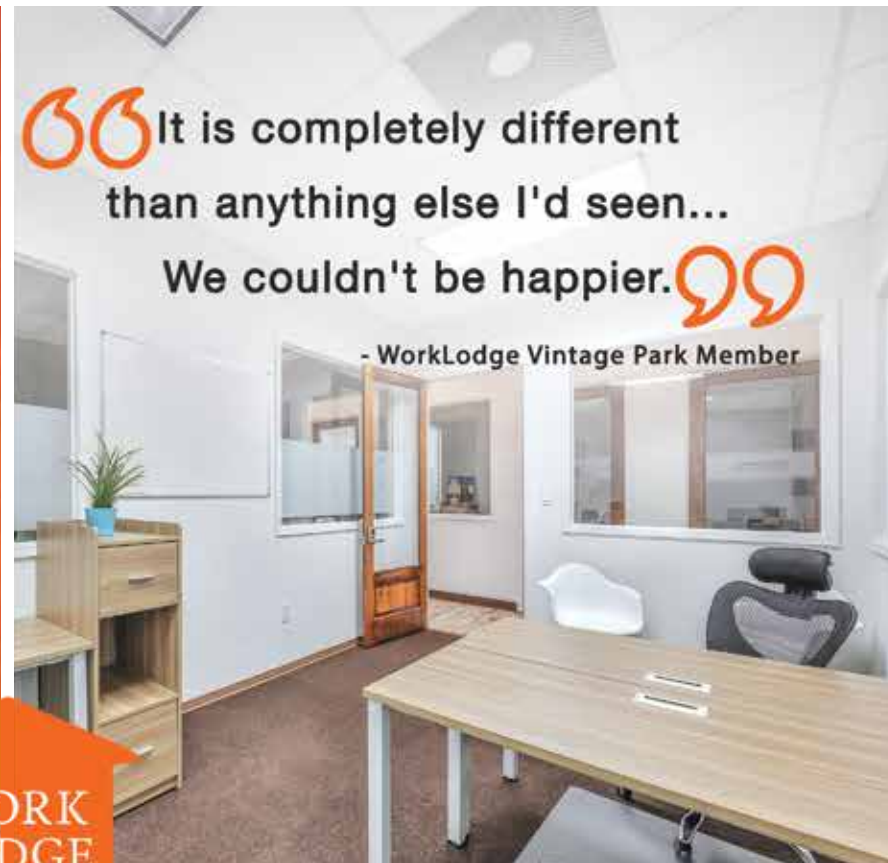
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Class Notes

In Memoriam

DAVID W. BALDWIN, Social Sciences Interdisciplinary '67, Feb. 25, 2020
PAULA G. BAYLE, MPH '87, Feb. 1, 2020
WING S. BARFOOT, English '63, Feb. 6, 2020
THOMAS MICHAEL "TOM" BEASLEY, Accounting '64, April 8, 2020
HILLARY G. BILFORD, MA Aging Studies '82, Feb. 2, 2020
PATRICIA BOWES, PhD Music '09, April 17, 2020
DR. WALTER BRADLEY, JR., MBA '95, Life Member, Feb. 9, 2020
RANDOLPH "RANDY" E. BROWN, SR., Management '77, April 18, 2020
THOMAS M. BRYANT, MA Religious Studies '11, March 16, 2020
DAVID BURLESON, Finance '09, Feb. 26, 2020
STEPHEN P. CLAY, Geography '71, Feb. 26, 2020
THOMAS M. COLLIER, Psychology '74, Jan. 22, 2020
SHANNON (MURPHY) COLON, Social Work '04, Feb. 10, 2020
JENNIFER R. CONNELLY, Communication '82, Feb. 25, 2020
FRANCES S. DEAK, Elementary Education '69 and MA '71, Jan. 31, 2020
BRIAN T. DONAHUE, MS Marine Science '99, April 19, 2020
TIMOTHY F. DUGAN, Management '79, April 13, 2020
JOHN DUNHAM, Chemistry '68, April 13, 2020
CLARIDELL (CLAYWELL) EASON, MA Special Education '68, Jan. 25, 2020
JACOLIN EICHELBERGER, Business Office Education '70 and MA '71, Dec. 30, 2019
ALAN C. EWBANK, Film '92, Feb. 29, 2020
AUSTIN D. FALL, Political Science '94, March 29, 2020
ELIZABETH M. FERGUSON, USF Sarasota-Manatee, Elementary Education '94, April 1, 2020
JUDITH "JUDY" HAHN GAMMONLEY, Adult Education '83 and MS Nursing '86, April 10, 2020
JUDITH (CUMMINGS) GILLIS, Elementary Education '64, March 4, 2020
DAVID WOOD HARLOW, Elementary Education '72, April 24, 2020
JAMES L. HOFFMAN, Civil Engineering '89, April 15, 2020
JANIS P. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mass Communications '81, March 23, 2020
JAMES M. HOWARD, Electrical Engineering '85, April 6, 2020
MARK G. JACKSON, Engineering '79, Feb. 3, 2020
ROSEMARY KELLER, PhD '93, Dec. 4, 2019
JENNIFER (THOMPSON) KELLY, Anthropology '00 and MA '04, April 9, 2020
ELIZABETH A. LUBIN, Psychology '94 and MA '96, April 23, 2020
EDWARD G. MARTELL, Management '83, April 1, 2020
CINDY L. MARTIN, Nursing '86, March 31, 2020
NORMA E. MCLAUGHLIN, MA Guidance and Counseling Education '91, Feb. 5, 2020
JAMES "JIM" MEAD, MA Guidance and Counseling Education '80, April 17, 2020
CHARLES D. NABORS, SR., MA Elementary Education '86, Jan. 29, 2020
FAYE P. NALLS, EdD '95, March 30, 2020

STEPHEN R. NEWLON, Psychology '72, March 30, 2020
PATRICIA ANN (EATON) OVARLET, Elementary Education '69 and MEd '79, April 6, 2020
ANNA H. PARSONS, MA Library and Information Science '95, April 10, 2020
EVE LYNN PERRY, MEd '11, March 29, 2020
ERIC W. RAY, Political Science '96, Jan. 6, 2020
HENRY JEFFERSON ROBINSON, JR., Master of Music '69 and Master of Rehabilitation Counseling '76, May 10, 2020
DAVID P. SELZNICK, Management '89, Jan. 8, 2020
HELEN J. SPICER, Library Information Science '75 and MA '75, April 19, 2020
WILLIAM TEMPLEMAN, Special Education '63 and MA '68, Feb. 12, 2020
CICELY (WALKER) THOMAS, MA Special Education '94, March 28, 2020
PATRICIA MARGARET TODD, Mathematics Education '70 and MBA '85, May 9, 2020
MICHAEL "MIKE" TOKARS, History '11, April 3, 2020
MARILYN (SNOW) WEBBER, Accounting '71, Jan. 15, 2020
SELMA (VILLANUEVA) WEHLING, Sociology '81, Jan. 13, 2020
JUDITH WEST, MS Speech Language Pathology '75 and PhD '02, April 10, 2020
MYLINDA B. (WINDES) WILLIAMSON, Mass Communications '06, Feb. 21, 2020
JOHN MCRAE WOLFE, MBA '88, April 26, 2020
COL. DONALD YOUNG, Management '76 and MPA '78, Feb. 22, 2020

Faculty/Staff

MONICA EPSTEIN, Psychology '96, MA '01 and PhD '04, Psychology Technical and Paraprofessional, April, 16, 2020
ROBERT W. FLYNN, Professor Emeritus, Physics, May 4, 2020
DAVID FRANKEL, School of Theatre and Dance, March 6, 2020
WILLIAM "BILL" GARRISON, Former USF Library Dean, April 28, 2020
CYNTHIA MELENDY, Assistant Visiting Professor, April 21, 2020
COL. ARIEL RODRIGUEZ, College of Medicine, April 24, 2020
CAROL J. ROLF, Management '74 and MBA '82, Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs, March 13, 2020
LYN C. TEBRUGGE, MA Rehabilitation Counseling '76, Counselor, March 19, 2020
ROY C. WEATHERFORD, Philosophy Professor, United Faculty Florida President, April 19, 2020

Friends of USF

MARILYN (YARLEY) BARTHOLOMEW, Charter member OLLI and USF Senior Programs, March 19, 2020
PATRICIA ANN "PATTI" (MARCIANO) GIRARDI, Former member of USF Muma College of Business Board of Directors, April 23, 2020
TERRANCE MCNALLY, USF Theatre, March 25, 2020





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