

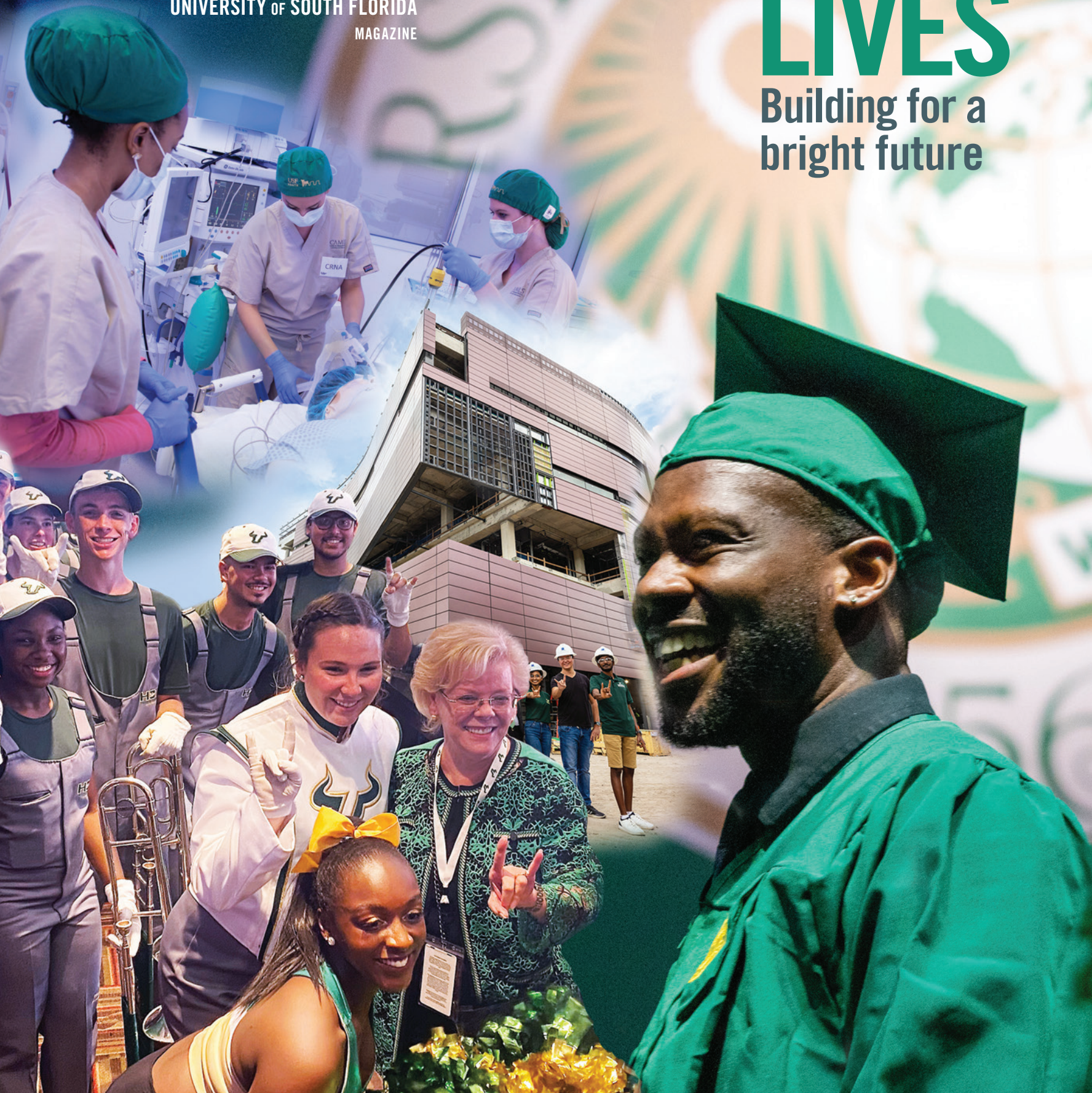
The OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the
USF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
SUMMER 2022

USF

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
MAGAZINE

CHANGING LIVES

Building for a
bright future



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From the President



Photo: SANDRA C. ROA | USF News

Dear alumni, friends and supporters of USF:

Welcome to a very special issue of USF magazine.

Many of you are receiving our magazine for the first time. Whether or not you graduated from this university, your life has undoubtedly been touched in some way by USF, be it through our groundbreaking research, our 383,000 alumni working around the world, the world-class patient care provided in one of our USF Health facilities, or another one of the myriad ways we're working for — and with — you to create brighter futures for everyone. Members of the USF family are making significant contributions and we believe it is important to let you know about the impact USF is having locally, across Florida, nationally and globally.

This issue also reflects a change to our publication schedule, moving from four issues each year to three. This will allow us to combine the summer and fall issues into one, with more pages to tell more of the stories that affect you and our communities.

Among the many alumni who are making a positive difference at USF are Eileen and Andy Hafer. As the story on page 22 explains, their generous contribution — combined with the efforts of our dedicated faculty — led to the creation of the Eileen Hoffman Hafer UMatteR Program. This growing initiative, focused on inclusive education, offers academic, social and career skills to students on our St. Petersburg campus.

We also are extremely grateful to Kate Tiedemann and Ellen Cotton, longtime supporters of USF programs. Their \$14 million gifts will enhance financial technology

education and create the Fintech Center in the USF Kate Tiedemann School of Business and Finance. You can read about the commitment of these wonderful philanthropists on page 26.

As you will see in the cover package that begins on page 28, USF is on a remarkable trajectory. We share just a few of the indicators, including the fact that over the past 10 years, no other university in the country has risen faster in U.S. News & World Report's national university rankings than USF. Our university also is a major economic engine for Tampa Bay and Florida, with an annual economic impact of more than \$6 billion. State leaders recognize the difference we are making. Thanks to the Florida Legislature and the governor, USF entered this fiscal year with the most transformative budget in our history. Some of this new funding will enhance our efforts to fill critical workforce needs, including in cybersecurity and nursing. Learn how on pages 34 and 36.

When we talk about the achievements of our university, we're really talking about our most important resource — our people. You will meet a few of them in this issue, including engineering Professor Marvin Andujar. His brain-painting experiments are designed to develop a drug-free therapy for people with ADHD. Alexandria Brady-Miné, an award-winning honors student, balances her academic and research responsibilities with leading a global youth-run nonprofit she founded in high school.

We also are building for the future. These impressive new facilities will greatly enhance all of our endeavors — from teaching, learning and research to student wellness and athletic performance. We've opened an important new building in the USF Research Park — the first in that section of campus since 2005. Our new Indoor Performance Facility, vital for our student-athletes and coaches, opens this fall. And we look forward to next year's completion of the Judy Genshaft Honors College and the Student Wellness Center. I am also excited by the planning that is underway for an on-campus stadium. This will provide students, faculty, staff, alumni and the surrounding communities a place to come together, develop deeper relationships with the university and build memories across generations.

Speaking of building memories, I hope you are planning to join us for Homecoming 2022, scheduled Oct. 9-15. Details are on pages 50-51.

USF has been a part of my entire educational and professional life since the beginning — when, as a new high school graduate, I worked as a project administrator in the USF Office of Sponsored Research. We have grown into a high-impact global research university dedicated to student success. I am proud of our many accomplishments, and as you read through this issue, I am confident you will share in my excitement for the future we are building together.

To our wonderful alumni and supporters, thank you for all that you do for our students and our university. To those of you who are new to our magazine, welcome! I hope you will stay engaged with USF.

**RHEA F. LAW, '77, LIFE MEMBER
PRESIDENT**



Learning from the past to build a new future

“The progress of the world will call for the best that all of us have to give.”

– Mary McLeod Bethune

ON JULY 13, 2022, a statue of Mary McLeod Bethune was erected in the U.S Capitol’s National Statuary Hall, the first Black American to have a state statue there. As McLeod was the daughter of enslaved Africans in the United States and a fierce advocate for civil rights, her statue’s replacement of the statue of Confederate Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith carries a readily apparent level of significance, especially to those working in the area of diversity, equity and inclusion.

McLeod spent her entire life fighting for the educational rights of Black students who were legally excluded from learning alongside white students, and intentionally deprived of the opportunity of an equal education. In this sense, the legacy of Mary McLeod Bethune remains relevant to USF as we continually work to ensure that we recruit stellar Black students, along with other talented students from all backgrounds to our campus.

Indeed, at this moment, USF and the rest of our country must move beyond the symbolism and sound bites that too often permeate communication around diversity, equity and inclusion. Our faculty and staff, equipped to facilitate difficult conversations in ways that reflect our commitment to respect and notions of civility, are key partners in the academic enterprise. Among the best, they proactively look to create spaces that are inclusive for all students and all perspectives. Critical exchanges of diverse ideas that are backed with data are key to the transformational power of the university, and this takes a team effort. McLeod’s success at establishing Bethune-Cookman University was linked to her ability not to exclude, but to work across race, gender and class boundaries to ensure that all Americans, and particularly those who had been historically excluded from higher



education, had the opportunity for prosperity and success.

Similar to our U.S. legislators’ efforts to recognize transformational leaders such as Mary McLeod Bethune, we, too, seek to recognize those who have actively worked to cultivate inclusive excellence on campus. The newly re-organized Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion organized the 2022 Inclusive Excellence Awards to celebrate the tireless efforts of individuals across our campus communities. Our recipients included those who have promoted the success of all community members including racially and ethnically minoritized groups, veterans, persons with disabilities, women, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and much more.

Our new practices and policies are directed towards the goal that all community members have what they need to thrive. When USF receives “the best that all of us have to give,” then, as a university, we will rise to become the best institution we can be. Our ongoing commitment to embracing our diverse and inclusive community is another reminder to all community members that: “USF begins with US!”

Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman is an associate professor of sociology, interim vice president of institutional equity and senior advisor to the president and provost for diversity and inclusion.

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First Look





GRADUATION

USF awarded more than 6,400 degrees during spring Commencement 2022 — approximately 4,843 undergraduate, 1,295 master's and 297 doctoral degrees.

The group featured 95 undergraduate students earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average, 224 student veterans and included graduates from 50 states and 100 nations. At 18 years old, the youngest graduate earned a bachelor's degree in psychology. The oldest graduate, 68, earned a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Photo: OCTAVIO JONES

APPRECIATION

Krystin Gearhart, '13, and **Bryan McKinnies**, '19, cheer on the Bulls during the Alumni Association's annual Life Member Appreciation Baseball Game in March. Held for the first time since 2019 due to COVID-19, the event drew hundreds to the USF Baseball Stadium for free burgers, beer and Bulls baseball.

"This was a lot of fun," said **Charles Leps**, MSEM '96, Life Member, who drove over from Melbourne Beach with his wife, **Sherrie Conrad**. They'd attended a few years ago but weren't Life Members then.

"We looked on in envy at the tent," where caterers had laid out a complimentary barbecue spread for the association's Life Members, Leps recalled. "I said, 'I want to be a Life Member! I want to get in that tent!'"

See more photos, learn why USF alumni — and non-alums — become Life Members, and check out the second installment of our 2021 Life Member honor roll, pg. 62.



Photo: JAY NOJAN



GO BULLS!

RESERVED

**The
Office**

RECOGNITION!

Myla Clennon, held by her grandfather **Mark Clennon Sr.**, spots a portrait of her dad, **Mark Clennon '10**, during the 2022 USF Outstanding Young Alumni Awards event in April. The younger Clennon was among six Bulls aged 35 and younger recognized for their exceptional professional and community accomplishments. Honorees also include:

- **Garin Flowers**, '09, Life Member
- **Dr. Karim Hanna**, '10 and MD '14
- **Lauren Shumate Marcil**, '10 and MA '14, Life Member
- **Timothy Moore**, 2010-12
- **Daniel Erazo Pinto**, '13

Learn more about these inspiring Bulls, including some of the lessons they've learned, surprises along the way, and how they found their callings, pg. 58.



First Look





Faces of USF—and the community

USF ENTERS ITS 67TH YEAR with historic levels of public, private and nonprofit partnerships and as a driving force for education, research and economic prosperity. USF vice presidents Jay Stroman, Life Member, left, and Kim Hill, MBA '18, at a Board of Trustees meeting, are working together to continue elevating the university's partnerships through initiatives that foster authentic relationships. Their leadership has led to an unprecedented philanthropic support trajectory and national brand awareness.

"The outright love I've seen expressed for USF is remarkable for any university, but especially for one so young," says Stroman, who came to Tampa in 2020 as senior vice president of Advancement and Alumni Affairs and CEO of the USF Foundation. "I've heard it from students, alumni and non-alumni; families whose lives were touched in some way by USF or its graduates; businesses, policymakers and nonprofits from Tampa to Tallahassee. It's pure joy to team with such ardent supporters on what I believe is among the noblest of missions — advancing a premier research university."

Hill, who grew up in Tampa and previously held leadership positions at USF, was appointed vice president of University Communications and Marketing and chief marketing officer in 2021. She has known USF as the go-to neighbor for solutions her whole life.

"I could tell you so many stories," she says. "But far more important is what our community has to say — and that community is local, regional, national and global. Effective communications are multi-directional, and we're focused on engaging, listening, and sharing USF's collective story."

"Together, we will continue to take USF onward and upward."

Jay Stroman, Sr. Vice President for Advancement and Alumni Affairs, CEO of the USF Foundation

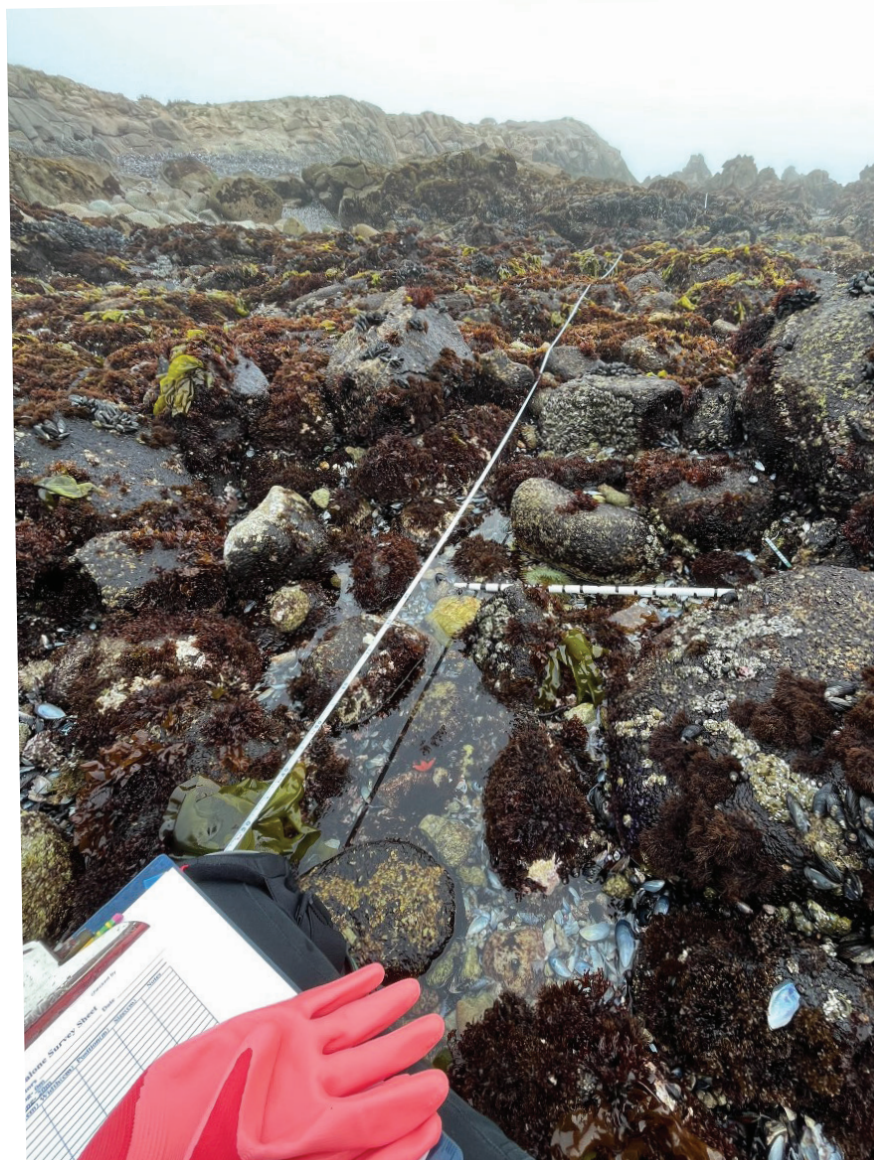
Kim Hill, Vice President for Communications and Marketing

SUSTAINABILITY INTERNS

Hollings Scholarship recipients benefit from hands-on research experience

THREE USF JUNIORS, Sofia Gluskin, Kim Ho and Olivia Tuckey, participated this summer in 10-week, full-time paid internships at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) research facilities across the country. The students were recipients of NOAA's 2021 Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship, which aims to increase undergraduate training in oceanic and atmospheric science, research, technology and education. In addition to their high-profile internships, each student received academic assistance (up to \$9,500 per year) for two years of full-time study and will be provided funding to present their research at national conferences.

Gluskin, a biology major, worked with California State University Monterey Bay and NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary researching sea urchins and kelp forest restoration. Tuckey, a cell and molecular biology major, traveled to the NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Howard Laboratory in Sandy Hook, New Jersey, to study the impacts of climate change on juvenile fish. Ho, who is pursuing con-



current degrees in computer science and quantitative economics, worked with the National Center for Environmental Information in Asheville, North Carolina, analyzing 2020 census data in relationship to climate change. Each student is a member of the Judy Genshaft Honors College and worked with the Office of National Scholarships during their application process.

All three recipients plan to pursue graduate study after completing their bachelor's degrees and look forward to using the knowledge they gained through their Hollings internships to determine their future plans.

"Protecting the environment has always been important to me," Gluskin says. "I am excited to pursue a career that allows me to do just that."

This year, two additional USF Judy Genshaft Honors College students, Danya Awshah and Abigail Reed, were named 2022 Hollings Scholars. They will participate in their NOAA research next summer.

- AMY HARROUN '05 | Judy Genshaft Honors College

“Protecting the environment has always been important to me. I'm excited to pursue a career that allows me to do just that.”

– Sofia Gluskin



Photos: NOAA 2021 Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship recipient Sofia Gluskin, a biology major, spent the summer doing research in NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

University

REGIONAL CHANCELLOR

Christian Hardigree brings wealth of experience to USF's St. Petersburg campus

CHRISTIAN HARDIGREE, the new regional chancellor of USF's St. Petersburg campus, likes to say that hospitality "is just in my blood. It's about serving others."

She's had a wide variety of jobs – pool hall, restaurant, bar, ice cream shop, just to name a few.

And having spent more than two decades in higher education in faculty and administrative roles, she sees a connection between the St. Petersburg campus's goals and those of the hospitality industry.

"It's about making people have a great experience," she says of hospitality. "When I think about the regional chancellor position, that's part of what we're trying to do. We're trying to increase the profile, we're trying to attract people to our institution and we try to keep them once they come here. That's all of our constituents — it's our staff, it's our faculty, it's our students, it's our alumni, it's our community. From the hospitality perspective, we can figure out how to be creative and innovative, and this campus allows us to kind of be a test center to see what new things we can develop that could be scaled to the Tampa campus or the Sarasota-Manatee campus. That hospitality approach is 'yes,' now let's figure out the pathway."

“ “ It's about making people have a great experience ... The hospitality approach is 'yes,' now let's figure out the pathway.”

— Christian Hardigree

Hardigree started her job on July 1. Prior to joining USF, she served as the founding dean of the School of Hospitality at Metropolitan State University (MSU) of Denver.

Before that, Hardigree served as the founding director and professor of the Institute for Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. She was also a professor at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) in the William F. Harrah College of Hospitality from 2001-2012, working up to become department chair of hotel management.

Hardigree earned a Bachelor of Science, cum laude, from UNLV. She went on to receive her juris doctorate from Walter F. George School of law at Mercer University and worked for Parnell & Associates as a senior litigation attorney and partner focusing on employment discrimination, arbitration, mediation and labor-management relations.

USF's Communications and Marketing team sat down with Hardigree to learn a little more about her background and what attracted her to USF's St. Petersburg campus.

Responses have been edited for length and clarity. You can listen to the full conversation on Inside USF: The Podcast (usf.edu/news/inside-usf-podcast/).

Why USF and why the St. Petersburg campus, specifically?

USF has had a meteoric rise just in terms of the quality of programming and moving into the top 50 public universities. When this position became available and I really looked at the St. Petersburg



Photo: CLIFF MCBRIDE | USF St. Petersburg campus

campus, I just fell in love with this community and with this campus. I mean, there are so many unique aspects and you're able to almost create a private school feel with a public school function ... Plus, you have art museums and performing arts and the new dorms. The more I learned, the more I was like, 'Oh this is amazing, I'm so excited to have an opportunity to even be considered for the position.' Now that we're moving forward, I probably can't do justice with words in terms of my excitement for this.

You are very candid about your time as a college student, describing your academic journey as rife with challenges. What were those challenges and how have they shaped your views about higher education?

I originally went to school on a volleyball-softball scholarship. I ended up needing surgery on my foot so I took a semester off and worked two jobs in the same strip mall in Wisconsin. I attended classes part time at University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and crutched from the Ace Hardware down to the Shopko for an entire semester. It gave me a real appreciation of, 'Wow, you need to get back to school.' I had a chance to transfer to UNLV, actually to play volleyball, and the year I transferred they had a budget cut and cancelled the volleyball team.

I've had two and three jobs simultaneously. I've been a food-insecure student, I've been a homeless student, you know, I've been sofa surfing and sleeping in my car at various times. I think it's important that we understand that's the path for so many of our students and it has really framed how I approach things. I want to make sure that we're providing the resources. We want to have the educational platform that helps with social mobility and to provide knowledge, skill and ability to help folks move forward. I get very excited about that.

What are your plans and priorities for the St. Petersburg campus?

I'm going to create a verb and it's 'sponge.' I really want to sponge. I want to learn as much as possible. If you think about it, it actually fits with what a trial attorney does. I've had cases that range from physical assaults to somebody shattering their femur to people dying of carbon monoxide poisoning on a boat and a good bit in between. You have to immerse yourself in an area you might know nothing about and you've got to learn enough so that you can eventually cross-examine an expert about the coefficient of friction for slips and falls or for blowback carbon monoxide poisoning. There's a big element of jumping in and sponging, just soaking up information and knowledge.

I really wanted to come get to know the people, the campus, the community and the students. Just really being immersed in order to understand what are the priorities for the institution, what are the priorities for One USF, how do we relate together, and how do we continue to elevate the profile of the St. Petersburg campus moving forward?

— TOM WOOLF and CARRIE O'BRIEN | USF News

CRIMINOLOGY TURNS 50

Department had humble beginnings

CARL HAWKINS, JR. WAS ONE OF THE FIRST students to take classes in criminal justice when USF launched the program in 1972. Tuition that year was only \$195 per quarter and like many in the '70s, he wore his hair long — down to his shoulders — with bell bottom jeans, tie-dye shirts and buffalo sandals.

When the university welcomed Hawkins and his fellow students 50 years ago, the Tampa campus also looked quite different from the grounds that students and faculty enjoy today. There were so few buildings that the criminal justice program was housed on the second floor of a nearby apartment complex and course registration was held at the USF indoor swimming pool.

"They had these bulletin boards all the way around the pool and students would pick their classes out," says Hawkins, '74, Life Member, who was inducted as a distinguished alumnus of the criminology program in 2012. He also holds master's and doctoral degrees from Nova Southeastern University. Hawkins retired in 2009 as a colonel from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office with nearly 35 years of law enforcement experience. He continues to teach criminology at USF on an adjunct basis.

The criminal justice program's founders, William Blount, the late Mitchell Silverman and the late Manuel Vega, had spent years developing it. While many criminal justice programs across the country offered Bachelor of Science degrees, they created USF's as a Bachelor of Arts so students could take more courses in arts and humanities.

"We also insisted that our curriculum prepared the students for what was coming next," Blount says. "Whether they were going on for a master's degree and doctorate for an academic career or they were going to go out to a professional career in something like law enforcement, we wanted to make sure our curriculum prepared them."

It wasn't long before the founders were joined by fellow faculty members Ira Silverman, Leonard Territo and Tim Riley. In its earliest years, criminal justice drew a high level of interest from veterans returning from the Vietnam War as well as current and hopeful law enforcement officers pursuing additional education.

"You want to know why people go into this field?" asks Territo, '68 and MA '71, who brought decades of law enforcement experience to his lectures, including his work as an advisor to the investigation that took down notorious serial killer Ted Bundy. "It's fascinating. I've done so many different kinds of things, and those stories are valuable because they make the information relevant."

As USF expanded, so did the criminal justice program. A master's degree was added in 1974 and, along the way, the program became the Department of Criminology, with a more theoretical, social and behavioral science focus. Then, in 1998, the department became the second in Florida to offer a doctorate in criminology.

Dwayne Smith, who recently returned to the department as a professor after serving for a number of years as senior vice provost and dean of the Office of Graduate Studies at USF,

joined the Department of Criminology in fall 2000 to serve as chair and helped to develop the doctoral program, increasing its national exposure.

"We had a lot of discussions early on about what it meant to be a PhD program, and it wasn't just offering more courses," he says. "It really did involve a shift in the culture of the department. We had to have a greater level of visibility. I think it's fair to say that department has evolved right along with the university in terms of its identity."



Over the past five decades, the Department of Criminology has not only enriched the lives of those who have studied, taught and worked there, it has also had local, national and international impact. For example, the master's in criminal justice administration program has attracted working professionals from 80 different agencies since its inception in 2006. From work on family interventions in the juvenile justice program to drug use prevention, to internships with regional agencies, the intersection between research and community has fostered valuable partnerships.

These relationships have also enhanced courses. Kathleen Heide, distinguished university professor and the first female tenured professor in the department, remembers working with her community connections to include guest speakers in her courses, from public figures to politicians and FBI agents, to discuss relevant legal and law enforcement issues. She introduced live demonstrations from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office S.W.A.T. team and took students into the medical examiner's building and onto death row to speak with inmates.

Today, the Department of Criminology offers a variety of undergraduate, graduate and professional training programs on multiple campuses and online. It is home to more than 1,200 students, with its graduate program ranked No. 18 by U.S. News & World Report.

"I am so proud of what this department has been able to accomplish, the faculty we have been able to employ and the incredible individuals we have had the honor of teaching," Blount says.

Above: Members of the criminology team at a Tampa campus ceremony, circa 1992. Back row, from left, Manuel Vega, Richard Dembo, Kathleen Heide, Tom Mieczkowski, Chris Sellers, Leonard Territo, Marson Johnson, Jim Halsted, Maggie Deutsch. Front row, from left, William Blount, Belea Keeney, Cecil Greek.

- PATTY HARRISON and MOLLY URNEK '20 | College of Behavioral and Community Sciences

INSPIRING ALUMNI

Two educators get 'Oscar' surprise

WHAT SEEMED LIKE ANOTHER normal schoolday became an unexpected red-carpet moment for two educators when they learned they'd won "the Oscars of teaching" — the Milken Educator Award.

Ashley Hernandez, '08, a math teacher at Riverview High School in Sarasota, and April Crisci, '05, a kindergarten/first grade teacher at Westside Elementary School in Spring Hill, Florida, received surprise announcements at their schools in April. They're just two of six USF graduates to earn the honor in the program's 35-year history. Milken Educator Awards celebrate early to mid-career education professionals for their achievements and recognize their future potential.

Hernandez teaches geometry and Advanced Placement statistics. She combines practical learning with positive reinforcement and emotional support, an approach that has more than doubled the number of students enrolling in the challenging course and resulted in AP exam scores that exceed the state average.

"This whole experience has allowed me to see the impact I'm making on students," she says. "All of those

pieces of things that I've done throughout the years have come to this one place and I'm so, so grateful."

In the minutes before Crisci's name was called, she looked around the auditorium, trying to guess the recipient. It could have been any of her colleagues, she says, because they inspire her every day.

Crisci teaches kindergarten and first-grade language arts, reading and social studies. Her youngest students end the year able to write and type a full paragraph and all of her students outperform their peers countywide in assessments.

"I'm still in shock — I don't even know how it came about," Crisci says. "I don't think it will really, truly hit me until I go to network with people and see what's done at other schools and learn from other people."

This year, 60 teachers nationwide received Milken Educator Awards on June 3.

Hernandez and Crisci each received \$25,000 and an invitation to join fellow recipients in the Milken Educator Network.

- ELIZABETH ENGASSER, '15, College of Education

Ashley Hernandez, below, in blue, and April Crisci, right, being interviewed, at the school ceremonies where they were named Milken scholars.



PHOTOS: MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION

STATE-OF-THE-ART LABS

Teachers will benefit from federal STEM education support

AFTER BEGINNING HER CAREER as an architect, Luisa Jeske, '97, switched to drafting, then teaching, where she found herself constantly seeking opportunities to keep her skills fresh. Her math and robotics students are at a pivotal age — middle school.

She signed up for training on topics that would help her connect with them, like Minecraft and coding. She completed continuing education courses through her school district, with nonprofit organizations and in summer courses at USF, but she wanted more. Like training in electronics and the programming language Python, valuable skills her students can use to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Thanks to a \$1 million federal grant the College of Education received in the spring, Jeske will have a plethora of new options available. The funds will allow USF to expand the resources available to local STEM teachers.

Continuing education for STEM teachers is crucial, Jeske says, because of the rapid-fire introduction of new techniques and technologies and their ubiquity in everyday life.

"Everything is becoming more technologically oriented," she says. "Outside the school setting, it is important to know technology. As teachers, we need to evolve with the changes."

Made possible by funding support from U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor, the grant will create state-of-the-art teaching labs on all three USF campuses, where educators can discover new ways to engage students in STEM subjects. It will also enhance USF's ability to support local schools in recruiting top teaching talent, especially in math- and science-related subjects.

"Skilled and devoted teachers are key to student



Photos: Courtesy USF COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

success and to a thriving economy here in the Tampa Bay area," Castor said at a press conference announcing the funding. "I am thrilled that President Biden signed the appropriations into law and those funds are on the way to train and lift up our talented teachers. This will pay great dividends for years to come."

"Technology is not just a tool — technology allows us to inspire kids to use their imaginations, to dream bigger than themselves, and to think that they can be better than they might otherwise be without it," says College of Education Dean and Professor R. Anthony Rolle.

Jeske says the need for more teachers trained in STEM education is growing and schools play a critical role in preparing students to enter high-demand jobs.

"Despite which class or which subject (an educator) is going to teach, they should be trained in STEM education," she says. "It's a serious need."

U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor (left) and USF College of Education Dean R. Anthony Rolle (right) visit Luisa Jeske at her Stewart Magnet Middle School classroom in Tampa.

- ELIZABETH ENGASSER, '15, College of Education

Did You Know?

USF's College of Education:

- Has a 93% first-year retention rate
- Has 125 faculty with 75+ areas of expertise
- Has 65,000+ alumni
- \$400,000+ awarded in privately funded scholarships each year
- \$23.8 million in grant awards
- Is home to six research centers and institutes
- Ranks among top 50 public universities for graduate education (U.S. News & World Report)

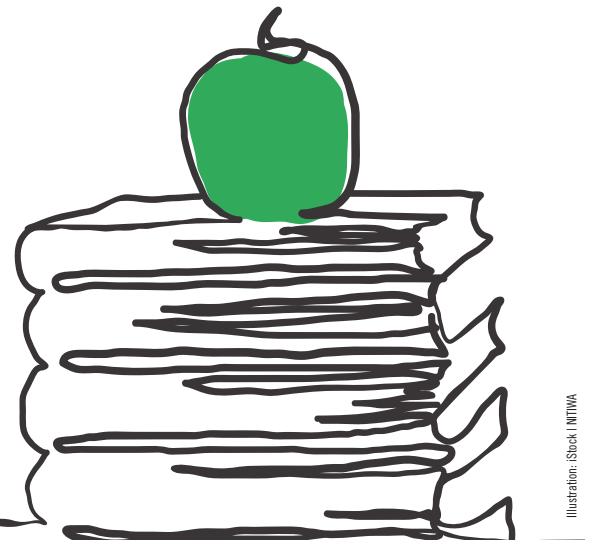


Illustration: iStock / MIYVA

Athletics

GAME CHANGER

Indoor Performance Facility nears completion

USF ATHLETICS' GAME-CHANGING, \$22 million Indoor Performance Facility has risen on the east end of the Tampa campus and is now an impressive addition to the athletics campus set to open later this fall.

Entirely powered by philanthropy, the facility will serve not only the football program and shut out the unpredictable Florida weather, but will be a training and recruiting enhancement for all of the Bulls' athletics programs and a major event space for other campus constituents.

Ground was broken last September on the 88,000-square-foot facility, which will house a full 100-yard turf field, and, after several weeks of preparing the site, steel beams began rising into the sky when the calendar turned to 2022. With the framework in place by the end of April, the exterior of the massive building began to take shape in May.

"This is a transformational facility for us," Michael Kelly, USF's vice president of athletics, says. "As we continue to challenge for conference and national championships, this facility will be a very key element."

Kelly said \$25 million was raised for the training center, the highest total for any fundraising project in USF's 55-year athletic history, which included a new \$3 million football team locker room in the Lee Roy Selmon Center that opened last fall.

The recommended site for a new on-campus football stadium, which is moving forward at a rapid pace, is adjacent to the training facility on the east end of campus and will create a vibrant and cohesive athletics campus that will be the envy of many in college athletics and help USF continue to recruit the best and brightest student-athletes, coaches and staff.

"This is a very exciting time," Kelly says. "There's a lot going on. But our student-athletes at USF deserve these things and we're really excited to go into this new era."

- BRIAN SIEGRIST | USF Athletics



Photos: Courtesy of USF ATHLETICS





Athletics



USF senior Georgina Corrick pitching for the Bulls during a softball game against the University of Houston Cougars at the USF Softball Stadium on April 30.

Photo: MARY HOLT | South Florida Athletics

SOFTBALL STAR

Corrick caps incredible year with NCAA Pitcher of the Year honors

USF SOFTBALL PITCHER GEORGINA CORRICK capped a historic career with a tremendous senior season in 2022. Named the National Fastpitch Coaches Association National Pitcher of the Year and a USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Top Three Finalist, she finished the season with a 37-5 record, a 0.51 ERA and 418 strikeouts to post one of the most dominant seasons in National Collegiate Athletic Association softball history. Corrick was also named the NCAA statistical champion in wins, ERA and strikeouts, becoming the first in NCAA softball history to capture the “pitching triple crown” by leading in all three categories.

“Those that were able to witness what has to be considered one of the greatest seasons to be put together by any athlete at USF can appreciate what Georgina Corrick accomplished,” USF softball head Coach Ken Eriksen, '84, Life Member says. “What was even more impressive was my up-close view of the woman that Ms. Corrick is and how her leadership enabled our team to be very successful. Players feed off of other players. She was our ‘North Star’ in the clubhouse. That’s special.”

The only pitcher to be named the American Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Year in each of her four seasons of eligibility, Corrick threw two perfect games and a no-hitter during the 2022 campaign, bringing her career total to eight solo no-hitters and nine overall. At one point in the season, her ERA was as low as 0.06 after over 100 innings, including the NCAA’s seventh-longest streak of consecutive scoreless innings at 88.1. She also made history by breaking USF’s single-game strikeout record, tallying 19 against Florida Gulf Coast University on March 2.

Academically, Corrick is a three-time CoSIDA (College Sports Information Directors of America) Academic All-American, earning third-team honors in 2020-21, first-team honors in 2019-20 and being named Academic Team Member of the Year in 2021-22.



The program’s second three-time All-American with a first-team selection in 2022, Corrick ended her collegiate softball career owning 40 USF or conference records. She tallied 113 wins, 55 shutouts and 1,302 strikeouts, which ranks 25th among career strikeout totals in NCAA history.

Corrick was drafted into two professional softball leagues and tied another USF softball player, Monica Triner, as the highest draft pick in USF Athletics history after being selected No. 2 overall by the USSSA (U.S. Specialty Sports Association) Pride in the 2022 Women’s Professional Fastpitch College Draft. She currently plays in the Athletes Unlimited softball league and played for the Great Britain National Team, alongside fellow USF alum Lauren Evans, '18, in the Women’s Softball European Championship in July.

- DAN HAMILTON | USF Athletics

GET READY! Football kicks off Sept. 3

BYU SEPT. 3	HOWARD SEPT. 10	FLORIDA SEPT. 17
LOUISVILLE SEPT. 24	ECU OCT. 1	CINCINNATI OCT. 8
TULANE OCT. 15	HOUSTON OCT. 29	TEMPLE NOV. 5
SMU NOV. 12	TULSA NOV. 18	UCF NOV. 25/26

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TGH Tampa General Hospital

Unlocking the door to the DREAM OF COLLEGE

Through U Matter, students with intellectual disabilities thrive on St. Petersburg campus

By DAVE SCHEIBER

INSIDE A SECOND-FLOOR CLASSROOM, five students from USF's St. Petersburg campus have gathered for a morning meeting prior to summer session. Another student beams in virtually on a pull-down projector screen, and conversation punctuated by laughter fills the air as they settle in after a fun month at home.

Most have just moved back into their campus residence hall rooms and are talking to program leaders about their upcoming internships — two with the Tampa Bay Rays, one at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club, two assisting in Pinellas County Schools' Summer Bridge reading program, and another helping to coach sailing in Sarasota.

In one regard, these could be any summer-session students getting down to work on a mostly empty St. Petersburg campus. But they are actually members of the inaugural class, with two semesters already in the books, of an ambitious initiative in the growing, post-secondary field known as inclusive education.

It is a program born from two separate worlds — one springing from the vision and generosity of donors including USF alumni Eileen and Andy Hafer, the other from the determination of USF St. Petersburg campus faculty members — to provide learning, social and career skills for

young adults with intellectual disabilities.

This is the story of the Hafers and how those two worlds converged to give students, mostly in their early 20s, the opportunity to experience college and campus life.

In a fledgling program the Hafers fittingly named U Matter, they matter, indeed.

"When these kids graduate from high school, very often there is not a lot waiting for them — after that the world becomes flat and everything simply falls off," says Eileen, who worked for 20 years as a teacher and exceptional student specialist for Hillsborough County Schools.

The Hafers (pronounced Hay-fers) set out to change that, and their commitment led to a \$1.2 million gift through the USF Foundation last September to create the Eileen Hoffman Hafer U Matter Program. Little did they know when they undertook their quest in Tampa that USF professors in St. Petersburg were working on a similar track.

It was just a matter of time before they discovered one another.



The Hafers' habit of getting involved, and finding ways to uplift USF, is rooted in their days as undergraduates in the mid-1980s, with Andy literally lifting Eileen on the cheerleading squad. An elementary education major, she had been a SunDoll dancer before switching to cheering. Andy, majoring in engineering, was manager of USF's basketball team, but noticed what a blast the cheer squad was having. He decided to try out.

"I was the guy with two left feet when I walked in," he recalls. "I had never thought about doing it before. But back then, they needed males, and any warm body would do. Eileen was the most friendly person in the room, and the first one to come up to me to say hi."

The rest is Hafer history. They began dating, with Andy also finding time to be a student Ambassador. After graduation in 1988, Eileen went to work as a teacher, returned to USF to work three years in the Alumni Association, then returned to the classroom. Meanwhile, Andy earned a bachelor's 1988 and an MBA in 1990. He became a tech entrepreneur, helping underserved businesses become more productive.

They married in 1991 and have been looking for ways to make a difference ever since.

"Andy created things with a sense of community,"



Philanthropy



Photos: JAY NOLAN



Above: Alec Allwood is part of the first cohort of students participating the Eileen Hoffman Hafer UMMatter program at USF's St. Petersburg campus.

Left: Sam Essman, a lifelong Tampa Bay Rays fan, prepares for an internship with the team over the summer.

Opposite page: Mike Muldoon, assistant director of the Hafer UMMatter program, gives students an overview of what to expect during the summer semester on campus.



Left: The Hafer U Matter program has been pivotal in helping Logan Lavery become an independent adult.

Photo: JAY NOLAN

Eileen said, including his most lucrative innovation, peer-to-peer software training called Dynamic Communities. “And that became our mantra in what we have created together.”



After retiring from teaching a decade ago, Eileen stayed involved in community programs to assist special needs students. Then, some nine years ago, she developed one herself. She established a volunteer-based program called IMatter. Her vision was to support individuals, about half with special needs, while giving their caregivers a brief respite.

That program had a transformative impact on Andy. When the caregiver of a child with disabilities was unable to attend a special summer camp, Andy filled in. “It changed my life,” he recalls. “That’s when I was hooked.” He pauses, then quips, “And I’ve been on Team Eileen ever since, helping out any way I can.”

Eileen’s vision expanded to the U Matter concept several years ago. She and Andy had several meetings with the then-dean of USF’s College of Education in Tampa, but nothing developed. Unbeknownst to them, two faculty members in St. Petersburg had applied for a grant to create such a program. Then came a breakthrough.

Marion Yongue, Life Member, an associate vice president of development at the USF Foundation, learned of their interest and introduced them to Tracee Norris, former director of development at the College of Education. She, in turn, connected them with Lyman Dukes III, professor of exceptional student education, and Louise “Danie” Roberts-Dahm '09, MA '10 and PhD '17. “The minute we met them,” Eileen says, “we could see our visions for a program were perfectly aligned.”



A top priority for the Hafers was having a residential component for the students. They also found that many

similar programs are under the wing of a school’s disabilities office, but they felt strongly it should be housed within the College of Education so it would “own” the program.

“Andy and I also imagined the wonderful opportunities for (education) majors to learn about special needs education,” Eileen says, “not just through research but direct, hands-on interaction.”

The Hafers collaborated with Dukes and Roberts-Dahm, who had secured their state grant of \$900,000. They planned to select applicants for the inaugural class in 2020, but the pandemic hit. In August 2021, the St. Petersburg campus welcomed the first U Matter class. One



Andy and I also imagined the wonderful opportunities for (education) majors to learn about special needs education, not just through research but direct, hands-on interaction.”

— Eileen Hafer



Eileen and Andy Hafer, Life Members

Philanthropy

month later came the Hafers' gift, which will allow the program to expand to USF's campuses in Tampa and Sarasota-Manatee, as well as fund the Hafer Family Endowed Professorship to provide ongoing support and mentorship.

The program has been thriving, and though Roberts-Dahm has left USF, she has been succeeded by Jayme Joslyn, director of the U Matter program, supported by assistant director Mike Muldoon. On a recent morning, they prepared students for their next steps.

"What are you looking forward to in your internships?" asked Muldoon.

Sam Essman, 23, donning a Tampa Bay Rays jersey, replied that he can't wait to work at Tropicana Field for a team he has rooted for most of his life. "I'll be selling food, and when I'm done, I'll get to watch the games for free," he said.

Joslyn and Muldoon asked the class if anyone is nervous. "I'm afraid the kids are going to eat me alive," interjected Summer Bridge intern Logan Lavery, 20, with a big smile.

Joslyn, whom the students call "Dr. J.," reviewed the transportation options to their internships, stressing safety tips for those walking through downtown. They watched a short video about the best ways to study and do online assignments.

The students took one online course this summer while living on campus supported by staff and mentors. During the fall and spring, they take two classes — technically, auditing them — en route to earning a graduation certificate.

Barely a decade ago, students with intellectual disabilities in Florida could earn only a "special diploma" that provided few job opportunities. That changed in 2013 when then-Florida Senate President Andy Gardiner, the father of a special needs son, convened experts around the state, including Dukes, to draft a bill modifying diploma legislation.

The result: a new state statute providing grants for Florida colleges and universities offering programs like U Matter. Today, some 350 such programs exist nationwide among roughly 4,600 colleges and universities. Florida has nearly two dozen, second most in the country. That means in-state students now have a greater choice of post-secondary options after high school, just like any prospective college student.

• • •

Many parents were nervous about leaving their children to live independently on a real college campus. Now they marvel at the changes.

Christina McIntosh's son, Samuel, graduated from Jensen Beach High in 2021. "The only programs we knew of were two to three hours a day for a couple of days a week, and we knew he needed more than that," she says. "He wanted more, too."

The county school system provided the parents with a list of potential schools and that's how they learned of U Matter. She and her husband brought Samuel to campus for a visit, and he immediately fell in love with it.

"We've learned a lot about Samuel and even our



parenting skills that we would not have seen if he was still home," she says. "He now walks through St. Petersburg to go to doctor's appointments on his own. That would never have happened at home. It's been a huge step of independence. And we're so grateful to Dr. Joslyn, who is like his campus mom."

Logan has loved her classes, and even joined a campus dance team. "The people in the group are so nice," she says. "We did a showcase in the student center. It was so exciting."

"Logan has grown leaps and bounds from this program," says her mother, Ann Lavery. "The program has been pivotal in helping her become an independent adult."

And much of it comes back to the Hafers.

"Eileen and Andy aren't just fiscal supporters," Dukes says. "They even help the students move in. They serve on our board. And Andy has helped us develop relationships throughout the business community to provide internship opportunities for our students."

Andy views that as a vital component: "Parents feel that too often a student will graduate, but not be employable. So we've tried to make sure this program did not have a graduate-to-the couch ending to it."

According to a survey commissioned by the Special Olympics, only 44 percent of adults (age 21 to 64) with intellectual disabilities are in the labor force, compared to 83 percent without such disabilities. The Hafers hope U Matter will help change that, opening doors to the dream of college and ultimately employment for this population of young adults.

"It's just not right that they don't have the same opportunities," Eileen says. "This is a diverse, different group that hasn't been able to fit in. And we realized we can sit here and do nothing, or we can try to make a difference. And it's more than our donation. It's a commitment — our true belief — that everyone on this planet should be included." ■

Above: Jayme Joslyn, director of the U Matter program, who the students call "Dr. J.," helps Logan Lavery prepare for her internship with Pinellas County Schools' Summer Bridge program.

Photo: JAY NOLAN

Building the future of fintech education

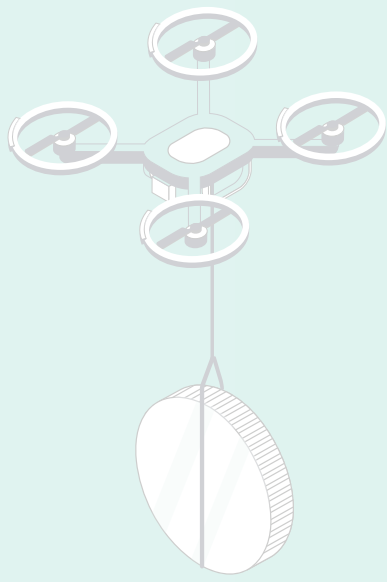
St. Petersburg philanthropists' generosity expands opportunities for students



Philanthropists Kate Tiedemann, at right, and Ellen Cotton were recognized during a ceremony this spring for their most recent gifts to USF's St. Petersburg campus, which will boost financial technology education at the university.

Photo: CLIFF MCGRIE / USF St. Petersburg campus

Philanthropy



PHILANTHROPISTS Kate Tiedemann and Ellen Cotton are elevating financial education and creating the Fintech Center at the USF Kate Tiedemann School of Business and Finance at USF's St. Petersburg campus.

The \$14 million gifts will turn the school into a "hub of excellence" in fintech education. The school is one of six within the Muma College of Business.

Business students and faculty on each of USF's three campuses will benefit.

Fintech, short for "financial technology," is a catch-all term for any technology that's used to augment, streamline, digitize or disrupt traditional financial services. It impacts everything from mobile banking and insurance to crowdfunding, blockchain, cryptocurrency and investment apps.

The college's four-pillar vision for fintech includes the creation of professorships that will attract top-tier faculty who conduct scholarly inquiries into emerging opportunities, assess fintech risks and threats, determine how to mitigate them, and teach students the same.

The plan's second pillar involves students and changes to the finance degree programs.

Gary Patterson, interim director of the Kate Tiedemann School of Business and Finance, says the school will update its curricula and explore new undergraduate course options. It will also revamp its master's program so those who earn the graduate degree will not only have mastered core finance concepts and skills but will also have a firm understanding of the technology and design science programs.

New courses could focus on topics such as machine learning in money laundering, robotic process automation in fintech, digital payment technologies and algorithmic trading, he says.

Michael Wiemer, appointed the inaugural director of the Fintech Center, says the gifts help USF expand experiential learning opportunities for students, such as internships, co-ops or remote learning opportunities to connect with alumni.

"As this technology spreads, it's becoming increasingly important for our students — this region's future workforce — to understand the myriad ways in which technology can advance business and open new opportunities and they must also understand ways that security, transparency and privacy should be assured," Wiemer says.

The third and fourth pillars are community outreach and education, which include offering conferences, executive education programs and workplace certificate programs.

"It brings us great joy to help USF students build their expertise in fintech, so they are ready for the fast-changing business world that awaits them," Tiedemann, Life Member, and Cotton, Life Member, said. "The faculty on the USF St. Petersburg campus, on all USF campuses, possess the talent and experience needed to effectively develop the curricula that will make USF a leader in this space. Fintech spans many disciplines, and we couldn't be happier to play our part in creating new opportunities for students."

The gifts further solidify the Tampa Bay region's footprint in fintech, including a strong presence in St. Petersburg that has come as an outgrowth of the city's roots in the financial services sector.

The area is home to Raymond James, now the largest financial service provider outside of Wall Street. According to the St. Petersburg Area Economic Development Corp., financial services is St. Petersburg's largest employment sector, and the thriving tech community has drawn companies such as ARK Invest and Dynasty Financial Partners to relocate to the area.

- ELIZABETH L. BROWN | Muma College of Business





USF is working hard
to build a brighter
future, today.

Changing LIVES

USF is a university defined by its core values of inquiry, innovation, integrity and inclusion.

On the pages that follow, you will meet just a few members of USF's collaborative and diverse community who are dedicated to transforming lives.

Through the commitment of the faculty, students, staff, alumni, supporters and partners to addressing our most pressing issues — across Tampa Bay and Florida, nationally and globally — USF is making a positive difference through discovery, the generation of new knowledge and providing meaningful opportunities for our communities.

You'll see, as reflected in national rankings and new initiatives, how USF is striving to ensure that the next generation of leaders is well-equipped to meet today's challenges — and tomorrow's.

USF student Phoebe Carrasco catches the "golden hour" light just before sunset at Simmons Park on USF's Tampa campus.

DID YOU KNOW?

A few highlights of USF's remarkable trajectory

\$6.02 billion economic impact

USF's annual economic impact in fiscal year 2019-20 was \$6.02 billion, according to a study by a team of faculty and students from the Muma College of Business.

Highlights from the study:

- USF is the 14th largest public employer in Florida with more than 16,000 employees.
- USF supports more than 68,500 jobs in Florida in USF-related direct spending.
- Every \$1 of state funding invested in USF helps generate more than \$14 in economic output.



Fastest-rising university

USF ranks among nation's top 50

USF is the fastest-rising university in the United States over the past decade, public or private, according to U.S. News & World Report.

Over the past 10 years, USF has risen 48 spots among public universities and 67 spots among all universities (public or private), which represents a greater climb than any other university in the country.

For the third consecutive year, USF ranks as one of the nation's top 50 public universities.



Supporting social mobility

USF focuses on affordable access, timely graduation and the elimination of completion gaps based on race and income. Times Higher Education ranks USF No. 4 in the U.S. for its efforts to eliminate poverty.

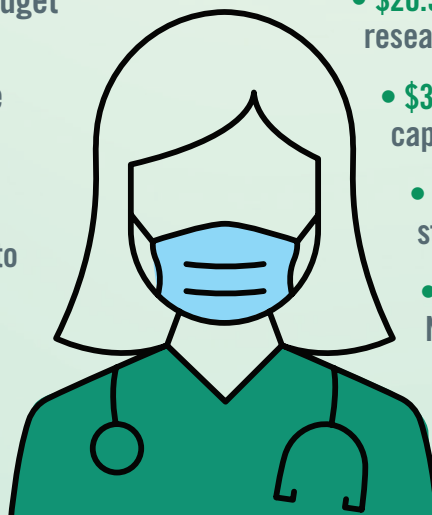
Culture of innovation

Times Higher Education ranks USF #1 among U.S. universities for its commitment to industry, innovation and infrastructure.

Historic state investment

State leaders recognize the positive impact USF is having on students and the communities it serves. USF's 2022-23 state budget is the most transformative in the university's history, thanks to the Florida Legislature and Gov. Ron DeSantis. *Highlights include:*

- A \$55 million recurring increase to the operational budget, including new funds for all three campuses and USF Health.
- \$37 million to Cyber Florida at USF to conduct a cybersecurity vulnerability assessment for



the state, and oversee training of state and local government employees against cyber intrusions.

- \$20.5 million for cybersecurity workforce development, research and simulation activities at USF.
- \$33 million to remodel USF Health facilities to add capacity for more nursing students.
- \$7 million to expand nursing programs to address statewide shortages.
- \$5 million to operate the Florida Center for Nursing at USF's College of Nursing.
- \$3 million to plan for construction of the new nursing/STEM building at the Sarasota-Manatee campus, the campus's first new state-funded facility in over 15 years.

Top 10 for Fulbright Scholars



According to the U.S. Department of State, USF ranks seventh nationally for Fulbright scholarship recipients for 2021-2022.

No. 1 in Florida

No other Florida university produced more Fulbright scholars than USF. This is the eighth consecutive year that USF has ranked among the top university sponsors of Faculty Fulbright Awards nationally.

JUDY GENSHAFT HONORS COLLEGE

Shalini Subramanian, a junior majoring in biomedical sciences, looks forward to spontaneous chats with fellow honors students in a wide variety of disciplines – from engineering to music — as well as faculty and advisors.

Conversation, collaboration and new friendships tend to occur more easily, she knows, when people share space. USF's 2,100-plus honors college students will soon have that. The state-of-the-art, five-story building will include classrooms, study areas, studios, open areas and a café in a free-flowing design that encourages interaction.

"It's going to be a great space to foster involvement," says Subramanian, 2021-22 president of the college's student council. "I can't wait to build new connections."

Anticipated opening: Spring 2023

Size: 85,000 square feet

Cost: \$56 million, funded with \$8.1 million from the state, \$3.4 million from USF, and the remainder from private gifts, including a historic lead gift of \$20 million from USF President Emerita and Professor Judy Genshaft and her husband, Steve Greenbaum

New features: In addition to providing a home for honors college students, the building will include spaces to engage the Tampa Bay community with lectures, shows, meetings and events.



BUILDING E

USF RESEARCH PARK BUILDING

USF's new state-of-the-art research center will deepen the connection between university innovation and the business community and help advance the Tampa Bay region's growing startup ecosystem.

The first new building in the Research Park since 2005, the three-story facility will bring together leading researchers, entrepreneurs, financial investors and corporations. The building significantly expands the Research Park, located on the Tampa campus and home to more than 65 companies and dozens of student-led startups. It has been consistently at full capacity in recent years.

"The USF Research Park has long been a thriving community bridging research and innovation for our faculty, students and partners," says Sylvia Wilson Thomas, interim vice president for USF Research & Innovation. "Bold, ambitious new technologies have always found a home here. This incredible new building is going to be a catalyst for our inventors and partners, helping them flourish in a modern marketplace and contribute to an innovation ecosystem to change the world."

Opened: March 2022

Size: 120,000 square feet

Cost: \$42 million, financed through the USF Financing Corp. with \$27 million in debt and \$15 million cash equity contribution from the USF Research Foundation.

New features: Laboratory facilities, office and meeting space for innovators and both established and startup companies, retail and dining options





STUDENT WELLNESS CENTER

Halfway through any given semester, business peaks at the Student Health Services center on USF's Tampa campus. Anxious about midterm exams, students pull all-nighters, eat whatever whenever, and generally run their immune systems ragged.

"They're more susceptible to colds, viruses, illness," says Dr. Joseph Puccio, executive and medical director. The stress can take a toll on their mental health, too.

Despite 21 health-care providers, wait times stretch. Space is a precious commodity in the center, built in 1980 when the campus had 25,000 students. Enrollment is double that today.

When the new center opens, "we'll be able to take care of students the way we really want to," Puccio says. If someone needs to talk or requires observation, they won't occupy an exam room.

And, he notes, "The students built this. Please include that. They've sacrificed to make this happen."

Anticipated opening: Spring 2023

Size: 47,000 square feet (existing center is 12,500 square feet)

Cost: \$27.4 million, funded by the student Capital Improvement Trust Fund fee

New features: Include but not limited to — a separate suite for sexual health services; confidential psychological services suite; comprehensive rehabilitative care



XCITEMENT

INDOOR PERFORMANCE FACILITY

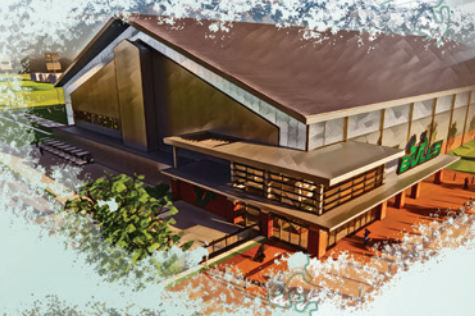
In 2017, USF announced plans for an indoor training facility to benefit all its athletic teams. Almost immediately, longtime USF benefactors Les, '66, and Pam Muma, '64-67, donated \$5 million. By 2019, nearly all the funding had been raised.

Anticipated opening: Fall 2022

Size: 88,000 square feet

Cost: \$22 million, funded by private donations

Amenities: 100-yard turf field; strength and conditioning center; locker room; auditorium with tiered seating



PROPOSED ON-CAMPUS STADIUM

An on-campus stadium is projected to open by 2026 or 2027, envisioned as a year-round gathering place, that will enhance the university's culture and spirit.

"A stadium is someplace that everybody can come and enjoy," says longtime USF supporter Frank Morsani who, with his wife, Carol, kicked off fundraising with a \$5 million gift. "College football is one of the best values for your buck that anybody can have."

The Morsanis' donation was quickly followed by \$5 million from Jeff Vinik, owner of the Tampa Bay Lightning, and his wife, Penny, also dedicated USF benefactors.

"An on-campus stadium will be a game-changer, literally and figuratively, for the university and our entire Tampa Bay community," says Jeff Vinik.

Potential opening: 2026 or 2027

Location: Recommended site is Sycamore fields, near other athletic facilities

Estimated cost: \$250 million-\$400 million

Size: Targeted seating capacity of 35,000



For nurses and their patients, help is on the way

NURSES HAVE BEEN IN SHORT SUPPLY for the whole of Mina Folks' career. But during the brutal first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, as she watched colleagues question — and leave — the vocation they once cherished, the effects of the shortage became painfully apparent.

Twelve-hour shifts stretched to 16 hours. Patient case-loads grew. Overworked nurses struggled to battle a disease with no treatment and comfort patients isolated from loved ones. In some hospitals, overwhelmed supervisors offered little support.

“A lot of nurses were getting burned out. They rethink their profession, ‘Is this something I really want to do?’” says Folks, ’15 and MS ’20. “When they go home, they’re super stressed. They can never step away — they’re always thinking about it.”

As a longtime U.S. Air Force Reserve officer who has deployed overseas, Folks says she has the tools to cope. And Tampa General Hospital, where she’s worked since 2016, does a great job taking care of its employees. Still, she’s relieved the USF Health College of Nursing will vastly expand its enrollment capacity thanks to an infusion of \$48 million in new state funding.

The money, expected to increase the number of USF nursing graduates by 200% over the next six years, will also address future needs.

Here’s how:

- \$33 million for more classrooms and other learning spaces, including state-of-the-art simulation labs, on USF’s Tampa campus





- \$6.9 million in recurring funding to add 40 faculty members and 30 staff members over the next three to five years
- \$3 million to plan for a nursing/STEM building on USF's Sarasota-Manatee campus
- \$5 million for the Florida Center for Nursing, a state agency headquartered at USF that tracks workforce data and recommends strategies for addressing shortfalls

“The nursing shortage is a national, decades-old problem exacerbated by the pandemic,” says nursing college Dean Usha Menon, senior associate vice president for USF Health. “Our faculty and staff have worked so hard over the past few years to maintain academic excellence, especially during the pandemic. Their work is being recognized and

supported, and I’m so excited for our future!”

Making room for hundreds more students is a crucial step in addressing the nursing crisis, but the problem requires multi-faceted solutions, she adds. Among them is providing ample support for new graduates. The college is partnering with hospitals throughout the region to ensure they’re well-equipped to handle the stresses of a high-pressure job.

Folks hopes the state’s response and USF’s initiatives will become a model for other parts of the country. Patients will benefit, she says, but so will those who seek a challenging, rewarding career.

“You can’t go in expecting it not to be hard. It can be hard,” she says. “But I love helping people. I love making a difference. I would never want to leave this profession.”

- PENNY CARNATHAN '82 | USF Advancement



Photo: CASSIDY DELMARTRE | USF News

Far left: USF College of Nursing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist students conduct simulation training at USF’s Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulation.

Left, top: USF trains future nurses with state-of-the-art technology, including HAL (at center), the world’s most advanced pediatric patient simulator and the first capable of simulating lifelike emotions.



Left, below: Nursing class at the St. Petersburg campus.

New appropriations from the state are expected to increase the number of USF nursing graduates by 200% over the next six years.

Innovative cybersecurity programs poised for major expansion

JULIE GONZALEZ WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL when she realized that her interest in computer science and desire to help people were perfect for a career in cybersecurity.

Gonzalez graduated in early May with a degree in cybersecurity from the USF College of Engineering Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) department.

A few weeks later, she began working as an identity and access management analyst with Raymond James in St. Petersburg.

Like other recent USF cybersecurity grads, Gonzalez quickly found a good job in a field where Florida is investing heavily to meet soaring demand for highly qualified workers.

Gov. Ron DeSantis last month signed a budget that includes a \$20.5 million increase in funding from the legislature to Cyber Florida at USF. Included in that is \$10 million in recurring funds for USF to hire new faculty and expand programs to help produce more cyber-workforce-ready graduates each year.

The College of Engineering separately received \$1.39 million from Cyber Florida to expand and enhance the workforce in the Tampa Bay region.

The investments address an enormous need in an industry the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts will grow by 31 percent over the next few years, with average median wages around \$104,000 annually. The shortage of cybersecurity professionals is estimated to be around 2.7 million globally and about 22,000 in Florida.

“It’s exciting to know you can pivot in almost any direction and find a good job,” says senior William Silvert, a CSE cybersecurity student who expects to graduate in December.”

USF prepares cybersecurity graduates with classroom simulations and experiential learning opportunities and builds feedback from industry partners into its programs. Faculty who have worked in the cybersecurity field stage exercises such as malware attacks in which students use real-world tools to find solutions.

Gonzalez completed internships with Norwegian Cruise Lines, Northrop Grumman and Guidepoint Security and worked with faculty with expertise in math, business and industrial organizational psychology. “The interdisciplinary aspect of the program is really valuable and keeps it interesting,” she says.

Diverse program options and partnerships

USF offers undergraduate cybersecurity degrees in the College of Engineering and the Muma College of Business.

Engineering’s program launched in 2018 and now

includes more than 550 students, says program director Sriram Chellappan, a professor of computer science and engineering.

Students benefit from the Computing Partners Program, which includes industry partners such as Amazon Pay, CAE, OPSWAT, Johnson & Johnson, JPMorgan Chase & Co, Nielsen and Raymond James.

Muma’s Information Assurance and Cybersecurity Management (IACM) program launched last fall under the direction of professor of information systems Giti Javidi, MSCS ‘96 and PhD ‘05. It provides flexibility for working students and military veterans transitioning to civilian life. A partnership with Sylint — a Sarasota-based cybersecurity and digital data forensics firm — provides internships, mentoring, training and curriculum development opportunities.

Along with technical training, the IACM program emphasizes communication and collaboration in a team setting. “The thinking behind this is to fill the gap between pure technology and cybersecurity business functions,” Javidi says. “Graduates are equipped with the knowledge and skills to serve on the front line of support for governments and business organizations.”

Chellappan agrees that incorporating industry feedback is vital to meeting workforce needs.

“We want to make sure students have the soft skills they will need on the job,” Chellappan says. “There is an emphasis on learning how to manage the stress of monitoring a compromised system and the decision-making skills required to detect cyber-attacks and rapidly mitigate consequences.”

That approach is reflected in a unique badging program begun five years ago through a partnership between Muma and ReliaQuest, a global computer network and security startup based in Tampa.

ReliaQuest Cybersecurity Labs at USF provides 50-60 students each semester with six weeks of intensive training led by ReliaQuest engineers and analysts. Graduates receive a digital badge to display on their social media platforms and résumés. About 20 percent receive full-time job offers from ReliaQuest, and 70 percent accept roles somewhere in the field. The program is free and open to all undergraduate and graduate students.

“We haven’t seen another program across the country that is co-designed, co-created and co-delivered between an R1 research institution and an industry partner,” says Matthew Mullarkey, PhD ‘14, Life Member, professor of instruction in the Muma School of Information Systems and Management.

Mullarkey worked closely with ReliaQuest founder and CEO Brian Murphy to secure a \$1 million gift to create ReliaQuest Labs and hopes to grow the program.



Julie Gonzalez



College of Engineering faculty member Sriram Chellappan works with students in his lab. Chellappan is director of the college's cybersecurity program, which incorporates feedback from industry partners.

Photos: RYAN WIMPELDO | Engineering

On the horizon

This fall, the College of Engineering will launch a cybersecurity master's degree. Program director Nasir Ghani, a professor of electrical engineering, said it's designed to prepare graduates for higher-end programming jobs.

A joint initiative among the electrical engineering, computer science and engineering and industrial and management systems departments, it focuses on software security, hardware security, machine learning and artificial intelligence security.

USF also offers master's degrees in cybercrime in the College of Behavioral Health and Community Sciences, cybersecurity intelligence and information security in the College of Arts and Sciences and an IACM master's in Muma.

The recurring state funds will enable USF to add faculty whose research could identify new areas of risk and improve security for public sector agencies, businesses and industries in Florida and beyond.

That work aligns with the launch of the USF Global and National Security Institute (GNSI), which strengthens Florida's leadership in addressing critical issues involving defense, economic and political security, health and human security and infrastructure and environmental security.

GNSI executive director Kenneth F. "Frank" McKenzie, a retired Marine Corps general and former chief of U.S. Central Command, took over leadership of Cyber Florida from Mike McConnell in July.

- JOHN DUDLEY | USF News

Companies put out welcome mat for hospitality students



Ketrin Gavani at the 2022 HospitaBull event, a sumptuous dinner prepared and presented by students from USF's hospitality program and Ritz-Carlton Sarasota culinary staff. The event raises funds for scholarships and support for the hospitality program.

KETRIN GAVANI HOPES TO BECOME a leader in the hospitality industry after she earns her degree in hospitality management from USF in December.

To achieve that goal, she knew she had to learn the basics.

“The best way to lead in the hospitality industry is by learning about the foundation,” she says.

That’s exactly what a spring semester internship allowed her to do. For four months, Gavani rotated among a variety of roles at Epicurean Tampa, a lifestyle, boutique hotel owned by Mainsail Lodging and Development.

USF’s Muma College of Business has partnered with Mainsail, a specialist in the tourism lodging sector, and with Aramark, the on-campus food service and catering vendor, to give up to 130 hospitality students valuable paid-on-the-job professional experience.



Students can truly learn what path they would like to go in either through hotels or food and beverage, where the opportunities are endless.”

– Ketrin Gavani

The eight-year agreement with Aramark provides fellowships for graduate students in the USF hospitality program. The opportunity allows up to 10 each year. In addition, Aramark is directing part of the company’s annual contribution to USF to the School of Hospitality and Management.

The five-year agreement with Mainsail Lodging and Development provides 10 student fellowships each year. In addition to learning day-to-day operations in the company’s hotels, students will have opportunities to work in sales and marketing, reservations, revenue management and corporate housing in Mainsail’s Tampa office.

The total value of the partnerships is \$3.6 million.

USF also has a partnership with McKibbon Hospitality that creates hotel learning labs where students can shadow industry professionals to gain invaluable on-the-job experience. McKibbon Hospitality manages nearly 100 hotels and over 10,000 guest rooms in over 40 markets.



While the hospitality program is based on USF's Sarasota-Manatee campus, the hospitality and tourism management degree is expanding to the Tampa and St. Petersburg campuses this fall.

During her internship, Gavani rotated among roles in the front office, such as telephone system operator and front desk host. Interested in learning about event management, she shadowed managers, sat in on sales meetings and assisted with banquets.

Gavani is enthusiastic about the benefits the partnerships will provide.

"Students can truly learn what path they would like to go in either through hotels or food and beverage, where the opportunities are endless," she says. "For example, I became interested in revenue management as I learned more about Mainsail and corporate operations throughout my internship. These partnerships will serve students to find what department or position best fits their skills and leads to the most potential growth."

- ELIZABETH L. BROWN | Muma College of Business

Photo: Courtesy JESSICA CIGALESE | Aramark



Left: Hospitality Management students learn about food service with the help of Aramark.

Below: USF and McKibbin Hospitality partner to turn iconic hotel brands into teaching labs and fill the pipeline of hospitality industry workers.



Researchers aim to help people with ADHD by using brain waves to ‘paint’

THE FIRST TIME Tyree Lewis “painted” a red square on a digital canvas simply by looking at the shape he wanted, then the color, “I was really excited,” he says, cracking a big smile.

As a doctoral student focused on brain-computer interface, he’s accustomed to the notion of using the brain’s electrical activity to command devices, such as drones. But to actually experience it in this way? That was ... mind blowing.

Lewis, MS '21, volunteers for College of Engineering Professor Marvin Andujar’s brain-painting experiments, a project aimed at developing a drug-free therapy for people with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD. A common neurodevelopmental disorder, ADHD makes concentration and impulse control difficult, which can have devastating effects in school and on the job. Medications prescribed for ADHD often have adverse side effects, such as loss of appetite and trouble sleeping.

While Lewis doesn’t have the condition, he can empathize. “Everybody gets distracted, especially in today’s world,” he says. His own attention challenge: reading research papers.

“I read research papers in the morning and I read them at night. Either way, I’m tired. Brain painting has

helped me relax and focus.”

Brain-painters wear a cap lined with electrodes and focus on options presented on a computer screen. They choose from colors, shapes or controls by concentrating on one at a time. A blinking light lets them know their selection has been recognized, causing a stimulus spike in the brain that’s detected by the sensors. That electrical activity provides data used to create the user’s unique algorithm.

As the database grows, the algorithm becomes more robust, making the process faster and more accurate.

Andujar chose art as the medium because it reduces stress and promotes relaxation — especially beneficial for people with ADHD. His immersive virtual reality version helps block distractions.

While the system is still being tested and optimized, results from a two-year pilot study funded by the National Science Foundation are promising.

“Doing brain painting makes me feel good,” one anonymous volunteer with ADHD wrote in an assessment. “It definitely helped me with my concentration. Recently, I was studying for my test, and I could feel that I could stay concentrated for longer periods of time than I could before.”

- PENNY CARNATHAN '82 | USF Advancement

Photos: USF computer scientist Marvin Andujar, at far right, is harnessing the power of concentration and art to develop a new brain-computer interface prototype and help study participants use their brains like never before. The goal is to introduce a novel treatment option for individuals with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) by tapping directly into their brain activity.



PHOTOS: SANDRAC. ROA | USF NEWS



From left, doctoral student Rupal Agarwal, student and volunteer Tyree Lewis, and Andujar practice brain painting.



Brain-painters choose from colors, shapes or controls by concentrating on one at a time, and create images including the car pictured above.



From books to biotechnology, student engineers social change

ALEXANDRIA BRADY-MINÉ has been out to change the world since she was in elementary school in Gainesville, Florida.

“It seemed natural to me, when my teacher mentioned that some of the other children in local schools didn’t have access to as many books as we did, that I should do something,” says Brady-Miné, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering at USF. “I had found, in a sea of overwhelming world problems, a small thing that I could do to help. I started a program called Rainbow Readers to bring books to students.”

Then, in high school, Brady-Miné founded the Human Projects. The global youth-run nonprofit empowers young leaders to solve human rights issues in their communities and provide human rights educational programs to schools, nonprofits and individuals around the world. More than 1.6 million people in 118 countries have participated.



We can all play a role in building a better world.”

— Alexandria Brady-Miné

Brady-Miné has received several awards for her non-profit work, including the Jane Goodall Institute’s Fund II Fellowship and the National Liberty Museum’s Young Hero Award. Earlier this summer, she was named a recipient of the Diana Award from a United Kingdom charity that honors young people for their social action or humanitarian work.

It also was during high school that she discovered her passion for research, specifically, applying engineering to developing biomaterials.

“While exploring solutions to a human rights issue, organ trafficking, I came across a potential solution focused on 3D-printing organs,” she says. “I became more interested in engineering and its potential to solve human rights issues. After reaching out to a university lab working on 3D-bioprinting, I was able to tour the lab and was invited to join as a student researcher.

“During my time in this lab, I discovered that the things that I loved about the nonprofit world – problem-solving, constant challenges, leadership and the

passion of the people around me -- were common to the research world as well.”

Attending a university that would provide the tools and support to engage in meaningful research was a priority for Brady-Miné. USF, she says, has been a good match for her goals.

“Participating in research in the College of Engineering has been one of the most important aspects of my college experience,” she says. “Through interdisciplinary research, I have expanded my knowledge of mechanical, biomedical and chemical engineering. I have had the opportunity to take on leadership roles and give oral presentations and poster presentations at national and international conferences. My time in the College of Engineering has helped me grow as a researcher, prepare for graduate school, and develop a career where I can use engineering to help others.”

Earlier this year, Brady-Miné received a 2022 Goldwater Scholarship, the most prestigious undergraduate award in the country for scientific research. In addition, she was selected for the 2022 MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Summer Research Program and spent this

Opposite page:
Alexandria Brady-Miné
founded the Human
Projects, one of
the world’s largest
youth-run nonprofits
in human rights, at the
age of 17.





summer researching in the Harvard-MIT Biomedical Engineering Center.

After she earns her bachelor's degree, Brady-Miné plans to pursue master's and doctoral degrees and continue applying engineering to create social change. She wants to start a biotechnology company, developing solutions to reduce costs and increase access to medical technologies, particularly for people in developing countries.

"We can all play a role in building a better world," she says.

- TOM WOOLF | USF News



It feels great contributing to a bigger picture, and possibly changing somebody's life forever — like people did for me.

— Tonetho Lewis

New scholarship fund marks 1st from a Black Leadership grad

TONETHO LEWIS LEARNED the power of mentorship at a young age. Guidance from a YMCA program leader helped spark a desire to give back to the community, and become the first member of his family to attend college. "The truth is," Lewis says, "I didn't even know anybody who made it beyond high school."

But it was the influence of an area surgeon that ultimately put the Tampa Tech High School student on a path to USF, where he became a Black Leadership Network (BLN) scholar.

Small wonder that Lewis, now a cell therapy clinical operations specialist at Moffitt Cancer Center, has become the first BLN graduate to create a scholarship in the program. "I just want to pass the torch on to other students who need a helping hand, just as I did when I got to USF," says the 25-year-old. "It's a cycle that can keep repeating."

In many respects, that cycle began for Lewis with a YMCA program director named Wayne Johnson, who instilled in the Tampa youth a desire to aim high and not simply work to get by in life.

As a child, Lewis was a fan of TV's "Bill Nye the Science Guy," even though science was his weakest subject. He was also a video gamer with excellent eye-hand coordination. In fifth grade, he learned about cancer and the circulatory system, and the knowledge stuck with him as he saw the disease ravage his family and community. While still in high school, he began to dream of becoming a

cardiothoracic surgeon.

"I went online and sent emails to every cardiothoracic surgeon in Tampa," Lewis recalls. "The only one who replied was Dr. Keith Summers. He eventually allowed me to observe him doing different surgeries. I was a physician-sponsored



student when I graduated from high school."

Lewis excelled at Hillsborough Community College, earned his associate degree, and gained automatic admittance to USF through the FUSE program, a partnership between USF, HCC and other state colleges. He immediately applied for scholarship assistance through the USF Foundation and was paired with BLN, earning a Robert L. Greene Jr. "Be Great" Memorial Scholarship.

"That scholarship made a huge difference," he says. "I didn't have to juggle going to class, working a part-time job, trying to study, and maybe sleeping four hours a day. I could just focus on my schoolwork."

Lewis graduated from USF in 2021 with a degree in microbiology and was hired at Moffitt. He hopes to begin medical school in the next year. In the meantime, he's excited he was able to invest \$5,000 to create a BLN scholarship and help others follow in his footsteps.

"Many of the people I met in BLN made me understand that I can be impactful," he says. "I had some money saved. And that made me think, 'Why wait, when I can make a difference right now?' It feels great contributing to a bigger picture, and possibly helping change somebody's life forever — like people did for me."

- DAVE SCHEIBER | USF Foundation

Small business finds a friend in mentor program

NIA OGLETREE IS IN A CHALLENGING line of work.

Arielle Management Group, the Tampa firm she founded 12 years ago, specializes in construction management and facilities support.

“For small businesses such as ours trying to grow within the construction industry, it’s a tough hill to climb,” says Ogletree, who holds bachelor’s degrees in health-care management and computer information systems and is an 18-year U.S. Army veteran. “Trying to find good mentors and staying educated about the industry was a challenge. Most business owners in the construction industry won’t take the time to teach a novice or other small business owners, who they feel are competition, about navigating the industry.”

But a year ago, Arielle Management Group was selected to participate in the inaugural Construction Management Building Blocks mentor-protégé program. It featured training with industry professionals from USF and Skanska, a multinational construction and development company, and was facilitated by USF’s Office of Supplier Diversity. Participants also received mentoring from USF’s Muma College of Business.



The mentor-protégé program gave me the confidence and knowledge to bid on larger projects.”

— Nia Ogletree

“We started the program to support more of our Black-owned businesses — and all of our diverse businesses,” says Terrie Daniel, the assistant vice president who leads USF’s supplier diversity efforts. “We also wanted to provide these businesses with an opportunity to understand how USF does business.”

During weekly sessions, participants received guidance on an array of topics, including environmental health and safety, marketing and business development, human resources, accounting and sustainability. They also received valuable insights into how to navigate USF’s purchasing processes, whether for large construction projects or smaller-dollar contracts for goods and services.

“The program was intense and interactive, and it provided a wealth of resources to help us become more



competitive,” Ogletree says, adding that visits to construction sites “gave us an inside view of the intricacies of the building process.”

Ogletree credits the mentor-protégé program with helping her grow her business. Earlier this year, she was awarded a five-year contract with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for facilities transportation services.

“The VA project is a long-term contract that in the past I would have hesitated to bid because of competition,” Ogletree says. “But, the mentor-protégé program gave me the confidence and knowledge to bid on larger projects.”

Year two of the mentor-protégé program, expanded from eight to 10 weeks, begins this month with up to 18 firms participating. Daniel relies on community organizations that work directly with diverse businesses to recommend firms for participation.

Photos: Above, Nia Ogletree, founder of Arielle Management Group.

Opposite page, above: Keith Ware, center, Secure2Ware and S2W Security Guards — a participant company in the inaugural Construction Management Building Blocks mentor-protégé program.

Below: The first cohort graduates from Skanska’s Construction Management Building Blocks (CMBB) mentor-protégé program.



“We wanted this to be the community’s program,” she says, noting that partner organizations include the NAACP, the Women’s Business Enterprise Council-Florida affiliate, the Manesota Black Chamber of Commerce, and Prospera, which focuses on empowering the growth of Hispanic businesses. “Even though businesses from throughout Florida can participate, we really wanted to focus on the Tampa Bay area and that’s why those organizations were selected.”

Daniel is excited about welcoming a new cohort of participants to the program.

“We’re changing lives and the trajectory for a lot of these firms,” she says. “We’re exposing them to opportunities they likely otherwise would never have had.”

- TOM WOOLF | USF News



PHOTOS: USF News



Focused ultrasound: a non-invasive treatment for tremors

DAVID SHERWOOD, FROM SEBRING, FLORIDA, knew he needed help for his essential tremor (ET), a disabling condition that affected the most basic of daily tasks, such as brushing his teeth. He turned to USF Health Morsani College of Medicine neurosurgeons at Tampa General Hospital. Last spring, Sherwood was the first patient in the region to undergo focused ultrasound, an innovative procedure offering promising treatment for people suffering from ET, Parkinson's disease and other debilitating neurological disorders. The minimally invasive method is FDA-approved.

The procedure – which is typically done on an out-patient basis – is part of the next generation of care at Tampa General, and aligns with its commitment to driving innovation, says Dr. Oliver Flouty, assistant professor in the Department of Neurosurgery and Brain Repair at USF Health Morsani College of Medicine and a neurosurgeon at Tampa General.



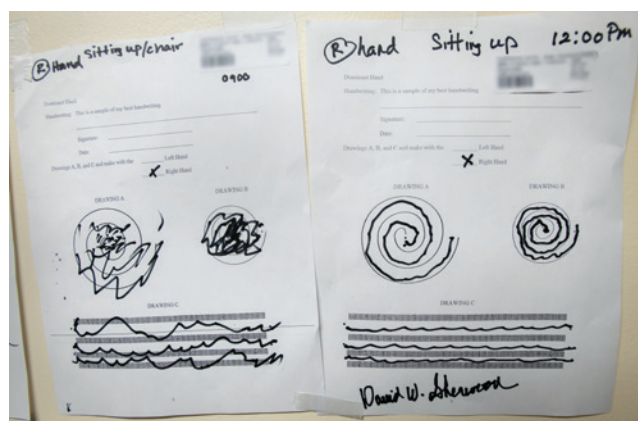
Brushing my teeth, buttoning my shirt, cooking – my quality of life has improved 1,000 percent.”

– David Sherwood

“This creates new opportunities to help patients with essential tremor and other neurological conditions who haven't fully responded to traditional treatments,” he says. “It's a powerful new tool we now have at our disposal and we expect it to improve the lives of many patients who struggle with these disorders, particularly disabling tremors.”

Approximately 10 million Americans suffer from some form of ET, a condition that causes uncontrollable shaking of the hands, head and voice. In the initial stages, the tremor is mild, but progresses over time. In some patients, the severity of the tremor becomes unbearable, interfering with daily activities, such as eating, dressing or typing on a keyboard. ET is more common in people over age 40, although it also affects people who are much younger.

Parkinson's disease, another neurodegenerative disorder, affects an estimated 1 million people in the United States, with symptoms such as tremor, rigidity, slow movement and unstable posture. When traditional medication causes side effects or isn't well tolerated, focused ultrasound may be an option for select Parkinson's patients who suffer from symptoms primarily affecting one side of



the body or suffer mostly from tremors while their remaining symptoms are medically managed.

“Movement disorder neurologists now can offer their ET and Parkinson's patients a less-invasive surgical option as part of their treatment plan,” says Dr. Yarema Bezchlibnyk, assistant professor in the Department of Neurosurgery and Brain Repair and a neurosurgeon at Tampa General. “This definitely expands what we can do, and drives our efforts to help transform the lives of people living with debilitating neurological conditions.”

Focused ultrasound is primarily used to treat and improve tremors of the hand by employing high-intensity focused ultrasound beams guided by a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine. The procedure requires no anesthesia or exposure to ionizing radiation and because there are no incisions, risk of infection is minimal.

During the procedure, the patient's head is fitted into a helmet surrounded by a soft membrane filled with cool water, a medium through which the ultrasound's sound waves travel. A computer then carefully calibrates 1,024 independent ultrasound transducers arrayed around the head to precisely focus the ultrasound beams on targets such as the thalamus, an area of the brain that controls muscle activity and causes tremors. The patient is awake throughout the procedure.

The biggest change for Sherwood is the ability to again perform routine daily tasks.

“Brushing my teeth, buttoning my shirt, cooking — my quality of life has improved 1,000 percent,” he says. “Sometimes I get overtaken with emotion because I think of things I could never do and now I think of the things I can do.”

“It's like somebody took a magic wand and hit me on the head — literally on the head,” he adds, laughing.

– SARAH WORTH '86 | USF Health Communications



Photos: ALLISON LONG | USF Health



Photos - Clockwise from upper left:
A clear difference can be seen in tracings by patient David Sherwood before (left) and then after (right) his procedure.
Prior to starting, USF Health surgeons Dr. Oliver Flouty (on left in light shirt) and

Dr. Yarema Bezchlibnyk (on right in light blue scrubs) talk through the procedure with Sherwood.
Drs. Bezchlibnyk and Flouty prepare Sherwood for his procedure.

Morsani College of Medicine one of the fastest-rising med schools in the U.S.

IN THE LAST DECADE, the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine has made great strides, pushing metrics upward in the college's three mission areas — education, research and patient care.

This progress reflects efforts over the last seven years to place the college among the best medical schools in the country.

With improved metrics, the college ranks among the top 50 of all medical schools according to U.S. News & World Report. In fact, the college's placement in the national rankings soared from No. 80 in the 2014 U.S. News list to No. 46 in the recently published 2023 list — a seismic 34 spots.

Few other medical schools in the country have experienced that same improvement in rankings, making the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine one of the fastest-rising



medical schools in the country.

“Our sustained rise in national rankings reflects the rapidly increasing strength of our educational, research and clinical missions at the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine. We are now competing with the nation’s most storied and respected programs,” says Dr. Charles Lockwood, senior vice president for USF Health and dean of the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine. “These outstanding metrics also position us to attract the highest caliber students and faculty, further advancing our program into the national spotlight for its outstanding education, exceptional research and world class clinical care.”

Below are data points offering a glimpse of the college's continued upward trajectory.

- SARAH WORTH '86 | USF Health Communications

From 2014 to 2022, the **total number of applications** to the Morsani College of Medicine rose by

42%

From 2014 to 2021, Morsani College of Medicine **students from groups traditionally underrepresented in medicine** grew from 7% to 20% of the class, an increase of

186%

From FY15 to FY21, USF Health's **patient volume** rose from 797,407 to 1,026,420 – an increase of

28.7%

From 2017 to 2021, incoming **MCAT scores** rose from 514 to the highest median score in the state:

518

From FY15 to FY21, **clinical trials funding** grew from \$7.2 million to \$18.4 million, an increase of

156%

From FY15 to FY21, **National Institutes of Health funding** rose from \$59.8 million to nearly \$104.6 million, up

75%

Total **research funding with affiliates** from 2014 to 2021 grew by

151.2%





Business student finds his focus at new talent development center

JACOB O'NEIL ADMITS he was a bit lost during his first two years at USF.

The Muma College of Business junior and finance major was unmotivated and unsure of his career path. But O'Neil has found his academic and pre-professional footing thanks to the new career development programs and services at the Bellini Center for Talent Development.

Opened in March, the center offers an innovative approach to getting students the skills they need to land internships and jobs after graduation. Through a progressive certification program, students enroll in career-focused modules that strengthen the skillsets they need to achieve their goals.

The center was made possible by a \$10.6 million gift from philanthropists Arnold F. "Arnie" and Lauren Bellini, both USF alumni.

O'Neil is currently taking the Business Skills and Practices class taught by Pavla Ozkul, the center's director of internal employer relations. While the course is required for each business major, it has helped introduce him to leaders at the Bellini Center for Talent Development. The course covers valuable soft skills such as goal setting, time management, critical thinking, unspoken rules in the workplace, and developing an elevator pitch.

In a span of about three weeks, O'Neil landed several interviews for internships, created a professional resume and received help from the center in securing a jacket and tie to wear just hours before an interview.

"I almost wish I had this sooner," he says. "I didn't have a clear path, and I think that is what this program has given me. It's such an amazing program. Both Dr. Ozkul's class and the Bellini Center for Talent Development have resparked my interest and motivation in school and my desire to do well."

Under the badging system, business students work through a progressive program designed to increase intern-



ships and post-graduation job placement and develop the hard and soft skills future employers want.

O'Neil says he now has a "big-picture" view of his academic journey and realizes there are steps he needs to take to put himself on the best possible career path.

"The Bellini Center for Talent Development and this class have changed my mindset about school and life after college," he says. "They have helped me build a great resumé, spent hours with me practicing interview questions and helped me know how to answer interview questions in the best way possible."

And the best advice he has received?

"Plan for your future while still in college and don't wait until you graduate," he says.

Jacob O'Neil says the Bellini Center has helped him find direction and motivation in his academic and professional career path.

- ELIZABETH L. BROWN | Muma College of Business

Right: The Bellini Center for Talent Development is a one-stop shop for professional career development, job placement, advising, internships and experiential learning opportunities for business students.





Bring it home!

Everyone's welcome at
USF's Homecoming festivities 🗓️ **Oct. 9-15**

SHAKE OUT YOUR POMPOMS and polish your horns, it'll be fall before you know it and time for USF Homecoming. Expect a week packed with events as USF's three campuses throw open their doors to welcome back alumni and celebrate students, faculty, USF and the Tampa Bay community.

Highlights include the Oct. 14 Welcome Home Party, an evening of live music, games, food and parade-watching on the front lawn of the Sam and Martha Gibbons Alumni Center. The party's free for all, and Alumni Association Life Members enjoy a VIP tent loaded with complimentary food and beverages — visit usfalumni.org/homecoming to register. (It's not too late to become a Life Member and you don't have to be an alum! Visit usfalumni.org/membership.)

On Oct. 15, the Bulls tackle Tulane University at Raymond James Stadium. Be sure to stop by the Alumni Association's Spirit Tent in the Bulls Zone on the south side of the stadium for free swag and, for Life Members, the 2022 collectible Homecoming bead.

Find details, more events and updates at usf.edu/homecoming. Venues listed here are on the Tampa campus unless otherwise noted. Be sure to check the website for the most up-to-date information.



Monday, Oct. 10

Homecoming Kickoff and Stampede Comedy Show
 6:30-8 p.m., Marshall Student Center Ballroom

Thursday, Oct. 13

USF Alumni Awards Dinner and Celebration
 6 p.m., reception; 7 p.m. dinner and awards ceremony, Marshall Student Center Ballroom, www.USFalumni.org/2022awards

Homecoming Concert

8-10 p.m., Yuengling Center; updates at usf.edu/homecoming



Friday-Sunday, Oct. 14-16

Family & Friends Weekend

Special events for family and friends of USF students; registration, Aug. 29-Oct. 7 at usf.edu/families.

Friday, Oct. 14

Carni-Bull

4-11 p.m.; Parking Lot 35, southeast corner of Holly and Genshaft drives

Welcome Home Party

5-10 p.m., Sam and Martha Gibbons Alumni Center
Pre-parade party with live entertainment, games, food concessions and more

Life Member Homecoming Party

5-10 p.m., Sam and Martha Gibbons Alumni Center
Complimentary food and beverages and VIP tent for Alumni Association Life Members at the Welcome Home Party; register at www.usfalumni.org/Homecoming

Running of the Bulls Homecoming Parade

6:30 p.m., USF Tampa campus; parade runs east on Holly Drive to USF Genshaft Drive, south to Alumni Drive and west to Leroy Collins Boulevard; beads, floats, music

Saturday, Oct. 15

USF Alumni Association Spirit Tent

3 hours before Homecoming game kickoff at Raymond James Stadium, Lot 6D (formerly Bulls Zone). Free USF swag; exclusive collector beads for Alumni Association Life members – bring your membership card

Bulls vs. Tulane University Homecoming Game

Visit GoUSFBulls.com for game time and tickets.

Dates and events are subject to change in accordance with CDC and government guidelines regarding COVID-19 precautions.

 **USF Alumni Association.**

5 minutes with Bill



My fellow Bulls and friends of USF,

IF YOU'RE A MEMBER of the USF Alumni Association, you're accustomed to finding this magazine in your mailbox a few times each year. Many of you have told me how much you look forward to that and the swell of Bull pride as you read through it. I couldn't agree more.

If you're one of the many receiving USF magazine for the first time, it's no accident! This special, expanded issue was sent to you because your name emerged as someone who may like to learn more about us. This seemed like the perfect vehicle for connecting — or reconnecting — you to USF and sharing some of the opportunities, discoveries and achievements that can open doors for you. You don't have to be an alum, faculty member, staff or student to be part of the USF family, so

welcome! I hope you enjoy USF's premier publication as much as I do.

If you live in Florida, please take a moment to thank our state elected officials for their emphatic commitment to higher education and USF as expressed in the historic budget passed this year. While the budget process was led by House Speaker Chris Sprows, '06, and Senate President Wilton Simpson, we thank all of the supporting lawmakers, and Gov. Ron DeSantis, for recognizing USF's enormous impact.

Of course, you don't have to be a state or local official to make a difference. Your USF Alumni Association has been expanding opportunities to connect, physically and virtually, through geographic and affinity-based alumni groups across the country and around the world. We've added staff to help our dedicated volunteer group leaders organize activities, fundraising efforts and other initiatives tailored to each group's constituents. Thank you for your enthusiastic response! Find information on our chapters and societies at usfalumni.org/groups.

Our alumni groups, which contribute so much to USF's success, benefit from another devoted group of volunteers — the Alumni Association's board of directors. On July 1, we welcomed a new chair, Braulio Colón, a double alum and longtime champion of equity in higher education access. He succeeds Monique Hayes, also an alum and an equally relentless advocate for USF and diversity initiatives.

Thank you, Monique, for your many years of board service, your unique vision, big-picture perspective and willingness to travel so often to Tampa from your home in Miami. Your dedication makes such a difference!

As we embark on a new academic year, I'm excited for USF, our students, alumni, and all whose lives are touched by our great university. We are a formidable force for optimism. I hope you see that in this magazine and if you're not already a USF cheerleader, you'll consider becoming one.

Go Bulls!

Bill McCausland, MBA '96

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



Photo: JAY NOZANI

Your 2022-23 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; a USF Foundation

representative, a faculty/staff representative; and two students — the student government vice president and the USF Tampa campus Ambassadors president. Ex-officio directors are the senior vice president for USF Advancement and the association executive director.

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

Officers

Chair: Braulio Colón, '03 and MPA '10

Vice chair: Christine Turner, '97

Past chair: Monique Hayes, '01

Treasurer: Juan Soltero, '10

Secretary: Andrew Jones, '11

Directors

- Misty Akers, '01
- Kerine Black, '00 and '01
- Maya Brown, '15
- Ashley Butler, '12
- Jennifer Condon
- Sally Dee, '94 and MBA '11
- Matt Diaz, '13
- Troy Dunmire, '00

- David Hollis, '69
- Gina Kafalas, '12
- Maja Lacevic, '09
- Allison Madden, '03 and MBA '15
- Will Perez, '14
- Balaji Ramadoss, MSEE '03 and PhD '14
- Luz Randolph, '06 and MEd '08

- Todd St. John-Fulton, '19
- Verlon Salley, 1994-97
- Liz Wooten-Reschke, '01 and MPA '06

Student representatives:

- Emily Mitchell, USF Tampa campus Ambassadors president
- Amy Pham, Student Government vice president

Ex-officio directors:

- Jay Stroman, senior vice president for USF Advancement and Alumni Affairs; CEO USF Foundation
- Bill McCausland, MBA '96, vice president and USF Alumni Association executive director

Bulls shine on BROADWAY

Stage successes in New York City put a spotlight on USF's College of The Arts

By DAVE SCHEIBER

ON ANY GIVEN DAY, College of The Arts Dean Chris Garvin can gaze out his office window and almost see the bright lights of Broadway. The fabled stages of Midtown Manhattan, heart of endless hopes and dreams, lie 1,200 miles to the north. But lately, they're casting a glow directly on Fowler Avenue and USF's Tampa campus.

Consider that four USF alumni are taking their bows in a collective show of talent on the Great White Way:

- **Steve Fessler**, Music '77, Life Member, Broadway investor and backer of "A Strange Loop," about the reflections of a Black, queer writer, awarded the most Tony nominations (11) of any show this year and the Tony winner in June for best new musical on Broadway
- **Quentin Darrington**, Theatre '04, starring in the role of Joe Jackson/Rob, patriarch of sibling pop band The Jackson 5 in "MJ the Musical," which won four Tonys this year
- **Victoria Rae Sook**, Theater '12, founder and artistic director of an off-Broadway Shakespeare production company called Food of Love
- **Matthew Lopez**, Theatre Performance '00, who last year became the first Latinx playwright to win a Tony for Best Play, "The Inheritance"

“**If I want to touch the past, I touch a rock. If I want to touch the present, I touch a flower. If I want to touch the future, I touch a life.**”

— Steve Fessler '77

“For me, the really exciting part about how well we're doing on Broadway is the diversity,” Garvin says. “You look at Matthew Lopez, who is a Latinx artist, or Quentin in the MJ story, which is a pop musical, and then to Strange Loop, backed by Steve Fessler — it's such an important story for the world right now.”

Darrington, whose Broadway credits include “Rag-time,” “Cats,” “Once on This Island,” as well as “MJ the Musical,” finds it thrilling to see so many USF alumni making their marks.

“When I can see a fellow Bull really shining bright and making a national and global impact, it just does my heart proud,” he says, “because my days at USF will never be forgotten and are still one of the brightest spots of my entire life and career.”

In Garvin's eyes, this wave of USF graduates wowing Broadway audiences puts the talent-rich College of The Arts programs center stage — not just theater, but music, dance and art, too. And it's not only students taking Manhattan but also talented faculty who are artists in their own right, such as art professors Sue Havens and Ezra Johnson, who had summer exhibitions in New York City.

“The future of the arts is interdisciplinary,” Garvin says. “My vision is for the College of The Arts to hold a place of national and global prominence because we do have that kind of talent and reach. Theater is just what's hitting right now in a major way.”

Fessler, a dedicated USF supporter along with his spouse, performer-turned-attorney Randy Lord, Life Member, sees a larger meaning beyond Tony acclaim.

“Look, being part of the Tonys is wonderful, and it's exciting to think we'll have a statuette sitting at our house,” he says. “But truthfully, when I die, that Tony Award is just a piece of metal that needs to be dusted. If I haven't done some good with that, it doesn't mean anything to me. So I'm more focused on my mission making something of the things that need to be changed in this world. And I believe that the arts are the great equalizer of our community and a reflection of our society. What really matters is whether you are uplifting people and raising awareness.”

That's why Fessler says, for instance, that he would like to bring cast members from “A Strange Loop,” with themes such as “it's OK to be gay, it's OK to be sad, it's OK to be trans” — to USF to talk to the university community.

He also stresses that too much emphasis is placed



75TH ANNUAL
TONY
AWARDS

Steve Fessler, left, and husband
Randy Lord at the 2022 Tony Awards.

FOREVER BULLS



Photos: Courtesy of STEVE FESSLER

Top photo, from left, Quentin Darrington, Steve Fessler and Randy Lord, and above, Fessler and Victoria Sook, enjoyed meeting up with fellow Bulls at the Tony Awards.

on Broadway as the ultimate measure of success. “Some people are absolutely talented yet never make it there,” Fessler says. “Some amazing artists never exhibit in the Museum of Fine Arts in New York. That doesn’t mean they’re not great.

“I have a philosophy I share when speaking to students or to potential donors. I say, ‘Listen, if I want to touch the past, I touch a rock. If I want to touch the present, I touch a flower. And if I want to touch the future, I touch a life.’”

His point: Nurturing emerging artists can make a powerful difference for generations to come. Artists like Sook and Darrington are prime examples. They found their support in USF’s outstanding arts education.

“I searched around for the right school, and why USF really spoke to me is because it was an art program that didn’t try to shape you into a cookie-cutter,” says Sook,

who studied acting, dance and voice at USF. “The college didn’t try to make me fit into its idea of what an artist looks like. Instead, it made me into the best version of an artist I could be. And that’s the greatest thing that could have happened to me. I discovered a different side of myself as an artist who could make a career at this.”

Darrington found his direction as well. “My experience at USF began to show me the reach of theater, beyond the walls of the theater itself,” he says. “That’s how I started developing a purpose. Yes, it has always been important to learn technical skill. But what’s important, and what I teach today, is purpose. I had to learn that the arts are a service we give people — to love, to encourage, to motivate and to challenge. And that journey began at USF, where theater blossomed for me and became far more than just acting.”



Photo: MARC J. FRANKLIN



Photo: BRUCE WOMELDORF, BFA '04 and MA '16, Life Member | College of The Arts



The future of the arts is interdisciplinary. My vision is for the College of The Arts to hold a place of national and global prominence because we do have that kind of talent and reach.”

— Chris Garvin

That’s precisely the goal, Garvin says. “We’re providing the kind of education that allows students to become the artists they want to be — we’re not pigeon-holing them,” he says. “And the breadth of our college is really second to none in this country in that we have all of these disciplines under one roof.”

The combined power of the college’s offerings has led him to envision a new arts hub for north Tampa, centered around the USF campus, heightening the profile of his talented students and graduates.

“People know downtown St. Petersburg and Tampa for the arts. But really, in north Tampa we are this amazing arts district — not just for the university but for the whole community,” Garvin says. “We host more than 400 events a year between theater, music, art exhibitions and lectures. So we really want to accentuate this northern

district of the Tampa Bay region as being an arts hub.”

Developing a north Tampa arts district excites Fessler more than adding another trophy to his mantel. “These artists may one day teach and touch their own students,” he says. “Or their performances or works may cause somebody to change the way they think.”

Meanwhile, USF is polishing its reputation as a national-caliber training ground for the arts.

“It just shows how mighty USF is,” Sook says. “Many people think you have to go to a conservatory to get a Broadway education, for instance. But that’s not true. You have to go to a school that prepares you to be an artist and a full human being. That’s what USF does.”

And it’s happening in a big way these days at the intersection of Broadway and Fowler.

Center, a scene from “A Strange Loop,” the play Fessler and Lord supported financially. “What really matters is whether you are uplifting people and raising awareness,” Fessler says.

'A signal to Innovate'

When these accomplished grads hit a wall, they pivot

By PENNY CARNATHAN, '82

In their first year at USF, Mark Clennon headed straight for pre-medicine and Garin Flowers pursued computer engineering. Lauren Shumate, who'd been perfecting her autograph since high school, had her sights set on tennis stardom.

Destiny had different plans.

"The most important thing I did was stay in motion," said Clennon. "I changed my major five times; I tried all these things over 10 to 12 years and everything converged into one thing: photography. Whatever it is that you want to explore, explore it to the fullest, and that passion, that route, will present itself to you."

Clennon, today a world-renowned commercial and artistic photographer who ultimately majored in mass communications, was among six Bulls aged 35 and younger honored in April as USF Outstanding Young Alumni. The recipients shared their insights and inspirations during a panel discussion hosted by Eric Eisenberg, Interim Provost and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

All six continued learning and adapting long after leaving USF, and when they hit a wall, they got creative, Eisenberg observed.

"They see obstacles not as a signal to stop but as a signal to innovate."

Flowers, who also migrated to mass communications, experienced problems at work that led to two epiphanies. One was taking charge of his career — owning his wins, losses and all the decisions in between. That gave him confidence, which made him a more aggressive reporter.

The other was realizing that his differences are his strengths.

"Things were starting to veer off; I was having issues with editors. I thought, 'What's going on? I'm doing everything that everyone else is doing; I'm trying to fit in.'"

"And that was the problem."

Flowers thought about what he brought to the job and why he'd been hired in the first place. Then he tapped those resources.

"I stopped trying to play someone else's game."

Today he interviews Hollywood celebrities for Yahoo! News and other national outlets, and teaches journalism at the University of Southern California.

Shumate, now Lauren Shumate Marcil, had been on her game — tennis — since age 5, turning pro at 14. She had transferred to USF and was playing for the Bulls when she learned that a knee injury would require surgery. And kill her dream.

At the time, she was majoring in criminology and taking Law & Legal Careers, taught by Judge Raymond Gross, '69, Life Member.

"He explained the value of a law degree and that there are so many people in the law doing things they never would have imagined," she said. "I thought, 'Wow, there could not be anything I need more at this point in my life than to reinvent myself, and a legal career seems like a good place to start.'"

A former Fulbright Scholar, Marcil is now an associate at corporate

law firm Gunster, where she focuses on complex commercial litigation.

Dr. Karim Hanna never second-guessed his decision to practice medicine, but his parallel career as a faculty member took him by surprise.

"Don't feel this pressure to be super sub-specialized," advised Hanna, a family medicine practitioner and assistant professor of medicine at USF Health Morsani College of Medicine. "The more you play tennis, work with a camera, the more you'll develop a range of skills that make you a special candidate for something you can't even imagine now."

Daniel Erazo, from El Salvador, had known since childhood that he wanted to become a diplomat.

"I realized it's not that easy to get into diplomacy when you're an international student," he said. "There were a lot of U-turns and zig-zags. And sometimes I thought I was going to stop pursuing that trip."

He explored other options, working for nonprofits, humanitarian efforts, private consulting.

"I learned all those skills, as a student and then as a professional. I persisted in that dream. And when opportunities arose, I was able to go into what I'd dreamed of."

Erazo is the consul general of El Salvador in New York City, the youngest person ever to represent El Salvador in that capacity.

Tim Moore also knew early on that he wanted: to work with video. In 2008, he and Jon Davila co-founded a video production company, Diamond View.

"And then 2008 turns out to be the worst economy in the past 60 years," he said.

But those tough times made them resilient, he said, and, 12 years later, they had Tampa's largest video production company, serving clients across the country.

Until 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I realized very quickly that our business plan was no good when we couldn't travel," Moore said. "Since we weren't busy, we pivoted and started working on this completely new business, a new technology."

Today they run North America's largest virtual studio network, Vū Studios.

"In the midst of the chaos, that's where the opportunities are," Moore said. "I think anyone on this stage will agree — the key ingredient is the hustle."

"The dream is free but the hustle is sold separately."

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On lessons from work: “Don’t put too much of your self-worth and self-value into your output. I’ve learned to get more value out of the relationships I have with the people closest to me. At the end of the day, they’re going to be there for me – not my work.”

Mark Clennon, Mass Communications '10, is a New York-based photographer who specializes in editorial, commercial and documentary projects. His clients have included Nike, Netflix and the National Football League, and his photographs have appeared in national publications from Time to Essence magazines. His work is part of the permanent collection at Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. Clennon began pursuing professional photography in 2016 and left his corporate job a year later. He gained world renown in 2020 with his iconic image of Black Lives Matter protesters in New York City. Today, his goal is to capture the totality of the Black experience in his photographs. Clennon, who earned the ADCOLOR Unsung Hero Award in 2021, is married to Jasmine Clennon, '10, and the two have a daughter.

On USF: “USF has my heart and I’m just so grateful that I was able to come to this university and be so involved on campus. I just didn’t want to finish.”

Garin Flowers, Mass Communications '09, Life Member, is a national reporter and producer for Yahoo! News and on-camera host for Cinemark Theaters, conducting celebrity interviews in advance of movie premieres. He’s also a journalism professor at the University of Southern California. From 2011 to 2018, Flowers was a TV news reporter in Florida; his assignments included covering the state Capitol for CBS affiliate WTSP in Tampa and NBC and ABC affiliates in Jacksonville. His work received an Associated Press Award, an Emmy Award nomination, and a Telly Award. In 2020,

Flowers appeared as a contestant on the 16th season of ABC’s hit reality show, “The Bachelorette.” A former USF student government president, he has continued to support the university in multiple ways, including serving as emcee for fundraisers.

2022
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
OUTSTANDING YOUNG
ALUMNI
AWARDS

Photos: GREEN PEARL PHOTOGRAPHY



On growth mindset: “A growth-minded person is someone who’s open to challenge, someone who looks forward to the difficult times as something you can step on and climb up as opposed to a wall. It’s a core value for me.”

Dr. Karim Hanna, Biomedical Sciences '10 and MD '14, is a physician and assistant professor of medicine at USF Health Morsani College of Medicine. He specializes in family medicine, where he is often on the front line of health care and confronts issues for patients of all ages, from preventive to acute care. He has received numerous awards for excellence in patient care. Hanna also felt drawn to teach and joined the USF faculty in 2017. He has developed curricula for multiple courses and is developing a family medicine residency program to train doctors to serve marginalized populations in Tampa. In 2020, '21 and spring '22, students elected him to deliver their graduation send-off address. Hanna and his wife, Demyana, have one daughter.

On favorite USF memories: “Tennis is a very lonely sport. But when you play for a team, you’re united toward a common goal. You have an entire team on the sideline cheering you on. That’s what we have here at USF, a team and a support group.”

Lauren Shumate Marcil, Criminology '10 and MA Political Science '14, Life Member, is an associate at corporate law firm Gunster, where her practice is focused on complex commercial litigation. She has represented clients in state and federal court, and has authored and co-authored numerous published legal articles. Marcil was selected in 2011 as a Fulbright Scholar to teach English at the University of Niš in Serbia. Prior to college, Marcil played professional tennis and achieved a world ranking before accepting a tennis scholarship. She competed for the Bulls from 2008-10, serving as team captain in 2009. She participated in the NCAA Championships and was selected to the Big East All-Academic Team three consecutive years. Lauren is married to Mike Marcil.



On choosing a career: “Find that thing that you’d be willing to stay up all night for. When it’s more like play and less like work, you can experience a lot of success.”

Timothy Moore, Marketing 2010-12, is a three-time Emmy Award winner and co-founder and CEO of North America’s largest virtual studio network, Vū Studios. He and his fellow co-founder, Jon Davila, established Vū’s first virtual production studio in the Tampa Bay area. The two developed the technologies and techniques driving Vū to being one of the world’s fastest growing turn-key virtual production studio networks. As virtual production pioneers, Moore is credited by his peers as an early innovator and thought leader in the burgeoning industry. An intellectually driven entrepreneur, Moore holds several patents for Vū technology. The founder of the Tampa Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Moore dedicates pro bono time to inspiring community leaders to uplift their constituents through positive public messaging. He and his wife, Ashley, have two sons.

On what people should know about El Salvador: “It’s a great country to visit, a beautiful country with very welcoming people. There are many reasons for us as Salvadorans to be optimists at this moment.”

Daniel Erazo Pinto, International Studies '13, is the consul general of El Salvador in New York City, providing services for Salvadoran citizens and representing his native country in the United States as El Salvador’s youngest diplomatic and consular chief of mission. He previously directed consular and commercial affairs for El Salvador in the Dominican Republic. Erazo’s professional life is rooted in humanitarian aid, cultivating strategic partnerships and business development. He began his career with World Vision, an international nonprofit aid organization, working as a communications specialist in San Salvador. He later served as director general for Techo, a nonprofit that mobilizes volunteers to address extreme poverty in Latin America. Erazo is committed to helping create a more just society and is the husband of Escarlen Vidal.

Do your friends have your number?

Life Members have become the not-so-secret society

By PENNY CARNATHAN, '82, No. 4600

ANNOUNCE ON TWITTER that you've just received your Alumni Association Life Member packet with your unique member number and you may get rousing responses like these from an April thread.

"Welcome 8421, from 7191!! I'll show you the secret handshake at the next tailgate!!"

"Welcome from 2488!"

"#5000 checking in"

"Hello Mr. 8421, Mr. 7191 and Mr. 5397 from Mrs. #5978."

Mrs. 5978, aka Nancy Carrow '85, smiles when she sees those Life Member shout-outs.

"It's a cool thing to bond over," she says. "I'm a very big USF fan, academically and athletically. I'm proud that people step up and become Life Members for USF's future."

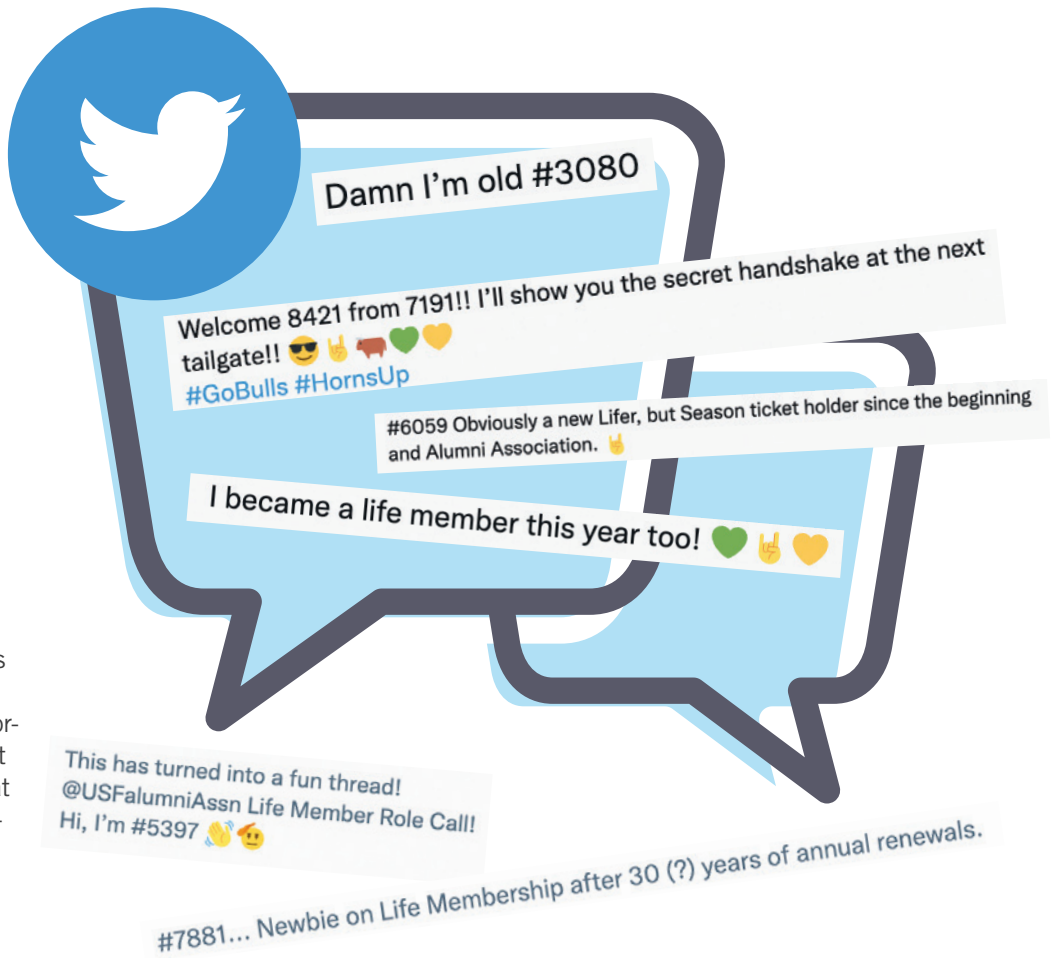
Alumni Association Life Members support USF forever because a large portion of the one-time payment is deposited into an endowment, which now stands at \$6.5 million. The earnings help fund student enrichment programs and an array of activities for alumni, from prestigious awards celebrations to virtual trivia contests.

"Everything we do is geared toward helping USF and the USF community continue to succeed," says Bill McCausland, MBA '96 and No. 2331, the association's vice president and executive director. "We couldn't do it without our Life Members. Not only do they make this financial gift to USF, they're among our university's most dedicated alumni and friends, so they're great cheerleaders."

The Life Member program began June 28, 1990 with Nos. 1 and 2, former state Sen. John Grant, '64, and Beverley Grant, '66. It grew slowly over the next two decades, logging Life Member No. 5,000 – Cameron Weed, '17 – in 2018. A year ago, the association reorganized, phasing out paid annual memberships, creating a free general membership for all alumni, and focusing on Life Membership as the only paying tier.

"Since our membership program changes, Life Member numbers have exploded, which creates a buzz that fuels even more growth," McCausland says. "It's been exciting to see." As of July 12, the program had 9,056 members.

Along with the satisfaction that comes from giving back and paying forward, Life Members get tangible



perks. The Life Member Appreciation Baseball game, an annual tradition held in March this year, includes tickets to the game, a catered spread and ballpark beverages — all free.

"We didn't know Life Membership had these privileges and parties," says Siva Prakash, '86 and MSM '02, No. 4718, who attended the game with his wife, Chitra Prakash, '92, No. 4717. "USF has always been nice to us, so we got the annual membership every year."

Four years ago, they became Life Members.

"I'm grateful to USF," Chitra says. "I got my first job during campus interviews with GTE as a student and stayed for 29 years," retiring as a Verizon Communications executive director.

"This is a way for busy people to give back."

And maybe make a few friends.

"Welcome from 4293! I'm confused; there's a secret handshake?"

"Technically," replies 7191, "it's a bear hug."

Visit usfalumni.org/membership to become an Alumni Association Life Member.

Tweet your number @USFAlumniAssn!



USF Alumni Association.

NEW Life Members HONOR ROLL

Sept. 1-19, 2021

Thank you to all the Bulls and friends who supported USF by becoming Alumni Association Life Members in 2021. Due to space limitations, we are publishing the list in segments. We have made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of our honor roll. Please accept our sincere apologies for any omissions or errors.

Harold Adams Jr., #6589
 Paula Adams, #6590
 Carmen Addison, #6640
 Ronald Adelberg, #6459
 Jean-Luc Alarcon, #6386
 Cynthia Alessi, #6661
 Martha Alexander, #6291
 Scott Ansell, #6303
 Marisa Anthony, #6425
 Thomas Anthony, #6424
 Bruno Arriola, #6404
 Wendy Axel-Phillips, #6616
 James Babb Jr., #6279
 Mary Baker, #6292
 Everett Barber, #6362
 Tiffany Barber, #6484
 Michael Barclay, #6430
 Thomas Barnhorn, #6479
 Shari Barnwell, #6465
 Kimberly Basel, #6410
 Lawrence Basel Jr., #6409
 Dorothy Baxter, #6681
 Robert Bayer, #6854
 Brendt Becker, #6327
 Michael Behl, #6823
 Ralph Behmoiras, #6446
 Marie Bell, #6422
 Robert Bell II, #6423
 Ashley Bence, #6630
 Donna Betz, #6680
 Pranav Bhasker, #6445
 Christina Bieber, #6268
 Gregory Birse, #6374
 Robert Bishop, #6855
 Jeremiah Bitting, #6743
 Daryl Bordon, #6381
 Jane Bordon, #6382
 Catherine Bosek, #6184
 John Bosek, #6185
 Barbara Bostrom, #6324
 Dennis Brandon, #6347
 Cheryl Brock, #6516
 Lewis Brock, #6515
 Roberta Brookins, #6457
 Thomas Brookins, #6456
 Linda Bruestle, #6411
 Richard Bull, #6300

Michelle Bundy, #6829
 Donald Bush, #6561
 Joyce Bush, #6562
 Noreen Buster-Smiley, #6298
 Elbert Cain, #6275
 Amy Calfee, #6263
 Julie Calhoun, #6765
 Nancy Cali, #6833
 Loretta Cameron, #6414
 Fred Campbell, #6699
 Shirley Campbell, #6470
 John Caporice, #6747
 Giannina Carballa, #6277
 Michael Carballa, #6276
 Marcae Carolan, #6420
 Gerald Carrigan, #6368
 Milburne Cassady Jr., #6831
 Linda Castle, #7013
 Robert Chacon, #6857

Jason Christiano, #6396
 Joy Christiano, #6395
 Dario Cintron, #6274
 Gregory Clark, #6711
 Sharon Clifford, #6466
 Edna Clifton, #6354
 Frederick Cooke, #6364
 Jeffrey Cooper, #6280
 Kasie Copeland, #6406
 Leigh Corley, #6790
 Robert Cornell, #6452
 Ginger Cox, #6371
 Susan Crank, #6473
 Miriam Cura, #6436
 Allan Dadetto, #6499
 Karen Dalton, #6283
 Lee Damsker, #6788
 Richard David, #6850
 Joseph Davis, #6584
 Mack Davis, #6418
 Pamela Davis, #6583
 Gilberto De Leon, #6370
 Robert De Loach, #6453
 Earline Demps-Gilbert, #6351
 Clotilda Devlin, #6272
 William Dickson Jr., #7095
 Monica Didden, #6832
 George Diller, #6701
 Maurice Dobbins, #6468
 Shirley Dobbins, #6469
 Christy Doerr, #6270
 Hans Doerr Sr., #6269
 Sean Donovan, #6463
 Bret Dorion, #6328
 Richard Dorman, #6450

Russell Duffey Jr., #6461
 Carol Duley, #6267
 Honey Dunaway, #6375
 Victor Duncan, #6895
 Elizabeth Dunham, #6359
 Linda Dye, #6791
 Richard Eldridge, #6451
 Susan Elijah, #6474
 Danielle Ellis, #6341
 Diane Ellis, #6536
 John Ellis, #6535
 Stanton Englander, #6603
 Susan Englander, #6604
 Gertrude Eshleman, #6552
 William Eshleman II, #6551
 Juan Esparra Jr., #6761
 Gregory Evans, #6439
 Pamela Evans, #6440
 James Farr, #6377
 Karen Feld, #6766
 Jean Felicita, #6384
 Robin Fenley, #6860
 Mary Ferrara, #6814
 James Fielder Jr., #6727
 Robert Flannery, #6454
 Joanne Foley, #6746
 Joseph Foley, #6756
 Christopher Forest, #6658
 Melanie Forget, #6576
 Phillip Forget, #6575
 Karen Foubister, #6403
 William Foubister III, #6402
 Judith Foyle, #6564
 Larry Foyle, #6563
 Lisa French, #6412



Siva and Chitra Prakash enjoy the Life Member Appreciation Baseball Game in March.



Since our membership program changes,
Life Member numbers have exploded ...
it's been exciting to see.

– Bill McCausland, MBA '96

Robin French, #6458
Stephanie Friedman, #6874
Theresa Fry, #6885
Jeani Fullard, #6385
Ying Gao, #6490
Sarah Gast, #6865
Doreen Gauthier, #6349
George Gaydos, #6702
Gita George, #6372
Mark Gillen, #6426
Anthony Giurato Jr., #6601
Susan Giurato, #6602
William Golden Jr., #6487
Heather Gordon, #6718
Eve Goss, #6693
David Grachek, #6666
Jerome Greif, #6388
James Grossman, #6378
Vannya Gutierrez, #6315
Joann Guyan, #6390
Michael Haase, #6431
Barbara Hall, #6323
Robert Hall Sr., #6322
Gretchen Harris, #6714
Robin Hastings, #6477
Sylvia Hastings, #6478

Nathan Hattaway, #6580
Nicole Heiser, #6837
Michael Hickey, #6826
Charles Hill, #6648
David Hill, #6667
Carl Hillman, #6639
Kent Hinebaugh, #6777
Loretta Hodgdon, #6797
Rosanna Hoit, #6460
Anthony Holbrook Sr., #6541
Elinor Holbrook, #6542
Ryan Hostler, #6302
John Houmis, #6391
Julia House, #6762
Frankel Howell, #6363
George Huckabay, #6306
Susan Huckabay, #6305
James Hull, #6729
Cheryl Hunter, #6518
Randall Hunter Sr., #6447
William Hunter, #6517
Reginald Hutcherson Sr., #6449
Grace Irwin, #6373
Bette Ivey, #6638
Deniece James Page, #6346
Steven Janssen, #6877

Daniel Jelsovsky, #6617
Zhihong Jelsovsky, #6618
Gregory Jennings, #6712
Josphesus Johnson, #6759
Gerald Johnston, #6706
Michael Johnston, #6594
Sandra Johnston, #6593
Alice Jones, #6317
Ardrienne Jones, #6319
David Jones, #6342
James Jones Jr., #6379
Stephen Jones, #6876
Lennon Jordan, #6288
Carolyn Kappenmacher, #6644
Harjeet Kapur, #6278
Rebecca Kaskesi, #6849
Mark Kaye, #6810
Elizabeth Keller, #6358
Joseph Keller, #6357
Ann Kelly, #6318
Wayne Kerns, #6486
Richard Kessler, #6851
Sarah Kiernan, #6866
Liliana Kinmonth, #6570
Stanley Kinmonth III, #6569
George Klaes, #6366
Howard Koenig, #6376
Phyllis Kolianos, #6444
Linda Krajewski, #6289
Richard Krikorian, #6599
Sue Krikorian, #6600
Gerald Kroll, #6707
Craig Kubiak, #6337
Elisa Kvaes, #6356
Diane Lamb, #6676

Michael Lantz, #6472
John LaRocca, #6392
Cheryl Leary, #6654
Eugene Ledford, #6591
Rosalie Ledford, #6592
Sidney Lees, #6870
Trevor Levi, #6314
Louis Lipari, #6415
Lawrence Longenecker, #6287
Joseph Losinski, #6312
Tiana Losinski, #6313
James Lyles, #6731
Mary Maloney, #6571
Sean Maloney, #6572
Michael Malter, #6296
Diana Mangione, #6348
John Manix, #6282
Christie Marone, #6520
Jon Marone, #6519
Jorge Martinez, #6500
Mary Jane Martinez, #6816
Milton Martinez, #6435
Marjorie Martini, #7024
Carol Masengale, #6331
Derick Masengale, #6330
Jill Massicotte, #6389
Toni Matthews, #6485
Frederick Matz, #6365
Jeffrey Mayer, #6742
Gail Mayo, #6546
John Mayo, #6545
Frank Mazzarelli, #6697
Joyce McClelland, #6760
Matthew McCollough, #6293
John McCullough, #6749
Larry McDonald, #6784
Chase McEwen, #6332
Carolyn McFarland, #6645
Brendan McGauran, #6326
Jeanne McGregor, #6741
Norlan McKenzie, #6299
Karen Medina, #6405
Aline Mierzejewski, #6497
Amy Mierzejewski, #6264
Edward Mierzejewski, #6498
Gerald Miles, #6369
Heyward Milford, #6721
Scott Miller, #6868
Erika Milligan, #6361
Lynette Mills, #6417
Martha Miniati, #6427
David Mohr, #6343
Elaine Morelli, #6687
Keith Morelli, #6770
Geraldine Morrell, #6708
Linda Mueller, #6793
Linda Murray, #6794
Edwin Narain, #6355
Cynthia Nash, #6663
Janet Nelson, #6383
Cam Ngo, #6329
James J. Nichols, #6380
Alan Nichter, #6508
Annmarie Nichter, #6507
Joy Nicolini, #6397
Thomas Norman, #6481
Christine O'Brien, #6334

Photos: JAY NOLAN



Above and right, exclusive events such as the annual ball game barbecue are a popular way for Life Members to connect and celebrate their university.

Sean O'Brien, #6335
 James Olson, #6733
 Jeffrey Pafunda, #6387
 Carole Page, #6512
 Edward Page, #6511
 Cynthia Palmisano, #6528
 William Palmisano Jr., #6527
 Jonathon Parker, #6393
 Kavita Patel, #7000
 Lisa A. Patterson, #6413
 Sarah Patterson, #6867
 Keith Paul, #6407
 Thomas Pease, #6482
 Shaquitta Perks, #6304
 Christina Perricone, #6656
 John Perry, #6751
 Steven Petersen, #6609
 Victoria Petersen, #6610
 Denise Pettibone, #6533
 William Pettibone, #6534
 Jane Philhower, #6736
 John Phillips Jr., #6615
 Susan Phillips, #6309
 Robert Pierro, #6301
 Michael Pollard, #6307
 Susan Pollard, #6308
 Natalie Potochney, #6438
 Joseph C. Powell, #6394
 Sherrill Powell, #6467
 Marc Powers, #6419
 George Preston Jr., #6705
 Dominic Puglisi, #6560
 Janet Puglisi, #6559
 Patricia Raffa, #6588
 Ralph Raffa, #6587
 Ferdie Ramos, #6695
 Abigail Raven, #6491
 Vincent Raven, #6492
 David Reali, #6344
 Christopher Reich, #6336
 Mattie Reid, #6429
 Amy Rettig, #6504
 Jeffrey Rettig, #6503
 Mary Rice, #6428
 William Riebsame, #6488
 John Riley, #6311
 Claudine Rogers, #6271
 Richard Rohlehr, #6852
 Nancy Ruckman, #6437
 Barbara Russell, #6321
 Dale Russell, #6320
 Michele Sager, #6434
 Howard Sandler, #6722
 Nelson Santa Ana, #6836
 Jan Sasser-Coad, #6735
 Bradley Scarbrough, #6266
 Sharon Schaefer, #6595
 Thomas Schaefer, #6596
 Daniel Schattie, #6273
 Patricia Sciarappa, #6841
 Lylah Seaton, #6416
 Joseph Severino, #6758
 Mary Alice Shackelford, #6812
 Barbara Shiflett, #6632
 Timothy Shoby, #6889
 Cathryn Simmons, #6646
 Deborah Simmons, #6345



Marcy Singleton, #6421
 Stephanie Sipple, #6875
 Megan Smiley, #6262
 Nathan Smiley, #6297
 Bessie Smith, #6637
 Gary Smith, #6400
 J. Michael Smith, #6724
 Karen Smith, #6401
 James Snyder, #6598
 Shirley Snyder, #6597
 Shannon Solano, #6464
 Mara Spencer, #6290
 Steven Stanley, #6471
 Richard Stephens, #7063
 Peter Sternlicht, #6845
 Kelly Stoddard, #6286
 Craig Story, #6338
 Kimberly Strickland, #6781
 Rebecca Swindal, #6448
 Roger Taylor III, #6861
 Donna Thomas, #6540
 Gary Thomas, #6539
 Kevin Thompson, #6408
 Brice Tisdale, #6999
 Juan Tobon Ochoa, #6398
 Teresa Toole, #6884
 Thomas Travis, #6483
 Theresa Treep, #6310
 Alta Trufant, #6502
 Kenneth Trufant, #6501
 Michael Underwood, #7038
 Carol Van Bebber, #6510
 Gregory Van Bebber, #6509
 Helen Van De Boe, #6553
 Sheffield Van De Boe Sr., #6554
 Christena Villarreal, #6333
 Deric Vong, #6550
 Georgia Vong, #6549
 Paul Wallach, #6843
 Matthew Wallis, #6489
 Guy Walsh, #6716
 Kathryn Wanamaker, #6285
 Richard Wanamaker, #6284
 Deborah Ward-Eichhorn, #6674

Aimee Webb, #6493
 John Webb, #6494
 David Weinerman, #6938
 Alexandria Welker, #6496
 Robert Welker, #6495
 Stacey Werczynski, #6872
 Michael Wheeler, #6432
 Beverly Wickson, #6325
 E. Louisa Wiedeburg, #6350
 George Wilkinson, #6367
 Julie Wilkinson, #6399
 Arlene Williams, #6629

Debra Williams, #6530
 Jeffrey Williams, #6529
 Michael Woodworth, #6433
 Peggy Woodworth, #6443
 Douglas Wyse, #6684
 Debora Yeoman, #6673
 Elizabeth Zabak, #6360
 Michael Zelazo, #6828
 Sandra Zurita, #6864
 Kira Zwygart, #7004

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CHAPTERS *and* 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 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

Black Alumni

Tina James
blackalumnisociety@usfalumni-group.org

Dance Alumni Network

Sadie Lehmkar
slehmkar@usf.edu

DBA Alumni Network

Andy Hafer
USFDBAAlumni@gmail.com

Engineering Alumni

Robert Andrew
randrew@tampabay.rr.com

Geology Alumni

Gregory O'Neal
usfgas@gmail.com

Kosove Scholarship Alumni

Justin Geisler
justingeisler@hotmail.com

Latino Alumni

Shayra Rosario
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LGBTQ+ Alumni

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Robert Wallace
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Patel College of Global Sustainability

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Veteran Alumni

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2P7



GO BULLS!



Class Notes

1960s

SUZANNE RHODENBAUGH, English '66, published a book of poetry, "The Girl Who Quit at Leviticus," (Homestead Lighthouse Press). She is a poet, essayist and critic in St. Louis, Missouri.

1970s

LES MILLER, Political Science '78, Life Member, received the Gonzmart Family Tourism Ambassador of the Year Award from Visit Tampa Bay. A former member of the Florida state Senate and House, and former USF interim associate vice president, he is an executive vice president at Shumaker Advisors Florida LLC.

LAWRENCE A. PIPPINS, Criminology '74 and MA '76, was posthumously inducted into the 2022 USF Criminology Wall of Fame as a Distinguished Alumnus. Pippins served in the U.S. Army for 30 years, primarily in the military police, earning honors including Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal and Defense Meritorious Service Medal. Pippins died in 2017.

PAUL WILBORN, Mass Communications '75, released his debut novel, "Florida Hustle" (St. Petersburg Press). A musician and former newspaper reporter, Wilborn is the executive director of the Palladium Theatre in St. Petersburg.

1980s



JOSEPH ADAMCHAK, Political Science '83, Life Member, was named to the Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Advisor list. He is a senior member of Merrill Lynch Wealth Management in Tampa.

ROBERT ANDERSON JR., Marketing '81, Life Member, received the RE/MAX Circle of Legends Award, which recognizes agents who have more than \$10 million in commissions.



LIZ BLUM, Elementary Education '88, and her husband, John, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 10. Liz, a longtime teacher, and John have three children and five grandchildren.

STEVE DOE, Business Administration '86, received the Category Manager Award from JMX Brands, an online retailer of Amish furniture, where he manages the dining room category.

ROBERT FLIPPO, Electrical Engineering '89, was appointed to Florida Atlantic University's board of trustees in Boca Raton, Florida. He is chief executive officer of MobileHelp, a medical alert system.

JOHN POLSON, Finance '87, was named chair of Fisher Phillips LLP law firm, based in McLean, Virginia. Polson is a partner in the firm.

CYNTHIA "CINDY" REICHARD, Business Administration '84, has joined the environmental nonprofit Tampa Bay Watch as controller. She previously worked as director of finance and administration at Tampa radio station WMNF-FM.

KIM SEACE, Political Science '88, received the Hawkins Community Partnership Award from the USF College of Behavioral and Community Sciences criminology department. A lawyer specializing in homicide defense, she is a former assistant state attorney and felony division chief.



ALMONDO VALLONE, Criminology '82, was posthumously inducted into the 2022 USF Criminology Wall of Fame as a Distinguished Alumnus. He served in the U.S. Army's Criminal Investigation Division through the Korean and Vietnam wars, earning honors including the Bronze Star for heroic or meritorious achieve-

ment in a combat zone. Post-military, he established the safety and security department at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa. Vallone died in 2018.

SUSAN WEGMANN, Childhood Education '85, joined Southern Illinois University as executive director of its Global Campus in Carbondale, Illinois. She was previously an associate dean at University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

1990s

NORA RIVA BERGMAN, Mass Communications '98, co-authored "50 Lessons for Happy Lawyers," (Berroco Canyon Publishing). She owns Real Life Practice LLC, a coaching firm for attorneys.



MICHAEL "MIKE" CARBALLA, Civil Engineering '97, Life Member, was appointed administrator of Pasco County, Florida, where he previously served as an assistant county administrator for public infrastructure.

JACQUELYN "JACKIE" DOWD, Mass Communications '92, has joined Alliant Insurance Services in New York as senior vice president. She previously served as senior director at WTW (formerly Willis Towers Watson) insurance company.

ERIC S. HALL, Secondary Education-Biology '97, MEd '06 and EdD '14, was appointed secretary of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. He previously served as chancellor for innovation with the Florida Department of Education.



ROBERT JOHNSON, MA Criminology '95, was inducted into the 2022 USF Criminology Wall of Fame as a Distinguished Alumnus. He served with the USF Police Department for 30 years, retiring as chief in 2006. A two-time recipient of the Officer of the Year Award, he also received USF's Administrative Staff Outstanding Service Award.

Send us your class 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

BRIAN LAMB, Accounting '98 and MBA '17, Life Member, now leads the Northeast for Middle Market Banking and Specialized Industries for JPMorgan Chase Commercial Banking in New York. He previously served as the bank's global head of diversity, equity and inclusion. Lamb is chair of the State University System of Florida Board of Governors.

BRIAN LANGILLE, Mechanical Engineering '97, was appointed interim director of Clearwater Gas System in Clearwater, Florida, where he previously served as a manager.

DOMINICK MARCKESE, Elementary Education '98 and MA Criminal Justice '14, was inducted into the 2022 USF Criminology Wall of Fame as a Distinguished Alumnus. A captain with the USF Police Department since 2004, he is the commanding officer for the administrative bureau and a recipient of honors including Officer of the Year and the department's Paul Uravich Leadership Award.

MICHELLE MITCHELL, Business Administration '92, has joined CoreSRQ Inc., a nonprofit health organization in Sarasota. She previously served as a vice president at LocalIQ.

JOSEPH "JOE" PALMER, Psychology '99, Life Member, was promoted to vice president of risk management at Peachtree Hotel Group LLC in Atlanta, where he previously served as a director.

JENNEFFER (CUCINITTI) PULAPAKA, Biology '98, was elected to the Association for the Advancement of Wound Care's board of directors. She is a surgeon at DeLand Foot and Leg Center in DeLand, Florida.

ANDREW "ANDY" SHEETS, Education-Special Learning Disabilities '96, was named head of school at Providence Christian Academy in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where he previously served as assistant head of school for the upper school.

BRANDY STARK, Linguistics '98, MA Religious Studies '01 and PhD Humanities '18, was awarded a \$1,000 Individual Artist Grant by the St. Petersburg Arts Alliance to create a paranormal museum featuring local ghost stories. She is a professor at St. Petersburg College and a visual artist.

MISTY (PINSON) STOLLER, Marketing '92, was promoted to director of communications and marketing at Tykes & Teens Inc., a mental health nonprofit in Stuart, Florida, where she previously served as communications manager.

GREG THOMPSON, Theatre '92 and MA Religious Studies '98, was awarded a \$1,000 Individual Artist Grant by the St. Petersburg Arts Alliance to produce short presentations on Shakespeare. He has been an actor in Tampa for over 30 years.

ELIAS TORRES, Information Systems '98, was named to The Boston Globe's Tech Power Players 50, recognizing influential leaders in Massachusetts technology. He is the founder of Drift, a marketing and sales platform.



FELIX VEGA, Criminology '97, received the Hawkins Community Partnership Award from the USF College of Behavioral and Community Sciences criminology department. A journalist, attorney and former Florida prosecutor, he is an adjunct professor at USF.

he is an adjunct professor at USF.

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2000s

KIMBERLY AUGUSTIN, General Business Administration '01, was appointed to the grievance committee of the Chicago Association of Realtors. She works for Kale Realty in Chicago.

MEGAN CROMBIE, MA Gifted Education '09, was appointed to the board of control for Southern Regional Education. A teacher and instructional specialist at Florida State University School, she was a Florida State University School and K-12 District Teacher of the Year.

MATTHEW EATON, Mass Communications '08, was appointed to the Florida Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee. He is a vice president for the Alzheimer's Association Florida region.



DONNA FELLOWS-COFFEY, Mass Communications '03, has joined Maria Bates Law PLLC in St. Petersburg as chief executive officer. She previously served as a vice president at

Kottke Trucking Inc.

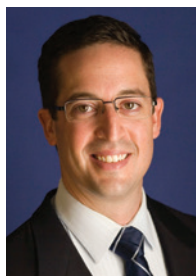
JOHN GIGLIO, MBA '05, was elected to the Gulf Coast Community Foundation's board of directors. Giglio is president of Gulf View Marina Holdings LLC in Venice, Florida.

GWENDOLYN GREEN, MA Rehabilitation Counseling '07, was named a Lightning Community Hero by the Tampa Bay Lightning professional hockey team in recognition of her work as chief executive officer of Tampa Crossroads, a social services nonprofit. She was awarded a \$50,000 grant.



DAN JENKINS, MA Political Science '07, PhD Education '11, was promoted to full professor at the University of Southern Maine in Portland, Maine.

NICOLE JUSTICE, General Business Administration '06, was appointed to the Florida Board of Medicine. She is the senior director of patient safety at Tampa General Hospital.



MATHEW LEVINE, Physical Education '04, Life Member, is the medical honoree for the Arthritis Foundation's Walk to Cure Arthritis in Atlanta. He is an orthopedic surgeon

for Resurgens Orthopaedics.

WHITNEY MCGINNISS, Sociology '07, was elected vice president of the Laurel Ridge Shamrock Civic Association, a community improvement organization. She is a member elect for Dekalb County School District in Decatur, Georgia.

EVELYN PÉREZ-VERDÍA, International Studies '02, launched We Are Más LLC, a multilingual communications and engagement firm and website where she serves as president and chief executive officer. She has worked for over two decades advising organizations and companies on messaging to diaspora communities.

TASHA PHILLIPS-WILSON, Public Health '08, was elected to the American Medical Student Association's board of trustees. She is a medical student in rotation in the Jackson Health System in Miami.

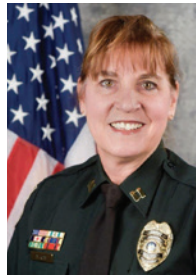
DOMENICO PONTORIERO, General Business Administration '09 and MA Geography '13, was awarded a \$1,000 Individual Artist Grant by the St. Petersburg Arts Alliance to create a short film. He is the founder of Dilithium Records LLC, which provides start-up management for local musicians, and a data analyst at OAC Services Inc.

LAURA RIVERA, Business Administration '06 and MBA '14, was promoted to senior director of central records for USF Advancement.



SARYKARMEN RIVERA, Mass Communications '04, has joined WFTS-TV, the ABC network affiliate for the Tampa Bay area, as an on-air co-host. She previously worked

for iHeart Media's Rumba 106.5.



MEG ROSS, Management '04 and MA Criminal Justice Administration '08, has joined the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay as its first responder ambassador, recruiting for positions in the program and promoting the state-wide crisis hotline. She was previously assistant chief of the USF Police Department.

TIFFANY (MOORE) RUSSELL, Childhood Education '04, was elected South Atlantic regional director of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She is the Orange County Clerk of Courts in Orlando, Florida.

DAVID WALKER, Chemical Engineering '08 and MA '09, was appointed to the board of directors for RadTech, The Association for UV & EB Technology. He is the co-founder of Azul 3D Inc., a 3D-printing company in Evanston, Illinois.

DARYL WOLFGANG, Criminology '06 and MA '09, was inducted into the 2022 USF Criminology Wall of Fame as an Outstanding Ambassador. He is the central regional director of residential services for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and a former adjunct faculty member with the University of Phoenix-Online.

2010s

BRYAN BRAUE, Master of Music '13, has joined the University of Texas Permian Basin as the director of bands. He was previously assistant director of bands at USF.

BRIAN BRIJBAG, Anthropology '12, MA '15 and MPH '15, was appointed to the board of directors of A-Town Community Inc., a nonprofit serving people with autism. He owns Brijbag Law in Spring Hill, Florida.



JACQUELYN D. BURCKLEY, Criminology '18 and MA '21, was inducted into the 2022 USF Criminology Wall of Fame as an Outstanding Ambassador. A doctoral student, she has served as managing editor for the Journal of

Crime and Justice, and vice president of SPRUCE (Social and Psychological Research for Understanding Crime Etiology) Lab and the Criminology Graduate Student Organization.

DANIEL CARTER, Political Science '13, joined RailPros, a transit company in Irving, Texas, as chief legal and people officer. He was previously a vice president at CIG Logistics.

CHERI MAZAN CASTRO, Mass Communications '13, joined Keller Williams on the Water in Sarasota as a Realtor. She previously worked as a manager at the Altman Companies.

LEAH (KAUFMAN) DARGY, Economics '16, has joined Kelley Kronenberg in Tampa as an attorney. She previously worked for Sponsler, Bishop, Koren & Hammer P.A.

COURTNEY DODSON, English '11, was awarded a \$1,000 Individual Artist Grant by the St. Petersburg Arts Alliance to create a mixed media exhibition on feminism and sexuality. She is a copywriter at It Works! Global and a visual artist in St. Petersburg.

ELIZABETH ENGASSER, Mass Communications '15, has joined USF Communications and Marketing as executive communications manager. She previously served as communications director for the USF College of Education.



JESSICA FEUER, (pictured above) Elementary Education '15, received the Excellence Award for Learning Quality from Success Academy Charter Schools in New York City. She teaches kindergarten at Success Academy Cobble Hill.



NICHOLAS GIGANTE, Music '16, Life Member, was appointed chief operating officer of Gigante Productions Inc., a photography and DJ entertainment company in Wesley Chapel, Florida.

What will Your Legacy Be?

One of the simplest ways to make a future gift to USF is to designate the USF Foundation as a charitable beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy. It's a quick task that can be done online and doesn't require an attorney, but the impact on USF can be long-lasting.

Let us help you create your USF legacy with a beneficiary designation gift. Please contact us with any questions or to get started – we are here to help!
planned_gifts@usf.edu / 813-974-8761 / usfgiving.org



Snapshots



USF Trustee **Mike Griffin**, '03, Life Member, left, and USF President **Rhea Law**, '77, Life Member pose with the newly minted **Dr. Richard Gonzmart**, Life Member, after conferring upon him an honorary doctor of business administration degree at USF's spring 2022 Commence-

ment. The president and co-owner of the Columbia Restaurant Group, Gonzmart was recognized for "sustained meritorious activity in business, industry and labor" and for his advocacy for access and education in the Tampa Bay area.

CARL HADDEN, MBA '18, was named regional director of the Florida Small Business Development Center at USF, where he previously served as interim regional director.

JESSICA HALL, MBA '13, has joined Cadence Bank as senior vice president of treasury management sales. She was previously a vice president at The Bank of Tampa.

ZOILA LAHERA, Criminology '15, has joined Hill Ward Henderson in Tampa as an attorney. She previously worked as an associate at Macfarlane Ferguson & McMullen P.A.

JABARI ALEXANDER "A.J." LINK, Philosophy '11, was elected to the National Disabled Law Students Association advisory board. He is a policy analyst at the Autism Self Advocacy Network in Washington.

STACEY (MCLEOD) MERCADANTE, Nursing '17, has joined Watson Clinic LLP in Lakeland, Florida, as an orthopedic nurse.

JOHN MITTEN, Business Administration '18, was elected chair of the Pasco-Hernando State College district board of trustees. Mitten is a Chick-fil-A restaurant owner in Hernando County, Florida.



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TRISTA (CAMPBELL) MURPHY, Childhood Education '19, has joined Florida Suncoast Real Estate Inc. as a Realtor. She was previously a teacher at Miller Elementary School in Bradenton, Florida.

NEVENA PEHAR, Psychology '12, Government '12 and Music '12, Life Member, has been appointed associate director of USF Women in Leadership & Philanthropy. She previously worked with USF's Annual Giving team.

SIOBHAN ROLAND, Music '13, was awarded a \$1,000 Individual Artist Grant by the St. Petersburg Arts Alliance to organize a community music festival. She is the founder of Ancestral Funk Inc., a record label in St. Petersburg, and a singer.



ALEX SARSFIELD, Secondary Education '11, was appointed to Bay Area Legal Services board of directors. He is an attorney at Paskert Divers Thompson in Tampa.

DEADRIN SENAT, Interdisciplinary Social Science '17, has joined the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as a defensive tackle. He previously played for USF and the Atlanta Falcons.

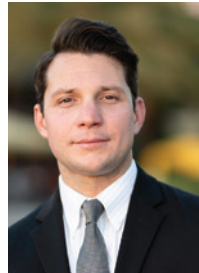
LENNY STEINBERG, Business Administration '10, has joined the Alzheimer's Association Oregon and Southwest Washington Chapter as program director. He previously served as program director for the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

CHARLOTTE SUTTON, MPH '14, was promoted to managing editor of The Philadelphia Inquirer, where she previously worked as an assistant managing editor.

DAVID TORRES, Music Studies '16, married Anna Fajardo Jan. 8 in New Mexico. He teaches trumpet at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Arkansas.

JUSTIN TRAMBLE, MA Public Affairs '16, has joined Tampa Bay Waterkeeper as executive director. He previously served as assistant director of parks and recreation in Treasure Island, Florida.

ROBERTO VELASCO, Nursing '19, was recognized as Divisional Nurse of the Year by Tampa General Hospital, where he works in the neuroscience intensive care unit. He was a USF Outstanding Graduate.



CODY WALDROP, Public Health '11, Life Member, earned the Certified Veterinary Practice Manager credential, the highest credential for professional veterinary managers. He is

a practice management officer at Associated Veterinary Partners in Tampa.

VICTOR ZAMORA JR., Philosophy '11, received the Hawkins Community Partnership Award from the USF College of Behavioral and Community Sciences criminology department. He is the founder and lead criminal defense attorney for Viza Law LLC in Tampa.

2020s

GIOVANNI "GINO" CASANOVA, MBA '20, has joined Shumaker Advisors Florida LLC in Tampa as chief of staff. He previously served as a head of government affairs for AdventHealth.

PATRICK COLLARD, Mathematics and Economics '20, was selected for the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans. He was awarded a \$90,000 graduate school fellowship to study economics at the University of California, Berkeley. Collard is a research associate for the Abdul Latif Poverty Action Lab North America.

CASSANDRA DODGE, PhD Criminology '21, was inducted into the 2022 USF Criminology Wall of Fame as an Outstanding Ambassador. She is an assistant professor in the department of criminal justice and criminology at Georgia Southern University and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force Security Forces. A former president of the Criminology Graduate Student Organization, she received the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award.

ADRIAN IORDACHE, PhD Music Education '22, has joined Eastern Florida State College in Cocoa Beach, Florida.

ALEXIS KAUFFMAN, Music Education '21, has joined Richey Elementary School in New Port Richey, Florida, as a music teacher.

GEORGE W. SHANNON, PhD Music Education '22, has joined Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, as a faculty fellow in the School of Music.

JUSTIN THREADGIL, Music Education '22, has joined Tyler Legacy High School in Tyler, Texas, as band and color guard assistant director. He previously taught at Southwind Drum and Bugle Corps in Mobile, Alabama.

JESSICA (SHETTERLY) WELLS, Music Education '20, gave birth to Wesley Waylon Wells on Jan. 18. She teaches at Chasco Elementary in Port Richey, Florida.

Snapshots



Three USF alumnae took part in the historic June 14 Honor Flight of West Central Florida Mission 42, which included a record 22 female war veterans. **Connie Johnson-Gearhart**, '00 & MCE '12, Life Member, left, and **Donna Betz**, '86, Life Member, right, escorted Vietnam veteran **Sheila Carpenter-Van Dijk**, '96, Life Member.

Honor Flight provides veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam with a free one-day trip to Washington, D.C., to visit the memorials that honor their service and sacrifices.

- Photo provided by Donna Betz

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In Memoriam

GARTH A. ALBURY, Elementary Education '77, June 14, 2022
RICHARD CALVIN ALLISON, Engineering Technology '83, June 2, 2022
BARBARA BATCHELOR, Accounting '84, Feb. 20, 2022
GRACE ELLA (SRYGLEY) BISHOP, New College '84, April 13, 2022
MARY JOSEPHINE (GILLESPIE) BLAIR, Music Education '83, April 17, 2022
DAVID G. BRIGGS, Finance '80, March 15, 2022
STEPHEN F. BURROUGHS, Management '80, May 6, 2022
THOMAS C. CAPELL, Civil Engineering '88, April 16, 2022
LYNN CATHEY, Criminology '80, May 9, 2022
DOROTHY B. "DIP" COMBS, Elementary Education '63 and MA '69, April 3, 2022
ANN TURNER COOK, MA English '69, June 3, 2022
SONJA WILSON COUNCIL, Early Childhood Education '71, May 26, 2022
MARCIA LYNN (BULEY) DAVIS, Mass Communications '84, June 14, 2022
ROBERT DORAZIO, Geography '72, March 22, 2022
LINDA J. EDGAR, Elementary Education '65, June 1, 2022
CECILIA FAVATA, Elementary Education '69, May 16, 2022
ERNEST FERNANDEZ, MA Elementary Education '68, Dec. 20, 2021
PETER NORD FISHER, Accounting '65, April 2, 2022
LOUIS R. FREIJO, Social Sciences Interdisciplinary '70 and MEd '76, April 1, 2022
SUSAN GARNETT, Mass Communications '79, Dec. 22, 2021
CAROLYN OVERCASH GRAHAM, Business Office Education '70 and MA '74, Nov. 27, 2021
PHYLLIS (PERKINS) HERNANDEZ, Education-Specific Learning Disabilities '81 and MEd '89, April 21, 2022
DOUGLAS ALLEN HICKS, Mass Communications '82, May 12, 2022
JULIUS F. HOBBS SR., MS Management '85, Life Member, March 20, 2022
MARY ANN HOGAN, Political Science '70, June 4, 2021
ERIC D. HUNTER, Physical Education and Political Science '78, April 4, 2022
VINCENT IGNICO, Civil Engineering '89, Dec. 10, 2021
DEBORAH L. JENKINS, MA Guidance and Counselor Education '82, Dec. 17, 2021
JOYCE KIEFERT, MA English '83, Feb. 28, 2022
DANA "SISSY" LIPSEY, Elementary Education '84, April 23, 2022
JO ANN LONG, EdD Education '69, USF Faculty, April 30, 2022
JANICE HALL MACHLER, MA Rehabilitation Counseling '93, April 9, 2022
CALVIN MAGEE, Criminology '94, USF Coach, May 20, 2022
RORY MARSH, Communication '01, March 28, 2022
ELAINE MENENDEZ, Elementary Education '69, April 30, 2022
DONNA KAYE MINTON, Management '84, May 28, 2022
VERSHAYLA MUNNERLYN, Communication Sciences and Disorders '17, Dec. 17, 2021
PATRICIA JANANN NICHOLSON, Elementary Education '72, May 13, 2022
DAISY PARRADO, Foreign Language Education '67, March 9, 2022

RACHEL PERMUTH, MSP Public Health '98, May 31, 2022
DENA MARIE PISANESCHI, Elementary Education '96, May 11, 2022
ANH-KAY PIZANO, Elementary Education '99, MEd '01 and PhD '20, March 3, 2022
CERITA LUDWICK PURMORT, Mass Communication English Education '66, May 3, 2022
RICHARD IRVIN ROBERTS, Accounting '66, May 19, 2022
BEATRICE SCHULTZ, Biology '84, May 12, 2022
DR. JEFFREY STEPHEN SCHWARTZ, Biology and Interdisciplinary Natural Sciences '79, March 11, 2022
GEORGE SHELANDER, Political Science '71, May 15, 2022
PATRICIA DAY SMITH, Elementary Education '81, MA '87 and MA '93, April 17, 2022
SALLIE SAUNDERS SPINNER, American Studies '93, May 24, 2022
JOHN STEVELY, MS Marine Science '78, May 27, 2022
JANICE VELEZ, English Education '69, April 28, 2022
JOSEPH P. VETRANO, Mathematics Education '65, June 17, 2022
NORMAN HERMAN VOISSEM, Psychology and Sociology '69, MA '69 and PhD '76, Dec. 4, 2021
PATRICIA BROPHY WALL, MA Guidance and Counseling Education '82, March 18, 2022
GWENDOLYN M. WRIGHT, Women's Studies '91 and MSW Social Work '95, March 22, 2022
BARBARA FAYE ALLEN YOST, MA Education '80, Feb. 28, 2022

Faculty and staff

DR. ENID GILBERT BARNES, Professor of Pathology, April 28, 2022
LEE ROSE, Basketball Coach, April 5, 2022
T.W. GRAHAM SOLOMONS, Professor Emeritus, Chemistry, Oct. 2, 2021
SYLVIA MIDGETT TAYLOR, Staff, Dec. 3, 2021
PATRICIA LEE THORNBERRY, Faculty, USF Libraries, Dec. 19, 2021
ALMEETA WILLIAMS, Staff, June 15, 2022
WILLIAM H. "BILL" YOUNG III, Professor, Adult and Continuing Education, March 23, 2022

Friends

DR. WILLIAM ANTHONY ALONSO, Benefactor, April 20, 2022
PATRICIA IRWIN ROBISON BALDWIN, Benefactor, March 4, 2022
DR. ENID BARNES, Benefactor, April 28, 2022
JANE PETERS CAMP, Benefactor, Dec. 14, 2021
JACK DON FORTENBERRY, Benefactor, April 5, 2022
SYLVIA M. GOLDMAN, Benefactor, May 19, 2022
IMELDA BARTHE HIGGINS, Benefactor, April 8, 2022
NORMA C. ROTH, Benefactor, April 30, 2022
JERRY L. WILLIAMS, Benefactor, Foundation Board Member, April 10, 2022

WUSF INTERNS where are they now?

Naomi Prioleau

WUNC North Carolina Public Radio
Midday News Host

Naomi graduated from the University of South Florida with degrees in both Mass Communications and Spanish. She began her journalism career early as a teen reporter at the Kansas City Star. Before joining WUNC in 2017, Naomi worked as a WUSF News intern from 2010 to 2011 and subsequently as a WUSF News Fellow and Stephen Noble Intern from 2015 to 2016. She most recently took part in "Every 30 Seconds," a year-long project with *The World*, reporting on Latino youth who were voting for the first time.



Carson Frame

KSTX Texas Public Radio
Reporter, Military and Veterans Issues

Carson graduated from the University of South Florida in 2011 with B.A. degrees in English and International Studies, and earned a master's degree in Journalism from New York University. She worked as a WUSF News Stephen Noble Intern January through June of 2017. A winner of numerous awards, Carson's audio work has appeared on NPR's *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, *Here & Now*, and WNYC's *The Takeaway*. Her reporting on military issues is part of *The American Homefront Project*, a public media collaboration that reports on American military life and veterans.





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