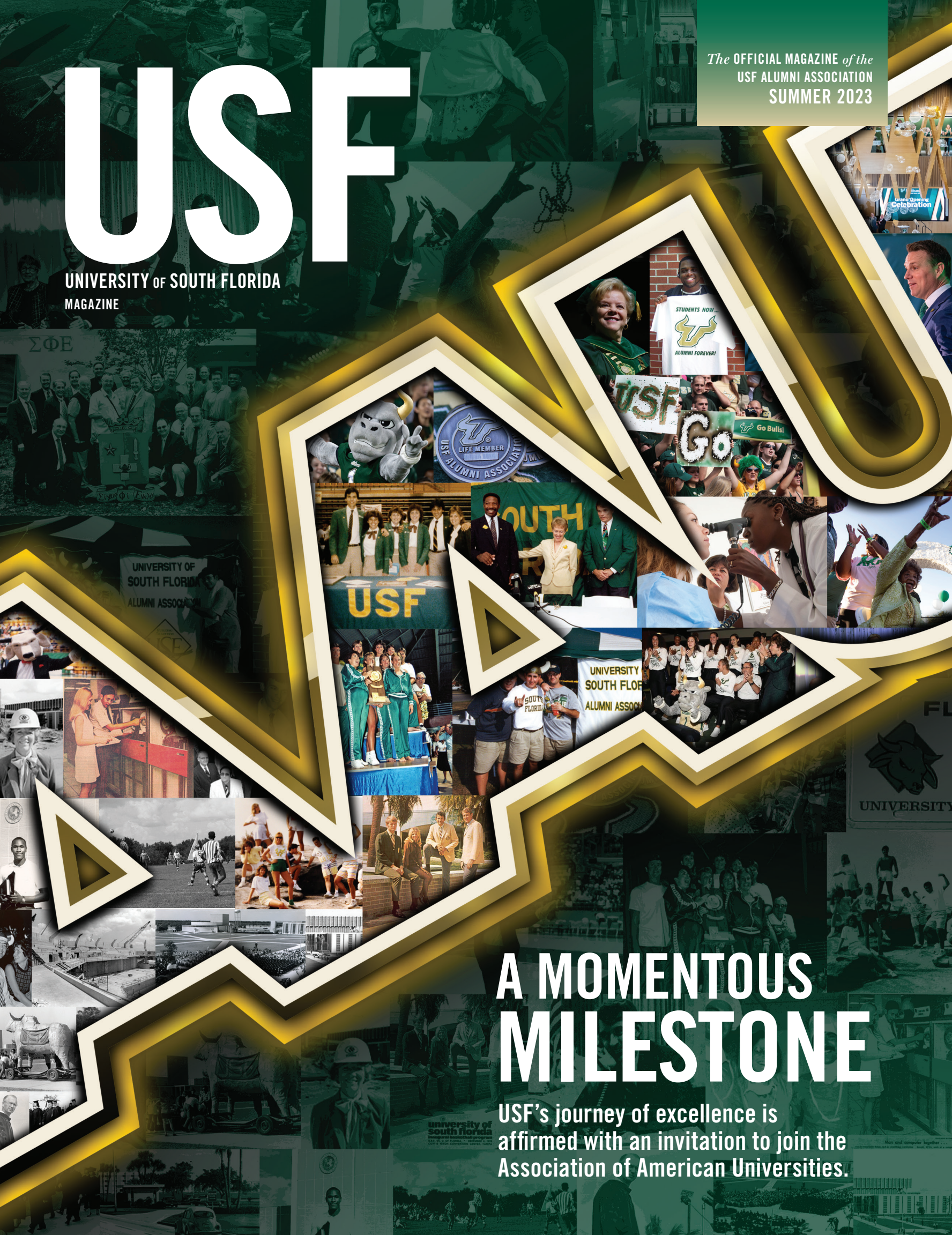


# USF

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA  
MAGAZINE

The OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the  
USF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
SUMMER 2023



## A MOMENTOUS MILESTONE

USF's journey of excellence is affirmed with an invitation to join the Association of American Universities.



# USF HILLEL

## Jewish Alumni Network

USF Hillel's Jewish Alumni Network engages Jewish graduates by cultivating alumni communities locally, regionally, and beyond. Join our network to help us share what makes being a Jewish Bull so special!

- Reconnect with fellow alumni
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- Revisit your USF Jewish experience
- Connect with current Jewish Bulls
- Discover how Hillel has grown through the years

**Join us for Homecoming Shabbat 2023!**



[usfhillel.org](https://usfhillel.org)



We pride ourselves on our "Open-Tent" policy, embracing inclusive and egalitarian values ensuring that a "Jewish home-away-from-home" is accessible to ALL Bulls.

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Ensuring a Jewish Future. Theirs. And Ours.

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# USF

UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH FLORIDA  
MAGAZINE

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USF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
SUMMER 2023

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### About the cover:

AAU membership marks another milestone on USF's journey of continuous improvement and pursuit of excellence.

Cover design: JOHN PELEROSI  
USF Advancement





# From the President



## Dear alumni, friends and supporters of USF

AS WE ENTER ANOTHER EXCITING ACADEMIC YEAR, I can't help but reflect on the very eventful and rewarding summer we've had here at USF. As you will read in the cover story for this issue, which begins on page 26, USF reached a historic milestone that will have far-reaching impacts for generations to come: We accepted an invitation to join the Association of American Universities (AAU), a prestigious group of the 71 leading research institutions in the United States and Canada.

We are the first public university in Florida to be invited to join the AAU in nearly 40 years. AAU membership means USF now stands alongside widely respected institutions including Harvard, Princeton, Duke, Stanford, Northwestern, Johns Hopkins, Yale, the University of Florida, the University of Texas and the University of Michigan.

Membership in the association will mean heightened funding opportunities for USF, which will positively impact the Tampa Bay region and the state. Member universities earn the majority of competitively awarded federal funding for research that seeks to address local and national challenges. Faculty at their member universities perform 63% of the total amount of federally funded basic research (\$28.8 billion). Another benefit: Becoming an AAU member allows us to add to our already world-class faculty and students. The top students, scholars, employees and entrepreneurs gravitate to the most esteemed universities,

particularly when those institutions are located in large metropolitan areas like ours.

When I served as chair of the Board of Trustees 16 years ago, I vividly remember USF including AAU eligibility in our strategic plan. To be invited by our peers to join this prestigious association and now officially be recognized by them as one of the nation's leading research universities reflects the commitment to excellence of our faculty, staff and students.

I was pleased to see many of you at the grand opening celebration of the home of the Judy Genshaft Honors College. As I said at the event, a world-class honors college deserves an equally remarkable home. From the stunning atrium to the learning lofts and dedicated studio spaces, and so much more, the new building will provide wonderful teaching and learning opportunities for our faculty and staff, and strengthen USF's position to attract top talent within Florida and beyond. We are extremely grateful to the many donors who have contributed to this project, and in particular, USF President Emerita and Professor Judy Genshaft and her husband, Steven Greenbaum, for their historic lead gift. You can learn more about the new building and the college on page 32.

As exciting as the past few months have been, we know there's more to come with the start of the new academic year. And that means plenty of opportunities for Bulls fans to come out and support our dedicated student-athletes and coaches. Mark your calendars for the first home game Sept. 9 against Florida A&M. Details about our busy fall sports schedule, including men's and women's soccer and volleyball, are on page 18.

The following month it's Homecoming 2023, Oct. 8-14! This year's celebration will be particularly memorable — our first as an AAU member. Find events on page 50, and check for updates at [usfalumni.org/homecoming](http://usfalumni.org/homecoming).

We may be looking ahead to the fall semester, but it's important to keep in mind that we are still in the midst of hurricane season. I encourage you to read our alumni profile on Mike Boylan, '96, which you'll find on page 44. He runs Mike's Weather Page, which has more than 1.1 million followers on Facebook alone. But he's more than a social media phenomenon — Mike's Weather Page is considered a trusted resource by a variety of federal agencies, local meteorologists and The Weather Channel. Thanks for helping to keep us safe, Mike.

I hope you and your families have had a wonderful summer. Thank you for all you do for our students and our great university.

**RHEA F. LAW, '77**  
**LIFE MEMBER #976**  
**PRESIDENT**



# LEGISLATIVE WRAPUP

## 2023-24 STATE BUDGET INCLUDES INCREASES FOR USF

The 2023-24 Florida state budget, which took effect July 1, includes significant new increases in recurring funding and major one-time investments in top-priority projects for USF.

Building off of last year's record-breaking legislative session for USF, this year's budget represents the largest operational funding increase in the university's history.

"The funding will help us continue to excel in student and faculty success, grow our research profile, make a greater impact on the Tampa Bay region and the state of Florida, and support our quest to become a top 25 public university and our position as a new member of the Association of American Universities," USF President Rhea Law says.

### The budget includes:

- A \$63.3 million recurring increase to the university's operational budget to support the work of each of the three campuses and USF Health. A large portion of this increase was funded through a new \$100 million recurring investment in the Preeminent State Research Universities Program, which was split equally among the three preeminent institutions: USF, the University of Florida and Florida State University.
- \$24.3 million to fund the first phase of planning and construction of a new Environmental and Oceanographic Sciences Research and Teaching facility on the St. Petersburg campus. This facility will enhance

St. Petersburg as a world-class center of marine and environmental science, education and community engagement.

- \$14 million to conduct a state-funded comprehensive clinical trial of hyperbaric oxygen therapy's medical effectiveness in treating PTSD and traumatic brain injuries among veterans and active-duty military service members.
- \$6.5 million to invest in campus life facility projects funded through the state's Capital Improvement Trust Fund.
- \$3 million to complete the acquisition and installation of a new functional MRI (fMRI) machine for brain research and diagnostic purposes.

Gov. Ron DeSantis did exercise his line-item veto authority to remove a \$20 million appropriation to help pay for the construction of the new academic Nursing/STEM facility on the Sarasota-Manatee campus, a project that received \$3 million in last year's state budget.

Since the veto was announced, university and campus leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to this project and will continue to work on funding it as soon as possible.

The university also benefits from an \$85 million increase in the state's performance-based funding budget approved by the legislature and governor. USF is once again among the top institutions in the State University System's performance-based funding model, which uses student success-based metrics to measure performance. USF placed third in the system and is the only state university to finish in the top four every year since the model was implemented in 2014. USF's position in the standings will result in an allocation of more than \$50 million, an increase of nearly \$15 million from last year.



USF magazine is published three times a year by USF Advancement and USF Communications & Marketing for alumni, friends and members of the USF community.

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# A new world of possibilities

Balloons rain down from the soaring atrium of the Judy Genshaft Honors College building during a grand opening celebration in May. Long before completion, the structure provided learning opportunities for students, who partnered in planning everything from design to furniture and studied elements of architecture and construction through a unique capstone course. The five-story, one-of-a-kind edifice includes signature features aimed at facilitating collaboration and creativity, including 39 cantilevered learning lofts and dedicated spaces for art, food and culture, music and technology. The project was funded primarily through philanthropic support, including a historic lead gift of \$20 million from USF President Emerita and Professor Judy Genshaft and her husband, Steven Greenbaum. Read about how the building took shape and what students have to say about it on page 32.

LAURA LYON | USF News





# First Look





# First Look







# Taking a deep dive in the Gulf of Mexico

USF President Rhea Law and Provost Prasant Mohapatra take in the views provided by the Research Vessel Western Flyer's deep-diving, remotely operated vehicle during a home-reporting ceremony. In July, the 117-foot twin-hulled ship officially launched as part of the Florida Institute of Oceanography's (FIO) fleet, housed at USF's St. Petersburg campus. Granted to USF by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, it will be used as a sailing classroom and a platform for FIO's new peer mentoring program, designed to create unprecedented opportunities for multi-disciplinary STEM students through a mix of at-sea and remote science experiences.

FIO, which is housed at USF and supports all institutions in the State University System, has two other research vessels that operate mostly within Florida waters. The R/V Western Flyer, now the most technologically advanced member of the fleet, is capable of longer missions and will explore the depths off the southeastern U.S. and northern Caribbean Sea.

The R/V Western Flyer arrived in St. Petersburg from California in March. Once settled at its port in Bayboro Harbor, it underwent U.S. Coast Guard inspections and Gulf-specific refits.

Find information about scheduling ship time and supporting the R/V Western Flyer's mission at [usf.to/WesternFlyer](http://usf.to/WesternFlyer).



# University Community

## RESEARCH

### App arms citizen scientists in global war on mosquito-borne diseases

MALARIA CAN BE A PAINFUL, life-threatening illness, with high fevers, muscle and joint pain, vomiting, fatigue and, in severe cases, kidney and liver failure. It used to be a disease Americans didn't worry about unless they were traveling overseas.

But malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases, including dengue and West Nile virus, have been on the rise in the United States. Sarasota County had at least seven cases of malaria earlier this summer, prompting Florida to issue a statewide public health alert.

A new mosquito-tracking app arms everyday people with a tool to help local authorities around the world monitor and control disease-transmitting species. All they need is a smartphone.

"It would be phenomenal for citizen scientists in Sarasota County and beyond to download and use our partner apps," says Ryan Carney, co-creator of the Global Mosquito Observations Dashboard and an assistant professor of integrative biology. "Citizen scientists with smartphones can serve as extra sets of eyes to help monitor these malaria mosquitoes in locations and at a scale otherwise impossible via traditional mosquito trapping methods."

Anyone anywhere can upload photos of mosquitoes, and breeding habitats, to [mosquitodashboard.org](http://mosquitodashboard.org) via the partner apps Mosquito Alert, NASA's GLOBE Observer, or



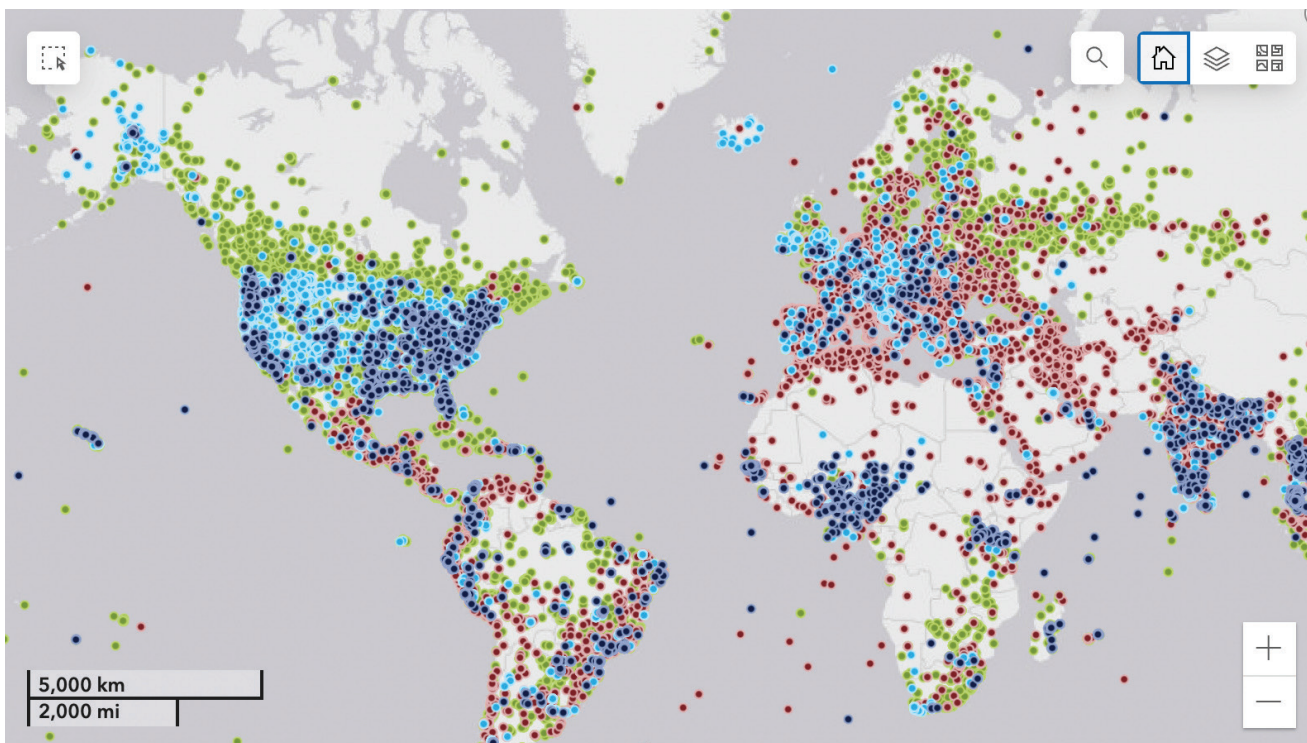
JAMES GATHANY, CDC

iNaturalist. The dashboard aggregates the information and displays it on an interactive map that the public can use to monitor the threat in their own community or a travel destination.

Created by Carney and Sriram Chellappan, professor of computer science and engineering, the dashboard is partially funded by the National Science Foundation.

Each year, mosquitoes cause nearly 700 million infections and more than one million deaths, but only a small percentage of mosquito species actually transmit disease. Some members of the Anopheles species, for in-

**Above: *Aedes aegypti* can transmit Zika, dengue and yellow fever.**



**Map image:**  
The Global Mosquito Observations Dashboard displays mosquito hot spots in your community or around the world at [mosquitodashboard.org](http://mosquitodashboard.org).



stance, carry malaria. Sub-Saharan Africa, where infection is rampant and treatment less available, suffers the most from illness and deaths. The common house mosquito, found throughout the southern U.S., carries West Nile virus, among other diseases.

As the climate warms, more mosquito species thrive in new regions.

The Global Mosquito Observations Dashboard team has gathered more than a half million mosquito photos, allowing their artificial intelligence algorithm to better identify mosquitoes in the adult and larval stage. The team can

then determine the threat potential and alert local authorities.

In Tampa Bay, with help from citizen scientists, the team recently found *Aedes aegypti*, a mosquito that carries dengue, yellow fever and Zika.

“Advances in artificial intelligence algorithms yield novel technologies for accurate, fast and large-scale surveillance of malaria-spreading mosquitoes,” Chellappan says.

The global impact becomes life-changing when citizen scientists contribute data – one photo at a time.

- CASSIDY DELAMARTER | USF News

## SLEEP STUDIES

### Tweaking diet and sleep habits can give you a happier heart

TOSSING AND TURNING ALL NIGHT is enough to make you feel tired and cranky the next day, but USF Health researchers say sleep deprivation can have much more serious consequences, especially when combined with a high-fat diet.

The combo can trigger chronic inflammation, which can lead to heart disease.

“Diet, sleep, and exercise — it’s all related, fundamental and integrative,” says Ganesh Halade, an associate professor at the USF Health Heart Institute and lead author of a paper published earlier this year in the journal of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.

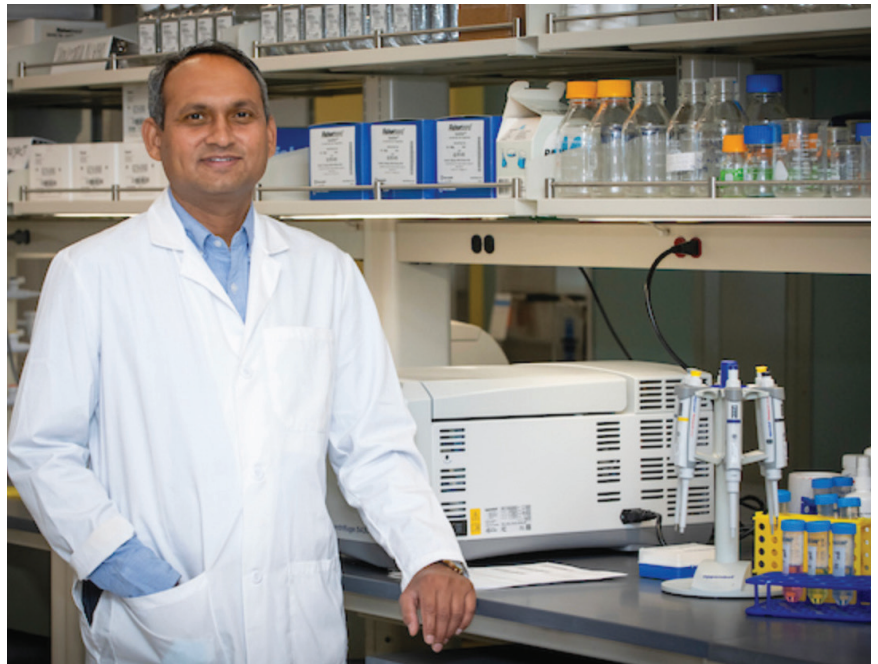
“If diet and sleep aren’t in balance, then you invite the array of diseases. Low-grade chronic inflammation is a by-product of an imbalanced lifestyle,” he says. “The combination of a high-fat diet and sleep deprivation messes up the immune system.”

Halade’s team used mice to compare the effects of diet and sleep on recovery from cardiac episodes. They examined immune system responses, including the microbiome



**If diet and sleep aren’t in balance, then you invite an array of diseases. ... The combination of a high-fat diet and sleep deprivation messes up the immune system.**

– Ganesh Halade



— the good and bad bacteria that live in the gut. The mice that ate high-fat diets and had interrupted sleep were not able to process the omega-3 fats from fish oils, which help repair the heart.

The takeaway? Avoid foods containing saturated fats. Those include fatty beef, poultry skin, soft cheeses like brie, butter and bacon. Instead, look for lean beef, skinless turkey and chicken, olive oil and skim milk.

And do what’s necessary to get your seven hours of sleep every night. You can work toward that by limiting caffeine, alcohol and screen time; getting some physical activity every day; sticking to a schedule; and, if worries keep you up, jot down your concerns and to-do lists before snuggling down.

- KURT LOFT | USF Health Communications

**Ganesh Halade used mice to compare the effects of diet and sleep on recovery from cardiac episodes.**



# University Community



Florida is home to seven of the top 20 U.S. Allergy Capitals, which can trigger chronic sinusitis in allergy sufferers.

## FEELING BETTER

### Stuffed up and miserable? New clinic offers help for chronic sinusitis

IF YOU LIVE IN FLORIDA, chances are good you've experienced chronic sinusitis, with its unrelenting stuffy nose, headaches, fever, fatigue, sore throat and earaches. There can be a variety of culprits, but a biggie is seasonal pollen allergies, and Florida is notorious for those. This state claims seven of the top 20 U.S. Allergy Capitals, according to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America's 2023 report.

Effectively treating chronic sinusitis usually involves two medical specialists, an ear, nose and throat (ENT) physician and an allergist/immunologist. Patients usually see these doctors in separate appointments, which can delay or prolong treatment and lead to relapses.

USF Health merged two clinics to provide a one-stop shop for patients with chronic sinusitis and related conditions. Here, they can see both specialists at the same time. The result? Lasting relief.

"Bringing these two specialties into one clinic, one visit for the patient, makes incredible sense, not just for convenience but also for continuity of care and better outcomes," says Dr. Farnaz Tabatabaian, associate professor in the Department of Allergy and Immunology in the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine.

Tabatabaian combined her expertise with Dr. Mark Tabor, associate professor in the Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery in the college, to form the new clinic.

Seasonal allergies aren't the only instigator of chronic sinusitis. Other allergies, infections and immune system disorders can cause the problem, along with physical nasal passage abnormalities, such as a deviated septum or polyps. An ENT can address the issues requiring surgery, while an allergist can provide allergy shots, antibiotics, and address immune and inflammatory response problems.

Some patients need both approaches. The first physician they see may provide an effective treatment, but as patients wait to see the second physician — or put it off because they're finally feeling good again — the symptoms return. They have to start the cycle of treatments and procedures all over again.



“Done separately, the condition isn’t fully treated, meaning patients may go back and forth with ENT and allergist appointments,” Tabor says. “The structural fix only lasts until the immune system flares up again and sinusitis returns, or the immune system is calmed and the barriers in the structure continue to limit and sinusitis returns. By addressing both structural and immune response at once, treating the two root causes together, patients will fare better.”

The USF Health combined clinic also provides educational opportunities for medical students, resident physicians and fellows, and patients have greater access to clinical trials for new therapies.

Patients seeking appointments need a diagnosis of chronic sinusitis and to have tried, but not benefited from, traditional therapies. Ask your physician about a referral to see if your condition qualifies.

For the record, No. 1 on the Allergies Capitals list is Wichita, Kansas. Tampa is No. 18.

– Sarah Worth, ’86 | USF Health



**Bringing these two specialties into one clinic, one visit for the patient, makes incredible sense, not just for convenience but also for continuity of care and better outcomes.**

– Dr. Farnaz Tabatabaian



## HEALTH CARE

### Having a baby? TGH is a top 10 best place to deliver

TAMPA GENERAL HOSPITAL’S obstetrics/gynecology department ranked 9th in the nation in the 2023-24 U.S. News & World Report’s listing released Aug. 1. TGH is USF’s primary teaching hospital and many of its top-ranked specialties are led or co-led by USF Health faculty physicians.

Six specialty areas made the nation’s top 50 best, and three were in the top 20.

“Tampa General’s strong showing in this year’s rankings is a testament to the compassionate care and clinical expertise of our primary teaching partner,” says Dr. Charles J. Lockwood, executive vice president of USF Health and dean of USF Health Morsani College of Medicine.

“These rankings translate into saving patients’ lives across Tampa Bay and beyond,” Lockwood says.

#### The six specialties ranked among the top 50 in the nation are:

- Obstetrics and gynecology – No. 9
- Diabetes and endocrinology – No. 18
- Gastroenterology and gastrointestinal surgery – No. 19
- Orthopedics – No. 30
- Ear, nose and throat – No. 39
- Urology – No. 49

#### Five other specialties landed among the top 10% in the nation:

- Cancer
- Cardiology and heart surgery
- Geriatrics
- Neurology and neurosurgery
- Pulmonology and lung surgery



# University Community

St. Petersburg Faculty Award recipient Sharon Segrest, left, chats with fellow attendees of the Women in Leadership & Philanthropy Faculty Excellence Awards luncheon in April.

## WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP & PHILANTHROPY

### WLP celebrates faculty members for research excellence

SIX FACULTY MEMBERS earned prestigious 2023 Faculty Excellence Awards from USF's Women in Leadership & Philanthropy.

WLP was formed in 2005 to promote the educational and research endeavors of women at USF. Since its founding, WLP has invested more than \$3 million in scholarships and faculty research awards.

The Faculty Excellence Award Program recognizes faculty research excellence in six award categories, each receiving a \$5,000 research grant. This year's recipients are:

#### Rays Jiang – Tampa Faculty Award

An associate professor in the College of Public Health, Jiang established the first genomics lab at USF and laid the foundation for the university's flourishing genomics program. Her research focuses on cell metabolism and its impacts on human health and diseases.

#### Sharon Segrest – St. Petersburg Faculty Award

Segrest is a professor of management in the School of Information Systems and Management. Her research related to gender, diversity and equity, and implicit bias has been cited by researchers in hundreds of articles related to sexism, racism, ageism and ethnicity bias.

#### Lindsay Persohn, MA '10 and PhD '18 Sarasota-Manatee Faculty Award

An assistant professor in the literacy studies program in the College of Education on USF's Sarasota-Manatee campus, Persohn focuses her research on children's literature and illustration. She is the host and executive



producer of "Classroom Caffeine," a popular podcast that translates the work of education researchers for teachers.

#### Heather Agazzi, '97, EdS '07 and MS '11, Life Member Valerie D. Riddle, MD Award in Health

Agazzi is a professor in the Department of Pediatrics and the section chief of the Division of Child Development. She holds a joint appointment in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences, and she is the internship director of the USF Health internship in professional psychology.

#### Kristin Allukian – USF Junior Faculty Award

Allukian is an assistant professor of English and faculty affiliate of the women's and gender studies department. A scholar of American literature, her research focuses on how the study of 19th-century American women's literature can contribute to U.S. debates on social, racial and economic justice.

#### Helene Robinson – USF Instructor Award

Robinson is an associate professor of instruction in the College of Education, an affiliate faculty in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies, director of the Critical and Creative Design Thinking program, and arts integration coordinator at the USF Sarasota-Manatee campus.

## ANNIVERSARY

### Happy anniversary to the 'iconic Bull U'

TWENTY YEARS AGO, USF ATHLETICS put its Bull-head logo out to pasture and took a hard left in adopting the "Bull U." The U, with its embedded Bull muzzle and horns, proved so popular, it now represents all of USF and has become known as the "iconic Bull U."

The change dates to 2002, when USF's then 5-year-old football team sought a new logo to herald its 2003-04 debut in Conference USA. The university's marketing department gathered more than 100 designs and took them to focus groups composed of alumni, boosters, faculty and students in a yearlong selection process.

"It's a very important decision and we want to make sure it's the right one," then-Associate Athletics Director Tom Veit, '93, Life Member, told The Tampa Tribune in January 2003. "Our challenge is, unlike pro teams, our logo must represent several sports."

USF unveiled the winner on July 15, 2003, and launched its new USF Athletics merchandise on Aug.

6, 2003. The iconic U, created by Silverman Group marketing of New Haven, Connecticut, marked a sharp departure from previous designs, which featured illustrations of bulls.

Fans applauded.

"It's a strong logo for a strong team," Bulls fan David Minter told the Tribune while shopping a special pre-launch sale Aug. 5, 2003.

Bob Durda, then a buyer for Sports Fan-Attic, predicted widespread love.

"This logo has instant appeal," he said in 2003. "A lot of people didn't like the old bull. They thought it looked like a goat."



- Penny Carnathan '82 | USF Advancement



## WORKING BULLS

# Newsweek ranks USF among America's Greatest Workplaces

USF is one of the best places to work in the United States, according to a list released by Newsweek magazine in July.

America's Greatest Workplaces 2023 ranks the university among the top 1,000 companies in the nation with at least 1,000 employees. It's the only Florida university on the list and one of just a few colleges and universities.

Newsweek based its list on a survey of employees who work for large companies. Questions included how likely they are to recommend an employer and opinions on culture, working environment, work-life balance, training and career progression, compensation and benefits.

"The University of South Florida is proud to be recognized as one of the best places to work in America," USF President Rhea Law said. "We value our world-class faculty

and staff and their many significant contributions that help make USF one of the nation's leading research universities."

In a separate July announcement, Forbes magazine named USF one of the nation's best employers for women. Forbes lists the university No. 15 overall, the highest ranked university in Florida.

"We strive to make the University of South Florida the best place for our people to work, learn and grow," said Angie Sklenka, senior vice president and chief human resources and administrative officer. "We continue to take steps to enhance our HR practices in support of our faculty and staff, which will have a direct impact on the success of our students."

USF employs approximately 16,000 people across campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee. Explore career opportunities at [www.usf.edu/work-at-usf](http://www.usf.edu/work-at-usf).

- Adam Freeman | University Communications and Marketing

**USF alumni-employees have fun with Rocky D. Bull at the 2022 Working Bulls luncheon, an annual appreciation event hosted by the Alumni Association. About 20% of USF's 16,000 employees are also USF graduates.**





# University Community



JOHN TIPTON | Advancement Communications and Marketing

Above: USF Foundation CEO Jay Stroman speaks with student employees at the Digital Engagement Center. “You guys are ambassadors for the university,” he told them.

## MAKING CONNECTIONS

### Has a student called you?

“TOGETHER WE WILL IMPACT THE FUTURE” is emblazoned on the wall of the USF Foundation’s Digital Engagement Center, an inspirational reminder to the student employees working here.

The center launched in January with 65 students. They reach out to alumni via phone, text, social media — wherever Bulls comfortably communicate — to introduce themselves and chat about shared USF experiences and what’s new on campus, extend invitations to events, and more. The students aim to bridge the gap between today’s Bulls and USF’s 374,000 alumni.

These student employees also gain skills and assets for their professional futures. They get help building their resumés and LinkedIn profiles, learn how to meet expectations in a professional workplace, and get hands-on guidance for best management practices. They’re USF’s

highest paid student workers at \$15 an hour.

“USF, it’s not only an academic institution, it’s also a place where you can grow socially, personally and, from now on, also professionally thanks to this opportunity to work here,” says center employee Sara Lorca Garrido, mathematics and physics, class of ‘26.

During the fiscal year that ended June 30, and after less than six months on the job, she and her colleagues logged 8,721 conversations with alumni.

“You guys are ambassadors for the university,” Jay Stroman, CEO of the USF Foundation, told the students during a visit to the center. “What matters is that you talk to somebody, and you make them feel even better about their alma mater than they did before.”

The conversations are often meaningful for both students and alumni, says Andres Benavides, Life Member, the center’s manager, recalling a recent conversation.

“Our student spoke with Henry, a 2007 grad. Our





student and the alumnus majored in the same field,” Benavides says.

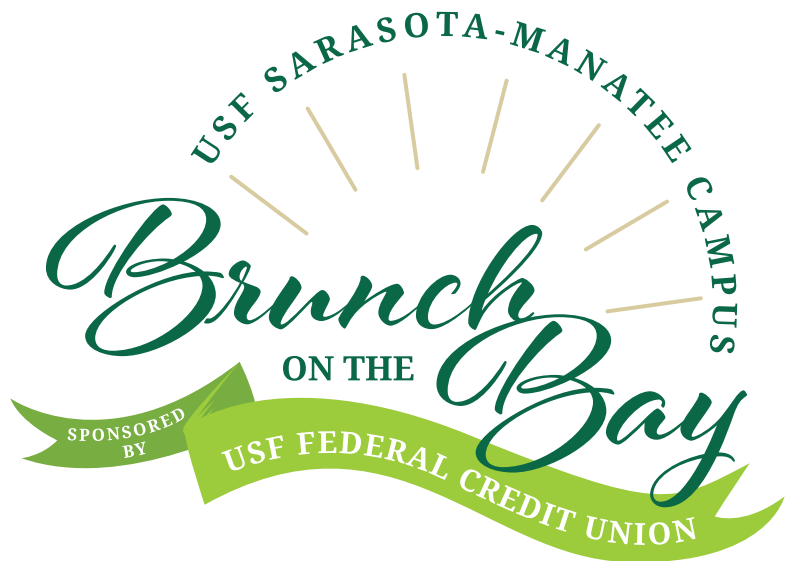
Henry encouraged the student to join tech-related clubs and organizations on campus and to attend networking events, hackathons and career fairs. He shared his perspective on the latest trends at his job.

At the end of the conversation, Henry invited the student to join his LinkedIn network. The student quickly complied.

In 2022-23, the engagement center’s outreach resulted in 2,701 donors pledging \$273,215 in gifts. That means a lot to the Bulls making the calls. Many have benefited from scholarships and other gifts and hope to share the love.

“Without my scholarship I would not be able to pay for my education,” says student engagement specialist Shania Gonzalez, Class of ’23. “The fact that I’m able to give back to other students who might be in the same position as me is an amazing opportunity.”

- USF Advancement



### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## Brunch on the Bay returns to Sarasota-Manatee campus

BRUNCH ON THE BAY, the annual marquee fundraiser for the Sarasota-Manatee campus, returns Nov. 5 with a plethora of gastronomic delights and a special sneak peek at a major campus expansion project.

Attendees will enjoy fine cuisine from local restaurants and caterers and get a look at the new student center and residence hall set to open in fall 2024.

Proceeds from the 2023 event will support student scholarships and campus initiatives. Last year’s brunch raised more than \$537,000.

“We look forward to welcoming our friends and supporters to the USF Sarasota-Manatee campus so we can share with them our excitement and they can see how we are growing,” said campus Regional Chancellor Karen Holbrook.

This year’s co-chairs are Lisa Krouse and Rod Hershberger, leading figures in the Sarasota-Manatee business community. USF Federal Credit Union returns as the title sponsor.

Brunch on the Bay will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 5, on the USF Sarasota-Manatee campus, 8350 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.

Visit [sarasotamanatee.usf.edu/brunch](https://sarasotamanatee.usf.edu/brunch) for ticket and sponsorship information.





# Athletics

## Athletic Hall of Fame inductee says USF was a school of life

SHE'S THE BEST PERFORMER in USF women's soccer history — along with being the first Bull to earn an Olympic gold medal — so it was hardly shocking when Evelyne Viens, '19, was selected for the USF Athletic Hall of Fame.

Still, after an early June training session with her professional team in Sweden, Viens was befuddled when she noticed a phone message from Tampa. It was from Michael Kelly, Life Member, USF's vice president of athletics.

"I had no idea what it was for, so I quickly called him back," she says. "I was just so surprised at what I heard him say. I'm proud to be named with so many incredible athletes and people who went to USF."

Viens (seasons 2016-19) — along with men's soccer's Jeff Attinella, '10 (2007-10), and women's golf's Kelly Lagedrost, '01 (1997-2001) — will be inducted Nov. 9 and honored two days later during the USF-Temple football game at Raymond James Stadium.



**I learned so much more than soccer. I became a more confident woman and I learned how to be a role model for future generations ... USF was a school of life for me. I cannot be more grateful for those years that shaped my future.**

— Evelyne Viens

"It's amazing to know that Evelyne's hard work will always be remembered through this honor," USF women's soccer coach Denise Schilte-Brown says. "She was memorable and impactful. Now she will be forever in our history books."

Viens, a member of the Canadian National Team, was a three-time All-American — the first USF athlete to earn that distinction — and a four-time first-team All-American Athletic Conference selection. She set program records for career goals (73) and career points (169), while leading USF to three NCAA Tournament appearances and three American Athletic Conference championships. She was a two-time AAC Player of the Year and the Bulls compiled a 56-17-5 record during her four-season tenure.

Along the way she earned a degree in accounting.

"When people ask what it was like to coach Evelyne Viens and how good she was, it's an easy answer," Schilte-Brown says. "She was ultra-competitive. She had a team-first mentality. And she was a player you didn't want the responsibility to defend."

Surrounded by overwhelming accomplishments and statistics, Viens says her strongest USF memories involve intangibles.

"Yes, we won titles, championships, many games and broke many records. But for me, USF was always about the people and how much I had evolved in those four years.

"I will always remember lifting the championship trophy in Memphis during my senior year with my best friends. However, I learned so much more than soccer. I became a more confident woman and I learned how to be a role model for future generations, how to have a positive impact on everyone around you. USF was a school of life for me. I cannot be more grateful for those years that shaped my future."

Viens was selected fifth overall by Sky Blue FC (since rebranded to Gotham FC) in the 2020 National Women's Soccer League draft. She has also played for Paris FC and Damallsvenskan Club Kristianstads in Sweden, and competed for Canada at the FIFA Women's World Cup this summer. She hopes to continue playing at an elite professional level while winning championships, but her top moment was winning a gold medal with Canada during the 2021 Tokyo Summer Olympics.

Schilte-Brown, a former Canadian National Team member herself, gathered her USF players to watch the Canada-Sweden gold-medal game.

"It felt like no other game," Schilte-Brown says. "I didn't just want Canada to win because it's my country. I wanted them to win for Evelyne. Watching her receive the gold medal, it felt like a piece of all of us was up there with her."

Viens says she still struggles to describe the emotions she felt during the Olympics.

"It was so challenging, so unique and so rewarding," she says. "It is the biggest stage for sports. I will always remember singing the National Anthem of Canada on the podium, knowing that we will be an Olympian forever, but also an Olympic champion."







Viens' gold medal is safely stored at her parents' home in Canada. She's already dreaming about designing a special place for it when she becomes a homeowner.

Still early in her professional career, Viens remains overwhelmed that she already has achieved immortality, whether it's through the Olympics or her selection to the USF Athletic Hall of Fame.

"It's such an honor to be named to the Hall of Fame at such a young age," the 26-year-old says. "After I found out about it, I had a FaceTime conversation with Coach Schilte-Brown. I was so happy to share that moment with her, knowing that without her trust and belief in me, I wouldn't be in the Hall of Fame or where I am today. It's such an honor to be remembered that way."

Someone once advised Viens to relish each moment of her USF career because sports are fleeting and the games would soon vanish.

Now she's part of USF Athletics forever.

By JOEY JOHNSTON, '81



Above: Viens set records while playing for USF Women's Soccer, including 73 career goals.

Left: Kelli Burney, '19, right, and Viens, were fellow Muma College of Business students who formed a friendship on and off the field.

Opposite page: Winning a gold medal at the 2021 Olympics is a treasured memory. Viens, right, and Canadian National teammate Kailen Sheridan give their gold medals a victorious bite test.



## SPRING REVIEW

# Bulls set a great spring track record

ATHLETICS' 2023 SPRING SEASON was highlighted by stand-out high jumper Romaine Beckford capturing his second national championship in June, this time winning at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Austin, Texas, with a personal best and USF record leap of 7 feet, 5.25 inches.

That followed his NCAA Indoor Championships title in March, making Beckford USF's first two-time national champion since Jon Dennis won titles in 5,000-meter runs in 1992 and 1993.

"What a great way to conclude our season," says head coach Erik Jenkins, who also saw the Bulls' 4x100-meter relay team earn All-America honors at the NCAA Championships after winning an American Athletic Conference championship. "Romaine earned his second national championship in dramatic fashion against very

elite competitors. It was fun to watch, and we are very happy for his success."

The successes helped propel the Bulls to their fifth top three finish among AAC teams in the Learfield Director's Cup standings, an overall department performance evaluation. USF, with 225.5 points, finished behind only Houston (304.75) and SMU (279.25) in the conference. Among 350 NCAA Division I programs, USF finished in the top 23% nationally.

In May, the USF women's sailing team reached the Intercollegiate Sailing Association National Championships for the second straight year and finished 15th among 36 teams in the 2023 Women's Fleet Racing Championships. Based on the St. Petersburg campus, the program has gone to national finals in nine of the last 10 years, finishing in the top 10 in 2012 and 2013.

The team also contributed to Athletics' record academic run: 17 straight semesters with a department term grade-point average over 3.0. USF saw 263 student-athletes earn Athletics Honor Roll recognition and 274 student-athletes earn a cumulative GPA over 3.0.

Looking back and looking ahead — USF welcomes Pri Piantadosi-Lima as the first head coach of the new beach volleyball program, slated to begin competition in 2025-26. She's a former standout professional beach volleyball player and founder of Optimum Beach, a St. Petersburg-based club program. Named the 2022 USA Volleyball Female Junior Coach of the Year for her work as head coach of the USA Volleyball Beach National Team Development Program, Piantadosi-Lima is a six-time South American champion and captured eight U.S. professional tournament championships as a player.

"My goal is to make Bulls beach volleyball nationally known," she says. "Not only for our athletic success but for the type of culture and character our teams will have and our success in the classroom."



Coach Pri



Bulls women sailors have a long record of wins. Starters for May's national competition were Sydney Monahan, Liv Smith, MinMin Kelly, Brilan Christopher, Emma Shakespeare, Kay Brunsvold and Janie Powell.





## FALL PREVIEW

### Fall highlights include football, soccer, cross country

IT WILL BE AN EXCITING FALL for Bulls nation as the Alex Golesh era kicks off the 2023 football season. On Sept. 9, the team plays its first home game, facing Florida A&M at 7 p.m. ET, followed by national power Alabama on Sept. 16 (airing on ABC TV) at Raymond James

Stadium. Golesh, the 2022 247Sports Offensive Coordinator of the Year, will be in his first season as a head coach after leading the nation's most explosive offense at Tennessee.

The American Athletic Conference welcomed six new members on July 1, as Alabama-Birmingham (UAB), Charlotte, Florida Atlantic (FAU), North Texas, Rice and Texas-San Antonio (UTSA) joined the now 14-member conference ranks. The Bulls will open conference play in football vs. Rice on Sept. 23 and the Homecoming game is set for Oct. 14 vs. FAU. Golesh is among seven new head coaches leading programs in the league this

year. The Bulls will face four of the others in contests at UAB, vs. Charlotte, vs. FAU and at Navy. The Bulls will face seven teams that reached bowl games in 2022, including Alabama (11-2 in 2022), which won the Sugar Bowl, and UTSA (11-2), which won the Conference USA championship.

Men's soccer, coming off reaching the second round of the NCAA Tournament last year; women's soccer, winner of five conference titles in the last six years; and volleyball, which welcomed Brazilian Olympic medalist and four-time world league champion Leandro Vissotto to the coaching staff, all began action in August, with cross country close behind.



Head Football Coach  
Alex Golesh

Photo: John Tipton | USF Advancement



# Nine siblings, eight Bulls, one dream

Their parents grew up in impoverished refugee camps but provided their children a beacon of hope

By DAVE SCHEIBER

**T**HEY LIVED IN A CRAMPED APARTMENT in New York City, eight siblings facing the daily uncertainties and pressing weight of poverty. Yet compared to their parents, who grew up amid the constant danger and relentless hopelessness of Palestinian refugee camps, the children's world within the thin walls of the family's two-bedroom unit held endless possibilities and big dreams.

The six sisters and two brothers relied upon one another for strength and camaraderie, while their father worked long hours in a pet supply shop and their mother poured her heart into raising them.

The girls forged an especially close bond during those challenging years. "I think we kept each other sane," says Ruba Rum, the fourth oldest of what would eventually be nine Rum children. "We were all in it together — struggling together, yes, but surviving and finding ways to have fun together, too, even in the hard times."

Just as their parents came to America seeking a fresh start, the sisters followed a path to new opportunities — remarkably, leading all six to USF. Now they hope to provide opportunities for young women confronting hurdles of their own.

They have created the Rum Diversity Scholarship to provide more avenues to higher education for minority students, and are now trying to raise the \$25,000 necessary to permanently endow it. The fund will support minority women who have a financial need, have demonstrated involvement in diversity through service or educational activities, and plan to give back to their communities after graduation.

The scholarship sprang from a conversation last year between Ruba, who's working on her clinical psychology doctorate at USF, and one of her close friends. "I was telling her about an idea of starting a scholarship to give back when I graduate," Ruba explains. "And she said, 'Well, you have all these sisters who share your passion and are all in different fields, why don't you start this scholarship together?' I reached out to my sisters, and they all embraced the idea without hesitation."

Each of the sisters chose career paths of service, adds Saja.

"It was clear we were all brought up to value helping others and were impacted by the sacrifices made by our parents," she says. "This scholarship is a representation of that."

The Rum sister act includes the eldest, Etaf, who attended USF as a freshman and sophomore (2006–'08) and is now an entrepreneur and a New York Times best-selling novelist; bookkeeper Samah, '12 and MA counselor education '16; physician assistant Saja, biomedical sciences '12; USF graduate student Ruba, health sciences and psychology '14 and MS medical sciences '17, with two years to go on her PhD; board-certified behavior analyst Dania, MA applied behavior analysis '18; and first-year medical student Leya, biomedical sciences '22.

They have three brothers: pharmacist Atef, biomedical sciences, '16;



USF cybersecurity undergraduate student Saji, and high school student Mohammad.

"To qualify for the scholarship, the recipient would have experienced some sort of barrier when it comes to higher education, whether it is financial or having to work while earning their degree," says Samah. "I'm now in a financial place where I can give back. And if all of us pull together, we can make a difference and bridge the gap between underprivileged students and higher education."

Etaf has already reached literary heights. Her 2019 debut novel, "A Woman is No Man," an exploration of three generations of Palestinian women, was called "emotional



# USF Rising



The six Rum sisters, (from left) Etaf, Leya, Ruba, Dania, Samah and Saja, hope their scholarship removes barriers to higher education for other young women.

and gripping” by the New York Times and included as a Washington Post 10 Books to Read. She was proud and excited to join the scholarship initiative with her younger sisters.

“We come from a family that is very invested in female empowerment and diversity,” says Etaf. “So I was not surprised when my sister Ruba gave us a call and said, ‘Let’s start a scholarship for underprivileged women and give them a voice, highlight them, and help them on their journey.’”



A different kind of journey — the one experienced by their parents, Said (pronounced Sa-yeed) and Asma (pronounced Es-mah) — shaped the sisters’ lives and ultimately led to their philanthropic endeavor through the USF Foundation. That story dates to 1948, when both sets of their grandparents were forced from their homes in Palestine during the Arab-Israeli War and ended up in refugee camps. Said and Asma grew up in extreme poverty, living in nylon tents with limited access to sewer systems, running water, schools or infrastructure.

Palestinians lived in constant peril within the camps — non-compliance, such as trying to leave — could be deadly.



“Any movement or form of resistance was automatically a threat to their physical life, but also to their emotional and intellectual life,” Etaf says. “They had no access to any of the things we take for granted. And I think it’s important to understand how being raised with that mindset instilled in all of us the belief that education is so important — that it’s a privilege to even have access to it.”

In the late 1970s, their father immigrated with his family to the United States. Speaking no English, they settled in Brooklyn, and Said — the oldest son among 10 siblings — took whatever jobs he could to help the family get by in a new land. Said returned to Palestine for a visit, and his marriage to Asma was arranged. The young couple began a new life in America, starting over with virtually nothing.

Said and his father soon opened a corner deli in Manhattan, selling typical New York fare like bagels and sandwiches. He had a dream of going into hotel management and briefly enrolled in a community college, but abandoned that plan to pour himself into earning a living.

“They were both just trying to survive,” Etaf says. “All the financial burden fell on my father, and my mom was 18 when she came here. She got pregnant right away, and she stayed home with the kids, either pregnant or with a newborn for 20 years.”

Said provided not only for his siblings, but for his own growing family. He opened a second deli, and then went on



**Said and Asma Rum, who immigrated to the U.S. from Palestine, instilled in all their children the importance of education.**

“My dad was on his feet day and night, mom spent all her time caring for us, and neither had access to higher education,” Etaf says. “And I think that made us all realize that without an education, you are essentially powerless. Especially as girls, that instilled a fear of entering the world without the shield of an education.”

Their parents placed a premium on education for the children as well, instilling the importance of excelling in school. USF fit the bill perfectly. It was only five minutes from their house. And it allowed the siblings to stay close to home — much to their parents’ relief — while attending a top-flight, affordable institution with a diverse and global student population.

All the while, their parents continued to work long hours. Said eventually opened his own convenience store south of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, making the hour-long drive from Tampa to Parrish and back every day.

And in time, with her younger children growing up, Asma enrolled in Hillsborough Community College to pursue her own education and today works as a middle school Quran teacher at Bayan Academy in Tampa.

It is a long way from life in a refugee camp and far from the difficult years making a new life in New York City. Now, Said and Asma can watch with excitement as their children thrive in careers and in education — with their youngest planning to follow his siblings’ path to USF.

They can also feel pride in the knowledge that their six daughters are building a bridge for other young women, hoping to remove barriers to higher education.

“They’re definitely proud of us,” Ruba says. “I often reflect on the obstacles we all faced growing up. But despite those challenges, I remind myself that I had the privilege of growing up with sisters who were my role models. We all helped each other. Our experiences and genuine camaraderie fueled our collective desire to give back, even if in the smallest of ways.”

**Opposite page: The USF Federal Credit Union, led by president and CEO Rick Skaggs, holding check at left, continued its long and generous tradition of support with a \$1 million gift. Pictured to Skaggs’ right, are Michael Richards, vice president for human resources at the credit union, and Jay Stroman, USF Foundation CEO.**



**We all helped each other. Our experiences and genuine camaraderie fueled our collective desire to give back, even in the smallest of ways.**

— Ruba Rum

to run the pet supply shop for some 14 years. But life in the big city proved increasingly costly and unsustainable, especially since he sent his children to Arabic and Muslim schools to stay close to their culture, traditions and native language.

That led him to a momentous decision. A family friend was opening a convenience store in Florida and the timing seemed right for a move south. A new chapter and direction in their lives were about to begin.



The store was called Seventh Heaven, located on Busch Boulevard in Tampa. And it would become a little slice of heaven for the family that would soon number 11.

They moved into a small house nearby, where the ninth Rum child would be born. The siblings adapted well, excelling in school. And Etaf — 17 at the time of the big move — soon applied to and was accepted at the school with the omnipresent billboards near their home, USF. Education in general, and USF specifically, would light their way forward.



## CHARITABLE GIVING

### Donors set records with 2022-23 philanthropic commitments

USF RECEIVED MORE THAN \$157 MILLION in philanthropic commitments from over 37,500 donors in fiscal year 2022-23, setting records for both financial generosity and the number of supporters who chose to invest. This marks the fifth straight year that annual charitable giving benefitting the university surpassed \$100 million and the second straight record-setting year over \$150 million.

“To have a record-breaking fundraising year shows that our donors recognize the University of South Florida’s upward trajectory and the value in supporting the success of our students, faculty, staff and programs,” USF President Rhea Law says. “I express my sincere appreciation to the thousands of donors and alumni whose continued generosity makes a significant impact and helps advance the university’s strategic priorities.”

The \$157.4 million raised over the past year includes gifts from more than 11,800 new donors, also a record. The total amounts are from the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2023.

“Our students are some of the most talented, dedicated scholars in the country,” USF Foundation CEO Jay Stroman says. “We are grateful for the enduring and unprecedented support our Bulls community provides to ensure our students can access every available opportunity, our faculty can conduct leading research, and our staff can continue to build and grow. USF has incredible momentum across the institution, from business partnerships to our health enterprise to athletics, and I could not be more excited to see what new heights we can reach together bolstered by our generous donors and friends.”

USF supporters helped advance several strategic initiatives for the university, including:

- In August, Baldwin Risk Partners donated \$5 million, the largest gift in the Sarasota-Manatee campus’s history, to name the Baldwin Risk Partners School of Risk Management and Insurance.
- A \$5 million gift from Tampa Electric to USF’s College of Engineering, the largest single outright gift ever made to the college, supports the Clean Energy Research Center’s efforts to reduce carbon emissions and develop cutting-edge solutions leveraging renewable energy.
- In October, the College of Engineering and Morsani College of Medicine received a \$6 million planned gift from an anonymous alumna that supports biomedical engineering research. This joint venture aims to improve patient care by conducting innovative research, developing impactful technologies and training students for success as multidisciplinary global leaders.
- The Monterey Bay Aquarium Institute gifted an \$11.7 million twin-hulled research vessel, the Western Flyer, to the Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO) in October. The FIO is hosted on the St. Petersburg campus, where students will soon have even more opportunities to conduct research and engage in real-world experiences that will help fill the talent pipeline.
- A \$5.1 million gift from J.D Porter and family in January named the Porter Family Indoor Performance Facility on the

Tampa campus. The facility provides an indoor space for men’s and women’s athletics to practice and train.

- The USF Federal Credit Union built upon decades of support with a \$1 million gift supporting student scholarships and programs across the university, including USF Health, the Sarasota-Manatee campus and Veterans Success.
- From April 10-14, USF celebrated its beloved mascot, Rocky D. Bull, by hosting another successful Giving Week. A record 7,064 donors, including 1,152 new donors, supported 256 causes across the university. The \$6.6 million raised during Giving Week 2023 set another record.
- In June, James “Jay” Nault, ’83 and MBA ’84, Life Member, gave \$10 million to name the Nault Center for Entrepreneurship in the Muma College of Business.

Donor support also made possible the new Judy Genshaft Honors College building, which was unveiled to the public in May. In 2019, a historic lead gift of \$20 million from USF President Emerita and Professor Judy Genshaft and her husband, Steven Greenbaum, set construction of the building in motion. Other donors stepped up to name the many classrooms, learning lofts, and dedicated studio spaces for art, food, culture, music and technology throughout the building. In total, over \$46 million of the project was funded by private gifts.

“I will never be tired of saying ‘this is an exciting year for the University of South Florida,’” says USF Foundation Board of Directors Chair Anthony James, ’73, Life Member. “Every year, we do more. From the students who reach higher to our faculty who push the boundaries of intellectual discovery to our donors who give of their time, talent and treasure, we continue to do more. I am truly grateful for the generosity bestowed upon this great institution. An investment in USF is an investment in the future.”





# 'A GIANT LEAP'

USF JOINS TOP ECHELON OF RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES — THE AAU



**Dec. 1, 1956 —**

USF established.

“It [the site] was a mass of weeds, scrub oak and swamp that was attractive to alligators.

— John Allen, USF’s first president

**1965 —**

We receive full accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

**May 25, 1971 —**

St. Leo Abbey monk Richard S. “Joe” Houbrick, PhD Biology, is awarded our first doctoral degree. Houbrick, who died in 1993, went on to work as a researcher at the Smithsonian Institution.





**W**ITH SPRING COMMENCEMENT behind her and the quieter summer sessions underway, USF President Rhea Law had no reason to suspect Tuesday, May 23, would be anything but business as usual.

And then her phone rang.

On the other end of the line was Barbara R. Snyder, president of the Association of

American Universities.

“She was so happy to invite our university to join the AAU because they had been looking at us for quite a while,” Law recalls Snyder saying.

“Membership in this association, the most prestigious in higher education, is by invitation only, requiring a three-fourths majority vote by member institutions. This serves as undeniable recognition by our peers that USF is one of the nation’s top-tier universities.”

Law accepted immediately and was permitted to share the news with a few select leaders before the official announcement by AAU on June 1. Excited, she called Will Weatherford, chair of the university’s board of trustees. No answer. She texted and emailed — “CALL ME!”

Four hours later, they finally connected. Weatherford was stunned. He’d seen this day coming, yes — but sometime in the future.

“Everybody had that feeling,” Law says. “They believed this would be something we achieved further down the road, but the velocity at which our university is moving is truly extraordinary. This achievement signals that the hard work of our students, faculty and staff has made an incredible impact.”

Later, at a press conference announcing the news, Weatherford would say, “Receiving an invitation to join the Association of American Universities is one of the most significant accomplishments in University of South Florida history ... USF has taken a giant leap into the future.”

While achieving the goal was never in doubt, the unexpected timing caught many by surprise. President Emerita Judy Genshaft literally jumped out of her seat with joy, and Faculty Senate President Jenifer Jasinski Schneider, ’89 and MA ’92,

asked in disbelief, “Are you serious? Are you kidding me?”

Only one person got it right when Law said, “I’ve got great news! Guess what it is!” Vice Provost Prithish Mukherjee had been closely monitoring USF’s performance metrics. He knew.

AAU membership marks another milestone on the university’s journey of continuous improvement and pursuit of excellence.

With six new members added in 2023, AAU is now composed of 71 institutions in the U.S. and Canada. Prior to this year, only four institutions had been added in the last decade.

USF is the fifth youngest institution, one of only six members founded after 1950. The university is also the first public university in Florida to be invited in nearly 40 years, since the University of Florida joined in 1985.

When assessing potential new members, AAU considers an institution’s research activity, faculty excellence, the quality of educational programs, graduation rates and the number of lower-income students who receive Pell Grants.

For Law, achieving this milestone was a powerful reminder of the importance of setting goals and working together to achieve them.

“To have identified AAU as being a goal for the University of South Florida way back in 2007 when I had just become the chair of the board of trustees, and to now be in this position and to have achieved it, is the most fulfilling thing I can think of,” she says, her voice catching with emotion.

While USF is already among the country’s most research-intensive universities and one of the world’s most prolific generators of U.S. patents, AAU membership will provide more opportunities to respond to the world’s greatest challenges. Members earn the majority of competitively awarded federal funding for basic research — 63% or \$28.8 billion.

Membership will also enhance student and faculty recruiting, which will attract more businesses to the Tampa Bay region looking to tap into the university’s resources.

Most important, it gives USF a seat at the table in advancing higher education and laying the scientific foundation that helps keep the nation’s economy strong and its citizens healthy and safe.

Our journey has just begun.

## May 1987 —

Sponsored research grows more than 135%, to \$23.3 million, since 1978

## 1998 —

The Florida Board of Regents names us a Research I university — at the forefront of research and innovation



## 2007 —

USF Board of Trustees Chair Rhea Law, ’77 (now USF’s president) and President Judy Genshaft (now president emerita) establish a goal of membership in the Association of American Universities in our five-year strategic plan.





### September 2017 –

We lead the nation in improvements to six-year graduation rates, according to The Chronicle for Higher Education



### Aug. 28, 2009 –

The Chronicle of Higher Education names us the nation's fastest-growing university for federal research funds

### November 2009 –

A 100-person Student Success Task Force is created to accelerate our student success initiative. The Task Force's 2010 report provides the blueprint for our Student Success movement, contributing to record gains in student retention and graduation rates.

### 2011 –

We rank ninth in the world among universities for the number of patents (83) received from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in 2010.

### March 1, 2017 –

We rank No. 1 in Florida and No. 6 in the nation for eliminating the graduation gap between Black and white students



**August 2018 –**

We are awarded a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most prestigious national honor organization in the country.



**Association of American Universities**

Inquiry · Innovation · Impact

**June 2018 –**

The Florida Board of Governors recognizes us as Florida's third Preeminent State Research University based on 12 benchmarks, including student success and faculty research. The designation recognizes our achievements and provides additional funding.

**September 2019 –**

We break the top 50 in national ranking for best public universities, jumping to No. 44 in the U.S. News & World Report.

**June 1, 2023 –**

We join the AAU, the top echelon of U.S. and Canadian public and private universities.





USF's AAU invitation directly reflects our high-caliber faculty, accomplished students, and dedicated staff. USF has had a tremendous trajectory as a leader in innovation, scholarship and research, and our membership in the AAU further solidifies this. I'm excited about the future as we look to enhance our robust academic enterprise to support our faculty, provide new opportunities for students, and impact the communities we serve."

**PRASANT MOHAPATRA**

USF PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



As an AAU member, USF joins the ranks of the most prestigious universities in the country. Our Research and Innovation team looks forward to new opportunities to pursue more grants and awards, escalate research funding, increase commercialization of intellectual property, and further strengthen USF's partnerships with industry. AAU is an opportunity to forge a future of research and innovation that tackles the biggest challenges of our time and delivers the greatest impact to society. USF is ecstatic and poised to contribute with our partners."

**Sylvia Wilson Thomas**

Interim Vice President for Research & Innovation  
President & CEO of the USF Research Foundation, Inc.



Our AAU invitation is more than an important milestone, it's an inflection point for our university. The USF community, Tampa Bay region and our state will benefit in ways we once could only dream about."

**MIKE GRIFFIN, '03, LIFE MEMBER**

VICE CHAIR, USF BOARD OF TRUSTEES



AAU is recognition of the high-quality scholarship and cutting-edge research of USF faculty. It acknowledges our outstanding programs and the excellent students who choose USF for their academic pursuits. With an invitation to AAU, the University of South Florida joins other prestigious universities in the U.S. and Canada to collectively shape the future of higher education and to impact local and global communities."

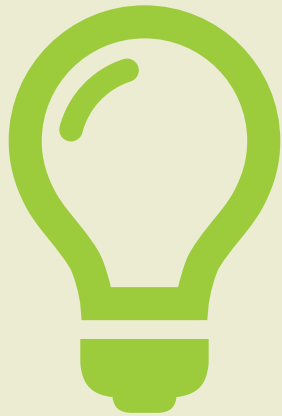
**JENIFER JASINSKI SCHNEIDER, '89 AND MA '92**

PROFESSOR, LITERACY STUDIES; USF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT





# AAU by the Numbers\*



**63%** of federal research funding goes to AAU members

**95%**

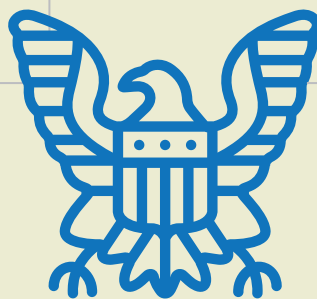
of National Academy of Inventors member institutions (founded at USF in 2010) are AAU members

## AAU UNIVERSITY FACULTY INCLUDE:

**39%** of Nobel Prize winners

**73%** of National Medal of Science awardees

**62%** of American Academy of Arts and Sciences Fellows



## AAU UNIVERSITY GRADUATES INCLUDE:

**13** U.S. presidents

**265** Members of Congress



**45** U.S. Supreme Court justices (1900-2021)

**60** Fortune 100 CEOs



\*does not include 2023 members





**WORTHY OF THEIR**





# DREAMS

New Judy Genshaft Honors  
College building provides  
next-level exploration





By TOM WOOLF and DAVE SCHEIBER

**M**ATTHEW STONER DESCRIBES the new home of the Judy Genshaft Honors College on USF's Tampa campus as "a launching pad."

For conversations and collaborations.  
For new ways to learn and grow.  
For inspiration.

"What students are able to do in the building will be limited only by their imaginations," says Stoner, a senior honors student and National Merit Scholar who is pursuing dual degrees in computer science and world languages and cultures.

Imagination. Dreams. Growth. They're among the words frequently used to describe what the new building will mean for the college's 2,500 students.

"This building is versatile and unique," USF President Rhea Law says. "Every space within its five floors was designed with intentionality to foster creativity, collaboration and growth."

As Charles Adams, the Judy Genshaft Endowed Dean of the college, notes, "Our students will be leaders in every walk of life, but the thing that binds them together in my mind is that they care about making the world a better place. Here they have, at last, an academic home worthy of their dreams."

Primarily funded through philanthropic support, the building received a bulk of its financing through a histor-

ic gift of \$20 million from USF President Emerita and Professor Judy Genshaft and her husband, Steven Greenbaum. The university celebrated its grand opening in May.

"There are three ingredients for success in a top-notch program – excellent students, excellent faculty and an excellent environment," says Genshaft, who served as USF's sixth president from 2000 to 2019. "This building, this environment, enhances learning. Our students will want to be here, to gather, to exchange thoughts and ideas, and learn from the amazing honors faculty we have.

"It doesn't matter whether you're a dance major, an engineering major or a bioscience major — this building brings everyone together to learn and grow and chart their courses in so many different and exciting ways."

The sheer size of the new facility — five stories, 85,000 square feet — is a dramatic change from the 10,000 square feet the college has occupied since 2011 on the second floor of the John and Grace Allen Building. The original administration building on the Tampa campus, it opened in 1960, the same year classes began.

The new building is feature-rich: a stunning atrium, 39 signature learning lofts, dedicated studio spaces for art, food and culture, music and technology, event space, and more.

There are classrooms, of course, including two affectionately referred to as "sandboxes." Each of those large spaces can accommodate two classes and can be reconfigured to suit various needs.

**Above: USF President Emerita Judy Genshaft, with husband Steven Greenbaum and USF President Rhea Law, shares her Bull pride during the May grand opening celebration.**





LAURA LYON | USF News

“We were asked to dream about our ideal classroom space, and from the beginning, we called it a sandbox because in a sandbox, people bring their toys, their ideas and their willingness to get their hands dirty, and see what they can make together,” says Lindy Davidson, PhD '16, the college’s associate dean for curriculum and instruction. “It’s through that type of play that we make new discoveries, find solutions to big problems, and grow our ability to think critically.”

Students’ input also figured prominently in planning the building.

“When the prospect of this building became a reality, we organized numerous workshops in which our students were asked to reflect on the honors experience — what it means, why it’s important, and what it should be,” Adams says.

Students also contributed ideas through a course developed by Atsuko Sakai, associate professor of instruction. The capstone course, called Exploring Behind the Veil: The New Honors Building, was offered over four semesters, with a different focus each semester, depending on the stage of construction. Students toured the building, documenting the process, and met with key figures involved in the design and construction.

Jasmine Robbins, '23, took the course during the fall 2021 semester.

“We had meetings where we were asked about different

pieces of furniture — ‘Do you like them, do you think people will use them?’ and we actually had a say about what was going into the building,” says Robbins, who earned her bachelor’s degree in biomedical sciences. “That really meant a lot to me.”

So did the opportunity to learn more about architecture and construction. She has started dental school at Nova Southeastern University.

“I have a big interest in how office construction is done for dentists,” she says. “The office environment plays a big role in how your employees and patients feel. When we learned about the honors building and how all the windows would bring in more sunlight and the different colors would help people feel calmer, I learned a lot about what I want to do with my own office in the future.”

Though she won’t get to take advantage of the new building, Robbins is excited about everything it offers to current and future honors students.

“I’m happy that our ideas were actually taken into consideration.”

Kobe Phillips, a senior honors student majoring in ecology and evolutionary biology, looks forward to the collaborations the new building will inspire with his peers and faculty members.

“At the Allen building, we would run into issues where students would want to continue conversations outside the classroom with their professors and their peers, and

**Left: Students relax in one of 39 learning lofts, which offer places for classroom conversations to continue uninterrupted.**

**Top right: Charles Adams is the college’s Judy Genshaft Endowed Dean.**

**Bottom right: Buddy of Buddy Brew Coffee greets visitors during the grand opening event. The first-floor coffee shop will be an inviting place for all students to mix and mingle.**



we didn't have a space to let ideas thrive," he says. "With the new building, the learning lofts are right outside the classrooms, so you can step into them and continue the conversations. There are so many innovation spaces for students to be leaders, to create new ideas."

All of this, of course, flows from the passionate commitment of Genshaft and Greenbaum.

"We knew it was the perfect pursuit to undertake — one that cut across all three of USF's campuses, and

dents would end up staying in their rooms by themselves too much of the time. They don't typically get out and mix with the rest of the world, which is what they'll have to do later."

Instead, students can unwind in the Buddy Brew Coffee shop on the first floor or the terrace outside. Genshaft stresses that students from around campus are welcome to stop by for a coffee break, too. It's one more way of ensuring honors and non-honors college students mix and mingle, as they do in class and in residence halls.

Creating an atmosphere in which all students feel welcome is an important feature of the new building, according to Frederick Lawrence, secretary/CEO of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most prestigious honor society. He participated in the 2019 installation of USF's Phi Beta Kappa chapter and attended the honors building's grand opening celebration.

"When you admit certain students to an honors college, you are by definition not admitting others," he says. "At the same time, you do want an honors college to enhance the full campus community. The fact that it's not located at the edge of campus but is in the heart of campus, the fact that there's a great coffee shop on the first floor, means that it's a welcoming place for everyone."

"It's not a case of, 'We put up a big fence and you must show your honors college ID or you can't come in.' I think this threads the needle very, very effectively."

Just as USF's honors college is opening a new chapter, so too will the Hicks Honors College at the University of North Florida. Jeff Chamberlain, now in his seventh year as dean, says they will open a living learning community for 500 of their students in 2025.

He made the trip from Jacksonville to Tampa for the Judy Genshaft Honors College celebration.

"Participating in the grand opening was better than just coming and getting a tour because you get to see the whole university celebrate," he says. "I was really impressed not only by all of the people who attended but by everybody who in some way or another contributed to the building."

He hopes to return when USF's facility "is a beehive of activity" to see how students and faculty are using the learning lofts and the various studio spaces.

"The wide variety of things you can do in the building is absolutely phenomenal," he says. "Everyone in the honors college will discover ways of teaching and learning that they previously could not have imagined."

It also helps demonstrate USF's support for honors education, just as he intends for UNF's honors living learning residence hall.

"Now that I've seen the building, I can say, 'Look at what they're doing at USF, they take honors seriously,' " he says. "Having really quality facilities does make a visible difference. It does show the support of honors, and I'm so glad I came."



**It doesn't matter whether you're a dance major, an engineering major or a bioscience major — this building brings everyone together to learn and grow and chart their courses in so many different and exciting ways."**

**- USF President Emerita Judy Genshaft**

entwined every undergraduate major, from business to dance, and engineering to music," Greenbaum says. "We wanted to give our honors students an energizing, welcoming, collaborative space. And we knew the honors college needed an upgrade from occupying the oldest building on campus to something new and unique."

No details were overlooked. Genshaft, Greenbaum and Adams traveled to exhibitions to select the furniture and fixtures, and were consulted at every phase on design and construction decisions.

"Steve and Judy did a great job in making decisions and giving direction on what their vision was for this project," says Chris Claytor, who oversaw construction as project executive for The Beck Group. "They were always saying, 'Give us options.'"

The end result: A building unlike any construction professionals have ever undertaken (see sidebar). "We've been told by our amazing architects and builders that nobody has ever worked on such a challenging project as this," Genshaft says. "There are unique elements all throughout this building — from curved glass to the flared panels over the outdoor grand staircase, to all of the special enrichment and learning spaces that will enhance education."

During their research of other honors buildings around the country, Genshaft and Adams were repeatedly cautioned about one thing.

"The building is all about promoting gathering students together. We were warned 'Do not have your resident halls attached,'" Genshaft says. "The problem is that the stu-



## Teaching kitchen designed with love, fond memories

**W**ELCOME TO THE LEONA GENSHAFT Food and Culture Studio, named for USF President Emerita Judy Genshaft's beloved late mom. In a building that abounds with highlights, this cutting-edge teaching kitchen connects directly to the heart of the woman whose name graces the building and college.

The spacious room on the fifth floor stands out for many reasons: the custom "Bulls green" refrigerator; the state-of-the-art, industrial-grade stoves; the overhead video screens for instruction; and the legacy of the special person it celebrates.

"My mother was the youngest of seven children, and she grew up learning and loving to cook," Genshaft recalls. "She prepared food for the entire family. It was a big undertaking but she had a passion for it."

Genshaft vividly remembers the loaves upon loaves of pre-baked bread Leona would leave out overnight in the family kitchen in Ohio, allowing the yeast to rise by morning. Then came the important next step.

"My brother Neil and I would wake up and see a towel covering them, with a note from her on each that said, 'Punch Me.' We'd get right to work punching and kneading the bread so it would come out of the oven just right," Genshaft says.

"My mother died in 2010 at almost 93, but her spirit is very much a part of the room. It's not just about the individual recipes, but all the things you remember as a child visiting the home of your mother or grandmother — the blending of cultures, the aromas, the music and the history."

This isn't a residence hall dining room, she notes. Rather, it combines the arts and sciences, and the cooks will include Michelin star chefs from around the world, doctors and health experts. They'll teach students how food is made and its medicinal and healing qualities.

"They'll also teach about the vital importance of nutrition in maintaining a healthy lifestyle and optimizing athletic perfor-



The Leona Genshaft Food and Culture Studio is named for USF President Emerita Judy Genshaft's mother.

mance for the demands of different sports," Genshaft says.

The room is the work of Ken Schwartz and David Hensel from global firm SSA Foodservice Design + Consulting. They designed kitchens for USF benefactor and famed restaurateur Richard Gonzmart's Columbia Restaurant locations in Ybor City and Celebration, Florida; Ulele and Casa Santo Stefano, along with other restaurants around the U.S., Europe and the Caribbean.

"We knew from talking with Judy and her husband Steve (Greenbaum) that this was to be a place where people can meet, share their ethnicity, diversity and family history in food," Schwartz says.

SSA designed a space that will allow students to cook for four to 12 people, or host a reception for 20 to 50. A Steinway piano can even be rolled in for special occasions.

It is one of many distinctive spaces in the building, including a music studio that gives the college's orchestra and choir a place to practice and perform, an audio/visual studio for podcasts, a technology center for 3D printing and an art and design studio. But the food and culture studio is a world unto itself.

"Food is what you remember for the rest of your life," Genshaft says. "It triggers associations with grandparents, great-grandparents. Food is memories."

Her mother, Leona, entwined in that history herself, would no doubt approve.

— Dave Scheiber

"My mother died in 2010 at almost 93, but her spirit is very much a part of the room," Genshaft says.



AMBIKA AGRAWAL, ambikaphotography.com

Visitors marvel at the state-of-the-art features in the food and culture studio.





## Unique features of a one-of-a-kind building

**T**HE NEW JUDY GENSHAFT Honors College building abounds with signature elements that set it apart on the national academic landscape.

“This building represents the redefinition of what’s achievable,” says Chris Claytor, project executive for The Beck Group, the project’s general contractor, and the man charged with overseeing construction from start to finish. “Not that we are explorers by any stretch of the imagination, but we really made strides in redefining what the design and construction industry can accomplish if you collaborate from the start.”

There is no shortage of unique aspects to the building. Here are Claytor’s Top 5:

**Deep roots:** The building has foundations that extend a whopping 135 feet into the ground — unusual for a five-story building, but making it as sturdy as possible against the Florida elements.

**A tree-mendous fit:** The building’s design embraced the many tall trees around its perimeter. “We maintained these 100-year-old trees while still creating this amazing structure in and around it,” Claytor says. Because of the trees located on the north side of the building, his team had to utilize a crane big enough to reach from the back of the building, over the top of the structure, and to the tree-heavy north side. Fun fact: The size of the crane triggered the need for Federal Aviation Administration approval.

**Acoustic excellence:** Special acoustical treatments throughout the building ensure that hundreds of simultaneous conversations, clicking heels and closing doors don’t result in a stressful cacophony. Many panels include miniature holes called “micro-perforations” that help absorb sound. There are acoustical fabric panels in the corridors, atrium and office spaces, and a treatment above the see-through, wire mesh ceilings. “That way when people are walking through the corridors and speak, the sound travels up and dies in the ceiling rather than reverberating back down,” Claytor says.



**Some assembly required:** The wooden beams that form the distinctive lattice system holding the 39 learning lofts required intensive planning, engineering and reassembly on site. “It took two years of coordination to accommodate one year of construction,” Claytor says. “The lattice system itself had to be fabricated and built on the ground in Texas to form fit, then taken apart, packaged and shipped and assembled back in place.” The lofts themselves also included pre-fabricated components that had to be shipped and fitted to the interior superstructure.

**Maximum panel precision:** To hang the more than 125 different types of exterior panels — a mind-boggling number in itself due to the curved building design — hundreds of small clips called “embeds” had to be inserted in the structure’s façade. The coordination of the façade began in fall 2019, identifying all of the attachment points for the panels. In all, some 660 embeds had to be placed into the superstructure before any panel could be hung. And placement required extreme precision — plus or minus an inch in any direction and they wouldn’t align with the prefabricated paneling assembled in Minnesota.

This required four separate levels of quality control. 1) use of a benchmark and tape measure to pinpoint the locations. 2) employing traditional survey equipment for each location. 3) laser-scanning the locations and creating a computerized 3-D model, then overlaying that on the projected embed points to identify any points that were beyond an inch in tolerance; 4) flying a drone to take high-resolution imagery of the surfaces before concrete was poured, and overlaying that on the model as a final precaution.

“All of them fit together in a very unique position and unique order,” Claytor says. “Of all the 660 embeds, we weren’t out of tolerance for a single one.”

— Dave Scheiber





## Going for the gold

For students pursuing prestigious scholarships, help is right around the corner

**S**HAHRIAR ZAMANI, '18, DIDN'T HESITATE when he heard the question: "What do you want to do that will change the world?"

After watching a relative battle esophageal cancer during his childhood, Zamani says, he planned to focus on the prevention and detection of cancers.

"I recall the hushed tones, the worried expressions and the efforts of family members to remain strong in the face of a difficult reality," he says, remembering his experience. "Perhaps my relative would have survived longer or even been cured if the cancer was detected earlier."

Zamani was answering a question posed by Sayandeb Basu, director of the Office of National Scholars, part of USF's Judy Genshaft Honors College. The mock interview is just one of the ways the office helps students pursuing major national scholarships.

Zamani, who earned his bachelor's degree in public health, was only the second USF student to win a Gates Cambridge Scholarship, one of the most prestigious international awards. He was one of 34 U.S. students to earn the honor in 2019.

He went on to study esophageal cancer at the University of Cambridge and in May, earned a doctorate in oncology with a focus on cancer epidemiology. He is now a postdoctoral researcher in the Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland.

"I plan to continue my work in cancer epidemiology by focusing on prevention and early detection of other cancers, such as liver cancer," he says. "I envision a career where I can develop a public health-oriented research portfolio and implement the research output."

About 200 students a year navigate the highly competitive national scholarship application process. They get help from Basu, Associate Director Lauren Chambers and Assistant Director Lauren Roberts. Their work includes many one-on-one sessions, workshops and group meetings. The applications are extensive, the deadlines for submission strict.

Basu calls his office "a hub for scholar development."

"We ask students to articulate their ambitions and plans, and we try to create a road map so they can reach those goals," he says. "Students meet with us regularly. They may be reporting back on their activities and asking for advice on what to do next. I refer to it as very high-touch mentoring."

The demanding process begins early in a student's USF career.

"Scholar comes before scholarships," says Basu. "To become a national scholarship recipient, a student needs to plan the next four years in college in terms of research, leadership, experiential activities and community engagement."

The number of USF students receiving top scholarships has risen steadily over the years, including the Barry M. Goldwater

Scholarship (focused on research), the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship (study abroad) and the Fulbright U.S. Student Program award (international education). The past two years has seen a record number of finalists, including those for the Marshall Scholarship and the Rhodes Scholarship, two of the most prestigious and well-known awards in the world.

Last year, 98 USF students received national scholarships and fellowships.

Zamani knows the commitment a student must make to pursue these plum prizes. Before he earned the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, he was a 2018 finalist for the Marshall Scholarship.

"It is a rigorous process that requires extensive preparation, but students are well-supported by the Office of National Schol-



Sayandeb Basu



Shahriar Zamani

ars," he says. "In my case, the process involved weekly meetings with advisors and mentors for feedback on applications, mock interviews and general guidance on crafting my narrative. These meetings also covered a wide range of topics related to my major, my proposed course of study, career aspirations and short- and long-term plans."

Zamani believes it's an opportunity for students to engage in deep learning about themselves and their field of study. The support he received helped him strengthen his writing, vision and professional identity — and it didn't end when he claimed the prize.

"I still rely on them to this day," he says, of the Office of National Scholars. "I have met many friends, mentors and collaborators along the way."

- TOM WOOLF | USF News



# My life

'Dr Deep Sea' shares revelations from his world record-breaking 100 days living below the waves

# UNDERWATER

Editor's Note: On March 1, USF Associate Professor Joseph Dituri moved into a 100-square-foot underwater habitat at Jules' Undersea Lodge in Key Largo for Project Neptune 100. His goals: to learn more about the physical effects of living in an isolated, confined, extreme environment for an extended period of time and how long-term physical isolation affects the mind. Dituri, who virtually taught his biomedical engineering classes while making global headlines, says the data he gathered can be useful for everything from space travel to treating traumatic brain injuries. On June 9, he resurfaced after living 22 feet below the surface for 100 days. He'd already scored a Guinness World Record after day 73.

By JOSEPH DITURI, PhD '18

**W**HAT DID I MISS MOST during my 100 days living underwater? My first answer was spontaneous and it hasn't changed. Yes, I missed the people I love but outside of that, I missed the sun. I missed the brightness of a beautiful day. The way the sun feels when it hits the human body. I missed the way it highlights a day and gives color to the sky at sunrise and sunset, and it is most definitely not something I take for granted. There were other things I missed, too, but looking back, those 100 days were also full of unmitigated thoughts, science, meetings, teaching and discovery.

From simple wonder — I witnessed a lobster molting, shedding its exoskeleton so that it can grow bigger. I saw my first ever seahorse, and I watched all kinds of fish and underwater life pass by my porthole.

Being under the water is another step in the process of figuring out why things are and how we can use this information to take us to the next steps of the possibilities. I learned more about what actually happens to our physical body when we are in isolated, confined, extreme environments for longer periods of time. The pressure in Jules' Undersea Lodge is 25 pounds per square inch, compared with 14.7 pounds per square inch above water.

I worked with dozens of scientists who are experts in various aspects of the ocean and undersea life, and while there is some exciting news from our findings so far, our final report will not be ready to share until early fall. One point that I can divulge is related to sleep.

Pre-mission, about 30% of my sleep each night was deep sleep and REM (rapid eye movement) sleep. That's consid-

ered a healthy amount. Those numbers skyrocketed during my stay underwater — to 60% REM and deep sleep. Within a month of resurfacing, I'm back to getting about 30%. Considering that 50-70 million Americans report issues with sleep, this finding could be significant in treating and learning more about this essential biobehavioral process.

Did you know that 35% of the U.S. population gets less than the recommended seven hours of sleep each night? Additionally, up to 70 million adults in the U.S. have a sleeping disorder, and in turn, the U.S. economy loses \$411 billion annually due to sleep deprivation.

So imagine all the implications of what we learned about sleep in a pressurized chamber! Businesses lose time in the workplace due to employee sleep issues. Parents are tormented by sleep-deprived toddlers and teens. Marriages, school grades, decision-making and so much more suffer with lack of sleep. This small finding could add up to something huge with more study.

That is what discovery is all about: Connecting the pieces of complex puzzles that lead to greater understanding. It is an especially sweet thing when the masses benefit, too.

It feels as if I had barely hit the surface when the media interviews started and the data compilation began. Both continue to fill a good deal of my time. I am looking forward to speaking in November at the World Extreme Medical Conference in Scotland, where I will share detailed findings from the Neptune 100 mission. From there, well, there are plans for more speaking and of course, in whatever direction it takes me, more discovery as well.







**Above:** Dituri basks in the feel of sun and breeze on his face for the first time in 100 days as he resurfaces on June 9.

**Left:** Dr. Deep Sea gets a medical evaluation after emerging from 100 days living underwater.

**Opposite page:** While talking to a sixth-grade science class in Colorado on day 15, Dituri gets a surprise visit from mission director Thane Milhoan. In addition to research and teaching during his time underwater, Dituri spoke with young students in land-locked states to get them excited about marine science.



# ‘SUCCESS keeps me calm’

## 56 questions with Dr. Charles Lockwood

By JOHN TIPTON | USF Advancement

**H**E MAY BE EXECUTIVE vice president of USF Health and dean of the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine, but in another life Dr. Charles “Charly” Lockwood might have been a history professor.

We ran some tests, asking him 56 questions — a nod to USF’s founding year, 1956 — and came away with some surprising results. (He’s watched “The Godfather” hundreds of times!)

Here’s an edited excerpt, but we prescribe watching the full video by scanning the QR code or going to [usf.to/56QLockwood](https://usf.to/56QLockwood).

**Q: First thing that comes to mind: Your go-to candy?**

**Lockwood:** M&M’s

**Q: Artificial intelligence. Do you think it improves our lives or erodes it?**

**Lockwood:** I think it has great potential, particularly in medicine, but great danger.

**Q: Medical TV shows: “Marcus Welby, M.D.” or “M\*A\*S\*H”?**

**Lockwood:** Oh, definitely Marcus Welby.

**Q: All-time favorite movie?**

**Lockwood:** “The Godfather.”

**Q: Cats or dogs?**

**Lockwood:** Dogs, although my wife has been fostering kittens of late, and kittens are making a comeback. But dogs.

**Q: Tough one: Tom Brady as a Patriot, or Tom Brady as a Buccaneer?**

**Lockwood:** That’s a politically charged one! I grew up in Massachusetts about 10 miles from the stadium, so I’ve got to be loyal to my birthplace and say Tom Brady as a Patriot.

**Q: When the Red Sox come to town, are you wearing Rays gear or Red Sox gear?**

**Lockwood:** That’s a hard one, too. I’m definitely rooting for the Rays against everybody else.

**Q: You enjoy sailing, so catamaran or a single hull?**

**Lockwood:** If it’s a race, single hull. If it’s a family vacation, a cat.

**Q: Do you think it’s more important to manage your time, your energy or your focus?**

**Lockwood:** (Laughs) All three, but focus is pretty important.

**Q: What’s something you’ve seen or read recently that you found motivating?**

**Lockwood:** I’ve read a series of books recently that really changed my thinking about education, higher ed and even parenting: “The Coddling of the American Mind” (by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt), “The Obstacle is the Way” (by Ryan Holiday) and “Antifragile” (by Nassim Nicholas Taleb).

**Q: You juggle so many things. What keeps you calm?**

**Lockwood:** (Laughs) Success keeps me calm. When I see we’re making progress, at least for me, that is reassuring and generally keeps me calm.

**Q: You spoke of success. What are you most proud of?**

**Lockwood:** This fantastic building (USF Health Downtown). That’s a big one. The performance of our students. We get the best students in the country, and they perform incredibly well. We’ve grown our research enterprise incredibly quickly. And our partnership with Tampa General Hospital and the growth of the clinical programs. Many of them are considered top programs nationally. I’m proud of all that.

**Q: Now that USF is in the AAU (Association of American Universities), what’s USF’s next big goal?**

**Lockwood:** Stay in the AAU. To do that, we’ve got to continue to perform at the level we have been in research and continue to grow that research enterprise.

**Q: Let’s get medical. What’s the disease you hope gets cured next?**

**Lockwood:** Alzheimer’s.





Watch the full  
56 questions

**Q: What's one change that could have the biggest impact on the high cost of health care?**

**Lockwood:** I think AI (artificial intelligence) may help. It can reduce all the non-value-added work that providers do and reduce medical errors and improve diagnosis.

**Q: The Morsani College of Medicine has leaped in the national rankings. What did you change to help make that happen?**

**Lockwood:** I didn't change anything. I led a great team of people who made a lot of changes and they really worked on all three mission areas: improving our educational programs, enhancing our research productivity and building world-class clinical programs — and doing it in a remarkably short period of time.

**Q: How are today's medical students different than those 40 years ago?**

**Lockwood:** When I graduated medical school in 1981, medical knowledge doubled about every 20 years. It now doubles about every month. Being able to adapt education to that new paradigm is one of the great challenges of medical educators today.

**Q: You've delivered more than 5,000 babies. Is there one delivery that's most memorable?**

**Lockwood:** I definitely had my favorites. I love getting pictures of these adults now. It's a wonderful, wonderful thing to get feedback from patients about how their children are doing.

**Q: Where were you when the Red Sox broke the curse?**

**Lockwood:** I was actually giving grand rounds in Chicago. That night I was by myself in a hotel room, and I cheered so loud I strained my throat. I had to whisper to give grand rounds. I don't think anybody could actually hear my talk.

**Q: If you weren't practicing medicine, what would you be doing?**

**Lockwood:** Maybe teaching history.

**Q: Does pineapple belong on pizza?**

**Lockwood:** Absolutely not. That is a hideous concept, which actually offends me.



**Q: What class should every medical student ace?**

**Lockwood:** Well, they've got to ace them all if they want to do well here (laughs). There's no one that's absolutely critical, but during your third year it's really a good idea to ace internal medicine no matter what field you go into.

**Q: Lastly, why do doctors wear white coats?**

**Lockwood:** (Laughs) It's kind of lost in the mists of time, but it's something we've been doing for about 200 years.



# His eye's on the SKIES

## Mike's Weather Page has become a go-to resource for millions of fans

By MELISSA WOLFE, '13, Life Member

IT'S SEPT. 28, 2022, and Mike Boylan, '96, has purposely placed himself in one of the most dangerous places in the world — directly in the path of Hurricane Ian.

Armed with a satellite phone, weather radar, a cooler stocked with Mountain Dew and his favorite Redneck Storm Chaser T-shirt, Boylan is riding it out in Placida, Florida, 12 miles from where the monstrous storm is making landfall.

Wind lashes his white pickup truck as Boylan and his friend and business advisor, Phil Gergen, sit inside, broadcasting their experience to fans around the world.

His ears pop as the first band of the northern eye wall rolls in. Wind howls, bowling over trees and raining debris down on the vehicle.

"I've never seen nothing like this," Boylan confesses to CNN national TV news anchor Erin Burnett from his refuge under a storm-ravaged gas station. "It's been hours of intense wind and rain. Everywhere we go we see flooding, storm surge, power lines and trees down. It's unbelievable."

Smashing into the coast as a Category 4 hurricane (on a 1-5 scale) with winds of 150 mph, Ian was one of the deadliest storms to hit the United States this century. In Florida alone, it killed 150 people and left \$109 billion in property damage in its wake.

.....

A self-taught meteorologist, or "social-media-ologist" as he jokes, Boylan is a storm-chasing sensation with nearly 2 million followers on social media.

Touted by The Weather Channel's luminary Jim Cantore as a "one-stop shop for weather," Mike's Weather Page (spaghettimodels.com) aggregates all the major models, forecasts and real-time satellite images into an easy-to-read website that traces its roots all the way back to USF.

Born in Bradenton, Boylan moved to Pinellas County in 1985. He earned a marketing degree from the Muma College of Business in 1996.

"USF taught me about ethics, how to problem solve, juggle projects and stay on top of everything," he says. "I came in not really understanding much about marketing or business and left feeling ready to take on the world."

After graduating, Boylan bought the hobby shop he had worked at



JOHN TIPTON | Advancement







“

**USF taught me about ethics, how to problem solve, juggle projects and stay on top of everything. I came in not really understanding much about marketing or business and left feeling ready to take on the world.”**

– Mike Boylan

throughout college and put his degree to work building the business.

Seeking a career change, he returned to USF in 2004 to complete a website design program. A lifelong weather enthusiast, he created his first website — Mike’s Weather Page — as a fun way to test and hone his new skills. Through word-of-mouth, the page steadily gained popularity. In 2009, Boylan expanded to Facebook, where he found the perfect niche for his layman’s approach to reporting weather.

While his website is laser-focused on the latest spaghetti models, his social media pages blend weather reporting with intimate insights into his personal life. Boylan’s authenticity shines through as he converses with his online “weather family,” candidly sharing his love for NASCAR, family life with his wife and two daughters, and the challenges of raising a child with Down syndrome.

Every morning at 9:19 a.m., Boylan hosts a live weather show, the “Daily Brew,” on YouTube from his living room. His two French Bulldogs, and their epic snores, make frequent guest appearances. The youngest dog, named Hunter by fans, has gained his own following, starring on Clearwater’s Big Storm Brewery’s tropical IPA label Hurricane Hunter.

“Mike isn’t like other weather folks,” says Dale Kindberg, a long-time follower and fellow storm chaser. “He’s a laid-back, down-home guy who just tells it like it is. He really cares about his listeners and always takes the time to chat and answer questions.”

Boylan is not just an amateur with great communications skills. Mike’s Weather Page has been endorsed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its Hurricane Hunters, National Weather Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and his own hometown’s Pinellas County Emergency Management Department.

In 2021, Boylan became the first civilian to win the Tropical Meteorology Award at the Governor’s Hurricane Conference, an honor bestowed by industry professionals. This February, he partnered with the Florida Division of Emergency Management to debut Mike’s Weather Page Hurricane Awareness Machine racecar in the NASCAR Xfinity Series. And in June, Boylan was honored with the Upper Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year award for his impact on Tampa Bay.

“Mike is the epitome of the American dream,” says Denis Phillips, chief meteorologist for Tampa’s ABC Action News, where he’s worked since 1994. “He had no formal education in meteorology but had such an extreme passion for weather that he took his hobby and just worked and worked and worked and turned it into just a huge success.”

“I talk to my kids about Mike to show them it isn’t always about education. It’s about your passion, your drive and your love for something.”



MIKE BOYLAN



JOHN TIPTON | USF Advancement





Storm chasing is not just about the adrenaline rush for Boylan. It's about the opportunity to help those who've lost everything by telling their stories and raising awareness of the destructive power of hurricanes, especially in the South.

Two weeks after Hurricane Ian, Boylan and Gergen returned to Southwest Florida to survey the damage, meet with survivors and hand out generators.

"This was worse than I could ever have imagined," Boylan said to his followers as he drove by rows of houses reduced to rubble on Pine Island. "The devastation is beyond words."

While quick to clarify that he is not a professional meteorologist — advising listeners to follow government advisories regarding evacuations — Boylan does use his firsthand experiences to warn listeners why they might want to "get out of Dodge." For Ian, he voiced his

concerns about widespread flooding and storm surge well ahead of its landfall.

"Some people from Fort Myers listened to me in the lead-up to Ian and got out," he says. "Having people run up and hug you and say, 'You saved my dad. If it wasn't for you, he wouldn't have evacuated,' makes it all worth it."

What's next on the horizon? He's set his eyes on the skies, ready to elevate his storm chasing by 10,000 feet. He's eagerly awaiting an invitation to board a storm-chasing plane and take his pursuit to a whole new level.

He's also working toward a more grounded venture with a five-year plan to open a Daily Brew coffee shop. Decorated with his weather memorabilia, the java joint will serve as Boylan's personal "one-stop shop," where his weather family can interact beyond a screen, his daughter can work, and Boylan can livestream his shows.

As he looks to the future, it's clear that for Mike Boylan, the forecast is always — eventually — rainbows. Go to [usf.to/Boylan](https://usf.to/Boylan) for more.

**Above: Boylan literally drove into the eye of the storm to cover Hurricane Ian for his nearly 2 million followers.**

**Left: Hurricane Hunter, a tropical IPA produced by Clearwater's Big Storm Brewery, was named for one of Boylan's French Bulldogs.**



# OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI MEET THE 2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS



**Kristen Corpion**, Anthropology and Political Science '10, is an award-winning lawyer and the founder and chief legal officer of CORPlaw in Miami, recently recognized as one of the Top 10 Fastest Growing Law Firms in the Country by Law Firm 500.

**Q.** On your website, you say you want to “raise an army of modern lawyers.” What is a modern lawyer?

**A.** There is a lot of unhappiness among lawyers, and I know it’s a profession people love to hate, but some of us are in it for the right reasons. I did some soul-searching and thought, “I’m going to try to build a law firm that is a bit more rebellious and the type of place where someone like me could be happy.”

**Q.** What’s one piece of advice for a college freshman?

**A.** Redefine “richness.” As I’ve grown, I have redefined what it means to be rich, to be happy, to be successful. There’s not one right way. Redefine richness in a way that you are going to enjoy. Don’t just tie it to money. The cool thing is that once you find that happiness, the money tends to follow.



**Candace Braun Davison**, Mass Communications '10, is executive editor of PureWow, one of the nation’s most popular lifestyle websites with 26.3 million visits from November 2022 through January 2023.

**Q.** When you started your career, digital media was just emerging. What led you to multimedia journalism?

**A.** I was always interested in journalism. When I was at USF, we had one multimedia journalism class, and I just devoured it. A big thing has been following my curiosity and saying yes to opportunities as they present themselves. So, when Facebook videos started getting big, I dove right in. I just continually try to learn more.

**Q.** One piece of advice for a college freshman?

**A.** Your resumé isn’t just a sheet of paper. The through line you see with USF students is their scrappiness. When we hit a roadblock, we don’t say “no,” we say, “find another way.”



**Chris Fils**, Finance '08, is one of the youngest and most successful complex managers for Raymond James Financial, where he leads the Chicago metro market.

**Q.** What is a major discouragement or defeat you overcame to become the person you are today?

**A.** When I started college, I shared my dream of becoming a financial advisor with someone I trusted and he said, “You may not be sophisticated enough.” That was a big disappointment. So I surrounded myself with mentors and they showed me, “Here’s how you wear a suit,” “Here’s how you speak,” “Here’s how you eat at a business meeting.” That disappointment became a blessing. It’s all in how you view it.

**Q.** What’s your favorite USF memory?

**A.** In 2006, I was in business law class and I saw this pretty young lady. One of my friends was like, “You should say hi to her.” So I went up and said, “Hey, do you mind if I sit next to you?” That lady became my wife, DeMaley. We’ve been together for over 13 years.

**Nominations for 2024  
Outstanding Young Alumni  
Awards open in the fall.  
Visit [usf.to/2024OYAA](https://usf.to/2024OYAA)  
for information**



USF takes great pride in honoring exceptional graduates who have achieved remarkable success early in their careers. The 2023 Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipients, all aged 35 or younger, are a testament both to the university's commitment to fostering innovation and excellence and to the awardees' own tenacity and resilience.

This year's Outstanding Young Alumni have contributed to their respective fields in remarkable ways, shaping our

world as they emerge as leaders in their disciplines. Their accomplishments — and their stories — inspire and inform anyone blazing a trail toward a personal dream.

The USF Alumni Association celebrated these six remarkable Bulls in April with a public reception, awards ceremony and panel discussion facilitated by Eric Eisenberg, senior vice president of university-community partnerships.



**Catlin Skufca**, History '11, Life Member, is the Ohio state director of Best Buddies International, the world's largest nonprofit organization focused on building communities of inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Q.** Your degree is in history? What made you choose history?

**A.** I had an amazing high school history teacher who taught me the value of looking at a piece of work objectively and seeing that it was just one person's point of view. It just fascinated me. Not knowing what I really wanted to do when I came to USF, I selected history because I thought I could really dive into this and get great reading and writing skills that could lead to a career one day.

**Q.** What path took you to Best Buddies International?

**A.** After I was introduced to this organization, I went to their leadership conference and a young woman named Katie who has Down syndrome got up on the stage. She said, "Last year, Best Buddies helped get me a job, and now I pay taxes." That's all she wanted to do. She wanted to contribute. And I thought, "Man, I can help her. I can help people like Katie."



**Kayvon Webster**, Health Sciences '13, co-founded multiple successful restaurants, including Smith & Webster Restaurant and Bar, following a six-year career in the National Football League.

**Q.** What was it like to play in the NFL?

**A.** It was great. It was everything you hope something will be that you've dreamed about since you were a kid. You get to meet your favorite players, the professionals you see on TV. You're building a brotherhood with guys you've grown up seeing at other colleges. It's a great experience.

**Q.** Favorite USF memory?

**A.** Today [awards ceremony] is one of my favorite memories. In 2009, Sam Barrington and B.J. Daniels, they're here tonight, they were my USF teammates. ... Before we committed to come here, Sam and I visited a few colleges together. We came here and we said, "We're going to go to USF! We're going to do some major things!" We didn't know what those major things would be, but we knew if we put in the work, didn't give up, we would reap a great harvest. And we're here today.

*[Businessman and 2021 USF Outstanding Young Alumnus Sam Barrington, '12, and USF assistant director of development B.J. Daniels, '12, are also former NFL players.]*



**Jordann Windschauer**, Mass Communications '12, is the founder and CEO of Base Culture, a next-generation bakery that distributes to 15,000-plus stores nationwide, including Whole Foods, Kroger, Publix, Albertsons and Sprouts.

**Q.** Your products are in a wide variety of stores, from natural independents to big chains like Target. How do you get in?

**A.** Each category has a different method. When I started this process, I didn't know that. With the bigger chains, they may have a single buyer and you have one opportunity to get selected for a meeting with that buyer, who then decides whether to bring your product into those stores. I was just, like, calling the local Publix. I had to learn by failing honestly and figuring it out.

**Q.** Advice for a college freshman?

**A.** Find and own your own genius. Everyone has their own unique talent that no one else can replicate. You can work in areas outside that, but where you shine is your own specialty. Surround yourself with people who shine in the areas you're not so great at. It's OK to not be great at everything, but if you can own your own genius, that's something no one can take from you.

Presenting Sponsor

*Phil and Jean Amusa*





# CELEBRATE USF!

## THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT HOMECOMING 2023

Join fellow Bulls and USF friends in celebrating our amazing university during Homecoming Week, Oct. 8-14. USF's three campuses will roll out the green and gold carpet to welcome home alumni and celebrate students, faculty, USF and the Tampa Bay community.

Highlights include the Oct. 13 Welcome Home Party, an evening of music, games 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/LMHC23](http://usfalumni.org/LMHC23) 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](http://usfalumni.org/membership).)

On Oct. 14, the Bulls tackle Florida Atlantic University at Raymond James Stadium. Be sure to stop by the Alumni Association's Spirit Tent in the Lot 6D on the south side of the stadium for free swag and, for Life Members, your collectible 2023 Homecoming bead.

Find details, more events and updates at [usfalumni.org/homecoming](http://usfalumni.org/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.



XXXXX  
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XXXXX



**FOREVER GREEN  
& GOLD** OCT 8-14

[usf.edu/homecoming](http://usf.edu/homecoming)



## MONDAY-FRIDAY, OCT. 9-13

Canned food drive on all three campuses to benefit respective free food pantries for students

**TAMPA CAMPUS** — donations accepted at The Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (MSC 1300) and the Marshall Student Center atrium

**ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS** — donations accepted 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Dean of Students office, SLC 1300, and Student Outreach and Support office, SLC 2400

**SARASOTA-MANATEE CAMPUS** — donations accepted 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Office of Student Engagement, SMC A117

## MONDAY, OCT. 9

**HOMECOMING KICKOFF AND LIP SYNC BATTLE**  
6:30-8 p.m., Marshall Student Center Ballroom

**HOMECOMING KICKOFF** — Sarasota-Manatee campus 1-4 p.m., Courtyard; ice cream, music, games, giveaways

## THURSDAY, OCT. 12

**CARDBOARD BOAT RACE** — St. Petersburg campus 3-5 p.m., Harborwalk Lawn

**USF ALUMNI AWARDS DINNER AND CELEBRATION**  
6 p.m., reception; 7 p.m., dinner and awards ceremony, Marshall Student Center Ballroom, [usf.to/AlumniAwards2023](https://usf.to/AlumniAwards2023)

**HOMECOMING CONCERT**  
8-10 p.m., Yuengling Center; updates at [usf.edu/homecoming](https://usf.edu/homecoming)

## FRIDAY, OCT. 13

**FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEKEND**  
Oct. 13-15, Special events for family and friends of USF students; [usf.edu/families](https://usf.edu/families)

**CARNI-BULL**  
6-11 p.m.; carnival rides, food and performances in Parking Lot 35, southeast corner of Holly and Genshaft drives

**ALUMNI WELCOME HOME PARTY**  
5-9 p.m., Sam and Martha Gibbons Alumni Center Pre-parade party with live entertainment, games, food concessions and more

## LIFE MEMBER HOMECOMING PARTY

5-9 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 [usfalumni.org/LMHC23](https://usfalumni.org/LMHC23)

**RUNNING OF THE BULLS HOMECOMING PARADE**  
6:30 p.m., 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. 14

**USF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SPIRIT TENT**  
3 hours before Homecoming game kickoff at Raymond James Stadium, Lot 6D. Free USF swag; exclusive collector beads for Alumni Association Life members — bring your membership card

## BULLS VS. FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING GAME

Visit [GoUSFBulls.com](https://GoUSFBulls.com) for game time and tickets.





# 5 minutes with Bill

## My fellow Bulls,

What an incredible summer we've had! Whether you're an alum, a USF friend, or one of the many who benefit from USF's life-changing research and skilled graduates, I hope you've been riding high on Bull pride.

I'm still celebrating our June invitation to join the most prestigious organization in higher education, the Association of American Universities (AAU). I've been sharing this exciting news with friends and strangers alike because it speaks volumes about us — AAU membership is the highest recognition of our exceptional academic standing and laser-focused commitment to improving lives through education, research and innovation.

As I've said before, great universities are created by great alumni — and great friends! Thank you for all you've done to help USF achieve this historic milestone. I hope you'll continue that support because, as President (and fellow alum) Rhea Law has said, AAU membership is not a finish line, "it's the beginning of a journey of continuous improvement and continuous pursuit of excellence."

And we're off to an incredible start. In July we learned that, for the second consecutive year, we broke our own fundraising record! In the 2022-23 fiscal year, more than

37,000 of you gave more than \$157 million — to student scholarships and athletes, to research, to state-of-the-art programs and facilities, and so much more. Your investment in USF makes a tremendous impact on all of our futures. We're in this together, and your generosity says that far louder than words.

We have much to look forward to in this, our new academic year. On September 8, we'll celebrate the 2023 USF Fast 56 — the 56 fastest growing Bull-led businesses. This popular awards event is in its 11th year and has become extremely competitive, so hearty congratulations to our 56 recipients. Find them at [usfalumni.org/2023Fast56](https://usfalumni.org/2023Fast56).

I look forward to seeing all who can attend Homecoming 2023 the week of Oct. 8. Your favorite alumni and community events are on tap, including the Oct. 12 USF Alumni Awards dinner, the Oct. 13 Alumni Welcome Home Party and parade watch, and the Oct. 14 gameday Spirit Tent. Yes, that's where Life Members can pick up the 19th annual Homecoming collector bead. Find events at [usfalumni.org/homecoming](https://usfalumni.org/homecoming) — and check back often for updates.

As our USF alumni family grows, so do our efforts to find new and meaningful ways to help you stay connected. You are crucial to our university's success — we've seen the proof of that! Your Alumni Association staff is working with dedicated volunteers around the country to foster Bulls communities by hosting events that mean the most to you. Find them at [usfalumni.org/events](https://usfalumni.org/events).

Our many USF supporters make such a difference in the lives of so many. Whether you lead, give, volunteer, or share your pride by wearing your Bulls cap and shirt, you do, too.

It takes a strong community for a young university to join the best — the AAU. You did it. We did it! Congratulations and thank you!

**BILL McCausland, MBA '96**  
VICE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
USF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
LIFE MEMBER #2331







Balaji Ramadoss



Christine Turner



Juan Soltero



Braulio Colon



Sally Dee

## Your Alumni Association board

The USF Alumni Association's board of directors includes Bulls who've demonstrated a firm commitment to USF's success and are association Life Members and Circle of Excellence donors. It also includes a USF presidential designee; a USF Board of Trustees representative; a USF Foundation representative, a faculty/staff representative; a USF Athletics Bulls Club representative, and

two students — the student government vice president and a USF 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:** Christine Turner, '97

**Vice chair:** Sally Dee, '94 and MBA '11

**Past chair:** Braulio Colón, '03 and MPA '10

**Treasurer:** Juan Soltero, '10

**Secretary:** Balajii Ramadoss, MSEE '03 and PhD '14

### Directors:

Misty Akers, '01  
 Kerine Black, '00 and '01  
 Maya Brown, '15  
 Ashley Butler, '12  
 Emily Colón, '10 and MPA '14  
 Jennifer Condon  
 Sara DuCuennois, '99  
 Mark Giddarie, MS '17 and DBA '21

David Hollis, '69  
 Gina Kafalas, '12  
 Ram Kancharla, '85 and MBA '87  
 Maja Lacevic, '09  
 Allison Madden, '03 and MBA '15  
 Diana Michel, '88  
 Will Perez, '14  
 Luz Randolph, '06 and MEd '08  
 Todd St. John-Fulton, '19  
 Verlon Salley, 1994-97

### Student representatives:

Sean Schrader, '22, USF Ambassadors St. Petersburg campus president  
 Elizabeth Volmy, 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



# 2022 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## New Life Members Honor Roll

MORE THAN 1,450 BULLS AND FRIENDS became Life Members of the USF Alumni Association in 2022, bringing the total number of these committed USF supporters closer to 10,000. They play a crucial role in fostering enduring connections between USF and its former students, faculty and staff, and community members. Because a large portion of their one-time membership fee is deposited into an endowed fund, they ensure programs and initiatives that benefit current students and alumni alike are available for generations to come.

By maintaining a lifelong relationship with USF, Life Members contribute to a vibrant alumni community, providing valuable mentorship, networking opportunities and resources for professional development.

Due to space considerations, this honor roll includes only Life Members who joined from January through June 2022.

All Life Members, U Club members and 2022 Circle of Excellence donors are gratefully acknowledged with a tribute page: [usfalumni.org/LMhonor](https://usfalumni.org/LMhonor).

### 2022 Life Members

#### January 2022

Kristopher Bard, #7837  
Douglas Bash, #7759  
Shirley Boyd, #7850  
Kelly Budnick, #7827  
Michelle Butler, #7831  
Jesse Carter Jr., #7768  
Brian Christian, #7780  
Kelsey Christian, #7781  
Kimberly El Oufir, #7828  
James Fagbodun, #7823  
William Foley, #7807  
Lewis Fowler, #7845  
Paul Gamache, #7833  
Dolores Garcia, #7816  
Rafael Garcia, #7815  
Lara Goldstein, #7829  
Alexandra Graham, #7808  
Joyce Haines, #7849  
Gabriella Harmon, PhD, #7821  
Gail Hattaway, #7344  
Betha Hennessy, #7811  
Nathan Holcombe, #7832

Franjesca Jackson, #7820  
Gregory Jackson, #7819  
Geraldine Jacobson, #7848  
James Kauchak, #7824  
Dakota Krebs, #7806  
Tori Lewis, #7801  
Gary Long Jr., #7822  
Karen Lynch, #7826  
Jonathan Maskaly, #7844  
Alexandria McPhail, #7851  
Elise Minkoff, #7841  
Sherri Morey-Fogarty, #7847  
Paul Ouellette, #7834  
Cathy Queen, #7814  
Richard Queen Sr., #7813  
Sarah Rasheid, #7796  
June Reed, #7843  
Claudia Rowe, #7757  
Shannon Rubin, #7835  
Suzanne Ruley-Bard, #7836  
Marian Scanio, #7846  
Elaine Schofield, #7761  
Alicia Seidel, #7745

Donna Shippey, #7818  
Richmond Shippey, #7817  
Benjamin Sluka, #7810  
Timothy Sorenson, #7839  
Lola Stein, #7830  
Victoria Stillo-Gross, #7840  
Nicole Thomas, #8009  
Terrence Thomas, #8010  
Bobby Trinh, #7812  
Terri Watson, #7838  
Andrew Winer, #7809  
James Yale, #7825

#### February 2022

Rhonda Agliano, #7977  
Gregory Allen, #7877  
Kimberly Amtmann-Buettner, #8024  
Nancy Andreasen, #8031  
Gloria Andrews, #7925  
William Ayers, #7887  
Richard Badali, #7978  
Sydney Bagby, #7996

Daryl Bagley, #7868  
Deshjuana Bagley, #7869  
Monique Baumrucker, #7967  
Scott Bayus, #7985  
Michael Beckman, #8063  
Cynthia Begay, #8041  
Ruth Bell, #8069  
Pamela Benham, #8032  
James Bewerse, #7972  
Paula Bewerse, #7971  
Mark Borsheim, #7959  
Colin Bowers, #7908  
Lynn Boyle, #7956  
John Brautigam Jr., #7933  
John Breese, #8053  
Candace Brough, #8011  
Frederick Brown, #8047  
Scott Burrows, #7986  
Eric Busch, #7859  
Derek Busciglio, #7916  
Joseph Callan, #7940  
Judith Callan, #7941  
Jack Carlisle Jr., #7987  
Sharon Carlisle, #8490  
Carroll Carpenter, #7901  
Paul Colee, #7881  
Ruth Coley, #7982  
Melany Combs, #7962  
Joshua Corbin, #7938  
William Corry, #8075  
Randy Costello, #7882  
Charles Crawford, #7864  
Temetia Creed, #7997  
Daniel Crowley, #7995  
Amelia Cruz, #7891  
Cheryl Curtis, #7904  
Craig Dassinger, #7909  
Erica Davidson, #7922  
Beverly Dierking, #7899  
Shirley Earle, #8036  
Robert Elwert, #8034  
Carol Engstrom, #8012  
Dawn Erb, #7867  
Jeffrey Erb, #7866  
Luis Estevez, #7955  
Brett Everett, #7862  
Joy Feininger, #8021  
Melanie Feldman, #8027

*The Alumni Association has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the 2022 Life Member Honor Roll. Please accept apologies for any omissions or errors.*





Rocky D. Bull makes a special appearance at the 2023 Life Member Appreciation Baseball Game. The popular annual event hosted by the Alumni Association also included a free catered barbecue, beer, wine and — of course — a great Bulls ballgame.

Mitchell Feldman, #8026  
 Victoria Finiels, #8037  
 Harvey Fisherman, #7963  
 Melody Fisherman, #7964  
 Lamar Fleming, #8004  
 Virginia Fleming, #8003  
 Thomas Forrest, #8000  
 Michael Franz, #8028  
 Kenneth Friscia, #7948  
 Emily Gagnon, #7921  
 Rosann Garcia, #7883  
 Christine Garrison, #7906  
 William Garrison, #7905  
 Sam Gasperoni, #7983  
 Bobbie Getz, #7900  
 Mark Goldstein, #8025  
 Lori Grieb, #7954  
 Edwin Griffin, #7872  
 Elizabeth Griffin, #7871  
 George Hall Jr., #7923  
 Carl W. Hawkins, Jr., #7911  
 Cynthia Hawkins, #7910  
 Brian Henry, #8039  
 Jan Herzberg, #7929  
 Kevin Herzberg, #7930  
 Herschel Hochman, #8018  
 Katherine Holland, #7946  
 Lyn Holt, #8060  
 Samuel Hopkins, #7984

Dana Hume, #7912  
 Timothy Hutchins, #8073  
 Gerald Irwin, #7924  
 Timothy Jackson, #8074  
 Lorán Jarrett, #7953  
 Glen Jenkins, #8016  
 Craig Johnson, #8014  
 Elizabeth Johnson, #8013  
 Karin Johnson, #7944  
 Robert G. Johnson, #7945  
 Rex Joyner, #7976  
 Kevin Keever, #7998  
 Terri Keever, #7999  
 Donna Keith, #7918  
 Phyllis Keith, #7973  
 Robert Keith, #7974  
 Rose Kellum Llauguet, #7884  
 Chantal Kelly, #7902  
 Kathy Kelly, #8056  
 Noel Kelly, #8055  
 Tony Kelly, #7903  
 John Kitchens, #8019  
 Diane Klockars, #8044  
 John Knowlton, #8020  
 Michael Kovacsev, #7965  
 John Kubler, #7934  
 Julie Kukuk, #7880  
 David Lemar Sr., #8042  
 Joy Linsday, #7939

Ronald Llauguet, #7885  
 Kevin Love, #8057  
 Alan Lucas, #7889  
 Molly Malloy, #7966  
 Ralph Marchbank Jr., #7975  
 Mark Marino, #7960  
 Donna McGrew, #7870  
 Barbara McKee, #7896  
 Harold McKee, #7897  
 Charles McKeon, #7990  
 Stephanie McKeon, #7989  
 Jessica McRory, #8051  
 William Michaels, #8007  
 Joann Miele, #8052  
 Grant Milbouer, #8017  
 Denise Miller, #8043  
 Neda Moghadasi, #8065  
 Saeed Moghadasi, #8064  
 Sebastian Monsalve, #8071  
 Dorothy Morgan, #7919  
 Larry Morgan, #7920  
 Bradley Mosall, #7950  
 Laura Mosall, #7949  
 Leslie Moseley-Morgan, #8487  
 Mary Jane Munsell, #8062  
 Barbara Murtha, #7898  
 Susan Nelson-Crowley, #7994  
 William Nesmith, #8008  
 Eugene Nickel Jr., #7874

Matthew Nolton, #7961  
 Robin O'Dell, #8067  
 Faye Olondo, #7876  
 Jorge Olondo, #7875  
 Adam Orban, #7888  
 Antonio Ortiz, #7860  
 Margaret Pearce, #8061  
 Timothy Peet, #8001  
 John Pennington III, #7935  
 Viviana Perez, #8005  
 Nichole Peters, #7968  
 Diane Popp, #7917  
 Barbara Prosser, #7895  
 David Prosser III, #7894  
 Susan Raines, #8122  
 Ronald Rasmussen, #7980  
 Dawn Ratican, #7913  
 Terence Ratican, #7914  
 Richard Reber, #8033  
 Shaune Reynolds, #7988  
 Janet Riley, #7931  
 Maria Rodriguez, #7958  
 Roland Rodriguez, #8035  
 Rodney Rudd, #8068  
 Jeffrey Russo, #7992  
 Susan Russo, #7993  
 Joseph Sabin, #7937  
 Kenneth Sale, #8022  
 Kerry Sanders, #8023





**Erika Silverman, '08, Life Member #8891, left, and her sister Margaret Johnson, '07, Life Member #3443, share their Bull Pride. "I became a Life Member because I wanted to give back to the university that did so much for me," says Johnson. "You're helping the university, future Bulls in the making, and are invited to fun events. Plus, you get awesome discounts, and a good portion is tax deductible! I do love my alma mater."**

- Patricia Bickel, #8221
- Dreama Bilby, #8134
- Larry Bilby, #8135
- Diane Bockrath, #8130
- Tona Brown, #8117
- Michael Bruzzini, #8174
- Susan Burkholder, #8113
- Susan Burnett, #8190
- Larry Cabrera, #8107
- Millyan Cabrera, #8108
- Linda Carr, #8266
- Alexandra Carrillo, #8123
- Richard Chinn, #8181
- Curtis Church, #8127
- Erica Cleveland, #8245
- Gabriel Cleveland, #8244
- Kevin Cook, #8158
- Brian Cziraky, #8124
- Laura DeLucia, #8162
- Michael DeLucia, #8163
- Marilyn Dierdorff, #8105
- David Doan, #8128
- James Dupre, #8218
- Michelle Dupre, #8219
- Ann Dzurainin, #8076
- Jodi Earle, #8151
- Susan Edwards, #8114
- Patricia Fagan, #8109
- John Farrell Jr., #8101
- Linda Federspiel, #8167
- Ronald Federspiel, #8166
- Elizabeth Feinberg, #8140
- James Fender, #8212
- Margaret Fender, #8211
- Michael F. Flanagan, #8217
- Martha Folsom, #8213
- Preston Ford, #8180
- Debra Fowler, #8201
- Mark Fowler, #8202
- James Gaddis, #8146
- Matthew Garber, #8252
- George Gibson, #8090
- Evan Gill, #8142
- Charles Gilliard, #8173
- Mercy Gilliard, #8172
- James Gordon, #8147
- Laura Grams, #8164
- Mikayla Guy, #8175
- Hilary Hall, #8093
- Kristina Hamp, #8161
- Ralph Hanauer, #8111
- Merrick Harding, #8232
- Theresa Harding, #8233
- Christopher Hawke, #8126
- James Heck, #8264
- Jo Ann Heck, #8491
- Micah Hendrickson, #8216

- Richard Schneider, #7979
- Anne Schroedl-Page, #7892
- Tomas Shinall, #8002
- Joan Simon, #7932
- Stephanie Simpson, #7991
- Stewart Skipper, #7886
- Deborah Streeter, #7915
- James Tassitano, #7928
- Andrew Tedrick, #8038
- John Theimer, #7936
- Lynne Ulloa Rice, #7957
- Joseph Vallone, #7879
- Elizabeth Vaughn, #7873
- Barbara Walker, #7861
- Kathleen Walker, #7947
- Royce Walker, #7981
- Jacquilin Wallace, #7927
- Jacqueline Walsch, #7926
- Wendy Warman, #8006
- Anthony Welch, #8049

- Jayme Welch, #8050
- Alaric Welke, #7890
- Leslie Westlake, #7951
- Robert Westlake, #7952
- John Wilde, #7943
- Julieta Wilde, #7942
- Curtis Wilkerson, #7865
- Gwendolyn Williams, #8048
- Colette Witcher, #7907
- Fredric Wollett, #8029
- Nancy Wollett, #8030
- James Woodroffe III, #7969
- Patricia Woodroffe, #7970
- Gerald Woolever, #8015
- Ashwini Kumar Yadav, #7893
- Samuel Yanka, #8070

### March 2022

- Gabriel Akogbe, #8246
- Dolores Alonso-Montambault, #8086

- Christian Alvarez, #8199
- Colleen Alvarez, #8200
- Francisco Alvaro, #8205
- Susan Anderson, #8189
- Scarleth Andino, #8185
- Maria Armstrong, #8104
- Jo-Ann Arnold, #8150
- Isabel Arroyave, #8095
- John Arroyave, #8094
- Gail Bagley, #8144
- Todd Baker, #8116
- Timothy Barnes, #8195
- Daryl Barry, #8081
- Sharon Beaver, #8228
- Carol Bennett, #8240
- Harold Bennett, #8241
- Duane Benton, #8136
- Ellen Bernhardt, #8046
- William Bernhardt, #8045
- Brian Bickel, #8222



Janet Hicks, #8249  
 Gregory Huffman, #8092  
 Dinah Hunsicker, #8131  
 Janice Hunter, #8097  
 Susan Isaacs, #8115  
 August Jannarone, #8237  
 Tanya Johnson-Gilchrist, #8230  
 Jamil Jones, #8261  
 Traci Jurek, #8118  
 James Kay, #8248  
 Linda Kenworthy, #8103  
 Kamil Koc, #8486  
 Sebnem Koc, #8186  
 Edward Kori, #8137  
 John Kovel, #8152  
 Joyce Krotee, #8265  
 Jayde Kurland, #8098  
 Deborah Kyle, #8083  
 Jerry Kyle, #8082  
 Josephine Leece, #8102  
 Matthew Lesperance, #8170  
 Devin Levi, #8121  
 Kenneth Locke, #8156  
 Anthony Lopez, #8077  
 Susan Lowrance, #8191  
 Lynne Mason, #8251  
 Jeffrey May, #8099  
 Patricia McIntyre, #8179  
 Doris Minutello, #8088  
 Glenn Moro, #8247  
 Mrudhula Murali, #8177  
 Anthony Natoli, #8197  
 Tenesha Nattiel, #8231  
 John Neander Jr., #8059  
 Lorrie Neander, #8058  
 Thomas Newman, #8072  
 Jessica Norgueras, #8149  
 Christopher Ochoa, #8160  
 Robert O'Leary, #8112  
 Kenneth Oliver, #8157  
 Deanete Olson, #8129  
 Thomas Panuthos, #8194  
 Bruce Patterson, #8224  
 Phyllis Patterson, #8225  
 Janet Playford, #8207  
 Robin Pokoj, #8182  
 Harry Portellos, #8145  
 Frances Prince, #8089  
 Elvira Reyes, #8242  
 S. Allison Riddle-Brammer, #8183  
 Gloria Riley, #8091  
 Sarah Roberts, #8184  
 Melanie Rodgers, #8171  
 Manuel Rodriguez, #8169  
 Victoria Rogers, #8255  
 Constance Rossi, #8078  
 Mitchel Roth, #8253

Rhonda Roth, #8254  
 Eric Sachse, #8141  
 Scott Sandberg, #8119  
 Wanda Sandberg, #8120  
 Jose Bautista Santos, #8155  
 Judith Schiavo, #8054  
 Curtis Schultz, #8080  
 Raymond Seaford, #8192  
 Theresa Seaford, #8193  
 John Shih, #8209  
 Sharon Shuey, #8229  
 Myra Sload, #8220  
 Jamie Southworth, #8148  
 Craig Spanburg, #8079  
 Donna Spangler, #8087  
 Paul Spisak, #8196  
 Paul Stevenson, #8110  
 Lisette Stewart, #8210  
 Mervin Stringer, #8106  
 Francisco Suarez, #8143  
 Robert Swett, #8226  
 James Tagliarini, #8206  
 Kristen Tavaloro-Ochoa, #8159  
 Joe Teston, #8214  
 Mellissa Teston, #8215  
 Lynne Thibodeau, #8168  
 Larry Thomas Jr., #8269  
 Melody Thomas, #8270  
 Deborah Thurmond, #8084  
 Mark Thurmond, #8085  
 Lawrence Tosi Jr., #8165  
 Arlene Tracy, #8236  
 Morian Tulabot, #8176  
 Elizabeth Turner, #8139  
 Gary Turner, #8138  
 David Veenstra, #8203  
 Diane Veenstra, #8204  
 Olivia Ventresca, #8178  
 Jonathan Vielhaber, #8154  
 Andrew Vogel, #8235  
 Patricia Walker, #8223  
 Joan Wallace, #8100  
 Robert Wand, #8227  
 John C. Webb, #8153  
 Jack Weiss, #8096  
 Cary White, #8198  
 Carlo Williams, #8125  
 Thomas Woodbridge, #8234  
 Donna Wysong, #8132  
 James Wysong Jr., #8133  
 Sheila Zendegui, #8187  
 Stephen Zendegui, #8188

## April 2022

Courtney Anderson, #8290  
 Julie Bauer, #8298  
 Thomas Beckwith, #8320

Richard Berube, #8313  
 Derek Botts, #8323  
 Robert Brankley Jr., #8315  
 Warren Bryant, #8489  
 Henry Busciglio, #8293  
 Harry Campbell, #8311  
 Rebecca Campbell, #8312  
 Lauren Cardella, #8279  
 Jared Carnes, #8294  
 Jennifer Cawley, #8262  
 William Chambers, #8321  
 Howard Coleman Jr., #8330  
 Shane Corellian, #8282  
 Beth Costlow, #8285  
 Alison Crane, #8283  
 Brayden Curry, #8257  
 Diane Duffy, #8291  
 Sabina Elmasri, #8324  
 Eugene Fernandez, #8260  
 Karen Ferreri, #8299  
 Dominic Gamboa, #8328  
 Maribel Garrett, #8488  
 Ronald Garrett, #8306  
 Linda Goldfarb, #8302  
 Jose Gomez, #8297  
 Theresa Gonzalez, #8276  
 Drew Greenfield, #8304  
 Lindsay Greenfield, #8305  
 Patricia Griffing, #8309  
 Kenneth Haelsig III, #8250  
 Diana Hashaw, #8300  
 Michael Herrin, #8273  
 Michelle Heystek, #8308  
 Stephanie Hinson, #8319  
 Amanda Hintz, #8281  
 Terry Hoekstra, #8325  
 Otis Hollar, #8317  
 Simone Hollar, #8318  
 Chemwapuwa Jackson, #8287  
 Kevin Johnson, #8292  
 Patricia Kenly, #8310  
 Michael Koecheler, #8307  
 Linda Krasne, #8303  
 Dennis Kristof, #8259  
 Walter Lisiewski Jr., #8278  
 Joanne Lowman, #8295  
 Cedra Mahmud, #8286  
 Patricia Manack, #8274  
 Madison McMahan, #8333  
 Lauriann Messier-Jones, #8326  
 Thomas Morris, #8277  
 Saleem Musallam, #8316  
 Christian Nappo, #8288  
 Corriane Norrid, #8289  
 Sue Osgood, #8275  
 Chance Pageau, #8327  
 Leslie Palsis, #8301

Carly Pike, #8322  
 Beverly Reed, #8239  
 James D. Reed, #8238  
 Jessica Rein, #8263  
 Richard Rewiski, #8314  
 Jason Robb, #8280  
 Mary Salek, #8268  
 Roland Salek, #8267  
 Luis Sanchez III, #8332  
 Darlene Schueler, #8258  
 Belinda Sloan, #8256  
 Aysha Tenouri, #8272  
 Meredith Tenouri, #8271  
 Carol Tomaino-Touton, #8331  
 John Warner III, #8296

## May 2022

Ta'Sean Baker, #8397  
 Mariana Barboza, #8375  
 Amanda Baxter, #8336  
 Carl Bertha, #8355  
 Cortney Bishop, #8359  
 Kevin Bishop, #8360  
 Dexter Bondoc, #8363  
 Caleb Brown, #8339  
 Laphil Cannon, #8370  
 Max Chase, #8342  
 Pearce Copeland, #8340  
 Scott Crowder, #8394  
 Lorraine Digiaimo, #8374  
 Rebeca Fenton, #8382  
 Vivian Filer, #8390  
 Taylor Friedman, #8344  
 Clayton Gandy, #8358  
 Christine Gorman, #8356  
 Christopher Gorman Sr., #8357  
 Heather Groner, #8364  
 Sandra Hanna, #8384  
 Laura Hess, #8371  
 Patricia Hughson, #8329  
 Keith Humphrey, #8368  
 Richard Jordan, #8391  
 Shawna Kent, #8395  
 Prithvi Kocherla, #8380  
 Naman Kumar, #8399  
 Suzanne Lamoureux, #8388  
 Clarissa Livia Lima, #8396  
 Barbara Little, #8351  
 William Little, #8350  
 Mandie Livingston, #8337  
 Monica Llamas, #8379  
 Marikay Logan, #8376  
 Deborah McFarland, #8362  
 Randal McVey Jr., #8381  
 Rebecca Nashed, #8346  
 Meaghan Neenan, #8378  
 Rebekah Nelson, #8383



# FOREVER BULLS

Julia Odiorne, #8334  
Peter Oduori, #8386  
Shateshia Oduori, #8387  
Amy O'Rourke, #8348  
Jose Ors, #8366  
Linda Parenti, #8372  
Samantha Perry, #8398  
Lisa Riley, #8373  
Joseph Rooth, #8401  
Alain Scherer, #8347  
Kareena Sharma, #8341  
Austin Shinohara, #8349  
Priya Singh-Collins, #8338  
David Staley, #8361  
Joseph Suda Jr., #8367  
Jennifer Swift, #8393  
Jonathan Swift, #8392  
Shahryar Tashreef, #8385  
Ethan Taylor, #8400  
Derrea Thompson, #8402

David Toback, #8335  
Steve Tonello, #8343  
Beverly Vail, #8352  
Brandy Vicera, #8353  
Steven Vicera, #8354  
Janet Young, #8365

## June 2022

Diane Abbonizio, #8465  
Maria Alagna, #8444  
Daniel Alatorre, #8408  
Michele Alatorre, #8407  
Anthony Allemang, #8478  
Alexandra Anthony, #8483  
Dimitri Artzibushev, #8413  
Kalaria Baldwin, #8453  
Eric Berkowitz, #8463  
Joshua Berkowitz, #8405  
Makiah Bryant, #8445  
Brian Chucru, #8473

Robert Cleveland, #8424  
Samantha Cleveland, #8423  
Joel Cohen, #8476  
Nicholas Cole, #8436  
Adelina Cooper, #8485  
William Cooper Jr., #8484  
Willard Crawn, #8416  
James Cross, #8433  
Nikki Cross, #8432  
Saundra Cunnagin, #8422  
Angeline Cunningham, #8494  
Sherry Cunningham, #8419  
Melissa Dela Cruz, #8441  
Pamela Derousie, #8430  
Sheila Derrwaldt, #8420  
Barry Dingman, #8475  
Frank Ferreri, #8460  
Nancy Fishinger, #8437  
Crystal Fowler, #8468  
Gianni Garcia, #8404

Suzie Gramby, #8418  
Rachel Grannan, #8425  
Ryan Grannan, #8426  
Dante Griggs, #8467  
Michael Herman, #8438  
Caroline Hope, #8471  
Fathima Itham, #8461  
Lisa Isenbeck, #8448  
Carmen Ishmael, #8472  
Amy Jarman, #8481  
Kevin Jarman, #8480  
Gina Kafalas, #8412  
Aliyah Kimelman, #8482  
John Kokkinogoulis, #8455  
Christos Kostogiannes, #8470  
Lori Lucas, #8446  
Todd Lucas, #8447  
Diane Lynch, #8493  
Kim Mair, #8451  
Kimberly Marchese, #8450  
Janine Mattson, #8457  
Peggy McClung, #8428  
Jeremy Meshil, #8440  
Melissa Meshil, #8439  
Erin Mulligan, #8462  
Isaac Neiger, #8459  
Deborah Noonan, #8466  
Yashi Ohrmund, #8414  
Philip Pitcher, #8411  
Keirstin Proud, #8452  
Alivia Quattrochi, #8406  
Balaji Ramadoss, #8410  
Lawrence Range II, #8434  
Nicole Range, #8435  
Kathleen Rawls, #8409  
Anastasia Roulston, #8479  
Willi Rudowsky, #8415  
Klint Salati, #8449  
E.J. Salcines, #8464  
Marie Sanchez, #8443  
Ray Sanchez, #8442  
Shawn Saucier, #8421  
Jeffrey Scherdin, #8456  
Masroor Shariff, #8492  
Paige Sharp, #8431  
Philippe Simon, #8427  
Cindy Stansell, #8469  
Arlene Swartz, #8477  
Bina Sylus, #8474  
Patricia Taylor, #8429  
Alexandra Vargas-Valentin, #8403  
John Waters, #8454  
Lori Wiley, #8495  
Tabatha Williams-Johnson, #8417



**Bulls find lots of creative ways to show their USF pride at the Life Member Appreciation Baseball Game!**





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Class of 2012 • #GoBulls





# Class Notes

## 1960s

**JOYCE HAINES**, Elementary Education '68, MEd '77 and PhD '88, Life Member, received the 2023 Dean's Lifetime Achievement Alumni Award from USF's College of Education. She recently retired from teaching.

## 1970s



**ANTHONY R. JAMES**, Engineering '73, Life Member, received the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award from USF's College of Engineering. The former executive vice president for Southern Company and president of Shared Services Group, he is the USF Foundation Board of Directors chair.

**BARBARA J. LANCOR**, Engineering '79, Life Member, received the 2023 Dean's Appreciation Award from USF's College of Engineering. The former human resources manager for Proctor & Gamble, she volunteers as a tutor and runs a vineyard in Cincinnati.

**PATRICIA QUIGLEY**, Nursing '75, MS '82 and MPH '06, Life Member, received the USF College of Nursing's Dean's Legacy Award. She is a nurse consultant at Patricia A. Quigley, Nurse Consultant LLC.

**BYRON SHINN**, Accounting '79, Life Member, has joined the All Star Children's Foundation board of directors in Sarasota. He is partner in charge at Carr, Riggs & Ingram CPAs and Advisors in Bradenton/Sarasota.

## 1980s

**JANICE SANDS ASH**, Engineering Science '87 and MSCE '89, Life Member, received the 2023 Dean's Distinguished Service Award from USF's College of Engineering. She is the president and owner of Land & Sea Group Inc.



**DOUGLAS CAMPOLI**, Finance '88, has been appointed chief financial officer of Envirotech Vehicles Inc. He previously served as chief financial officer and treasurer of Arcimoto, an electric vehicle manufacturer.

**STEVE DOE**, General Business Administration '86, received JMX Brands' Category Manager Award for the second consecutive year. Doe joined the online retailer in 2018 as a furniture specialist.



**WENDI GOODSON-CELERIN**, Nursing '88, MS '98 and DNP '18, has been promoted to senior vice president and chief nursing officer at Tampa General Hospital in Tampa. She was previously a senior vice president and interim chief nursing officer at the hospital.

**BRAD HEATH**, Chemical Engineering '85, Life Member, received the 2023 Entrepreneurial Excellence Award from USF's College of Engineering. The founder and retired CEO of electronics manufacturer VIRTEX, he is vice chairman of the company's board of directors.

**RICK LABRODE**, Electrical Engineering '85, Life Member, received the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award from USF's College of Engineering. He is a NASA flight director.

**C. RICHARD MANCINI**, Political Science '87, has been named a co-chair of the trusts and estate planning and litigation departments at Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A., in South Florida. He has been a shareholder there since 2008.

**DANIEL P. REININGA**, MBA '87, retired as president and CEO of Lake Shore Bancorp Inc. He joined the New York bank in 1994 as an outside director.



**JOI WILLIAMS**, Marketing '88, has been named USF Men's Basketball chief of staff. She was previously the assistant athletic director for Women's Basketball at Mississippi State University.

## 1990s

**HEATHER AGAZZI**, International Studies '97, MA '03, EdS and PhD '07, and MS Medical Sciences '11, Life Member, received a USF Women in Leadership & Philanthropy Dr. Kathleen Moore Faculty Excellence Award — the Valerie D. Riddle, MD, Award in Health. She is a professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at USF Health.

**JOIE CHITWOOD**, MBA '95, Life Member, was appointed executive director of the 2026 Presidents Cup Golf Tournament. A USF Foundation board member, he was previously vice president of corporate development for Arnold Palmer Enterprises. He is a 2014 USF Distinguished Alumnus.



**PAUL EDWARDS**, Accounting '98 and MAcc '03, has joined Western Illinois University as vice president for finance and administration. He was previously chief business officer for the Richard Bland College of William and Mary.

**LAURA A. FROST**, Accounting '90, has joined Sanibel Captiva Trust Co. in Fort Myers, Florida, as director of operations. She was previously a CPA at Hughes, Snell & Co. CPAs.



**MONICA ILSE**, Psychology '95, MEd '97 and EdD '10, received the 2023 Spirit of Partnership Alumni Award from USF's College of Education. She serves on the School Advisory Council and is an adjunct instructor in the Educational Leadership doctoral program at St. Leo University in St. Leo, Florida.

**PENKO IVANOV**, Finance '90, Accounting '92 and MBA '92, has been appointed chief financial officer, executive vice president, treasurer and chief accounting officer at Arrow Financial Corp. He previously served as executive vice president and chief financial officer of Bankwell Financial Group Inc.

**LEONARD WEBB**, Criminology '90, has been named to the Juvenile Services Education Program board in Maryland. He was previously the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education's Next Generation Scholar Program coordinator for Allegany County, Maryland.

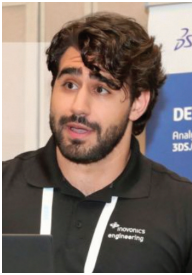
## 2000s

**JEREMY BOWERS**, Political Science '06, was named chief technology officer for Politico news outlet in Washington, D.C. He was previously the director of engineering for The Washington Post.

## Send us your class notes!

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





**THOMAS CHITTENDEN**, MBA '03, has joined Honeywell as president of its Productivity Solutions and Services business. He was previously president of Roper Technologies Inc.

**JENNIFER EAGER**, Finance '09, was appointed vice president of fund and corporate accounting at Noble Investment Group LLC. She was previously controller and interim chief financial officer for Stoneweg US LLC.

**STEVEN JANSSEN**, Accounting '02 and MBA '06, Life Member, was promoted to tax managing director at CBIZ Inc. in the Tampa Bay area. He was previously the company's tax director.



**BRET L. MCCABE**, Psychology '00 and '04, Life Member, has joined Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP in Uniondale, New York, as a construction partner. He previously served as general counsel of

Fleet Financial Group Inc.



**KASANDREA SERENO**, Management '05, MEd '08 and MBA '11, is the new dean of retention and engagement at Tulsa Community College in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the new chair of the Commission for Students with

Experience in Foster Care at the National Academic Advising Association. She is the founder and executive director of #HigherEdSocial, a professional society for social media managers at higher education institutions.

**AMIT SHARAN**, Marketing '03 and MBA '05, has been promoted to senior vice president of marketing at data and analytics advertising company Tatari in San Francisco. He was previously vice president of marketing at the company.

**AYSEGUL TIMUR**, PhD '07, was confirmed as the fifth president of Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Florida. She was previously the university's vice president and vice provost of strategy and program innovation.

## 2010s

**DEVIN BEELER**, Accounting '17, was promoted to audit manager at KPMG U.S. accounting firm. He previously served as a senior audit associate.



**BRAD BERNSTEIN**, Physical Education '10 and MEd '14, received the 2023 Young Educator Alumni Award from USF's College of Education. He is the assistant principal for curriculum

and magnet coordinator for the Institute for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics at Countryside High School in Clearwater, Florida.

**MERYEM BERRADA**, Computer Engineering '13 and MSCS '15, received the 2023 Outstanding Young Alumni Award from USF's College of Engineering. She is the senior director of engineering for Nielsen.

**DANIEL CHAPMAN**, Finance '18, has been promoted to vice president of global corporate

and investment banking at Bank of America. He was previously an associate in that division.

**ASHLEY CONYERS**, Communication '14 and MBA '21, was selected to participate in the Marshall-Motley Scholars Program by the Legal Defense Fund. Participants receive a full law school scholarship and professional development opportunities, and commit to devoting the first eight years of their careers to practicing civil rights law in the service of Black communities in the South.

**ELLEN DONALD**, PhD '16, has been appointed to the board of directors of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. She is the program director for the Golisano Intellectual and Developmental Disability Initiative at Florida Gulf Coast University.



**DANIEL DURRANCE**, Mechanical Engineering '15, has been promoted to senior project manager and mechanical engineer at Matern Professional Engineering in Tampa. He previously specialized in pharmaceutical manufacturing at the company.



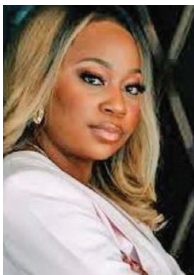
## Snapshots

### Throwback dream-come-true

As USF students, Mario Garcia '92, right, and Michael Alfieri, '94, vowed they'd one day make a movie together. Thirty years later, they did just that. "The Throwback," a romantic comedy, was filmed in the Tampa Bay area in 2022 and premiered in May at Tampa Theatre. It stars Justina Machado from "Jane the Virgin," Will Sasso from "Mad TV," Bobby Lee from "Magnum P.I.," Michelle Randolph from "1923" and Rhonda Shear from "USA Up All Night." Watch a behind-the-scenes video about shooting the film at <https://usf.to/TheThrowback>.



# Class Notes



**LATOYA FINLAY**, Marketing '13, has joined Marriott International in Bethesda, Maryland, as senior manager of digital experiments. She was previously a senior optimization associate for Search

Discovery in Atlanta.

**RICH GRIEDER**, Accounting '10, has been promoted to senior vice president of brokerage at JLL, a commercial real estate services company. He was previously a brokerage vice president at the Charlotte, North Carolina, firm.

**JANET HUFFMAN**, Accounting '12, has joined Oragenics Inc. in Sarasota as chief financial officer. She previously served in that role at Trxade Health.

**KIM HILL**, MBA '18, has joined ReliaQuest as head of corporate communications and chief of staff. She was previously vice president for USF University Communications and Marketing and USF's chief marketing officer.

**AHAD KHAN**, Accounting '13, has joined Portage Point Partners as vice president of transaction advisory services. He previously worked at Deloitte as a merger and acquisitions transactions manager.

**PETER KIVUVA**, Finance '18, has joined Raymond James in South Florida as a senior manager in risk management. He was previously a Goldman Sachs associate.

**ANGELA MARTIN**, Management and Psychology '10, was promoted to senior director of talent delivery at TEKsystems' Orlando Delivery Center.



**DUY (DAN) NGUYEN**, Management '16, was promoted to consulting manager at Deloitte. He was previously a senior consultant at the global financial firm.

**KLENTON PERRY**, Finance and Economics '15, has joined Scotiabank in New York City as an associate director for technology investment and banking. He was previously a vice president at Silicon Valley Bank.

**FRANCES RICE**, Marketing '19, is the new shipboard human resources coordinator for Holland America Line. She was previously a sales and customer service manager in generalist departments for Macy's department stores.

**BETHANY (DAWSON) RODRIGUEZ**, Accounting '16 and MAcc '18, was promoted to risk mitigation and controls senior associate at PwC in Tampa. She was previously controller operations finance senior associate for the company.



**LEXY SCARPIELLO**, Marketing '16, was promoted to senior manager in digital visual merchandising at Adidas. She was previously an e-commerce growth and experience optimization manager at the sportswear company.

**MICHAEL SCHOPLER**, Accounting '14, has been promoted to financial advisor at the 24/7 Investment Group of Raymond James. He was previously a structured investments associate at the firm.



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**ROBERT J. SOUSA**, Accounting '14, was promoted to vice president and director of asset and liability management at Middlesex Savings Bank in Marlborough, Massachusetts. He was previously the company's asset liability officer.

**DUSTIN THOMAS**, Education '19, was honored as the April Hernando County School District (military) Veteran of the month. He is a mathematics teacher at D.S. Parrott Middle School in Brooksville, Florida.

**MIKE WOODRUFF**, MBA '13, was promoted to senior vice president of product services and operations at iHeartMedia in New York City. He was previously director of product management and publishing for the company.

**JAYCEE BUCHER**, Management '20, has been promoted to licensing compliance coordinator at Rush Street Interactive. She was previously a VIP account manager at the online gaming and entertainment company.



**LAUREN CARDELLA**, Studio Art '22, Life Member, has joined Walt Disney Live Entertainment as a visual effects designer. She was previously with Disney as a post-production intern.



**MERIDITH DOONE**, Accounting '21, has joined machinery manufacturing firm ASTEC as a senior technical accountant. She was previously an audit associate for RSM US LLP.

**SONIA DURAIMURUGAN**, Marketing '20 and MBA '22, has joined the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County as a community outreach coordinator. She is a former marketing data analyst for Skinny Mixes LLC.

**ROBERT DARIN GRIMM**, DBA '21, has been named senior vice president of claims at Summit Consulting in Lakeland, Florida. He has worked at the firm since 2003.

**TREY JACKSON**, Management '20, has joined homebuilder D.R. Horton in Bradenton as an assistant superintendent. He was previously a foreman for Jackson Masonry in Ocala, Florida.

**ZACHERY NETZEL**, Marketing '21 and MBA '23, has joined the Toronto Blue Jays as the retail and operations coordinator. He was previously a sponsorship activation analyst for Fanatics Inc.

**BRIAN CLANCY**, MBA '20, was promoted to director of engineering at Kimre Inc. in Tampa. He was previously a senior applications and process engineer at Kimre.

**ANNMARIE COLLINS**, General Business Studies '21, has joined the Academy of the Holy Names private high school in Tampa as a technology specialist. She was previously the bartender manager at Muldowneys Pub in Providence, Rhode Island.

## 2020s



**JAELYN BROWN**, Nursing and Health Sciences '20, was named Nurse of the Year for her division, Acute Care Medicine, at Tampa General Hospital in Tampa. She has worked at the hospital since 2020.

## Snapshots



### The Bull Ship meets Rocky!

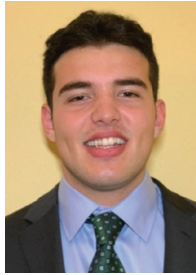
Alumni kayaking on Rocky Creek (yes! Rocky Creek!) in Tampa last April spotted the Bull Ship docked outside a home. They shouted to the homeowner, "Are you a Bull?" No, he called back — "But this is how I bought it and I'm not changing the name!" The kayakers shared their Bull Ship photo with the USF Alumni Association and it got lots of Facebook love — including a delighted exclamation from the original owner, Jessica Meek, '99 and MEd '07. "This was my Bull Ship and I am so excited they are leaving the name!" she commented, adding a photo, inset, of the boat in its previous life.





# Class Notes

**BLAKE PARRY**, Marketing '20, MS Sport and Entertainment Management '22 and MBA '22, was promoted to associate manager for partnership strategy for the NFL's Washington Commanders. He was previously a partnership strategy specialist for the team.



**STEVE TONELLO**, Finance '22, has joined E\*trade from Morgan Stanley as a financial services representative.

**CARLOS PEREZ**, Marketing and Economics '21 and MS '22, has launched Perez Healthcare Solutions, providing health insurance advising. He was previously a marketing coordinator for Ashley Furniture Industries.

**MICHAEL C. WOOD**, Finance '21, was promoted to portfolio analyst with The Otto Group at Hightower Advisors LLC, in Sarasota. He was previously an investment operations analyst.



**ALLISON VANDERKOLK SHUFF**, MBA '20, has joined Eli Lilly and Co. in Indianapolis as a senior manager.

She was previously the production manager at Niagara Bottling LLC.

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**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](mailto:planned_gifts@usf.edu) / 813-974-8761 / [usfgiving.org](http://usfgiving.org)





## In Memoriam

- UNA BATTON**, Elementary Education '74, May 8, 2023
- JOSEPHINE SPOTO BROWN**, Elementary Education '67, April 4, 2023
- HELEN CHAMPLAIN**, Geography '78 and MA '80, March 22, 2023
- LINDA EGOLF**, Special Education '78, April 28, 2023
- ANNE FERGUSON**, MS Guidance and Counseling Education '77, April 19, 2023
- PATRICIA MCDIVITT FREY**, Elementary Education '68, April 6, 2023
- JO ANN HENDERSON**, MA Guidance and Counseling Education '68, March 7, 2023
- GERALD HERMS**, English '65, Feb. 26, 2023
- MARGARET HEWITT**, EdS '84 and EdD '89, Retired USF Professor, April 3, 2023
- PATRICIA GODDARD HICKS**, MA Distributive/Marketing Education '76, March 13, 2023
- MICHAEL LABARBERA**, Political Science '88, March 20, 2023
- LANE LANCE**, Marketing '75, June 20, 2023
- STEPHEN G. LONG**, Education '74, March 23, 2023
- ELIZABETH "BETTY" LYNCH**, Psychology '98, March 13, 2023
- DEBORAH L. LYONS**, MA Education Leadership '79, April 19, 2023
- ANGELA MASSARI**, Elementary Education '69, Feb. 7, 2023
- TIMOTHY D. MCMURRY**, Management '75 and MBA '85, Life Member, June 26, 2023
- DEBRA MEININGER**, MS Nursing '93, May 9, 2023
- ANTHONY A. MORE**, Chemistry '64, April 2, 2023
- JALENE HELEN MOSER**, Psychology '82, March 2, 2023

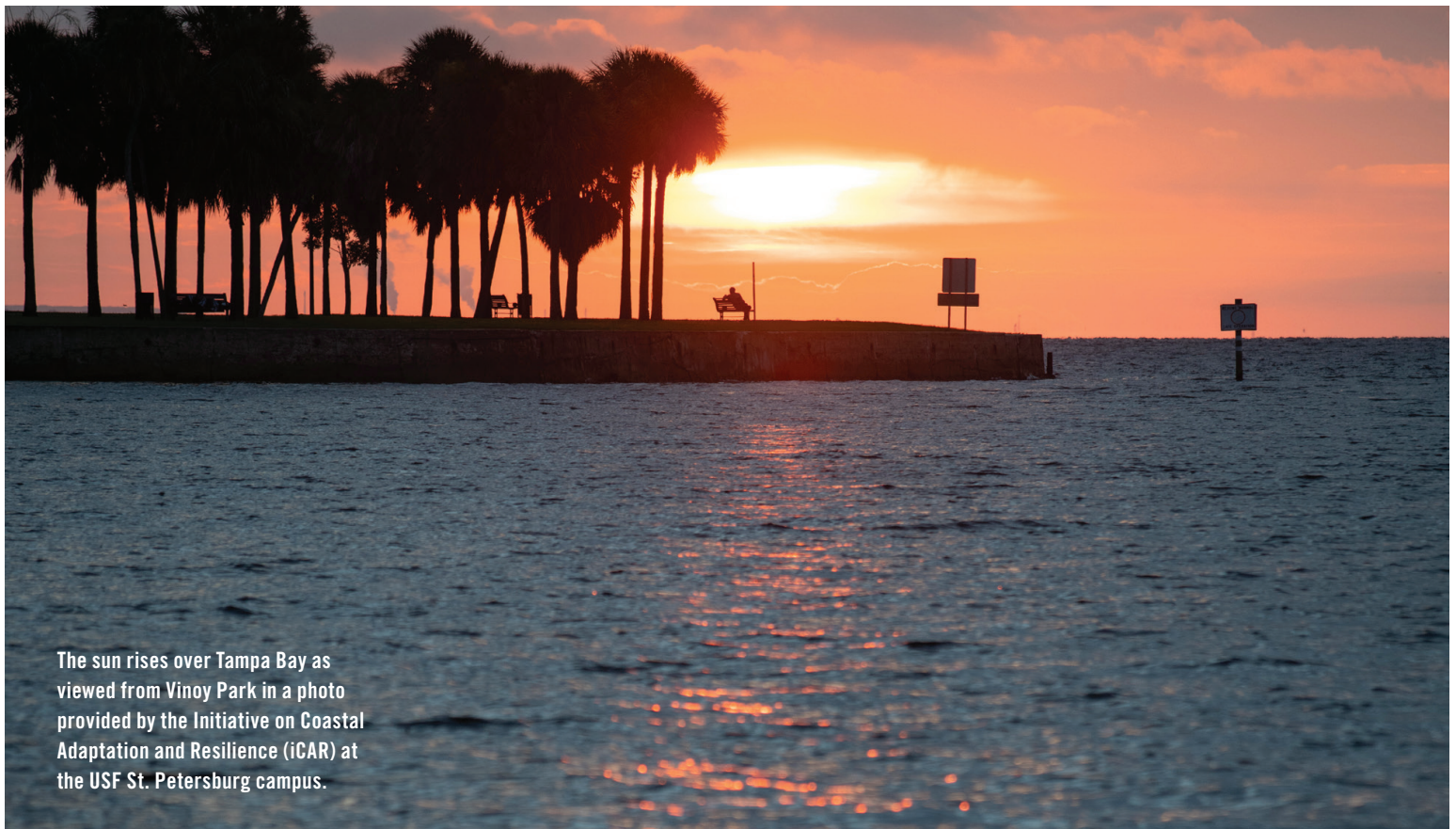
- CAROL JEAN POEHLER**, MA Reading Education '74, March 4, 2023
- KATHLEEN PROPER**, Elementary Education '71, Feb. 25, 2023
- DR. ALBERT SAPHIER**, MBA '91, Associate Professor, USF Morsani College of Medicine, March 4, 2023
- DOLORES SINGLETON**, Elementary Education '80, Feb. 19, 2023
- PETER SOUTHARD**, Sociology '95 and MA '95, May 10, 2023
- PATRICIA A. WASHINGTON**, Business Education '78, May 8, 2023
- LESA DAWN WRIGHT**, Geography '77, Feb. 18, 2023

## Faculty and Staff

- MARVIN ALVAREZ**, Professor, Biology, Feb. 5, 2023
- DR. WILLIAM "BILL" BLANK**, Professor Emeritus, Department of Education, Feb. 27, 2023
- JOSEPH C. GOULD**, Geology Instructor, March 17, 2023
- DR. FRANK MENDENBLATT**, Professor, Ophthalmology, March 27, 2023
- JACQUELINE MIRKIN**, Women's Studies Advisory Board, Feb. 27, 2023
- JOHN C. OGDEN**, Professor, Marine Science, June 25, 2023

## Friends

- VELVA WELLS CLARK**, Benefactor, April 9, 2023
- CAROL M. DUNN**, Benefactor, May 7, 2023
- DR. JULIAN NEWMAN**, Benefactor, May 22, 2023



The sun rises over Tampa Bay as viewed from Vinoy Park in a photo provided by the Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (iCAR) at the USF St. Petersburg campus.



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

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

It's easy to get involved! Just email the contact person of the group you'd like to visit. For alumni group events, visit [usfalumni.org/events](http://usfalumni.org/events).

### Interest-Based Groups

#### Black Alumni

Tina James  
blackalumnisociety@usfalumni-group.org

#### Bulls of the Last Decade

William Dailey  
wdailey@usf.edu

#### Dance Alumni Society

Sadie Lehmker  
slehmk@usf.edu

#### DBA Alumni Network

Andy Hafer  
USFDBAAlumni@gmail.com

#### Education Alumni

David Scanga  
usfedusociety@gmail.com

#### Engineering Alumni

Carissa Gudenkauf  
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#### Geology Alumni

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#### Kosove Scholarship Alumni

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#### Latino Alumni

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Delia Jourde  
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#### LGBTQ+ Alumni

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Dr. Ron Kennedy  
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#### Medicine Alumni

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#### Music Alumni

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Tanya Bruce  
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#### Patel College of Global Sustainability

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#### Psychology Alumni

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#### Public Health Alumni

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#### Rugby Alumni

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Sean Masse  
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### Geographical Groups

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#### Sarasota-Manatee

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#### Tallahassee

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usfalumnitally@gmail.com

#### Tampa (Greater Tampa)

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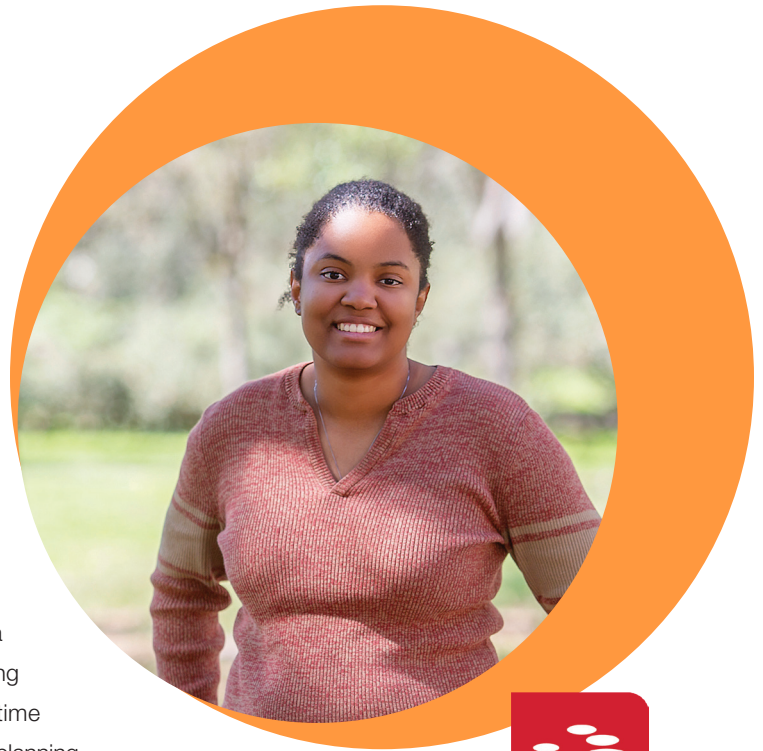


# WUSF INTERNS where are they now?

## Dinorah Prevost

WUSF Public Radio, Florida Matters, Producer

Dinorah graduated from the University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus with a degree in Mass Communications in May 2019. She discovered her love for public radio and audio editing while she was a news intern at WUSF 89.7, learning how to do daily radio reporting in the summer of 2018. Dinorah gained additional experience as a web production intern for six months at the Tampa Bay Times. Staying in touch with the WUSF newsroom staff helped her garner a part time position as Florida Matters producer which turned into a full-time job planning, recording and editing the interviews featured on the weekly public affairs show.



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