

Media Contact: Renee Hunt
(813) 974-5383 or (727) 458-5043 (cell)
reenehunt@usf.edu

****Please note for media planning purposes: Gross is not available for interviews on site. Still photography is only permitted in the first five minutes of the lecture. No audio or video recording is allowed.****

Former Cuban Hostage and Humanitarian Aid Worker Alan Gross to Lecture at USF

April 19 lecture is free and open to the public

TAMPA, Fla. (April 13, 2016) – International humanitarian aid worker and former Cuban hostage Alan Gross will share his unique story and insights into U.S. and Cuban relations from a personal perspective beyond the political arena during a lecture at USF on Tuesday, April 19. Co-sponsored by the USF Center for Strategic & Diplomatic Studies, University Lecture Series and Student Government, this Global Conversation Series lecture will be held at 8:00 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.) in the Marshall Student Center.

Gross' 25-year career was spent fighting poverty and oppression by administering civilian foreign aid and promoting democracy in more than 50 countries in the Middle East, Europe, Asia and Africa. While working on a humanitarian project to improve wireless access for the small Jewish community in Cuba in 2009, Gross was arrested and accused of working for American intelligence services. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison in 2011, but due to the tireless efforts of his wife and humanitarian groups worldwide, Gross was released in December 2014. Gross will candidly share the story of his incarceration, the people he met, the ordeals he experienced, and the adventures and lessons he has learned in his career.

The lecture is free and open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis following priority seating for USF students. There will be an open reception at 6:30 p.m. in the Top of the Palms restaurant on the third floor of the Marshall Student Center and a meet and greet following the lecture. For more information about the lecture series, including the audience policy, visit www.uls.usf.edu.

The University of South Florida is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. USF is a Top 25 research university among public institutions nationwide in total research expenditures, according to the National Science Foundation. Serving over 48,000 students, the USF System has an annual budget of \$1.6 billion and an annual economic impact of \$4.4 billion. USF is a member of the American Athletic Conference.