ETHIOPIA’S MOTA CAVE HELD A SECRET FOR USF ST. PETERSBURG RESEARCHERS: THE WORLD’S OLDEST AFRICAN GENOME.
THE USF CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM (CAM) brings creative expressions of cultural trends from around the world to the university community and the public. The recent Historias/Histories: Contemporary Art from Brazil exhibition brought Brazil’s rich past, varied histories and complex present to USF in a multi-media showcase. Established and emerging contemporary Brazilian artists were featured, including Jonathas de Andrade, Sonia Gomes, Virginia de Medeiros, Caio Reisewitz and Luiz Zerbini.

Concurrently, CAM’s west gallery hosted Sandra Cinto: Chance and Necessity, a site-specific installation by the São Paulo-based artist known for her dramatic meditations on the passing of time and the relationship of humans to nature.

In addition to temporary exhibitions and artist’s projects, CAM maintains the university’s art collection, comprising more than 5,000 art works, and campus public art program.

The 2016 MFA Graduation Exhibition will run through May 7 in CAM. The annual exhibition features master’s thesis work in a variety of media by the third-year Master of Fine Arts candidates in the School of Art and Art History.

For more information about the USF Contemporary Art Museum and upcoming exhibitions and projects, visit cam.usf.edu.

PHOTO: Caio Reisewitz, Uruçuí, 2016. This site-specific photographic collage created in the exhibition at CAM investigates the tension between urbanism and the natural environment in Brazil.
First Look
ONCE A YEAR, Bull chemical, electrical, mechanical, civil and software engineers gather for one night to do what engineers do best: solve a problem.

With Bullarney, an evening of fun and games, they raise serious money for USF engineering students.

“Back when Bullarney was created, we didn’t have a lot of scholarships in the College of Engineering. The Engineering Alumni Society wanted to fix that,” says Robert “Bob” Andrew, the 2016 Bullarney chair and a 1989 and ’92 alumnus. “Today we have an endowed account that’s providing yearly scholarships of $2,000 each to four students. Now, the money we raise funds other activities. A big one is giving money to students to go to professional conferences.”

Bullarney, always held in March in honor of St. Patrick, the patron saint of engineers, marked its 20th anniversary this year. It has helped raise more than $500,000 and provided scholarships for more than 500 students through events that have included dinners with guests decked out as mad scientists and Monty Python characters. In recent years, Bullarney morphed into a Las Vegas-style casino night with food, drink, music and a silent auction.

“We do it to help the students, the future engineers, and to support the College of Engineering,” says Andrew, an Alumni Association Life Member.

“But we also do it because engineers have the reputation of being nerds who don’t know how to have fun. That’s not true! We do know how to party – we just do it a little differently than other people.”

OPPOSITE PAGE:
From left, Shelley Serra, MA ’00, Tommy Serra, Robin Watson and Robert Watson (hidden) play blackjack.

ABOVE LEFT:
Center, USFSM faculty member Dug Cooley and Myra Cooley, ’71 and MS ’74, keep their eyes on the prize.

ABOVE RIGHT:
Philomina Joseph rolls the dice as chemical engineering professor Babu Joseph cheers her on.
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Features

24 Leading women
Women are transforming USF through generous gifts and intellectual support via organizations such as Women in Leadership & Philanthropy.

28 Unearthing discovery
To celebrate the USF System’s rise to No. 25 in the National Science Foundation rankings, we share 25 discoveries – in no particular order – unearthed by USF faculty and student research.

42 The total package
Three special mentor-mentee relationships demonstrate the profound impact alumni and other Bull mentors can have on students’ lives.

Departments

2 First Look
8 From the President
10 Campus
18 Athletics
22 Unstoppable

Forever Bulls

46 5 minutes with Bill
47 Alumni Association Annual Report
48 2015 Life Members Salute
52 Q & A: John Kirby, ’85, U.S. State Department
55 Blast from the Past
56 Where’s Rocky?
58 Chapters & Societies
62 Class Notes
68 Employ-A-Bull
69 Calendar

About the Cover: The entrance to Mota Cave, in the Gamo Highlands of Ethiopia, where USF St. Petersburg anthropologists John and Kathryn Arthur made a groundbreaking discovery. Story Pg. 28.

Cover photo courtesy of Matthew Curtis, Ventura College; cover design, Thomas Todd | USF
ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING aspects of the USF System is our ever-growing research enterprise. From groundbreaking discoveries that make international headlines to hurricane modeling focused on protecting Tampa Bay from the next big disaster, USF System researchers are making a difference that has real-world impacts both near and far.

Our health researchers relentlessly seek new cures and treatments for the world’s most aggressive diseases, viruses and infections. Our engineers are harnessing new ways to utilize renewable energy in developing countries and improve transportation options at home. Our business professors are lending their expertise to corporate leaders in finding new efficiencies in their own business practices – contributing to our local economy and helping Florida maintain its reputation as one of the country’s most business-friendly states.

As you will read in this issue’s cover story, one of our most exciting recent examples of our research prowess is illustrated in the work of Drs. Kathryn and John Arthur. This dynamic husband-and-wife duo earned international praise for the university through their discovery of the first complete ancient African genome. This discovery will have real-world implications on studies of DNA and disease research.

Because of these and many other examples of USF System research, we have now risen to the top 25 in national research rankings among all public research universities by the National Science Foundation with an impressive $488.6 million in research expenditures. I am so proud of this accomplishment, which is truly a reflection of the culture of innovation and creativity that unites USF in Tampa, USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee.

Of course, this is just one pillar of the USF System’s three-part mission that also includes providing excellence in education and meaningful outreach and service to help our community thrive.

To that end, in this issue you will also read about how so many of our local alumni are providing meaningful mentorship to current students – providing professional and personal advice, opening doors to valuable relationships and connecting them with job opportunities. This is what being a part of the Bulls family is all about: working together to make an impactful difference. This also supports a priority of Gov. Rick Scott’s “Ready, Set, Work” challenge, which calls upon universities to help graduates of our top degree fields secure productive jobs.

You will also read about how so many of our students are also benefiting from the generosity of other members of our USF community, through personal scholarships and dedicated gifts to our colleges. In particular, we applaud the recent trend of increased female philanthropy, with impactful gifts recently made to the Muma College of Business in Tampa and Kate Tiedemann College of Business at USF St. Petersburg by women leaders from across Tampa Bay. This trend is also reflected in our own Women in Leadership and Philanthropy, which recently celebrated 10 years of supporting women leaders of all ages through scholarship, mentorship, research grants, and service to the community.

These stories provide just a glimpse into the churning engine of education, research and community outreach that is the USF System. We thank you for sharing in our excitement for this institution’s incredible energy and positive trajectory.

Go Bulls!

Judy Genshaft, President
University of South Florida System
The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program. Six scholars from USF were awarded Fulbright grants—one International Education Administrator Award and five U.S. Scholar CORE grants.

“As the U.S. government’s preeminent international education award, the Fulbright is universally respected and USF World is proud of our system faculty who applied for this very competitive award,” says Roger Brindley, vice provost and USF System associate vice president for USF World.

The USF System has already surpassed last year’s goal with 12 faculty selected to receive a Fulbright next year and three applicants still awaiting news from the countries to which they applied.

Continually expanding the USF System’s global reach, the university recently ranked 16th in the nation with 35 undergraduate Peace Corps volunteers in 2015. Numbers are expected to increase as the university added its third Master’s International Program offered in cooperation with the Peace Corps. Students can now earn a combined Peace Corps experience and master’s degree in applied anthropology, global health, or civil or environmental engineering.

The USF System’s Office of National Scholarships has also seen much success with students receiving prestigious scholarships for opportunities to study abroad, complete research and build language skills. The United Kingdom is the most competitive country for a Fulbright student award, and the university is presently one of only two institutions with two recipients at once in the United Kingdom.

The presence of the USF System as a significant contributor to the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award, a top producer of Peace Corps volunteers, and a source of many student recipients of national scholarships speaks to the university’s rapidly growing reputation.

“As a global research university, the development of globally engaged and globally educated citizens who share a passion and commitment to solving today’s worldwide challenges and ensuring the ability to compete in the international jobs market is at the very heart of our mission,” says Ralph Wilcox, USF System provost and executive vice president of academic affairs.

“These esteemed recognitions are a reflection of our commitment to that mission and a result of the tireless efforts and dedication to international education by our faculty, staff and students.”

— Jessica Brightman, MA ‘12 | USF World
CAMPUS LIFE

Publix joins the USF family

USF WILL SOON OFFER A UNIQUE AMENITY to students, faculty and staff that will change the face of the Tampa campus in a reflection of the university’s continual focus on student success. The Florida Board of Governors (BOG), which oversees the State University System of Florida, approved plans for Publix Super Markets to build an approximately 29,000-square-foot store at USF. The project represents the first on-campus location in Florida for the Southeastern-based grocer – supporting a mutually beneficial public-private partnership that will enhance a transformative living-learning community to be built on the north side of campus. It’s also a first-of-its-kind in the country, as this will be the first Publix location fully integrated into a student housing village on a college campus.

USF’s agreement with Publix includes a lease for a store to be built at the southeast corner of Fletcher Avenue and North Palm Drive, which is currently unused land. The site will be an integral part of USF’s new Student Housing Village, which was supported by the BOG in November as the largest public-private partnership project ever approved by the board. Construction of the village is expected to begin later this year.

“The entire campus community is thrilled and excited to welcome Publix – one of Florida’s most respected companies – to our campus,” says USF System President Judy Genshaft. “Our students’ top request was to bring a grocery store to campus so that we could create a healthy living and learning environment that fully supports them in their goals and ambitions. This Publix location will bring a great dimension to our new student village and create a vibrant and welcoming environment on the Tampa campus.”

The project will continue to support USF’s relentless efforts to enhance student success, cultivating a culture of on-campus engagement. Studies have shown that active on-campus life has a direct impact on improving students’ academic performance, as well as helping them build stronger connections with their peers.

Upon completion of the village, more than 10,000 student beds will be located within walking distance of the grocery store or easily reached via campus shuttle.

The on-campus grocery store will also provide part-time employment opportunities for students. Publix has agreed to conduct at least two job fairs per year on the USF campus and will consider qualified students who apply for available employment and/or internships.

“We are excited to be joining the USF family in their new student village,” says Maria Brous, Publix director of media and community relations. “As strong supporters of the university and student life, we are looking forward to extending our partnership and bringing our in-store experience on campus.”

Construction on the grocery store could be complete by late next year.

— ADAM FREEMAN | USF
Dishing up veggies? Placement matters

PARENTS HAVE TRIED playing airplane – and a million other games – to cajole kids to eat their vegetables, but getting finicky eaters to make healthful food choices may be as simple as putting the broccoli on the left side of the plate.

A recent study by USF marketing professor Dipayan Biswas and doctoral student Marisabel Romero revealed that where food is actually displayed on the plate can nudge picky eaters to select more healthy options.

The researchers gave young people meals with the food displayed in different places. Sometimes the healthy items were on the left side of the plate, sometimes those options were on the right side or at the bottom.

“The left-right display patterns of healthy and unhealthy items influenced choice and consumption volume,” says Biswas. “People showed a relatively greater preference for healthy items such as salads when they were displayed on the left side of the plate.”

In light of worldwide obesity concerns and heightened awareness campaigns encouraging healthful consumption, these findings have important practical implications, particularly in settings where food placement is controlled by someone other than the eater.

Although their studies were mostly conducted with young adults in lab settings, Biswas says understanding how visual cues influence choice has important consequential implications, particularly for children and those who frequently eat in school cafeterias.

“Given that cafeteria managers have considerable flexibility in terms of how they display food items, they can use the findings of this research to nudge children toward more healthful choices,” says Biswas. “Since changing display patterns usually do not entail high levels of expenses, this can be a cost-effective option to encourage healthier choices.”

This isn’t the first food-related study that the sensory marketing expert has conducted. He recently partnered with the Hillsborough County School District to test whether having middle-schoolers undertake cognitive exercises before ordering food led the youngsters to order more healthful lunches. In addition, he has worked with multinational restaurant chains, international supermarkets, hotel chains, and local retailers to examine everything from how the weight or shape of glass impacts consumption to how ambient scents affect food choices to how lighting and color impact purchase behavior.

“I examine how the sights, sounds and smells influence consumer behavior and our decisions to buy or consume products,” says Biswas.

While frequently published in premier academic journals, Biswas’ research has obvious implications on real-world food marketing.

“We don’t always make the choice based on rational thought,” says Biswas. “Smell and touch and visual perceptions often play a much greater role than people realize.”
USF RANKED A TOP 50 ‘BEST COLLEGE VALUE’ FOR 2016

USF ranks among the nation’s top 50 best values in public higher education for 2016, according to a new list by Kiplinger’s Personal Finance.

USF placed 45th on Kiplinger’s list, which ranks colleges and universities that combine outstanding academics with affordable cost. USF was 52nd last year.

The university has appeared in Kiplinger’s Top 100 every year since 2008, a testament to USF’s commitment to consistently providing value for students. USF has continued to make significant gains in the annual rankings since placing 87th in 2012.

While the overall rankings are based on an institution’s value for its in-state residents, each college or university also receives a second ranking based on its value for out-of-state students. USF ranks 26th nationally among all public colleges and universities in that category.

Kiplinger’s assesses value by measuring academic factors such as admission rate, retention rate, the student-faculty ratio and graduation rate. The publication’s cost criteria include sticker price, financial aid and average debt at graduation.

USF’s graduation rate continues to set institutional records, while the university welcomed its strongest academic freshman class in school history this fall. Because of the investments made to the State University System by state leaders over the past several years, USF has been able to hold tuition and fees for resident undergraduate students flat for the past three years.

Find complete rankings at Kiplinger.com/links/college and in the February 2016 issue of Kiplinger’s Personal Finance.

INTERNATIONAL ARTS EXPERIENCE

Dancing in Paris

A SEMESTER DANCING IN PARIS and experiencing the French capital through the lens of dance – that’s a dream come true for just about any dancer. The USF Dance in Paris Semester Program (DPSP), an immersive study abroad opportunity for dance majors and minors, provides all that and more.

In sync with USF’s drive to globalize every student’s college experience, DPSP expands participants’ historical, cultural and performance-based knowledge, distinguishing USF as the only American university to offer a fully-accredited study abroad program of this kind.

“There’s a rich tradition of dance in Paris,” says program founder associate professor of dance Michael Foley, who specializes in modern dance, dance history and choreography. “Between the curriculum and the excursions we take to some of history’s greatest dance sites, such as The Paris Opera and Théâtre de Chaillot, our students are being exposed to the cradle of Western dance civilization. Every dancer should try to spend some time there in his or her lifetime.”

A two-year grant from the French Embassy is lowering tuition cost for students. “I have been humbled by this and the extraordinary support shown toward the realization of this program by the USF dance faculty, the staff at USF Education Abroad and USF System President Judy Genshaft,” Foley says. “Their investments in this program and the students it serves will be rewarded in multiples.”

– BARBARA MELENDEZ | USF

Photo: Courtesy of USF College of the Arts
A FIRST FOR RESEARCH

Joint research, faculty and student exchange of ideas, and opportunities for economic development are at the heart of a new agreement between USF and Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (PUCRS) – the first international research park agreement for USF.

USF System President Judy Genshaft and Joaquim Clotet, president of PUCRS, signed a formal agreement in January. It recognizes institutional mutual interests in education and research and focused on research-driven economic development to be shared and promoted by the USF Research Park and PUCRS’s research park, TECNOPUC.

In 2013, USF representatives visited PUCRS during the Tampa Bay Trade and Business Development Mission to Brazil, where Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn and the mayor of Porto Alegre, Jose Fortunati, signed a Sister City Agreement.

Joint research will include the fields of pharmacy, public health, engineering, computer science, sociology and political science, and the work of the USF Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean. Two USF faculty members, from English and Global Studies, will travel to PUCRS in July in advance of Brazil’s hosting the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Compassionate care

SHE’S A GRANDMOTHER TO 16 GRANDCHILDREN, she’s taking a cruise to the Caribbean, and she’s going to Miami to get a boat. These are details June Ryan wants her health care team at USF Health to know about her life, so she wrote them on a large poster as part of the Tell Me More event.

Held Feb. 15 to 19, the event was part of Solidarity Week, and was sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation to improve communication between physicians and their patients, and to raise awareness for compassionate patient care. Using the “tell me more” prompt, patients wrote at least three things about themselves on a poster, offering details about their own lives that the health care team might not know. Collected and posted on walls within clinics, the written information served as a reminder that patients are more than the symptoms they present.

“The details patients provide us about themselves help us start conversations with them and offer a better way to humanize their medical experience with us,” says Dr. Lucy Guerra, associate professor and director of the Division of General Internal Medicine for the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine.

“Sometimes we miss these details and knowing them could impact the health care we provide. These details can give the health care team a better understanding of what’s going on in the patients’ lives and what might be affecting their health, details that otherwise might not have been presented. That information helps us define better health care plans that patients are more likely to follow through on.”

The annual campaign is held at medical schools, patient care facilities and other organizations across the country. At USF Health, health teams in the Division of General Internal Medicine, the Department of Family Medicine and the primary care clinic at the USF Health Byrd Alzheimer’s Institute stepped up to participate in the weeklong campaign. In addition to forms for writing their three personal details, patients were presented with information about Solidarity Week, a button calling for Solidarity for Compassionate Patient Care and an apple.

– SARAH WORTH ’86 | USF HEALTH
Perseverance fulfills graduation dream

BILL MARIOTTI WAS FIVE CLASSES SHY of graduating when his father plunged through a skylight at a demolition project in Sarasota. He survived, but broke both ankles, requiring months of recuperation – time spent away from work.

In an instant, the trajectory of Mariotti’s life changed. The 22-year-old stopped taking classes at USF in Tampa to focus on his father’s business, a site-development company.

But as time passed and his involvement in the company deepened, Mariotti’s motivation to hit the books waned. Months stretched into years and then decades. By the time he reached his 40s, Mariotti was running the company as president and CEO.

Years later, at 53, he decided it was now or never. Friends – in particular USF Alumni Association Life Member Ted Bogusz, ’79 – urged him to “go for it” and get his degree. Heeding their advice, Mariotti enrolled at USF Sarasota-Manatee in 2014. He planned to take one class per semester at night – five all together – to avoid interfering with business.

He remembers feeling anxious that first day back – “it was like going to the doctor’s office” – and recalls how classes had changed. One assignment required he create a PowerPoint presentation, which left him turning to a friend for advice. “It seemed like everything you needed to learn was on a computer,” he says.

He found the routine outside of class equally daunting:

“I have so much more on my mind now. It felt like I had to learn how to study again.”

But he persevered. One thing that didn’t need adjustment was how he related to his much younger fellow students, who welcomed him despite the age gap. “I’m the older, slower one,” he would say, cracking a smile.

In December, 2015, at 55, Mariotti earned a bachelor’s degree in business with a concentration in management and marketing. The Alumni Association Life Member finished what began more than 30 years ago.

He remembers a flood of emotions at graduation. His mother and father had long since passed away, but many friends cheered him on. “I was happy and sad,” he says. “Happy at the accomplishment, but sad it’s over.”

– RICH SHOPE | USFSM

USFSM ESTABLISHES COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

In an effort to meet the changing workforce needs of its community, USF Sarasota-Manatee this fall is establishing a College of Science & Mathematics as part of a realignment of its four colleges.

“By aligning our programs in this new college structure, USF Sarasota-Manatee is in a better position to serve our growing student population while also positioning the campus to obtain new resources in the future,” Regional Chancellor Sandra Stone says. In addition, the current College of Arts & Sciences and College of Education will merge to create a College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences (CLASS).
TWENTY-THREE USF ST. PETERSBURG STUDENTS gained the experience of a lifetime in New Hampshire, interning for presidential campaigns for the 10 days leading up to the state’s primary. “Road to the White House,” a quadrennial course taught by Judithanne Scourfield McLauchlan, immerses students in the history and politics of U.S. presidential campaigns and the election process.

Before embarking on their journey, students chose the Democratic and Republican politicians they wanted to represent: Jeb Bush, Hillary Clinton, Ted Cruz, Martin O’Malley, Marco Rubio, Bernie Sanders or Donald Trump.

“We want them to be enthusiastic about their candidate,” says McLauchlan, associate professor of political science at USFSP, who has taught the course four times since 2004. “It’s really difficult to feel motivated and to campaign in the snow for a candidate you don’t believe should be president.”

Freshman political science major David Thompson started his first day on the campaign representing O’Malley, but switched to Marco Rubio when the Maryland governor dropped out of the race.

“I wanted to just be part of the campaign of somebody that I knew and endorse his policies,” says Thompson. He decided to represent Rubio after having played the role of Rubio during a mock presidential debate at USFSP. “I’d spent so much time learning about him and his policies that it only felt natural that I could easily recite his themes off the back of my hand.”

In New Hampshire, the robust daily itinerary for the class began early in the morning and continued until early the next morning. Between a meager few hours of sleep each day, students engaged in seminars and meetings with journalists and academics. They went on several field trips, including a visit to the state capitol to meet with lawmakers. However, the majority of their days involved canvassing for their candidates. When they weren’t campaigning door-to-door or logging hours making phone calls to promote their presidential hopeful, the students attended town hall meetings and got to speak with their candidates face-to-face.

“There’s really nothing like being up there, in the snow, meeting the candidates and being a part of the process firsthand. It’s extraordinary,” McLauchlan says.

The students say they were grateful to have had the opportunity to experience the election process in a state that is so politically focused.

“While we were in New Hampshire, someone said, ‘New Hampshire doesn’t have sports: They have elections,’” says Alyssa Winston, an Interdisciplinary Social Science major who interned for the Sanders campaign. “It was a completely different experience that we got there than we would have received working primaries here in Florida.”

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DISTANCE LEARNING SYMPOSIUM FEATURES SIR KEN ROBINSON

Keynote speaker Sir Ken Robinson wowed the crowd at the inaugural Bay-to-Bay Distance Learning Symposium at USF St. Petersburg in February. Robinson, a renowned TED speaker and an internationally recognized authority on creativity and innovation in education and business, addressed the importance of instilling creativity in curricula at all grade levels.

“It’s not often that we get to welcome a knight to our campus,” says USFSP Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska, “not to mention one of TED’s most celebrated speakers and a best-selling author who has made the New York Times list, not once, but a couple of times.”

The Bay-to-Bay Distance Learning Symposium was the first event to be hosted by the new Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, for which USFSP has received legislative funding.

4TH WORLD AFFAIRS CONFERENCE DRAWS THOUSANDS TO USFSP

USF St. Petersburg hosted the fourth annual St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs this spring. The three-day event brings together diplomats, military, media representatives, academics and other experts to engage in discussions about today’s most critical foreign affairs issues.

Speakers included Nigerian filmmaker Nosarieme Garrick on stability in Africa; David Fidler, who tackled the complexities of China today; and St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman, who led a session on St. Petersburg as an international city. Panel discussion topics included the Syrian refugee crisis, U.S. relations with Cuba and Venezuela, gun control and gun rights, and health care.

“This conference is a true source of pride for us,” says Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska. “It is widely recognized as a model partnership between campus and community.”

The St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs is a cooperative venture of the USFSP Honors Program and a group of civic-minded St. Petersburg residents.

INNOVATIVE EDUCATION

New Innovation Hub aids production of high-quality online courses

IN AN EFFORT TO MEET THE growing demand for more flexible educational offerings, USF Innovative Education recently opened the new Innovation Hub, a collaborative space designed to empower USF faculty and staff to create affordable, accessible, high-quality online courses that meet the needs of today’s students.

Located on the northwest corner of campus, the hub includes a video production studio, an audio recording booth, collaborative spaces and modern work stations. It’s the home of USF’s online course conversion and media innovation team, a group of instructional designers, multi-media designers and video production professionals who specialize in building sophisticated, interactive online courses.

“If you took an online course 10 years ago, you may
have simply watched a video recording of an instructor delivering a lecture in the front a traditional classroom. Today’s online courses are different,” says Christine Brown ’02 & MEd ’07, acting director of USF’s online course conversion and media innovation team. “They are infused with rich media, including videos, audio and animations, as well as interactive elements. Our primary focus is student success, and the collaborative space we have created supports USF’s strategic goals of providing high quality educational opportunities and improving learning outcomes.”

In the coming year, USF expects to produce more than 150 new courses in the hub.

“Demand for online courses has grown considerably in the past decade, with more than 65 percent of all current USF students taking at least one online course per year. By increasing the number of online course options, we can significantly expand access and flexibility to our students and provide a USF education to those that are beyond the geographic limits of our physical space,” says Cynthia DeLuca, assistant vice provost for USF Innovative Education.

With new, high-quality online courses offered each year, and thousands of students enrolling in these courses each semester, the benefit to USF’s students is clear.

“Through our work with USF’s colleges, faculty and administration, we have made significant progress towards contributing to the strategic initiatives of the institution and the goals set by the Board of Governors. This is evident in the continual increase in online enrollments and in the national rankings of our online programs,” says DeLuca. “It is our goal to work with the university community to develop new and innovative online opportunities and initiatives that benefit our students. The Innovation Hub will assist us in meeting that goal.”

To learn more about USF’s online initiatives, or to view a complete listing of online programs, visit usf.edu/innovative-education.

— STEPHANIE HARFF ’95 | INNOVATIVE EDUCATION
USF FOOTBALL CONTINUES TO BUILD MOMENTUM after returning to the postseason at the Miami Beach Bowl.

Five four-star recruits pledged their commitment to the program as USF welcomed an 18-player signing class that ranked near the top of the American Athletic Conference.

USF’s fax machine was quite busy on National Signing Day with National Letters of Intent coming in from 15 student-athletes. The group joined three 2016 signees who enrolled at USF in January.

Keeping local talent continues to be a priority for head coach Willie Taggart and his staff. Five new players from the Tampa Bay area signed with USF, bringing the Bulls’ total up to 22 in the past three seasons. USF added 15 players from the state of Florida, along with talent from Alabama, Oklahoma and Mississippi.

Fans can watch the newest group of Bulls prepare for the season ahead during spring practice.

Taggart has opened all 15 sessions to the public at the Morsani Practice Complex, leading up to the spring game at Corbett Stadium on Saturday, April 16.

USF begins the season at home against Towson on Saturday, Sept. 3. The Bulls’ other 2016 opponents at Raymond James Stadium are Northern Illinois (Sept. 10), FSU (Sept. 24), East Carolina (Oct. 8), UConn (Oct. 15), Navy (Oct. 28) and UCF (Nov. 26).

– Stories by TOM ZEBOLD | USF ATHLETICS
Bulls score big in the classroom

USF Athletics scored another huge victory in the classroom by posting an overall department grade-point average of over 3.0 for the 2015 fall semester.

USF’s 19 varsity athletic teams and nearly 500 student-athletes recorded a combined 3.083 GPA. A total of 258 student-athletes earned a GPA of 3.0 or better and 30 Bulls had at least a 4.0 GPA. Eighteen Bulls earned their degree in December and more than 40 are scheduled to graduate this May.

Fifteen of USF’s athletic teams had a 3.0 GPA or better during the 2015 fall term, led by the volleyball team’s 3.432 GPA. Head coach Matt Hill’s men’s tennis squad led all USF men’s teams with a 3.370 GPA after winning back-to-back conference titles and advancing to the NCAA Sweet 16 for the first time.

Both the volleyball and men’s tennis programs were among 10 USF teams to post four-year highs in team GPA in the fall. USF football had a 2.813 GPA in the fall with 51 players posting a 3.0 GPA or better.

Highlight reels

Senior guard Courtney Williams (pictured at right with women’s basketball head coach Jose Fernandez) became the first player in USF women’s basketball history to collect 2,000 points, 800 rebounds and 300 assists in a career leading up to the Bulls’ post-season run. Williams has been one of the top scorers in the country all season and she’s on several national award watch lists...

Head coach Mark Kingston’s baseball team took two of three from Liberty University at home in the program’s first opening series victory since 2008...

Several program records fell as USF men’s golf started the spring by defending its title at the SunTrust Gator Invitational. Junior Rigel Fernandes set a program record with a 63 in the second round and won the individual title...

USF men’s tennis competed in the ITA Division I National Men’s Team Indoor Championship for the first time in school history after defeating FSU and LSU during ITA Kickoff Weekend on campus...

In January, more than 100 student-athletes and coaches participated in Stampede of Service, a program that allows students to become aware of social issues through community service the weekend before the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The Bulls rolled up their sleeves and completed landscaping projects at two Salvation Army locations and the University Area Community Development Corporation in Tampa.
FORMER USF FOOTBALL PLAYERS HAVE gone on to do great things in the NFL and Kayvon Webster’s latest accomplishment is second to none.

Webster, Health Sciences ’13, made history as the first Bull to play in two Super Bowls, serving as a team captain in the Denver Broncos’ 24-10 victory over the Carolina Panthers at Levi’s Stadium on Feb. 7.

“The Super Bowl is pretty big and it’s a huge milestone,” Webster says. “Most people don’t even get a chance to say they even went to the playoffs, let alone the Super Bowl.”

Webster already has a lot to talk about when it comes to the NFL postseason.

Drafted in the third round by Denver in 2013, Webster earned a spot on the roster for Super Bowl XLVIII during his rookie season and played a handful of snaps on special teams against the Seattle Seahawks.

“I’m thankful and blessed to be in the position I’m in. To leave USF, get drafted and then come to a winning team is a great thing,” he says.

Denver returned to the playoffs in the AFC divisional round last season and Webster helped the Broncos book another trip to the Super Bowl with his all-around efforts this postseason. The defensive back and special teams standout received a game ball after pinning Pittsburgh at the 3-yard line on a punt in Denver’s 23-16 divisional round victory on Jan. 17.

“Special teams is something the team needs and they expect you to play at a high level,” Webster says. “I just go out there trying to do the best I can every time I step on the field.”

Webster was a team captain in the AFC
Championship, and the speedster continued to make an impact on special teams. Denver had a 17-12 lead late in the third quarter, when a diving Webster scooped up a Britton Colquitt punt in front of the goal line that was downed at the New England 4-yard line. Webster played 45 snaps in the dramatic 20-18 win with two tackles and a pass breakup.

“He’s been playing with confidence across the board,” Broncos head coach Gary Kubiak says.

Webster also received praise from future Hall of Fame quarterback Peyton Manning. “Kayvon was awesome,” Manning said after the victory over New England. Webster has been fortunate to play alongside several NFL stars during his progressing pro career and cherishes his time with Manning.

“I’ve been able to play with Peyton for three years, and man it’s been great,” Webster says. “I’m glad to be able to have him as a teammate, as a leader and as a quarterback.”

Webster impressed Manning even more in Super Bowl 50 and joined a USF fraternity of Super Bowl champions. USF has had a former player on a Super Bowl team 12 times, and nine Bulls have earned Super Bowl rings. Webster impressed Manning even more in Super Bowl 50 and joined a USF fraternity of Super Bowl champions. USF has had a former player on a Super Bowl team 12 times, and nine Bulls have earned Super Bowl rings.

Webster has had a former player on a Super Bowl team 12 times, and nine Bulls have earned Super Bowl rings.

Webster definitely earned his ring, playing in 26 snaps after walking out to midfield as a captain for the coin toss. He was on the field for 78 percent of Denver’s special teams plays and showcased his coverage ability as the world watched.

With Denver ahead, 3-0, in the first quarter, a Colquitt punt sailed to the Carolina 16. Webster raced downfield and tackled Tedd Ginn for a 1-yard loss. Three plays later, Super Bowl MVP Von Miller forced a fumble on a sack in the end zone and the Broncos extended their lead to 10-0.

Making plays was something Webster did on the regular as a Bull from 2009-12. The former All-Big East selection racked up a career-high 81 tackles (61 solo) during his senior year with three forced fumbles. Webster made 190 total tackles as a Bull and he’s tied for 12th on the program’s all-time list with 49 career games played (32 starts).

“Being a two-time Super Bowl player is special, a lot of players don’t get a chance to go to one,” Webster says. “Having a chance to go to two is definitely a blessing.”

– TOM ZEBOID | USF ATHLETICS

USF Bulls in the Super Bowl

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016 XLX</td>
<td>Kayvon Webster</td>
<td>DB</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>W, 24-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 XLIX</td>
<td>B.J. Daniels*</td>
<td>QB</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>L, 28-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 XLVIII</td>
<td>Kayvon Webster</td>
<td>DB</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>L, 43-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 XLVIII</td>
<td>B.J. Daniels*</td>
<td>QB</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>W, 43-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 XLVI</td>
<td>Jason Pierre-Paul</td>
<td>DE</td>
<td>N.Y. Giants</td>
<td>W, 21-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 XLVI</td>
<td>Jacquian Williams</td>
<td>LB</td>
<td>N.Y. Giants</td>
<td>W, 21-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 XLV</td>
<td>Sampson Genus*</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Green Bay</td>
<td>W, 31-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008 XLII</td>
<td>Kawika Mitchell</td>
<td>LB</td>
<td>N.Y. Giants</td>
<td>W, 17-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 XXXIX</td>
<td>J.R. Reed</td>
<td>DB</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>L, 24-21</td>
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<td>2003 XXXVII</td>
<td>Ryan Benjamin</td>
<td>LB</td>
<td>Tampa Bay</td>
<td>W, 48-21</td>
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<td>2002 XXXVI</td>
<td>Kenyatta Jones</td>
<td>OL</td>
<td>New England</td>
<td>W, 20-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002 XXXVI</td>
<td>Scott McCready*</td>
<td>WR</td>
<td>New England</td>
<td>W, 20-17</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*practice squad
Playwriting program arises from a story of tragedy and tribute

THE DREAMS OF FIVE USF students stirred to life in the spotlight of a South Carolina stage this past February. Each had penned a promising one-act play, read before judges at the prestigious Region IV competition of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in Charleston.

It was a milestone to savor for the second-year playwriting program in USF's School of Theater and Dance. But the moment also served as a poignant tribute to a long-ago, real-life drama of profound loss and amazing resilience that inspired the program.

In this story, the world of a young girl growing up in St. Petersburg, Jane McNeil, was shattered when she was orphaned at age 13. But the pain and sorrow she experienced gradually gave way to healing – and grew into a deep desire to honor her mother in a meaningful way.

Out of circumstances steeped in tragedy and heartbreak, and propelled by a series of serendipitous twists, USF's playwriting program was born.

The exciting events in Charleston resulted directly from McNeil's three-year gift of $105,000 to establish the Lily Dishman Playwriting Program in her mother's name. Eleven USF students participated in the festival, accompanied by instructor and veteran playwright Bill Leavengood. In the end, senior Luke Holt's play, Motoraku, was chosen as just one of two short works to advance to the national round.

"My mother would have been so thrilled by all of this," McNeil says.

There's good reason for that. In her early 40s, Lily
decided to return to college. She enrolled at USF, focusing on theater and writing some 80 pages of a play at the time of her death. McNeil was aware of her mother’s passion for drama, and decades later found a perfect way to celebrate it.

While doing a Google search, she stumbled upon something she’d never known: Her parents had once made a gift to create a scholarship in Lily’s name to help USF theater students. The scholarship had long since ended, but the revelation prompted McNeil to contact the university. After discussions with Director of the School of Theater and Dance Marc Powers and the USF Foundation, the Lily Award was created in 2012. “It’s a beautiful endowment that helps six of our graduates each year with $2,000 apiece in start-up funds for things like travel or auditions,” Powers says.

McNeil subsequently met a USF student who was writing plays on his own. Impressed, she asked Powers: “What would it take to launch a playwriting program?” The key would be finding a strong instructor, he explained. By chance, during one of her rare trips to St. Petersburg after the loss of her parents, McNeil decided to visit a local bookstore that had been her mother’s favorite, Haslam’s. Stepping inside for the first time in 30 years, she asked where the drama section was, and randomly picked up a book of plays – by Bill Leavengood.

McNeil had no idea he was teaching theater at the same preparatory school she had attended as a child. All she knew was that she loved the writing, and thought: “That’s who I want as my instructor!” Leavengood signed on, and the program blossomed. “It’s going great,” he says. “Jane has big plans for what she wants to do here.”

There is one more twist to the script: McNeil and Leavengood are collaborating on a play – completing the one Lily Dishman was never able to finish. It is a fitting final act for a life cut short, and a life that has paved the way for many plays and dreams to come.

— Stories by DAVE SCHEIBER | USF FOUNDATION

GIFT TO THE COLLEGE OF NURSING HELPS VETS WITH PTSD

Jane McNeil hasn’t only touched the lives of young playwrights at USF. She recently lent a philanthropic hand to another cause close to her heart—the issue of post-traumatic stress disorder. As a result of her generosity, the USF Health College of Nursing reached across the Atlantic Ocean in October to help current and former members of the military suffering from PTSD.

Her gift to the college from the Lily Foundation – honoring her late mother –  paved the way for a highly successful Restore Lives conference that drew representatives from the medical and armed forces communities.

McNeil’s late father dealt with stress issues stemming from his World War II service, and she endured intense emotional trauma after losing both her parents as a young teen. Her desire to help post-traumatic stress sufferers spurred her to support the College of Nursing’s work on that front. And it led to a special honor in January, when Dean Dianne Morrison-Beedy presented McNeil with the 2016 Nursing Champion Award and a memory scrapbook filled with photos of the event.

“That gift made a huge difference — not only for the people who attended but the people impacted by those who attended,” the Dean told her.

McNeil prefers to give credit to the College of Nursing. “It’s easy for me to do what I do on my end,” she says. “They do the real work: the work that changes lives of those suffering with post-traumatic stress as well as their families. For countless generations to come, the ripple effect of their healing is priceless.”

$907,442,332 REASONS TO SAY “THANK YOU!”

The USF: Unstoppable Campaign has raised more than $907 million from people like you. Together we are Unstoppable. Read more about the campaign at www.unstoppable.usf.edu.
Through their generosity, female leaders are making a difference in the lives of so many of our students and faculty – leaving a lasting impact on the future.”

— Judy Genshaft, USF System President
EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK in the USF System, the heart of charitable giving beats steady and strong. But philanthropy pulses to a particularly robust rhythm when it comes to women.

One needs only to peruse the USF landscape in the past few years to see this transformative trend in action, with Kate Tiedemann’s $10 million gift to the College of Business at USF St. Petersburg, the largest gift the campus has ever received; Lynn Pippenger’s donations of $10 million to the School of Accountancy at the Muma College of Business in Tampa and $5 million to the Tiedemann College of Business in St. Petersburg; or Ellen Cotton’s $1.1 million in gifts for endowed scholarships and student engagement at USFSP.

Of course, they follow the generous leads of Carol Morsani and Pam Muma who, along with their husbands, have helped reshape USF in so many ways—from the Morsani College of Medicine to the Muma College of Business and many formative gifts in between.

It turns out that USF—propelled by the mission of the university’s vibrant and impactful Women in Leadership & Philanthropy (WLP) program—is well ahead of the curve.

The philanthropic mark made by women at the university mirrors a national trend, which highlights a distinct gender gap between male and female donors. A recent Wall Street Journal story underscored that point, noting that “women are more likely to give, and to give more, than men in similar situations.” WSJ pointed to some eye-opening findings from the Women’s Philanthropy Institute at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, as well as several of its own:

• Baby boomer and older women give 89 percent more often than men of the same age range.
• Women in the top 25 percent income bracket donate 156 percent more than their male counterparts.
• Women are more generous than men at nearly all income levels, in spite of generally making less money comparatively, and not having as much money in retirement.

One reason for this, says Diane Price Herndl, PhD, chair of USF’s Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, may be that “many successful women understand very well that no woman succeeds by herself and they often want to use their gifts to others as a way to honor those that helped them.”

As further explanation of the sizable gap, the article highlights a 2013 U.S. Trust survey on women and wealth, concluding that females “are nearly twice as likely as men to say that giving to charity is the most satisfying aspect of having wealth.”

That said, USF has also enjoyed a long and significant
tradition of philanthropy from numerous male donors, many of whom are not even alumni. Whether female or male, selfless giving and a spirit of involvement and support is familiar territory for WLP, which marked its 10th anniversary making a difference in the USF System in 2015. In its own words, WLP’s mission has been “to engage and educate visionary leaders and philanthropists to make a difference for women throughout the USF System and Community.”

Founded in 2005 by a small group of women and a handful of Tampa Bay area corporations, the organization was committed to a vision shared by Carol Morsani and USF System President Judy Genshaft: creating the first women’s philanthropic organization in the Tampa Bay region focused on developing the intellectual and leadership potential of women through the promotion of leadership development, mentorship, philanthropy, community engagement and scholarly excellence. To advance those objectives, over the past 10 years WLP has raised well over $2 million, and has deployed more than $500,000 in grants, scholarships, and other funding to assist female students and faculty members – a sign that USF has been a trailblazer in an area now gaining national exposure.

“Celebrating women’s achievements and building the capacity of current and future female leaders is what we are all about,” says WLP executive director India Witte. “We’re proud of what we call ‘the power of the collective’ – the impact WLP members have made by leveraging the power of their collective philanthropic and volunteer leadership contributions to create new opportunities for women. And we’re equally proud that this national conversation about women’s
leadership in giving reflects the significant work we have been doing for more than a decade now. We are definitely ahead of the curve, and it has benefited many, many lives.”

President Genshaft couldn’t be more excited by the increased philanthropic role of women, and the difference made by the group she helped found. “Through their generosity, female leaders are making a difference in the lives of so many of our students and faculty – leaving a lasting impact on the future.”

It is there that the heart of giving beats into a new decade of women making a difference.

1 USF President Judy Genshaft and WLP Honorary Chair Carol Morsani at the outset of WLP at USF. President Genshaft had developed similar successful programs at Ohio State University and the University at Albany. Carol Morsani, a well-known philanthropist in the Tampa Bay area, was asked to be honorary chair and shape the program.

2 Three of the earliest WLP scholarship winners.

3 A group of early WLP supporters at the dedication ceremony in the Sam and Martha Gibbons Alumni Center.

4 From left, USF faculty member Jodi Ray, former Tampa Mayor and WLP Lifetime member Pam Iorio, and WLP founding member Dr. Mona Jain, at a WLP-sponsored event.

5 Pam and Les Muma visit the newly named Muma College of Business. Pam Muma is a founding member of WLP.

6 WLP member Kate Tiedemann was honored at the announcement of her gift to name the Kate Tiedemann College of Business at USFSU.

7 Lynn Pippenger speaks at the announcement of her gift to name the Lynn Pippenger School of Accountancy at the USF Muma College of Business.

8 WLP member Ellen Cotton named the Atrium in the Kate Tiedemann College of Business building and launched the Ellen Cotton Scholars program at USFSP.

9 WLP awards support faculty research. Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman, assistant professor of sociology and recent Fulbright Award winner, was one of four USF research faculty receiving awards in 2015-16.
anthropologists Kathryn and John Arthur discovered the first complete ancient African genome in Mota Cave in the Ethiopian Gamo highlands
The University of South Florida System continues to rise in the national rankings for research universities and is now ranked No. 25 among all public universities by the National Science Foundation and No. 2 in Florida.

This reflects the USF System’s 6.4 percent increase in total research expenditures, from $459.4 million in fiscal year 2013 to $488.6 million in 2014.

On the following pages, you’ll find 25 examples, in no particular order, from USF, USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee, that offer just a small glimpse into the university’s growing research enterprise.
WHEN USF ST. PETERSBURG anthropologist Kathryn Arthur entered Ethiopia’s Mota Cave on a cold, damp day in June 2011, she had no idea that this cave, one of dozens, held a secret: the first complete ancient African genome. It would be a year before she and her husband, fellow USFSP anthropologist John Arthur, would return to the cave to unearth human remains among the stone and clay artifacts they sought. And it would not be until the fall of 2015 that they would know the true significance of their discovery.

The Arthurs had spent several years researching the Gamo population in the highlands of southwestern Ethiopia. They were working in their areas of expertise, first by examining the region’s caste system, one in which pottery and stone tools are still made by hand and regarded as status markers. More recently, they had mapped numerous caves in the highlands with the assistance of the local community, and had found the region to be rich with artifacts that help explain the development of what is still a highly ordered, agrarian society.

“From the time I first entered Mota with my local research assistant, Yohannes Tocha, I knew this cave would be one we’d want to explore further,” says Kathryn Arthur.

“It was different than others we’d been in. It had a ceiling almost high enough that I could stand inside without crouching, and this cave had a dirt floor, rather than the rock we’d seen in so many others.”

Arthur and Tocha found evidence of human existence that day – bits of charcoal and ancient stone – and they took the samples back to the research station, a Catholic mission 9,000 feet up the mountain, where John Arthur and other members of the research team were working. The next day they left, as they had for so many summers before, to teach their fall term classes in St. Petersburg.

The Arthurs returned to the cave in June of 2012 with researcher Matthew Curtis, an archaeologist with Ventura College and UCLA Extension, and Mauro Coltorti and Pierluigi Pieruccini of Siena Universitv in Italy. They worked for a month, digging for stone tools and pottery shards. And then they spotted them: the bones of a human foot protruding from a collection of large stones, about 2.5 feet beneath the earth’s surface. The stones protected the remains of a man, his head resting on a rock pillow and his hands folded under his face. He was surrounded by the stone flake tools the team had hoped to find.

“It took about five days to excavate the complete skeleton,” says John Arthur. “We learned later that it was approx-
The Arthurs named the skeleton Bayira, meaning “first born” in the Gamo language. After completing excavation, they drove the remains to the National Museum of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa, where Bayira now rests, along with some of the other great finds from Ethiopia, including the hominin “Lucy,” one of humankind’s earliest ancestors.

In the summer of 2013, the Arthurs returned to Ethiopia with Jay Stock, a human osteological specialist from Cambridge University. Stock’s initial study of Bayira revealed that the individual was male, approximately 5 feet tall, and 30 to 50 years old at the time of his death. At Stock’s suggestion, the Arthurs secured permission from the Ethiopian government to send the petrous (ear) bone to the United Kingdom, and a team of geneticists began what would become two years of DNA sequencing. Last fall, the team contacted the Arthurs to confirm that they did, indeed, have the world’s oldest, complete African genome.

“This is remarkable as scientists believed that retrieval of a complete genome was unlikely given Africa’s hot, humid climate,” says John Arthur. “Bayira’s genome provides a new baseline for understanding later population interactions between Africa, Asia and Europe. His genetic sequence supports the idea that more recent population interactions are responsible for Eurasian admixture into modern East African populations.”

The geneticists also learned from Bayira’s DNA that this man had brown hair and brown eyes. His DNA contained three genetic variants common among modern highlands people and which provide adaptations to the low oxygen conditions of high altitude. And, amazingly, analysis showed that Bayira also was lactose intolerant, suggesting that he was not engaged in pastoralism.

“This discovery represents a nice merger of genomics, archaeology, anthropology, even population epidemiology,” says Dr. Stephen Liggett, Vice Dean for Research, USF Health Morsani College of Medicine. “So much more data mining can occur from this genome.”

The Backstory

John and Kathryn Arthur have been studying the populations of Ethiopian highlands since 1995. Since then, they’ve received six external and internal research grants – three from the National Science Foundation, one from the National Endowment for Humanities, and two from USF St. Petersburg and the USF System. News of their discovery of Bayira was published in 2015 by more than 200 organizations, including Science, the National Science Foundation, The Christian Science Monitor, the Tampa Bay Times and The New York Times. 

– JESSICA BLAIS  |  USF ST. PETERSBURG
A successful treatment for age-related hearing loss (ARHL) is a step closer to reality. A USF research team composed of faculty and students and led by Robert Frisina Jr., director of the USF Global Center for Hearing & Speech Research and the College of Engineering’s biomedical engineering researchers, will test a new drug developed for ARHL. Also called “presbycusis,” it is the number one communication disorder and most common neurodegenerative condition affecting older Americans. The condition directly and negatively affects quality of life for older people, and severe cases have recently been linked to the earlier onset of dementia. ARHL is estimated to affect 10 percent of the population. “The most common complaint among people with ARHL is difficulty hearing speech where there is a lot of background noise, such as in a restaurant,” says Frisina. “Currently, there are no U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved treatments for permanent hearing loss, including ARHL, despite its prevalence. Over 40 million people in the U.S. alone have ARHL or other forms of permanent hearing loss.”

"Ranking among the top 25 public research universities is a tremendous accomplishment. The NSF report provides national recognition for the hard work of our faculty, students and staff.”

– Judy Genshaft, USF System President

USF’s Alliance for Integrated Spatial Technologies (AIST) expanded and became the Center for Virtualization and Applied Spatial Technologies (CVAST). Using 3-D scanning technology, CVAST aims to become a global leader in preserving the world’s cultural and natural heritage. Digital heritage preservation also improves accessibility of sites and artifacts. The expansion comes thanks to a $4.6 million grant from the Hitz Foundation and support from the College of Arts and Sciences. USF recruited Herb Maschner to direct the program. One of world’s authorities on digital heritage, digital humanities, and expanding educational opportunities and interdisciplinary research on a global scale, Maschner comes to USF after having served as the director of the Idaho Museum of Natural History, division head of anthropology at the Idaho Museum of Natural History.
Herb Maschner, above, center, and USF researchers Jeffrey DuVernay, PhD ’11, left, and James McLeod, ’07 and MA ’14, right, demonstrate the mapping process at MOSI.

and founding director of the Center for Archaeology, Materials, and Applied Spectroscopy. "CVAST brings a suite of new projects to USF, including a project mapping fortifications in La Mancha, Spain; mapping the medieval catacombs beneath the city of Syracuse, Sicily; creating a 3-D database of important archeological collections, and scanning important paleontological materials in the natural history museums of Paris and Berlin," says Maschner. CVAST efforts will help to “democratize science” by improving access to museum collections.
MICROBIOLOGISTS FIGHT MRSA

USF microbiologists and chemists in the College of Arts and Sciences have developed and patented a synthetic compound showing antibiotic action against methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, also known as MRSA, which can cause serious infections and deaths. Early on, MRSA was a hospital-acquired infection and became especially problematic in hospitals and nursing homes where patients at greater risk of infection than the general public fell victim to the bacterium. However, MRSA now causes very serious infections that can be community-acquired. That trend is the result of hypervirulent MRSA strains that have displaced the existing hospital associated-MRSA. “In recent years, MRSA has become resistant to vancomycin and threatens to take away our most valuable treatment option against staphylococcal infections,” says microbiologist Dr. Lindsey “Les” Shaw, whose laboratory developed the new quinazoline-based compounds.

RESEARCHING COMETS

“I like comets because they are one of the few things in the night sky that change,” says Kacper Wierzchos, an applied physics PhD student. “They’re like visitors from outer space.”

The comet that Wierzchos is studying, called 29P, is 31 kilometers across (about the size of the greater Tampa Bay area) and spews carbon monoxide as it hurtles spinning through space at 12 miles per second. It is not far away from us, just beyond Jupiter’s orbit. Like all comets, it is composed of ice, dust and gas, a remnant of our solar system’s formation about 4.6 billion years ago.

“This comet is an enigma; no one knows what’s really going on with it,” says Wierzchos’ advisor, research professor and astrophysicist Maria Womack, PhD, in the department of physics, College of Arts and Sciences.

According to Wierzchos, 29P has a nearly circular orbit and, because it is active all of the time, it is classified as a “distantly active” comet. The famous and very bright Hale-Bopp comet that visited our night sky in 1997 was also classified as “distantly active” for the year or two before it became really bright.

To investigate 29P’s carbon monoxide tail and other

PSYCHOLOGIST CRITIQUES STATINS

Hailed as miracle drugs when they hit the market two decades ago, statins, the cholesterol-lowering drugs prescribed to prevent heart attacks, are not as effective nor as safe as we have been led to believe, says David M. Diamond, professor of psychology, molecular pharmacology and physiology in the College of Arts and Sciences. According to Diamond, statins produce a dramatic reduction in cholesterol levels, but they have “failed to substantially improve cardiovascular outcomes.” He further states that the many studies touting the efficacy of statins have not only neglected to account for the numerous serious adverse side effects of the drugs, but supporters of statins have used what the authors refer to as “statistical deception” to make inflated claims about their effectiveness. The critique of the exaggerated claims regarding statins’ ability to prevent strokes, heart attacks and heart disease-related deaths on a large scale has been published in *Expert Review of Clinical Pharmacology*. 
important aspects of its make-up, Womack secured a week’s time on the two radio telescopes, isolated on mountaintops in Arizona. The telescopes are owned and operated by the Arizona Radio Observatory, a sub-unit of Steward Observatory, University of Arizona, with support from the National Science Foundation.

With a computer link, they gather real-time data as the comet’s molecules change speed, temperature, brightness and other characteristics day to day.

Radio telescopes use a directional radio antenna similar to antennas that track and get data from satellites and space probes. They differ from optical telescopes in that they operate in the radio frequency portion of the electromagnetic spectrum, where they can detect and collect data on radio sources. They use large “dishes” that look similar to those used for satellite TV.

“Right now, comet 29P is very productive, which means a lot of carbon monoxide gas is coming off of it,” Wierzchos explains. “We want to find out how many CO molecules are coming off it per second and also learn about the comet’s atmosphere at extremely low pressures and temperatures.”

says Kearns. “As the brain of a person with TBI heals, the spatial confusion lifts and their walk becomes progressively straighter, so Fractal D serves as an indication of possible improvement.” A veteran with TBI may enter the Smart Home with high Fractal D and must relearn how to navigate interior and exterior spaces. Over time, and through rehabilitation, the veteran’s Fractal D begins to lower as he or she is able to move more easily through a building or outdoors, with less weaving and an increased ability to remember how to get from point A to point B. Kearns is also working to extend “smart technology” to a smartphone to provide contextual support both inside and outside of the home environment.

SMART TECHNOLOGY HELPS PATIENTS

William Kearns, MA ’85 and PhD ’89, research associate professor, works on the James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital Smart Home project that uses a high tech location-based monitoring system to help traumatic brain injury (TBI) patients relearn many activities of daily living. Wrist tags, linked to a real-time location system, are used by clinicians to remind patients with text or video prompts about appointments and activities, and to reinforce skill sets. To measure recovery, Kearns monitors their Fractal D – their spatial confusion. “We think high Fractal D indicates spatial confusion of a type similar to that revealed in a drunkard’s walk,” says Kearns.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE STUDY

In the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, assistant professor Carla Smith Stover investigates Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), a significant public health and economic problem, which also increases the risks for child maltreatment. One attribute that may contribute to both IPV and poor parenting, her team found, is hostility. “The link between hostility and outcomes may be mediated by substance use, such that more hostile individuals are at greater risk for using drugs and alcohol, leading them to engage in more aggressive and rejecting behavior toward their partners and children,” she says. “We tested this possibility in a sample of 132 fathers and explored whether hostility and substance use had interactive effects on IPV and parenting by examining moderated mediation models.” The mediated relationship was moderated by substance use level for parenting outcomes, but not IPV. In the case of parenting, the mediated path from hostility to aggressive and rejecting parenting occurred only for those high in substance use.
HOW SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS COPE WITH STRESS

In a multi-year study, College of Education researchers Shannon Suldo and Elizabeth Shaunessy-Dedrick investigated stress faced by students in Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes. Then they studied predictors of emotional health and academic success among a sample of 2,350 AP/IB students from 19 high schools. “We found that students with greater achievement and emotional health tended to cope with academic stress through problem-focused strategies like time and task management, or by using positive thinking or relaxation strategies. Successful students also reported strong connections with AP/IB teachers and classmates, and took part in extracurricular activities,” say the researchers. In 2015, they received a new four-year federal grant to help AP/IB students build effective coping skills and school connectedness.

AGING AND PIANO LESSONS

Jennifer Bugos, assistant professor of music education in the College of The Arts, examined the effects of active music instruction in piano compared to music listening on the specific cognitive abilities of 70 healthy adults ages 60 to 85. The study found that “active music making” is important in community music programs. “Older adults represent a large group for increased participation in music education initiatives,” explains Bugos in a paper describing her research published in Music Education Research International. “Music is a multimodal, complex stimulus known to affect various cognitive processing systems. This study evaluated music instruction as a potential cognitive intervention.”
TRENDS IN MILLENNIALS’ TRAVEL

In the College of Engineering’s Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), Steven E. Polzin and colleagues have been investigating the “impact of millennials’ travel behavior on future personal travel.” Millennials rely less on automobiles than previous generations, which will shape transportation planning, they found. Their study, published in Energy Strategy Reviews, revealed that in 2013, the national total vehicle miles of travel, 2.97 trillion miles, increased little from 2004, despite a considerable increase in U.S. population. “Travel trends are different for today’s young people,” Polzin says.

RENEWABLE PRODUCTS FROM ALGAE AND BIOMASS

Associate professor George Philippidis, an international biofuels expert at USF’s Patel College of Global Sustainability, has built an interdisciplinary research team with engineering, biology and business expertise to conduct applied research. His work focuses on developing a range of green technologies – algae cultivation for production of nutraceuticals, cosmetics and biofuels; biomass conversion to sugars, plastics and other value-added products, and sustainable biodiesel production. Using private and public funding and state-of-the-art indoor and outdoor facilities, the team strengthens USF’s leadership in the development and commercialization of biofuels and bioproducts. In close partnership with the private sector, the team has developed an algae cultivation system and filed for a patent. The system is undergoing pilot tests under real-world conditions and will be licensed to a technology company to commercialize it nationally and internationally. “Through innovation in renewable resources, this program helps advance Florida and the United States towards a sustainable, low-carbon and energy-secure economy,” says Philippidis.

CONVERTING WASTE INTO ENERGY

A device created to solve several serious sanitation issues in countries around the world will soon take the next step toward commercialization. Created by associate professor Daniel Yeh and his team of graduate students in the College of Engineering, the device, called the NEWgenerator, is aiding in their quest to help communities that lack sufficient sanitation, clean water, food and reliable energy. The NEWgenerator converts waste into Nutrient fertilizers, renewable Energy, and clean Water (NEW), providing a modular and self-sustaining machine that operates completely off-grid, with no water, power or sewer system required. A field test unit has been shipped to a community in southern India. The USF team installed the unit and USF civil and environmental engineering PhD candidate Robert Bair, ’09, the technical lead on its design and fabrication will remain in India for about a year to operate, test and collect data. He will develop design changes for the next version of the unit, based on his findings. These will likely lead to the commercialization of the NEWgenerator.
This ranking is a tribute to the accomplishments of our researchers and partners in the region and state. It reflects real-world research that is making an impact through new knowledge, products, companies, economic growth and jobs.”

- Paul R. Sanberg
  Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation and Economic Development
GLOBAL WARMING IN ANTARCTICA

Antarctica may seem a forbidding place, but not for College of Marine Science researchers Kendra Daly, Amelia Shevenell, Brad Rosenheim, Brad Siebel, Kristen Buck, Don Chambers and Eugene Domack, who investigate the continent’s biota and ice sheets, and the surrounding Southern Ocean’s response to ongoing warming and rising atmospheric carbon dioxide. Domack, Shevenell and Rosenheim examine the sediments deposited on Antarctica’s continental shelves to understand how Antarctic ice sheets respond to ocean temperature changes and sea level rise, both in the present and in the past. Domack also studies the causes and effects of ongoing ice shelf break up and glacial retreat using GPS and meteorologic observing stations. In 2015, a station he installed on the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula recorded the warmest temperature on record from Antarctica. Buck, Daly and Siebel investigate biogeochemical cycling of nutrients in the Southern Ocean and the effect of ongoing warming and carbon dioxide rise on the Southern Ocean food chain. Chambers uses data from the GRACE satellite to understand ice-ocean interactions in the Southern Ocean and their role in global sea level rise.

DEEPER DIVES

In the military, law enforcement and science, scuba divers play invaluable roles. But they face a potentially lethal risk – oxygen toxicity. Dominic D’Agostino, assistant professor in the Morsani College of Medicine, is conducting research sponsored by the Office of Naval Research aimed at fighting seizures caused by hyperbaric oxygen toxicity, a byproduct of breathing too much oxygen that impacts deep-water divers. Deep divers need oxygen to survive but, ironically, too much can kill them. Special Operations divers, such as Navy SEALs, are at risk.

A solution under study by D’Agostino involves kestone esters, supplements engineered to raise blood ketone esters, which are powerful sources of energy. Sedatives, the current treatment for oxygen toxicity, can impair mental and physical performance. He is now experimenting with animal models and will move to human clinical trials later in 2016.

DIABETES RESEARCH

Maintaining optimal blood sugar (glucose) levels has remained a problem for patients with diabetes. In her research, Emma Heart, in the Morsani College of Medicine, studies how glucose communicates with cells in the pancreas to release proper amounts of insulin and how this communication is altered by type 2 diabetes. Using a grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Heart is defining the communication mechanism which, she says, likely involves hormones besides insulin that affect multiple tissues, such as the pancreas, liver, muscle and fat. “Having too much insulin in the body can be as bad as not having enough,” she explains. Besides seeking a better understanding of what causes energy metabolism to go awry and promote type 2 diabetes, Heart is also looking for natural compounds to help alleviate the symptoms of diabetes without the side effects caused by drugs.
IMPROVING CANCER PATIENTS’ LIVES

Quality of life and symptom management are important issues for cancer patients and their caregivers. In the College of Nursing, distinguished professor Susan McMillan has developed and tested several instruments to measure both and is leading a project funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to study self-care symptom management. The study includes interventions with cancer patients in an outpatient setting. “Our goal is to teach patients symptom management skills for self-identified symptoms,” explains McMillan. “Cancer patients endure a variety of difficult symptoms that can lead to depression, anxiety and diminished quality of life, especially when symptoms are intense, distressing, frequent or interfere with daily activities. Improving quality of life and decreasing emergency room visits and associated costs is important.”

WHAT DRIVES CHILD VACCINATIONS?

As the number of parents refusing vaccinations for their children increases, caregivers are trying harder to get information out to the public about the importance of immunizing kids. Which sources are proving most effective to get the word out and which sources are being used by parents and caregivers to provide accurate information about vaccinations?

These questions are being investigated by Sidorela Gllava, a PharmD candidate in the College of Pharmacy, and her graduate student colleagues Alyson Lozicki and Jessica Johnson. Assistant professor Mary Soliman is the principal investigator. “Misinformation from the media and other sources is perpetuating choices to refuse vaccinations,” says Gllava. “Also, increasing reliance on online sources for health information makes it difficult to dispel rumors without knowing what false information is causing concern.”

The researchers are using qualitative, observational cross-sectional surveys and questionnaires to find out which sources of information about vaccinations are being used most frequently. With early data coming in, they have predicted that the two most common sources used to get information about vaccinations will be friends and family and the Internet. TV news, social media and physicians, they predict, will also figure strongly.

FIGHTING DRUG-RESISTANT MALARIA

While mosquitoes have been in the news with the emergence of the Zika virus, they have always been the culprits in spreading malaria, a disease that has plagued humans for ages. To combat the spread of drug-resistant malaria, a team from the College of Public Health has pioneered a new antimalarial drug screening model. It can better classify and identify drugs and targets for the most lethal strain of malaria, *Plasmodium falciparum*. The malaria parasite is becoming increasingly resistant to current front-line drugs, such as artemisinin, even in combination with other drugs.

In an effort to fight malaria, USF researchers have developed a chemogenomic profiling technology that provides new insights into drug mechanisms and identified six new genes involved in malaria’s response to artemisinin. Dennis Kyle, a distinguished university health professor in the College of Public Health’s department of global health, says there is an urgency to the need for discovering new antimalarial drugs.

A NEW HURRICANE FORECAST TOOL

Those spaghetti models that flash across TV screens showing possible hurricane routes may need to make room for a newcomer. USF’s College of Arts and Sciences visiting instructor Joy D’Andrea, ’07 and MA ’11 has been developing a new statistical method for analyzing the reams of historical data to predict Atlantic Ocean hurricane paths. “We went back to 1975,” says D’Andrea, who teamed up for the exercise with USF graduate students Kenneth Baah, MA ’11 and Rebecca Wooten, ’96 MA ’96 and PhD ’06 assistant professor in USF’s Department of Mathematics & Statistics. Their findings were published in December in a paper entitled, Implicit Regression: Detecting Constants and Inverse Relationships with Bivariate Random Error. Essentially, D’Andrea and Wooten developed a way of modeling hurricanes by looking at meteorological measures such as storm locations, wind speed and pressure. Then they applied “logistic regression” and atmospheric conditions recorded at fixed locations to tease out probabilities that a storm will appear at a particular time and place. “You’ll be able to use this to tell you when a storm, may form not just tomorrow, but within four days,” D’Andrea says.
24

WHEN POISONS COULD BECOME MEDICINES

Edie Banner, organic chemistry instructor in the USFSM College of Arts and Sciences, is researching the strange and colorful frogs that range throughout Central and South American rainforests. The brightly colored creatures are poisonous, a defense against predators. In some cases, their toxic compounds can paralyze birds and monkeys. Banner is curious about the biology and chemistry behind the toxins, which may someday unlock the door to helping people with Parkinson’s and other neuro-muscular diseases. She also heads up an education abroad program that takes undergraduate students to Costa Rica for a two-week field research experience to explore the potential of tropical rainforests.

25

CLIMATE CHANGE IN CAMEROON

Research on the impact of climate change led USFSP graduate student Adam Flanery and Richard Mbatu, assistant professor of environmental science, policy and geography, at the USFSP College of Arts and Sciences, to Cameroon to collect data for his thesis *Forest Community Integration and Collective Agency in Korup National Park, Cameroon: Interactions with Forest Policies and the REDD+ Mechanism*. “By understanding the nature of these communities and their interactions with past and current policies, I want to understand how they can be affected by the climate change mitigation strategies known as REDD+,” Flanery says.

This is just a small sampling of the vast array of research projects in the works every day within the USF System. To learn more about USF’s research, visit www.research.usf.edu.

Jessica Blais, director of communications, USF St. Petersburg; Randolph Fillmore, science writer, University Communications and Marketing, USF; and Kim Wilmath, director of USF System initiatives and higher education policy, contributed to this story.
A SURPRISE PACKAGE ARRIVED in the mail as Elisa Walker, ’13, nervously prepared for her first law school finals at Florida State University. Inside, she found everything she could possibly need during that stressful time: coffee, candy, aspirin, and a note that assured her, “You can do this!”

The woman who sent the box, fellow Bull Jessica Eldridge, ’01, had a good idea of how Walker might be feeling. Eldridge, immediate past president of Tallahassee Women Lawyers, also attended FSU’s law school and remembers those difficult first final exams. She’s been mentoring Walker since the younger woman’s junior year at USF and believes a timely care package can be as important as the introductions, guidance and professional exposure she provides her mentees.

When the going gets tough, they need someone who understands.

“She introduces us to judges and attorneys in our fields. She sends birthday cards and Christmas cards. She always knows what’s going on,” says Walker, a first-generation college student who recently earned the vaunted job of editor-in-chief of the FSU Law Review. “I never would have been able to attain my own high goals without Jessica.”

Eldridge, a USF Alumni Association Life Member and board member, modestly downplays her role.

“I have no doubt she could have done all these impressive things by herself,” she says. “Maybe having a mentor gave her more confidence to reach for her goals. ... Mentoring is the opportunity to impact a student’s life in some small way.”

Actually, it’s a whole lot more, according to two recent Gallup polls that explored correlations between college experience and graduates’ satisfaction with work and life later on. In 2014, the Gallup-Purdue University survey found those who had encouraging mentors in college were more than twice as likely to have great jobs and great lives in subsequent years. In 2015, former mentees were nearly twice as likely to say college was worth the money.

Meaningful mentorships, along with great professors and college internships, proved more important than the type of institutions the respondents attended, be they public or private, big or small, Ivy League or less selective, according to the polls, each of which canvassed about 30,000 U.S. college grads.

“Mentorships are vital at all levels of education,” says USF professor Diane Yendol-Hoppey, a College of Education department chair who has written books and journal articles on the topic. “Mentorships help avoid attrition [people giving up and moving on], and help with student success and motivation. They expand opportunities and lead to improved academic achievement.”

Informal mentorships are supportive relationships, such as Eldridge’s and Walker’s, involving someone who

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**The total PACKAGE**

**With practical advice and compassionate support, Bull mentors make a lasting impact on students’ lives.**

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**Photo: AIMEE BLODGETT | USF**
ASHLEY METELUS ARRIVED AT USF SARASOTA-MANATEE as a shy sophomore, a first-generation college student whose mother told her at her high school graduation, “You owe me one more cap and gown.”

The teen had only just begun working on that when she lost the wind at her back. During her first semester at a small Christian liberal arts university, her mother died unexpectedly. “She pushed me,” Metelus says. “She would say, ‘No one can ever take your education from you.’ ... I lost one mother and I got two more – my aunt, who takes care of me, and Dr. McBrien, who pushed me.”

“Let’s meet,” McBrien responded. The two share the next phase of their story in snatches interrupted by laughter. “I asked her, ‘What do you want to study in Uganda?’”

“I was just, ‘I like genocide studies,’” Metelus says. “I wanted to do research, but I didn’t know what that meant.”

McBrien, an education professor, came up with a topic for Metelus, an interdisciplinary social sciences major: education challenges. She gave her documentaries to watch and created an independent study course for her. Less than six months later, in 2013, they made their first trip together to Uganda.

“The first paper I gave her to review, Dr. McBrien wrote, ‘Your sentences are awful.’ It was all in red,” Metelus says.

“Then the next paper she gave me,” McBrien says, “I was, like, ‘Wow! You really took this to heart!’ ”

Metelus went on to win honors for her work at two USF Career Services offers job-shadowing with alumni and the USF Alumni Association board members mentor students in the Association-sponsored student Ambassadors program.

“‘I wish that, as a young woman, I would’ve had somebody, a female lawyer, to give me that guidance,’” she says.

“What’s in it for the mentors?”

“It feels good,” says Yendol-Hoppey, who has been both mentor and mentee. “It’s giving back to the profession and to the institution. It’s helping a student who may be ready to give up develop persistence.”

“Eldridge says she loves the interaction with students and making it easier for them to successfully navigate a world that’s new to them.

“I love Jessica,” she says. “I’ve already reserved a ticket, mentally, for her to attend my graduation from law school.”

“I heard you go to Uganda. Can I come with you?”

“I was, like, ‘Wow! You really took this to heart!’ ”

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“I wish that, as a young woman, I would’ve had somebody, a female lawyer, to give me that guidance,’” she says.

“It has meant the world to Walker. “I’m going to miss this woman so much,” McBrien says. “We’ll be friends forever,” Metelus says.
‘She’s like my daughter’

JUST OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL IN 2000, Norma Berrios was assigned a mentor as part of a package deal with her USF Latino Scholarship. Almost immediately, accountant Jose Valiente, ’73, changed her life.

“I had the idea of being a physical therapist,” Berrios says.

“I said, ‘Are you kidding me?’ ” Valiente says.

Her father had been an accountant in Puerto Rico and Berrios had a gift for numbers. With a degree in accounting, he told her, she could work in any industry anywhere in the world – she would learn the universal language of business.

Try one class, he urged, see what you think.

She did.

“I loved it,” says Berrios, who earned her bachelor’s in accounting in 2004 and her master’s three years later.

Throughout her years at USF, she and Valiente met regularly. They talked about her struggles, and worked through tough decisions she faced. He showed her how to give a firm handshake while looking a person in the eye. She shadowed him on the job at ValienteHernandez, described by the Tampa Bay Business Journal in 2008 as “one of the most community service-oriented accounting firms.”

“I learned accounting is not just about numbers, it’s also people skills,” Berrios says. “Jose’s loyalty to his clients, his commitment to business, his commitment to giving back – I learned all of that from him.”

Now a mother of two young children and the engagement director at CliftonLarsonAllen, which acquired Valiente’s firm, Berrios makes charitable and civic work a priority.

She serves on the Hispanic Services Council board and the USF Latin Advisory Committee, and participates in Junior Achievement’s Diploma See program.

“As much as I can give back, I do. I learned that through my mentorship.”

Valiente, an Alumni Association board member and Life Member, has endowed a USF Latino Scholarship with his wife, Lourdes, also a Life Member, and mentored many students through the program. It has resulted in rewards beyond imagination.

“To see someone like Norma evolve into a beautiful young professional with principles is a fantastic thing,” he says. “She’s like my daughter. I only have two grandchildren. They’re her children.”

The USF Latino Scholarship provides renewable scholarships and mentoring experiences to Tampa Bay area Hispanic youth based on academic talent and financial need. It’s funded through private donations. To learn more visit usf.edu/latscholar.

Barrios and Valiente today, and above, in 2000, with Lourdes Valiente.
My Fellow Bulls,

People who move to the Tampa Bay area from points north often say how much they miss the change of seasons. You won’t hear that from those of us who work and study at USF. Our seasons are marked by a change in atmosphere that has nothing to do with the weather.

For instance, if you visit anywhere in the USF System today, you’ll have no doubt it’s spring. With 6,000 students preparing to graduate, a sense of excitement and celebration charges the air. Soon, your Alumni Association staff will be at Commencement ceremonies helping nervous graduates with last-minute regalia adjustments in their final hours as students. When we see these Bulls again, they’ll be alumni!

They’ll also be Alumni Association members. New graduates need support as they move into the next phase of their lives, and your Association provides that through complimentary one-year post-graduation memberships. We hope they’ll take advantage of the numerous opportunities to connect and engage with you so they can continue to make an impact, share their pride, stay together and protect our great university.

One of those opportunities is Fast 56, our annual recognition of the 56 fastest-growing Bull-led businesses. The awards ceremony is coming up April 29 and I invite you to attend. It’s an exciting evening of food, drink and suspense as the 56 finalists learn where they rank among the fastest growing Bull-led businesses. It’s also an excellent chance to network. For tickets to the ceremony, visit www.usfalumni.org/2016Fast56.

We’ll feel another change in the air come summer, a busy time for the Alumni Association. Our alumni groups around the country will be hosting Hometown Round-Ups for incoming students planning to attend USF in the fall. If you see one scheduled in your community (watch www.usfalumni.org), we hope you’ll attend to greet our newest Bulls and share your experiences about life at USF.

Summer will also see the close of 2015-16 for our Association board of directors. We’ll welcome a new chair, Jim Harvey, on July 1, and thank our current chair, Betty Otter-Nickerson, for a job exceptionally well done. Betty has represented your Association well at countless events with her ever-present Bulls enthusiasm. Thank you to Betty and the entire board of directors for another great year.

I count myself lucky to witness the change of seasons through the lens of life here at USF. Each brings amazing new discoveries and growth, making every season an exciting time to be a USF Bull!

Bill McCausland, MBA, ’96
Executive Director, USF Alumni Association
Life Member

Meet Your 2015-16 USF Alumni Association student leaders

Members of the USF Alumni Association support three organizations that provide special opportunities for students to develop leadership skills, connect with alumni, and build social and professional networks.

The Ambassadors host dignitaries and officials throughout the USF System, assist during special events, and otherwise represent the student body. Members exemplify what it means to be a Bull, and serve as a bridge between students and alumni.

Order of the Golden Brahman (OGB) includes top student and alumni leaders who are committed to public service, working together to lead the USF community, and promoting and protecting USF throughout their lives.

The Student Alumni Association (SAA) is USF’s largest student organization with more than 6,000 members. It provides opportunities to interact with peers and alumni, helps individuals grow skills and networks, and helps forge lifelong bonds with USF.

Officers of the three groups include, front row, left to right:
- The SAA’s Alvin Choy; president Natalie Soyster
USF Alumni Association
2015 Annual Report Summary

Fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Your Alumni Association membership supports programs and communications that provide Bulls with meaningful ways to help USF, its students and fellow alumni succeed.

Thanks to all the Association members – alumni, students, staff, faculty and friends – for making 2015 another green and golden year. Here’s a look at the numbers as of June 30, 2015.

Association Members – 39,058
That’s 4,931 student members
30,216 annual members
3,911 Life Members

Scholarships $426,355 to 123 students

Net Assets $4,196,998

Revenue – $2,601,722
Membership 19%
USF Foundation support 28%
License plates 15%
Affinity partnerships 18%
Investment income 2%
Gifts 12%
Other 5%

Expenses – $2,495,248
Administration costs 12%
Membership 17%
Programs and events 21%
Student programs 16%
Alumni groups 10%
Communications 17%
Development 7%

Net Assets $4,196,998

Events 27
Events drew 8,300 participants

It’s inspiring to see the Alumni Association’s incredible growth in 2014-15 because it shows how much USF alumni and friends truly care about our great university and higher education.

Bill McCausland
2015 LIFE MEMBERS SALUTE

A thank you to 2015 Life Members, 2015 Circle of Excellence Donors and to all U Club Donors

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Life Membership represents a deep commitment to USF and our mission to advance our university by providing Bulls with meaningful ways to make a positive impact. We gratefully acknowledge all of our 3,970 Life Members with a tribute page at usfalumni.org/LMhonor. By making the complete Life Member Honor Roll permanently visible to the public, we recognize your generous contributions and perhaps inspire others who value excellence in student success, research and scientific discovery, innovation, and supporting scholarly and artistic engagement.

The names of our 395 newest Life Members, those who joined this elite group in 2015, are published here. Thank you! The pride and support of Bulls like you have made USF the acclaimed institution it is today.

In our Circle of Excellence, we recognize Life Members who made additional unrestricted annual gifts in 2015 as well as all 28 donors in the prestigious University Club. These alumni and friends have made a significant impact on USF through endowments of $25,000 or more.

Your generosity allows us to continue to connect Bulls to one another and our school so we can share our pride, stay together, protect USF, and help it succeed.

The Alumni Association’s programs keep Bulls connected so we can elevate the stature of our university, which also increases the value of our degrees. My Life Membership helps ensure those important programs continue far into the future. Go Bulls!

Kimberly Constantine
Communication ’95 & MS 2000,
associate vice president for USF Health Development and Alumni Relations

UNIVERSITY CLUB – U CLUB ENDOVEMENTS OF $25,000+

The following Life Members have made a significant impact on USF through a generous endowment of $25,000 or more.

Timmer Ahrens, #2140
Vicki Ahrens, #2139
Angela Brewer, #594
James Brewer, #850
Anne Craft, #3985
Wilson Craft, #608
Roger Przexz, #500
Daniel Harper, #1954
Mary Harper, #1953
Ben Heugel, #1421
Lisa Provenzano-Heugel, #1420
Gail Jacobs, #3273
Ricky Jacobs, #1901
Ania Jain, #132
Kailash Jain, #1060
Mona Jain, #631
Roy Jewell, #755
Aileen Marti, #3275
Eduardo Marti, #3274
Glen Nickerson, #1795
Betty Otter-Nickerson, #1796
Michael Perry, #2718
Michele Perry, #2717
Jeffrey Reynolds, #110
Patricia Reynolds, #809
Robert Switzer, #3836
H. Monty Weigel, #1495
MaryAnn Weigel, #2881

DIAMOND LEVEL
DONORS OF $1,000+

Stephen Blume, #1832
Betty Castor, #161
Kimberly Choto, #1019
Victor Connell, #1356
William Eichhoff, #80
Melanie Griffin, #3070
Michael Griffin, #973
John Harker, #683
James P. Harvey, #2027
Sonia Harvey, #2028
David Hilfman, #263
Jennifer Leavengood, #1833
Anne McCausland, #2332
William McCausland, #2331
April Monteith, #1422
Karen Morris, #3061
Jack Plagge, #732
David Schmidt, #1020
Amy Walsh, #2156
Jeanne Whalen, #1907

EMERALD LEVEL
DONORS OF $500-$999

Jean Amuso, #3112
Philip Amuso, #3111
Debra Goldsmith, #3186
Dan Johnson, #869
Tina Johnson, #868
Richard Lane, #68
Pauline McPhail, #2852
H. Lee Moffitt, #30
Jay Oklu, #2036
Marc Ostroff, #1595
Jennifer Rendahl, #1600
Morris Rendahl, #2808
Melissa Schaeffer, #3203
Jon Smith, #1858
Susan Smith, #2029
Lisa Spagnuolo-Oklu, #2037
Bettina Tucker, #128
Dennis Whelan, #2755
Linda Whelan, #2756
Lee Zimmerman, #1082

GOLD LEVEL
DONORS OF $250-$499

Gregory Ashley, #1089
Betty Beaty, #3247
Brian Campbell, #841
Candice Castro, #2625
Jenny Cater, #1965
The Honorable Faye Culp, #1607
Rachelle de Moya, #1538
Larry Dupree, #2499
Margaret Fowler, #1207
Katharine Freeman, #668
Carl Gingola, #838
Thomas Grippe, #2626
The Honorable Raymond Gross, #710
Richard Hartman, #3152
Monique Hayes, #3536
John Helton, #2919
Bonnie Keams, #1689
Kenneth Lane, #2894
Paul Marton, #1307
Kimberly O’Brien, #536
Shawn O’Brien, #537
Adam Robinson Jr., #309
Herman Smith Jr., #2072
Darrell Stinger, #283
Kristen Szewczyk, #2889
Stephen Szewczyk, #2890
Denise Thomas, #2008
Michael D. Thompson, #1812
R. James Welz Jr., #421
Gary White, #1519
Theodore Whitford Jr., #1664

2015 LIFE MEMBERS SALUTE

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associate vice president for USF Health Development and Alumni Relations

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Communication ’95 & MS 2000,
associate vice president for USF Health Development and Alumni Relations
Although I graduated from another university, my heart has always been with USF. My family’s relationship goes back to the very first building on campus that my dad provided concrete for in 1956.

Randy Simmons
Chairman of R.R. Simmons
construction, Tampa

Mary Roberson, #2354
Raymond Rocha, #902
Nancy Rockstroh, #1637
Charles Rogers, #2775
Jeffrey Rogers, #3029
Rose Rogers, #2776
Judith Rosenkranz, #310
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Pamela Rutecki-Tushaus, #3103
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Virginia Schultz, #2225
Christopher Seavey, #2516
Noreen Segrest, #2932
Robert Segrest Jr., #2933
Ada Seltzer, #1268
T. Terrell Sessums, #165
Denise Siegrist, #2347
Jane Siling, #1642
Bradley Sliepic, #2732
Devern Smith, #1906
Michael Sogan, #3255
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Susan Tushaus, #3104
Christopher Ugel, #2053
Robert Vargas, #2745
2015 Life Members Salute

As a former Bulls tennis player and finance major, I was well prepared by USF for a successful career. I became an Alumni Association Life Member to stay connected with other alumni and to show my commitment to ensuring future Bulls have the same wonderful opportunities I enjoyed.

Nathan Collins, #3583
Kimberly Constantine, #3820
Marina Cosgrove, #3734
Nicholas Costello, #3941
Sonia Cotton-Ambrose, #3687
Daniel Craig, #3841
Natalie Crane, #3674
Alan Creveling, #3594
Lisa Culberson, #3703
David Cumberland, #3933
Easter Curry, #3866
David Dale, #3652
Elizabeth Dale, #3651
Kyle Dalton, #3604
Patricia Dare, #3847
Marbely Davila, #3556
Chandra Davis, #3723
Denise Davis, #3894
Elena Dawson, #3607
Anna Day, #3779
Sally Dee, #3705
Lori Delisle, #3743
Sharon Diaz, #3889
Charlette Domingo, #3814
Michele Doodnaught, #3935
Sanford Dorf, #3752
Patti-Ann Dresback, #3896
Frederick Dunning, #3876
Diana Durango, #3571
Molly Durham-Moore, #3762
James Earle Jr., #3753
Diana Egozcue, #3598
Donald Eisenbrown, #3739
Iris Eljah, #3864
Clarence English III, #3859
Pamela English, #3860
Jodi Epstein, #3878
Keith Epstein, #3826
Alexandra Erdman, #3599
Jennifer Espinola, #3782
Deandrea Estvez, #3949
D. Fahnstok, #3901
Jennie Farmer, #3564
Betty Fetter, #3753
Lester Fettty, #3754
Tacy Fickett, #3622
Joshua Fidler, #3944
Aleta Fisher, #3602
Leanne Flewelling, #3737
Sandra Flint, #3905
Janet Flood-Cole, #3967
Garin Flowers, #3955
Lynda Francise, #3874
Sultana Frazis, #3593
Brenda Freebourn, #3683
Richard Freebourn Sr., #3682
George Friedman, #3886
Gaige Fritz, #3562
Kimberly Furlin, #3926
Barbara Furman, #3952
Karl Furman, #3951
Jason Gagnon, #3742
Jerry Gamel, #3751
Andrew Gamson, #3758
Rachel Gates, #3672
Rohan Gayle, #3740
Sharon Geiger, #3648
Laurie Gerdng, #3625
William Gerdng, #3624
Gregory Ghods, #3583
Marian Ghods, #3583
Ann Marie Gibson, #3761
Cuthbert Gibson, #3629
James Gibson III, #3780
Michael Gillis, #3934
Beatrice Giunta, #3769
Victoria Giunta, #3770
Sherry Giordietti, #3766
Toni Gonzales, #3662
Anthony Gonzalez, #3913
Eduardo Gonzalez, #3908
Frances Gonzalez, #3584
Gail Gorman, #3911
Wayne Green, #3701
James Griseby, #3764
Ceceilia Hall, #3750
Christopher Hall, #3673
Daniel Hameroff, #3828
Donna Harak, #3791
Michael Harak Jr., #3792
Brandon Hartmann, #3931
Joanne Hauinger, #3794
Johnathan Hayes, #3873
Brad Heath, #3899
Brian Hendricks Sr., #3670
David Hollis, #3869
Mark Hornick, #3816
Victoria Hornick, #3815
James Earl Horowitz, #3857
John Hrabe, #3809
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Marnique Jones, #3909
Melissa Jones, #3954
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Christopher Karow, #3565
Korie Karow, #3566
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Emmanuel Kastrenakes, #3940
Ronald Kennedy, #3848
Karen Kennedy, #3910
John Kirschbaum, #3694
Sandra Klaus, #3653
Maurie Klein, #3661
Sott Kleinhanzl, #3589
Hagar Kopesky, #3861
Bruce Kopp, #3857
Heather Kowalczuk, #3568
Shirley Kool, #3901
Jeffery Kromolicki, #3741
Daniel Kwitko, #3569

Chris Redhead
Finance, ’86, executive vice president at Sequoia Financial Group

Deborah Vincent, #2282
Selinda Walden, #1126
James Wall Jr., #452
Lew Wallace, #859
Judy Wallace, #860
Belinda Walters, #2758
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Suzanne Ward, #1516
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Toshiko Arriola, #3720
Theodore Ascherfeld, #3654
Joseph Asselin, #3871
Dehlicue Augustin, #3547
Kimberley Baker, #3631
Maureen Baker, #3664
Autumn Balthazor, #3877
David Barrow, #3732

50 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
USF gave me all the staples for success. I became a Life Member to show my gratitude, to continue developing connections, and to fuel the system so alumni can continue to positively impact students’ lives, as they did mine.

Wilfredo Silva, #3641
Siew Sim, #3837
Siew Sim, #3837
Randy Simmons, #3839
Debra Skander, #3781
Miriam Smelle, #3560
Kelly Smith, #3736
Richard Smith, #3716
Dazaun Soley, #3635
Juan Soltero, #3688
Marinar Soltero, #3689
Cynthia Spano, #3692
George Widdick, #3696
Ralph Wilcox, #3783
Kandace Williams, #3611
Richard Williamson, #3548
John Willyoung, #3858
Andrew Wilson, #3863
Tranise Wilson, #3786
Kimberly Witke, #3557
Kathleen Woodard, #3632
John Wright, #3890
Eric A. Yates, #3804
Diana Young, #3600
Paul Zetterower, #3590
Martin Zinaich, #3881

Alex Cole
Biomedical Sciences, ’15, preparing for medical school
HEN THE UNITED States speaks to the world, it’s often through the voice of John Kirby. In 2015, the retired rear admiral became the spokesman for the U.S. State Department. In daily press briefings, he makes pronouncements, explains the U.S. perspective on coups and invasions, and answers questions about other matters of intense international interest, from terrorist threats to climate change to the Zika virus.

Historically, the job has invited withering criticism. But Kirby has earned respect for his candor and depth of knowledge. A year ago, when he stepped down as spokesman for the Department of Defense after talking the globe through the U.S. invasion of Iraq and its involvement in Syria, the press corps applauded him.

Kirby, who grew up in St. Petersburg, credits the first of his three degrees – his 1985 bachelor’s in history from USF’s College of Arts and Sciences – for giving him the tools to succeed in public affairs. In addition to serving as State Department spokesman, he became assistant secretary for the Bureau of Public Affairs in December 2015.

Kirby recently returned to USF Tampa with his wife, Donna, for the first time in 30 years. He spoke to students and sat down for a chat about his alma mater.

Q. It’s been a while – did you recognize the campus?
A. No! Nothing looks remotely familiar. I recognized the business building and the Sun Dome, so I was able to find my way to my freshman dorm, Beta.

Q. So you lived on campus. Crazy times?
A. No ... I came, did my schoolwork, and went back to my room. I had part-time jobs the whole time I was in school. I worked at McDonald’s, worked for my dad at a garage, for ChemLawn and for the [now Tampa Bay] Times as a sports clerk.
Opinion page and above: Kirby speaks at USF’s Veterans Week ceremony during his recent visit.

Right: Kirby takes questions about global security from history department chair Michael Decker.

Q. Why did you major in history? Did you have a plan?
A. I loved history — all my heroes from the time I was a boy were historical figures, especially the Founding Fathers. Right now I’m reading the latest biography of John Quincy Adams.

When I left USF, my only plan was to join the Navy. I loved the Navy. But after awhile, I didn’t want to keep going to sea.

Q. After USF, you earned master’s degrees in international relations and national security and strategic studies at other institutions. Did your bachelor’s in history contribute to your success?
A. Studying history demands you to apply connections in the past to events today. It’s one long string; when you pull the string, you can begin to understand why people do what they do. It challenges you to find supporting evidence, to think critically and come up with theses as to why things happened. Why they matter. That’s what I do every day.

It taught me distance: I’m not an advocate [as State Department spokesman]; I’m there to explain. And it forced me to formulate a framework for how I’m going to talk about the issues. When I’m being asked a question, I immediately think about how to structure that answer. My degree here gave me the tools to do that.

Q. Was there a class or professor who had a lasting impact?
A. I had a professor of Medieval history [Roy Van Neste]. He made me write about the Germanic tribes of Europe. Everyone said how terrible they were and he told me to write a paper that said they weren’t terrible. I saved that paper because it had a profound impact on my ability to think through a problem, to recognize that it has many perspectives.

Those tribes were actually very highly structured, with clear rules. They were adept at marshaling resources.

Q. How’d you do on the paper?
A. I got an A+. 

Above: The retired rear admiral reconnects with one of his former history professors, John Belohlavek.
**CONGRATULATIONS**

**2016 USF Fast 56 Award Winners**

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Where’s Rocky?

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

From left, Nicole Cabrera; Nicole Nuzzo, ‘10; Keri Driscoll, ‘06; Jenni Kluzek, ‘09, Rocky, and Life Member Stephanie Manuri, ‘09, jump for Bullish joy over the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in Washington, D.C.

Rocky prepares to glide into the luminescent Blue Grotto sea cave on the Isle of Capri in southern Italy with Life Members RoseAnne Garcia Bowers, ’68, MA ’74 & EdS ’83, and her husband, professor emeritus Lou Bowers.

Rocky gets a taste of life without streets or cars in Venice, Italy, with Mark Maxwell, ’01.

It was smooth sailing on a Bull family cruise to Cozumel, Mexico with Carly Bridgen, right, MA ’03 & MPH ’03; her mom, Life Member Mary Landsberger, MS ’96; Paul Bridgen, and future Bulls Caleb and Audrey.

At one of the highest mountain passes in Colorado, Richard Wanamaker, ’71 & MA ’77, and his wife, Kathryn Wanamaker, ’71, make sure Rocky has a clear view of the San Juan Mountains.

Tagging along on a 15th wedding anniversary trip to Africa, Rocky joins Bruce McArthur, ’83, atop Table Mountain in Cape Town South Africa.

Obe Wan Ke-Rocky geeks out with his fans Capt. Jack Sparrow of Pirates of the Caribbean and Dr. Who at Comic-Con International. He traveled there with Life Members John Bunch Jr., MA ’00 & PhD ’07; his wife, Kathy Bunch, membership director for the Alumni Association, and their future Bulls, Savannah and Jack.

Future Bull Gideon Mullis gets a warm and fuzzy welcome into the world courtesy of his granddad, Life Member Denny Mullis, ’70.

Life’s a splash at Niagara Falls in Toronto with Life Member Eileen Rodriguez, MS ’87 & MBA ’02, keeping a firm grip on her favorite mascot, and Selma Canas, ’89.

Email your high-resolution photo (300 ppi) and details to pcarnathan@usf.edu or send to Penny Carnathan, USF Alumni Association, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., ALC 100, Tampa, FL 33620-5455
Chapters & Societies

Bulls make an impact

ALUMNI AROUND THE COUNTRY joined thousands of USF students in taking “a day on” instead of a day off over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. It was the second year Alumni Association chapters and societies participated in USF’s Stampede of Service. Dozens of alumni from 10 groups pitched in to make an impact in their communities in inspiring Bull fashion.

a  Habitat for Pinellas
Two teams of Pinellas alumni helped build homes with Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas County. Adela Vodenicarevic, ’11, left, and Casie Goelz, ’10 & MBA ’15, joined fellow Bull volunteers in sawing, hammering and hauling wood to provide affordable, healthy homes for families.

b  Atlanta Cleanup
The Atlanta chapter worked with the Decatur Preservation Alliance, which provides home maintenance for senior citizens. Michelle Schiessle, ’10, was among the Bulls who restored a woman’s back yard by clearing out heaps of trash.

c  Geology Society GeoPark Cleanup
Geology Alumni Society members including, from left, grad student Chris Mehta; Mike Wightman, ’90; student Theresa Maye; Bruce Nocita, and Danny Lindsay, ’13, cleaned up and made improvements to GeoPark on the USF Tampa campus. Geology alumni maintain the park for use in teaching, research and educational activities for the public.
d  **Greater Tampa & College of Business**

The Greater Tampa chapter and College of Business Alumni Society teamed up to do some heavy lifting for Metropolitan Ministries in Tampa. The volunteers, including Mark Ketterer, pictured, assistant director of development for USF Athletics, helped move and sort donated furniture and other goods in the warehouse. Metropolitan Ministries serves homeless and low-income Tampa Bay area families.

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e  **NYC Wire the Wise**

Working through Wire the Wise, the New York City chapter, including Jacri Stubbs, ’12, pictured, taught senior citizens how to use their smart phones, tablets, and other digital technology. Wire the Wise creates “intergenerational meetups” for seniors (the wise) and young professionals (the wired).

*(Continued next page)*
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Check out the event photos: www.USFalumni.org/brahmanbash
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Class Notes

60s

JOSEPH A. CASTELLANO, Art '64, has retired from a career in mental health counseling and piano instruction. He and his wife have returned to Florida to enjoy retirement.

JOSEPH KALISH, Political Science '68, was named a past president of the association and a charter member of the board, founded in 2000.

ALBERT “AL” KELLER, Business '68, is creating a digital textbook for the Introduction to Business course he has taught for 12 years at Dixie State University in Utah. The project incorporates websites with up-to-date data and offers students a less expensive textbook alternative.

70s

CHERYL S. FURR, Speech Communication English Education '78 and a Life Member, has joined Southern Nuclear Operating Co. as human resources manager. Furr was previously a human resources manager with BASF Chemical Co.

MARK A. GARBER, Management '79, has joined Biomiga as a sales manager. Garber was previously a southwestern regional specialist at Denville Scientific.

RHEA F. LAW, Management '77 and a Life Member, has been named to the Executive and Legislative Committees of the Tampa Bay Partnership. Law, currently chair of the Florida offices for Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, has an Honorary Doctor of Medicine degree from the USF Morsani College of Medicine and is a past chair of the USF Board of Trustees.

JAMES B. LOPER, Sociology '70, was named to the 2016 Carrollwood Bar Association board of directors in Tampa. Loper is a past president of the association and past president (1980) of the USF Alumni Association.

CATHERINE PEEK MCEWEN, Political Science '79 and a Life Member, has become the first recipient of the Chief Justice's Distinguished Federal Judicial Service Award. A U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge for the Middle District of Florida, she was recognized for outstanding and sustained public service for her commitment to pro bono legal aid. She received the award, the first of its kind, in a ceremony at the Supreme Court of Florida.

80s

HOLLY CAIN, Broadcast News '89, has received the National Motorsports Press Association's Spirit Award for her character and achievement in the face of adversity, her sportsmanship and her contributions to motorsports. Cain, whose legal name is Holly Tritschler, is a senior writer with NASCAR.com. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2014.

BRUCE F. HANSEN, PhD '85, has released his third volume of Flora of Florida through University Press of Florida. The book was co-authored with USF professor emeritus Richard P. Wunderlin.

DR. MONA JAIN, PhD Education '84, and her daughter, DR. ANILA JAIN, Biology '81, both USF Distinguished Alumni and Life Members, received the Edgar H. Price Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award from the Manatee County Rural Health Services Foundation. The two physicians were recognized for their “tireless efforts in giving back to the community” through leadership, involvement and philanthropy.

G. DOUGLAS LETSON, Microbiology '81, has been named a 2015 Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. Letson is the executive vice president of clinical affairs, physician-in-chief and chair of education at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer & Research Institute.
CARLETON T. LUM, Accounting ’85 & MBA ’89, a Life Member, has been appointed park president of SeaWorld San Antonio. Lum has been with SeaWorld Entertainment since 1999 and was most recently park president of Busch Gardens Williamsburg.

JODI MARKLEY, Mass Communications ’86, has been promoted to executive vice president of content operations and creative services for ESPN. Markley, named a Sports Business Journal 2015 Game Changer as a woman “having a major impact on sports business,” has worked at the cable and satellite TV channel for 26 years. She was previously the senior vice president of operations.

WILLIAM D. PITTMAN, Chemical Engineering ’85, has joined Sterling Payment Technologies as executive director of technical integrations. Pittman has more than two decades’ experience in payment integrations, both as an executive and a software entrepreneur.

JACQUELINE L. RECK, ’88 & MACC ’89, has been appointed to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board’s Financial Reporting Model Task Force. Reck is an associate dean of the USF Muma College of Business and a distinguished professor of accounting.

STUART ROGERS, Civil Engineering ’84, has joined Dewberry professional services firm as a senior project manager in Tampa. Rogers specializes in land planning and development, and is a member of the Tampa Bay Builders Association and the International Council of Shopping Centers.

DR. STEPHEN A. SPENCER, MD ’82 and a Life Member, has joined the Advanced Dermatology and Cosmetic Surgery chain through acquisition of his practice, Coastal Dermatology & Skin Cancer Center of Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda, Florida. Spencer previously served as president of the Florida Society of Dermatologic Surgeons and of the USF College of Medicine Alumni Society.

NANCY H. WATKINS, Accounting ’82 and a Life Member, is now the name of the main road into Hillsborough Community College in Brandon, Florida – Nancy Watkins Drive. Watkins, who is on the USF Board of Trustees, also served on the HCC Board of Trustees.

GERALD WILLISTON, Management ’84, has joined Wilmington Trust as a senior fiduciary advisor. Williston was previously a senior trust officer and team leader for Reliance Trust Co. of Delaware in North Palm Beach, Florida.

MICHAEL ALLEN, Psychology ’92, has graduated from the Chief Executive Seminar in Tallahassee, Florida. A detention major at the Polk County (Florida) Sheriff’s Office, Allen was one of 17 law enforcement and detention professionals in the program.

ROBERT B. CARTER, MBA ’90 and 2013 USF Distinguished Alumnus, was elected to the New York Life Insurance Co. board of directors. Carter is the executive vice president of FedEx Information Services and chief information officer of FedEx Corp. Fortune magazine named Carter to its Executive Dream Team of “all-star” corporate leaders in 2011.

DR. DANIEL L. DENT, MD ’90, was elected to the executive committee of the American College of Surgeons Board of Governors as Education Pillar Lead overseeing the board’s education workgroups. Dr. Dent is a distinguished teaching professor and general surgery residency program director at the University of Texas Health Science Center.

ADRIA BEENHAKKER DICKEY, Speech/Language ’97, is the new vice president of the Carrollwood Bar Association in Tampa. Association members include north Hillsborough County lawyers and non-lawyers who support the organization’s goals and values.

SARA M. DUCUENNOIS, Public Relations ’99 and a Life Member, has been promoted to associate executive director of the Florida International University Alumni Association. DuCuennois is responsible for strategic planning, creation and growth of alumni programs.

MIREYA EAVEY, General Business Administration ’99, has joined United Way Suncoast as Sarasota area
LORI FOSTER, MA Psychology ’97 & PhD ’99, is serving on the White House Social and Behavioral Sciences Team, a group of experts tasked with helping federal agencies streamline access to their programs and communicate with constituents. Foster is a psychology professor at North Carolina State University.

ELLEN JANZ, Marketing ’97, has been promoted to chief financial officer at Orthocare Florida in Pinellas Park, Florida. Janz will oversee the company’s finance and corporate development functions.

MARK JARONSKI, Journalism ’95, has been named chief executive officer of Select Registry based in Charleston, South Carolina. He was previously vice president of global communications for Visit Orlando.

DIANE W. JONES, Public Relations ’95 & MPA ’97, has joined B2 Communications as an account manager. Jones is president of DJ Public Relations and previously served as communications manager for the Pasco County (Florida) Commission.

MICHELLE K. LEE, Journalism-Magazine ’97, is the editor-in-chief at Allure magazine. Lee was previously editor-in-chief and chief marketing officer at Nylon Media.

ANDREW MAYTS JR., Political Science ’93 and a Life Member, has been appointed to the 13th Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission. Mayts has been a shareholder at GrayRobinson, P.A. since 2008.

PATRICIA ALVAREZ MCHATTON, Special Education ’97, MA ’98 & PhD Curriculum and Instruction ’04, has been named dean of the College of Education and P-16 Integration at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. McHatton was a USF faculty member from 2004 to 2012.

SHYAM MOHAPATRA, MBA ’99, has been elected to the 2016 College of Fellows of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. Mohapatra is a co-founder of TransGenex Nanobiotech Inc. and a distinguished professor at USF Health.

JEFFREY NOWAK, Art ’93, has been appointed to the board of directors for Tampa Bay Businesses for Culture & the Arts, which unites businesses on behalf of the arts. Nowak is vice president of customer success and innovation and a senior member of the executive management committee at MedHOK, Inc.

WILLIAM A. BLAIR, Psychology ’03, has been named a partner at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP in Tampa, where he practices primarily in the areas of corporate and securities law, and mergers and acquisitions.

GLENN WILEY, Business Administration ’81, has been appointed the inaugural director of the Larry Hoffman|Greenberg Traurig Startup Law Practicum at the University of Miami School of Law, where students help young businesses and organizations with legal issues.

DIANE W. JONES, Public Relations ’95 & MPA ’97, has joined B2 Communications as an account manager. Jones is president of DJ Public Relations and previously served as communications manager for the Pasco County (Florida) Commission.
Hillsborough County. Gordon is a dietitian practicing in Lutz, Florida.

MATT GROTHE, Criminology ’09, married ALYSSA WRIGHT, Communication ’10, on Nov. 7, 2015. Grothe played football for the Bulls, Wright was a cheerleader, and numerous alumni attended – including Rocky D. Bull.

MONIQUE HAYES, Political Science ’01, a Life Member, has launched The Hayes Firm, PLLC, a business law firm specializing in resolving complex legal issues. The Miami-based firm focuses on clients’ business interests as well as their personal needs through estate planning. Hayes is on the Alumni Association board of directors and is a 2014 USF Outstanding Young Alumna.

ANGELA HENDERSHOT, MArch ’05, has been named a principal at Rowe Architects in Tampa. Hendershot has been with the firm for seven years and served as project manager for award-winning projects.

PANZINA HILL, Management ’01, has been named vice president of human resources at Brightstar Credit Union in Miami. She was previously vice president of human resources for Nationwide Laboratory Services in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

JILLIAN HOLLYWOOD, Sociology ’00, has joined Dream Sporting Trips of Sarasota as director of sales and marketing. Hollywood was previously the marketing director of PayServ Systems.

J. DEREK KANTASKAS, Mass Communications ’03, has been elected as a shareholder of Carlton Fields. Kantaskas is a member of the firm’s construction litigation and construction industry groups.

C. VICTORIA KNIGHT-ALAE, Biology ’02, has been named a partner at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP in Tampa, where she practices primarily in health law. She also volunteers her legal services with Guardian Ad Litem.

NATE KURANT, Mass Communications ’07 & MA ’12, has joined the Charleston RiverDogs in South Carolina as director of promotions. Kurant was previously director of marketing and social media for the Dunedin (Florida) Blue Jays.

MELISSA S. NICHOLAS, MA ’06, has been selected by the U.S. State Department for the 2015-16 English Language Fellow Program. She is one of 165 educators chosen to teach English in South Africa.

BEATRIZ E. SANCHEZ, Political Science ’03, has been named a partner at Englander Fischer, St. Petersburg. Sanchez has been an associate of the St. Petersburg-based business litigation practice since 2012.
**Class Notes**

**JESSICA MICHELLE SINGLETON**, Mass Communications ’09, released her first comedy album, *please, don’t leave. me*, on iTunes on Feb. 1 and saw it climb to No. 1 for its genre in less than 24 hours. Singleton performs stand-up comedy on national and international tours and at major Los Angeles clubs.

**VICTOR J. TESCHEL**, MEd ’09 and a Life Member, has joined the Annual Giving team at the USF Foundation as associate director of young alumni engagement and philanthropy. Teschel has been with the Foundation since 2008.

**RICK TUTWILER**, Management ’05, received the WIND Presidential Recognition Award at the annual Windstorm Insurance Network (WIND) Conference. The award recognizes a member who has contributed significantly to improving the Windstorm Insurance Network. Tutwiler is a public insurance adjuster at Tutwiler & Associates Public Adjusters in Tampa.

**HELEN WIEGMAN**, MA Elementary Education ’06, a broker-associate with RE/MAX Alliance Group, has moved from the University Park office to the Bradenton office. Wiegman is a former litigation assistant and schoolteacher.

**10s**

**TIANA M. AUMENT**, Mass Communications ’15, has joined Vassar College Athletics as assistant director of athletic communications. Aument was previously a staff writer for the USF Oracle.

**AMBER DUBIEL**, Biomedical Sciences ’13, co-authored a research paper published in the journal *Neuroscience*. She is pursuing her master’s degree at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**DAWN I. FOX**, PhD ’11, and three USF researchers have been granted a patent for technology they invented that uses tuna cactus to clean up oil spills. Fox is a chemistry lecturer at the University of Guyana. Her co-inventors are USF faculty members Norma Alcantar, Sylvia Thomas and Ryan Toomey.

**BRANDON HALLINAN**, Mechanical Engineering ’11, has been named project engineer at Tipton Design and Engineering in Tampa. Hallinan was previously a mechanical design engineer at Bay Area Innovations, Inc. and Vanguard Protex Global.

**CASSANDRA (CASI) JOHNSON**, MBA ’12, has been named chief operations officer-innovations leader at M3 Accounting + Analytics in Tampa, where she was previously vice president of operations. Johnson has served as an adjunct professor at USF’s College of Hospitality & Tourism Leadership.

**DAVID M. KALTEUX**, Marketing ’12, has joined FordHarrison LLP, as an associate in the firm’s Tampa office. Kalteux previously worked as a law clerk at two other Tampa Bay area law firms.

**JEDIDIAH “JED” LIPPINCOTT**, Marketing ’14, (above) has been appointed chief operating officer of Seafood Shack Enterprises. Lippincott was previously the company’s controller. He’s the former accounts manager for The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company LLC.

**GEORGE P. PAPADEAS**, Marketing ’13 and a Life Member, has joined The Hoth, a White Label SEO firm, as an operations manager headquartered in St. Petersburg. Papadeas was previously an executive team leader at Target.

**MOLLY PRICHARD**, Nursing & MS ’14, has become a registered nurse practitioner at SkinSmart Dermatology in Sarasota. She joined the practice as a dermatologic fellow in 2015 and is certified by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

**SNAPSHOTS**

**Big Apple Invaders**

For the fourth year, USF alumni living in New York City don their best pirate gear for a Tampa-style Gasparilla celebration.
RACHEL J. REID, Management ‘15, has joined the USF Office of Annual Giving as visit coordinator. Reid was previously an administrative assistant at Medco Data.

KAYLA RICHMOND, Political Science & Management ‘10, has been named president-elect of the Lee County (Florida) Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division. Richmond has been practicing divorce, marital and family law since 2013.

ROBERT RITZENTHALER, MBA ‘15, passed the certified public accounting exam, which has a 50 percent average passing rate. Ritzenthaler is a staff accountant at Shinn & Company.

KRIS SOLBERG, Mass Communications ‘11, received the 2015 Pinstripe Service Excellence Award presented by the Tampa Bay Chapter of the American Advertising Federation. The award recognizes young professionals who make outstanding contributions to the nonprofit ad federation affiliate Ad 2 Tampa Bay; the advertising industry and the community. Solberg is the account director at Social Forces in Tampa.

DR. MARY V. TOLLE, Doctor of Physical Therapy ‘15, became the second student accepted into USF’s Orthopaedic Residency program in the School of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Sciences. Dr. Tolle received her Florida Physical Therapy license in fall 2015.

KRISTOPHER WASIELEWSKI, International Studies ‘14, married YURY PIECZYNSKI, Elementary Education ‘13, on June 13, 2015 (pictured above). Wasielewski is a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force; the former Pieczynski taught second grade in Hillsborough County Public Schools. The couple lives in Ramstein, Germany.

MELISSA J. WOLFE, Mass Communications ‘13, has joined the USF Foundation as a communications and marketing officer. Wolfe was previously the communications and marketing coordinator at the USF Patel College of Global Sustainability.

In Memoriam

CHERYL LYNN BATES, Mathematics Education ’97, Jan. 12, 2016
MARY ANN BENTLEY, English Education ’64, Nov. 5, 2015
ARTHUR ST. CLAIR “BOOTS” BUTLER IV, Zoology ’69, Nov. 13, 2015
JAMES DICKINSON, College of Education professor emeritus, Feb. 9, 2015
BARBARA F. ESTES FERRE, Elementary Education ’73, Dec. 21, 2015
ANASTASIA GARCIA, Special Education ’86, Jan. 17, 2016
CAROLINE PAYNE HATTON, MA Rehabilitation Counseling ’95, Nov. 10, 2015
Marilyn L. Hester, MA ’68, Jan. 3, 2016
Michael A. Imparato Jr., ’97 & MSEE ’99, Nov. 27, 2015
Gerald “Gerry” Johnson, Finance ’73, Dec. 5, 2015
Michael G. Keller, Management Information Systems ’99 and Life Member, Feb. 16, 2016
James W. “Jim” Lee, Reading Education ’71 and Life Member, Nov. 12, 2015
Michele Loughin-Ruscell, Advertising ’98, Nov. 1, 2015
Charles F. Mackall, Psychology ’96, Dec. 17, 2015
Ralph “Gene” Eugene Odom II, Engineering Science ’97, Nov. 9, 2015
Lawrence “Larry” Ordway, Biology ’89, Feb. 15, 2016
Emilio Perez, ’66 & MA ’67, Jan. 31, 2016
Angela M. Slater, ’85 & MA ’97, Feb. 4, 2016
Jean DeYorio Smith, Elementary Education ’80, Nov. 16, 2015
Kathryn “Kathy” Sutton, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences ’92, Feb. 11, 2016
Marion E. “Bud” Wacaser Jr., Biology ’95, Nov. 20, 2015
Margaret Ann Wood, Management ’86, Jan. 28, 2015

Send Class Notes submissions and high-resolution (at least 300 ppi) photos to pcarnathan@usf.edu or mail to Penny Carnathan, USF Alumni Association, Gibbons Alumni Center, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., ALC100, Tampa, FL 33620-5455
Many of us, including myself, took our first jobs out of college without deciding on an actual “career” choice. In the College of Education, we have students who’ve returned to school because they recognize the unique environment and experiences one can have as part of an educational institution and how different the culture can be than the typical 9-to-5 office setting.

If you are one of those individuals, here are some opportunities you can consider to redirect your career to be an educator who will empower the next generation.

- For those who were inspired by a teacher, you can get your teaching certification through a Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT). These programs are designed to enhance your skill and knowledge around teaching various subject areas and provide you with classroom management skills for when you are on the job.

- If you still remember your college days with fondness, you may want to consider a career in student services. The Masters of Education in College Student Affairs will provide the research behind student success and development while preparing you to work in college and university settings.

- If you’ve discovered that your talents include teaching online, consider a master’s degree in Instructional Technology and learn about e-learning and multimedia instruction.

All of these areas are growing and will require individuals with the training to fill future job openings. Each time you hear about the growing population, know that this means more teachers will be needed. Career ladders in all of these areas will provide great professional opportunities and higher salaries with experience.

While many careers are fulfilling, few are as rewarding as being an educator. After working for two years as a probation officer after college, I returned to get my education degree, and do not regret this “second career” choice.
April 14-24

**VIOLÉT**, a musical about a disfigured young woman’s quest for beauty in the 1960s; Theatre 1, USF Tampa; $15, or $10 for students with ID and ages 60 and older; show times at theatreanddance.arts.usf.edu

April 29

**FAST 56 AWARDS** recognizing the fastest-growing Bulls-led businesses for 2016; 5:45 p.m. cocktails and reception, 7 p.m. awards presentation at the USF Marshall Student Center in Tampa; $56 per person; purchase tickets at usfalumni.org/2016Fast56

April 29-May 1

**UCF VS. USF SOFTBALL**, 4 p.m. April 29-30 and 11 a.m. May 1 at USF Softball Stadium at USF Tampa; tickets at GoUSFBulls.com

May 6-7

**SPRING 2016 COMMENCEMENTS** are 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. May 6-7 at the USF Sun Dome for USF Tampa graduates; 2 and 6 p.m. May 8 at Duke Energy for the Arts – Mahaffey Theater, for USF St. Petersburg; 6:30 p.m. May 9 at the Bradenton Area Convention Center for USF Sarasota-Manatee

May 20

**LIFE MEMBER APPRECIATION BASEBALL GAME**. UConn vs. USF. Event starts at 5 p.m., first pitch at 6:30 p.m., USF Baseball Stadium. Complimentary admission, ballpark food and drinks for Life Members and one guest (purchase additional tickets for $7 each.) RSVP by May 11 at www.usfalumni.org/baseball

May 27

**TOUR USF HEALTH BYRO ALZHEIMER’S INSTITUTE**, (pictured), the largest free-standing facility dedicated to caring for patients with memory disorders and their families; visit the Discovery Labs and the Center for Memory C.A.R.E; 2-4 p.m. at 4001 E. Fletcher Ave., Tampa; free; repeats June 24; call (813) 398-0659 to register.

June 25-26

**SUMMER PLANT FESTIVAL** at USF Botanical Gardens, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday at 12210 USF Pine Drive, Tampa. Vendors sell tropical, native and exotic plants, herbs and fruit trees. $5 general admission; free for garden members and children 12 and younger; www.gardens.usf.edu
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