Our turn to SERVE
COMMUNITY CAUSE

Inspired by the idea that you cannot truly understand the experiences of others until you have walked a mile in their shoes, USF students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community proclaimed their commitment to end violence against women during “Walk A Mile in Her Shoes: The International Men’s March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault and Gender Violence.” Hundreds of students lined up to grab signs with messages like “Be a Man, Take a Stand,” “Heels = Healing” and “Real Men Get Consent” to walk across the campus in an array of traditional female shoes, including stylish pumps, sequined flip flops and even a pair of pastel pink go-go boots. It was USF’s eighth year participating in the annual international event that got its start in 2001 and has grown into a worldwide movement.
First Look
GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

Look closely and you’ll see that Mary Bishop’s photograph of Ancient Glaciers Beach in Jökulsárlón, Iceland, is actually a color photo. Bishop, a master’s degree candidate in the Patel College of Global Sustainability, took top prize in the USF World 2015 International Photo Competition. Now in its seventh year, the competition was created to celebrate diversity and promote cross-cultural understanding. It offers faculty, staff, students and alumni who travel abroad the opportunity to share their international experiences with the university community. Over the past year, more than 1,400 USF students studied abroad in 73 countries, and more than 500 USF faculty from the Tampa campus engaged in research or teaching in 100 countries around the globe.

1. BLUE IS FOR BEAUTIFUL, KARPATHOS, GREECE
Thea Tobiassen, Class of ’18
Honorable Mention, Land/Sea/Cityscape category

To view all of the entries, visit www.facebook.com/USFWorld

2. ANCIENT GLACIERS BEACH, JÖKULSÁRLÓN, ICELAND
Mary Bishop, Class of ’16
Grand Prize winner, and winner of the Land/Sea/Cityscape category

3. BRIDGING THE GAP, CARRICK-A-REDE, IRELAND
Vincent Roth, Class of ’17
Voted “USF Favorite” on Facebook, and winner of the Bulls Abroad category

4. ART, HISTORY AND EDUCATION AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS
Allan Feldman, professor, College of Education
Honorable Mention, Portrait category
5. DOG PILE, CHICA, PANAMA
Nate Stanley, Class of ’20
Honorable Mention, Bulls Abroad category

6. ENGULFED, AUVERS-SUR-OISE, FRANCE
Cindy Navarrete, Class of ’18
Winner, Portrait category
First Look
Have you spotted MRUSF tooling down the street and wondered, “Who’s that?”

How about IRON8? Or RXUSF?

They’re three of more than 15,000 Bulls alumni and friends who don’t have to think twice about showing their USF pride when they head out the door – it travels with them on their cars, trucks and SUV’s.

Some Bulls specialty tag buyers opt for the standard-issue letters and numbers dictated by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. Others, like MRUSF – Mike Griffin, ’03, past leader of both student government and the USF Alumni Association – prefer the personalized approach.

“It can be a challenge to put together,” says IRON8 – Jeff Fishman, ’92, Iron Bull committee chair since 2014 for USF Athletics’ Bulls Club. “You have to go in with a list of possible combinations you want and they tell you if they’re available.”

Many of the obvious have been taken, which is why Jeff’s “B” is an “8.” Also why Brandy Fishman, ’96, is ALLIN for USF with a “1” in her “ALL.” Hey, it works!

Bulls specialty plates tell the world that USF gave someone in that vehicle a great education or, in the case of friends, faculty and staff – like RXUSF, College of Pharmacy dean Kevin Sneed – that they’re a proud member of the USF family. All that pride boosts USF’s stature and the value of every degree awarded. Plus, $25 from each plate issued goes toward scholarships and other educational enhancement through your Alumni Association.

Interested in getting your own Bulls plate? Save $25 now with a voucher from your Alumni Association, available at tinyurl.com/qbha8gy, where you’ll also find instructions for purchasing online, by mail, or in person.

Tagged!

MRUSF
Mr. USF is Mike Griffin, ‘03, Alumni Association Life Member, past student government president and past Association chair.

USFIT
USF IT is Christopher Akin, ’96, USF’s director of web services.

JG 82
Stands for Julie Gillespie, MPA ’82, Association Life Member and assistant vice president for USF Advancement.

RXUSF
RX USF is Kevin Sneed, dean of USF’s College of Pharmacy.

IRON8
Stands for Iron Bulls, the devoted group of USF Athletics donors and boosters chaired by Jeff Fishman, ’92, Association Life Member.

USFAA
Acronym for the USF Alumni Association, the organization proudly led by Bill McCausland, MBA ’96, who’s also a Life Member.

99GRD
’99 grad Charles Schroeder, ’99 & MBA ’11, says it took him a long time to earn that first degree.

USF 2
Because USF was taken! says Jim Ragsdale, ’81, Alumni Association Life Member.

A1LIN
All in for USF describes Brandy Fishman, ’96, Association Life Member.

USFBB
Bulls basketball fan David Goldstein hasn’t missed a men’s home game since 1993.

USF04
Proud grad Marc Ostroff, ’04, Alumni Association Life Member.
As USF Alumni you deserve a credit card with a low interest rate, no annual fee & generous rewards. You can have it all.

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Features

24 The hope of a child refugee
Shams Rahman, MPH ’13, offers a unique perspective on the current world refugee crisis: He grew up in a camp for Afghans fleeing war.

28 Our turn to serve
Cover: The USF Office of Veteran Success helps student veterans connect and build a network for their future.

34 A USF student in London
Junior Chris Johnson shares his first-hand account of a transformative month abroad in London.

Departments

2 First Look
10 From the President
12 Campus
20 Athletics
22 Unstoppable

Forever Bulls

38 5 minutes with Betty
40 Profiles in leadership: Philip Nutsugah
42 A lifetime of firsts
46 Where’s Rocky?
48 Chapters & Societies
51 Employ-A-Bull
52 Class Notes
57 Blast from the Past
59 Calendar

Where’s Rocky, Pg. 46 Photo: Tom Driscoll, ’08, and his wife, Keri (Shingledecker) Driscoll, ’06, visit the Washington Monument with Rocky.

Photos:
Top: Courtesy of Shams Rahman; center and bottom left: Aimée Bridgett | USF
HAPPY NEW YEAR! This is the perfect time to reflect on all that has been accomplished the past year across the USF System, as well as to celebrate all the exciting opportunities ahead – particularly as we continue to celebrate the 50th anniversary of USF St. Petersburg and the 40th anniversary of USF Sarasota-Manatee.

Our academic profile has never been stronger, our research portfolio is now ranked in the top 25 nationally, and our impact on the community is being felt all across the Tampa Bay region in new and important ways.

One great example of this is our commitment to our nearly 2,000 student veterans, which you will read about in this issue’s cover story. We honor their service daily through well-established resources like the USF Office of Veteran Success, which contributes to the high retention, graduation and employment rates of our student veterans – more than 100 of whom just graduated during Fall Commencement. USF is proud to be consistently recognized as a national leader in this regard, ranked No. 1 most veteran-friendly university by Money magazine and No. 2 by Military Times magazine this year. Our student veterans give so much back to our campus, and it is truly our honor to serve them.

Another way in which USF is making a difference is in our quest to cultivate global perspectives for our students, ensuring that they graduate well prepared for an increasingly interconnected world. Our efforts are clearly paying off, as you will read in a first-person essay on the new USF in London program, written by one of our brightest Honors College students, Chris Johnson. Chris’s life-changing experience exemplifies USF’s quest to educate our students in ways that extend well beyond the classroom.

As you leaf through these and other stories featured in this month’s USF, I hope you share in my excitement for all our positive progress. This is indeed true not only for our student success efforts but also in terms of infrastructure projects that will provide a maximum return on investment for generations to come.

From the ascending walls of the new Kate Tiedemann College of Business at USF St. Petersburg, which is on track for completion later this year, to the recent site dedication for the new USF Health Morsani College of Medicine and Heart Institute in downtown Tampa – USF is truly rising to new heights. We are also looking forward to beginning construction on a new student housing village on the Tampa campus, which represents the largest public-private partnership in the history of the State University System of Florida and could serve as a model for future housing projects throughout the USF System. Meanwhile USF Sarasota-Manatee continues to make a meaningful impact on its community, now partnering with its surrounding county’s school systems to help address grade-level reading challenges and welcoming its first Fulbright Scholar.

Clearly, we are on an exciting trajectory, but we still have a way to go. We need your help and advocacy, particularly as the Florida Legislative Session kicks off this month. On page 11, please find a list of our top legislative priorities for the USF System. I’m sure you will agree, each of these items will play a major role in advancing the USF System even further, for the benefit of our entire Tampa Bay region.

Go BULLS!
Judy Genshaft, President
University of South Florida System
LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

University of South Florida
System top legislative priorities

With the Legislative Session kicking off this month in Tallahassee, we hope we can count on your advocacy and support for the USF System’s top priorities. Each of these will provide important returns on investment for our university and our Tampa Bay community.

- USF Health Morsani College of Medicine & Heart Institute in Downtown Tampa: $22.5 million (total project requires $55.75 million over the next two fiscal years)

- USF System’s STEM/Health Workforce Development for the 21st Century initiative: $9 million ($2 million for USFSM, $2 million for USFSP, $2.5 million for USF (Tampa), $2.5 million for USF Health)

- Florida Center for Cybersecurity at USF: $5.65 million

- USF Sarasota-Manatee bookstore property disposition to the Sarasota-Manatee Airport Authority: $850,000 in compensation

- Florida Consortium of Metropolitan Research Universities initiative (USF System, UCF & FIU): $12 million

- FIO Research Vessel replacement: $3 million

To learn more about these priorities and how you can help, please visit www.usf.edu/government-relations/get-involved.
RECOGNITION

USF named state’s most engaged campus

Julia Poholek had never taken a service-learning course when she began her internship with the USF Office of Community Engagement and Partnerships (OCEP) in spring 2014. Then a junior, Poholek interviewed students about their service-learning experiences at USF for a series she was assigned to write.

Speaking to the students was transformative.

Today, Poholek joins the nearly 4,000 USF students enrolled in service-learning courses offered by the university. The courses, which combine classroom instruction with meaningful community service, are designed to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities.

In November, USF was named the state’s Engaged Campus of the Year by Florida’s Campus Compact. The organization, which includes 50 college and university presidents, is part of a national coalition focused on building students’ citizenship skills and effective community partnerships.

“The Campus Compact 2015 Engaged Campus Award is a great honor and recognition of our USF enactment of our commitment to community engagement and enhancing the quality of life in our local and global communities,” says OCEP director Harold Keller. “It represents the high quality of work by our faculty, students, and university-wide support offices – OCEP, Center for Leadership & Civic Engagement, and Internships/Career Services.” In addition to being named Florida’s most community-engaged campus, two USF System faculty members – Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman and Bonnie Silvestri – were recognized with statewide awards for excellence in civic engagement by Florida’s Campus Compact.

Hordge-Freeman, an assistant professor with a joint appointment in the sociology department and the Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean, was named the inaugural recipient of the Engaged Faculty Special Award for Global Engagement. It was Hordge-Freeman’s significant global engagement, in particular her research into modern-day slavery in Brazil, that inspired the national committee to develop the award.

Silvestri, OCEP’s director of strategic communications and an adjunct at USFSM, was awarded the Graham-Frey Civic Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to the development of civic learning and engagement in sustaining the country’s participatory democracy. A former government ethics attorney once charged with the grim task of issuing death certificates to the families of 9/11 victims, Silvestri has spent the past several years raising the profile of service learning and community engagement through OCEP.

Through myriad services and initiatives, OCEP promotes and supports community-engaged research, teaching and learning, and helps develop productive partnerships to expand and strengthen university-community engagement locally and globally. USF is one of only 40 public research universities nationwide with very high research activity that is designated as community engaged by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

— ANN CARNEY | USF
Jose Valentino Ruiz’s road to the Latin Grammys is paved with purpose.

The College of The Arts PhD candidate — whose album emerged as a 16th Annual Latin Grammy Awards nominee for Best Latin Jazz Album in the fall — believes every project should fulfill a need.

His album, *I Make You Want to Move*, is no exception. “As an educator, I wanted to teach students the processes that go into producing an album and the path to get into this kind of arena,” the 2009 Music Studies alumnus says. “I wanted to celebrate the unity and diversity of what it means to be Latino; I wanted to create cultural awareness.”

Although he did not take home a Grammy, Ruiz’s album was among the category’s top five. It features legendary percussionist Giovanni Hidalgo, School of Music graduate student Giovanni Perez, freshman Jesse Pitts and prospective PhD student Bruno Miranda.

Ruiz’s father, a registered nurse, was one of the producers for the album; his sister, also a USF alum, appears on some of the tracks.

Ruiz attended the awards show in Las Vegas on Nov. 19, joined by his father, sister, mother — also a USF alumna and affiliate faculty in the College of Medicine — and current and former students.

“It was amazing, the best networking night of my life,” he says, adding that being a Grammy-nominated artist comes with “great responsibility,” a lesson he drives home with his students.

“As a Latin Grammy-nominated artist, you need to continue your endeavors with excellence — it’s not just about playing professionally, but living with excellence,” he says. “All of us now represent the Recording Academy and USF.”

A multi-instrumentalist — flute, saxophone, bass, keyboards, vocals, and percussion — Ruiz served as one of the album’s producers and engineers, and was composer, arranger and bandleader. He sang, wrote the album notes and created artwork for the cover. Eight of the tracks are his original compositions; four he arranged. Four-time Grammy-winning producer and engineer Carlson Barros, one of Ruiz’s mentors, produced the album. Giovanni Hidalgo makes a cameo in two songs.

Ruiz earned his bachelor’s degree in music studies from USF and went on to earn a master’s in instrumental performance from the University of Miami. He returned to USF to work on his doctorate in music education.

Ruiz expects to defend his dissertation in January and graduate in May. In June, he will marry his childhood friend, Cortney Wells.

— Ann Carney | USF
Kids get an education in health

An enthusiastic group of fifth-graders got an education in health at the grand opening of the new Muma JA BizTown in north Tampa – a health care storefront created through a partnership between USF Health and Tampa General Hospital.

Dozens of young doctors, nurses, pharmacists, administrators and nutritionists filled the new space, which features an operating room, patient simulator, pharmacy, and a nutrition and wellness center.

The program is run by Junior Achievement. It is designed to expose young students to the fields of medicine, nursing, public health, pharmacy, physical therapy and other health professions, inspiring them to consider careers as practitioners in those disciplines or as health care executives.

The new Pam and Les Muma JA BizTown is based in the Bill Poe Junior Achievement Center near USF. The indoor center contains a mini city with nearly two dozen public and private businesses, each sponsored by a real local business. Before visiting JA BizTown, students complete a program where they learn about their new workplace, participate in job interviews and receive information about the jobs they will perform.

Speaking at the new storefront’s September grand opening, Pam Muma told the students they are among the more than 128,000 fifth-graders to rotate through JA BizTown since it opened in 2005.

“Junior Achievement gives you the skills needed to be successful in the future,” Muma said. “Today is your day and marks the grand opening of a new storefront of two very special partners. It’s a space to learn, but to have fun, as well.”

– ANN CARNEY | USF
Student Life

Share-A-Bull bikes on a roll

Just six weeks after USF rolled out its Share-A-Bull bike program, organizers were calling the short-term, point-to-point bike-sharing service a phenomenal success. More than 4,000 registered users have logged 53,000 miles on 100 bikes placed around campus in that short time.

The program, operated by Campus Recreation, allows students, faculty and staff to ride for free for up to two hours each day, enjoying a healthy, emissions-free way to travel across campus without the worries of ownership.

“The program has been a huge success,” says Francis Morgan, USF’s assistant director for outdoor recreation. “We are submitting a proposal to fund 100 or 200 additional bikes on campus.”

Each bike is equipped with a GPS system that helps riders locate available bikes through a free app. Riders unlock the bike using a code entered into a keypad on the back of the bike.

Share-A-Bull is made possible by funding from the Student Green Energy Fund, a student fee-funded program that aims to reduce the carbon footprint on campus. Engineering professor Yu Zhang originally submitted the idea for a bike-sharing program as an alternative transportation option around campus.

— Ann Carney | USF

Oil Spill Documentary Set to Premiere

When the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded in 2010, it started the largest oil spill in U.S. history. On Monday, Feb. 29, at the Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg, FL, Screenscope Films will premiere “Dispatches From the Gulf,” a new episode of the PBS series Journey to Planet Earth. The documentary, narrated by Matt Damon, offers first-hand accounts from fishermen, scientists — including USF researchers — and activists on how the unprecedented spill impacted their lives. Learn more about the free event at dispatches.eventbrite.com.

Can Probiotics Prevent Diabetes?

Bring on the yogurt! An international study co-authored by USF associate professor Ulla Uusitalo suggests that children at risk for type 1 diabetes are less likely to develop the disease if they consume probiotic formula or dietary supplements during their first month of life. The findings, published by the journal JAMA Pediatrics, are limited to infants with a high genetic risk of developing the disease. “The association is very strong,” says Uusitalo, a nutritionist. Nearly half a million infants were screened for the study, which began in 2004.
Third grade is a pivotal moment in everyone’s life. According to researchers, this is when learning to read shifts into reading to learn – the very foundation of learning. Experts say reading proficiently by the end of third grade is a key predictor of high school graduation and career success. Yet two-thirds of U.S. fourth-graders are not proficient readers. That’s a major concern for community leaders and educators who understand the link between reading deficiencies and broader social consequences.

In spring 2014, USF Sarasota-Manatee joined forces with community partners in the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. Partners in nearly 17,000 students.

Statistics show more than one-third of children from low-income families in Sarasota and Manatee Counties face the prospect of not finishing high school on time because of reading deficiencies.

Studies have long shown a direct correlation between income and reading skills.

In Manatee, 60 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals because of their families’ low-income status. In Sarasota, the figure is 57 percent. Together the total is 230 communities in 32 states, we’ll be able to compare and learn from people around the country who are developing their own plans.”

In addition to serving on campaign program committees, Wilson and Marie Byrd, associate professor and chair of the USFSM Teacher Preparation Program, worked with College of Education students who tutored sixth-graders as part of the Summer Arts-Integration Literacy (SAIL) program this year. A number of university staff volunteer to read to young children through United Way as well.

USFSM Regional Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Dennis Stover notes, “As we equip our future teachers with the skills they need, the campaign is helping us to provide a deeper understanding of the issues their students face in life. That’s one of the many reasons we’re so pleased to be involved with our other community stakeholders in this important project.”

-- BARBARA MELENDEZ / USF

USFSM HOSTS TWO FULBRIGHTS

Weeks after welcoming its first-ever Fulbright student, 22-year-old, Turkish-born Nefike Günden, USFSM welcomed its first Fulbright Scholar. Rong-Da Liang, of the National Kaohsiung University of Hospitality and Tourism in Taiwan, will conduct a year-long study of marketing and tourism trends at theme parks. Günden – one of only 85 Turkish students awarded a Fulbright scholarship from a pool of 1,000 applicants – is pursuing a master’s degree in the College of Hospitality & Tourism Leadership.

BRUNCH BREAKS FUNDRAISING RECORD

It was a record-breaking year for Brunch on the Bay – more than $375,000 raised for student scholarships. The 22nd annual event, which coincides with the 40th anniversary of USFSM, attracted 1,000 guests to what many consider the lawn party of the year. Since it began, Brunch has contributed more than $1 million in scholarships to more than 1,400 students.
USFSP ranked No. 23 by U.S. News

*U.S. News & World Report*’s 2016 Best Colleges Rankings put USF St. Petersburg at No. 23 among the nation’s Southern Regional Public Universities. The new ranking is the highest ever for USFSP, which has consistently improved in the magazine’s list of the highest ranked public colleges and universities over the last three years.

“This latest ranking is indeed an honor and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the talented faculty and staff at USFSP,” says Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska. “We’re in very good company, alongside some of the country’s finest public research institutions.”

Criteria for the rankings include undergraduate academic reputation, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and graduation rate performance, among others.

USFSP is ranked at No. 58 among all public and private regional universities in the South.

“The rankings by *U.S. News & World Report* are valued within higher education because the magazine’s research methodology is sound,” says V. Mark Durand, USFSP’s interim regional vice chancellor of Academic Affairs. “The criteria used can help students and parents make informed decisions about the kind of college experience they want most.”

For instance, the magazine measures student-faculty ratio, which for USFSP is 19:1.

“For students who want to study at a smaller institution, work closely with faculty and/or engage in undergraduate research, these ranking can help identify institutions, like USFSP, which can meet those expectations,” he adds.

In January, *U.S. News* ranked USFSP’s Online MBA Program among the nation’s top 20 percent, and in May, the magazine ranked the program among the nation’s top 20 percent of Best Online MBA Programs for Veterans.

STUDENT ACCEPTS INTERNSHIP WITH SMITHSONIAN

USFSP senior Amy Anderson sobbed with joy when she received the phone call of a lifetime: The St. Petersburg native had been offered an internship at the prestigious National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., part of the Smithsonian Institution.

During the internship, the history major and art history minor will sort and catalog textile samples that were sent by U.S. consular officers from around the world from 1895 to 1913. The samples are representative of what the American textile industry was competing against in overseas markets.
NEWgenerator heads to India

The USF-engineered NEWgenerator, which turns waste product into fertilizer, renewable energy and clean water, is heading to a community in southern India for testing over the next year. The revolutionary wastewater treatment system was developed by USF associate professor of civil and environmental engineering Daniel Yeh and his team of USF graduate students.

Yeh’s NEWgenerator technology uses microbes to break down waste, and is different than typical wastewater treatments because it recoups what other methods cast off. It requires little energy to use, and actually generates more energy than it consumes.

Yeh believes his NEWgenerator can contribute to solving a global challenge in sanitation that impacts 2.6 billion people worldwide.

— ANN CARNEY | USF
Anti-money laundering expert follows the money

The field of accounting ... fun? Exciting? Absolutely, says USF professor Kerry Myers, if you specialize in anti-money-laundering work. He calls it “accounting with pizzazz.”

Accounting, it turns out, plays a very important role in the fight against illegal drugs, human trafficking, business and government corruption and terrorism. High-paying jobs await those skilled in this growing segment of the battlefront.

In the fall, USF’s Lynn Pippenger School of Accountancy in the Muma College of Business launched the nation’s first academic program specializing in money laundering risk management. The graduate certificate program prepares students to take the exam to become a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist. A concentration is also available in the MBA program.

Myers, who teaches graduate classes in forensic accounting, found his way to being an anti-money laundering expert through a somewhat circuitous route – first becoming an accountant and then a lawyer for 10 years, followed by becoming an FBI agent whose skills led him to the white collar crime squad.

But it was his welding skills that took him even further. What his father taught him as a means to find work while going to college landed Myers on teams that investigated some of the nation’s most horrific tragedies: the Oklahoma City, Centennial Park, and World Trade Center bombing cases, to name a few, as a certified bomb technician.

Myers points out that most people don’t realize how massive and serious a problem money laundering is. Estimates put the amounts of money involved anywhere from $800 billion to $2 trillion. The sources are drug and human trafficking money and fraudulent schemes involving the medical, insurance and banking industries. Violence is part and parcel of these activities and destroyed lives are left in their wake.

“We really do not know the full cost of money laundering, but the estimates are staggering. Why? Because money laundering always involves cash, which is very hard to track,” he explains.

Myers’ classes fill up quickly. His adventures take listeners behind the scenes of high-profile crime scenes from the perspective of their bank accounts.

“Myer’s classes fill up quickly. His adventures take listeners behind the scenes of high-profile crime scenes from the perspective of their bank accounts.

“Tampa is becoming a national center for banking industry anti-money laundering services. Citigroup, JP Morgan Chase, Sun Trust and the Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation have offices in the area with more to come,” he says. “With the right background, there are plenty of positions to fill.”

– BARBARA MELENDEZ | USF

RESEARCHERS BATTLE RED TIDE WITH NEW GRANTS

Researchers in the College of Marine Science have been awarded $750,000 in two grants to develop and implement new technologies to predict red tide and identify the organism that lies at the root of the toxic blooms.

The research, funded by grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, will allow a number of agencies to better mitigate the negative effects of harmful algal blooms, says Robert Weisberg, Distinguished University Professor and physical oceanographer at the college.

Red tide, a threat to public health and marine life in the Gulf of Mexico, is responsible for an estimated $50 million in losses in the shellfish, fish recreation and tourism industries annually, according to USF ocean researchers.

MOST BEAUTIFUL GARDENS

The USF Botanical Gardens – a picturesque, 16-acre landscape with more than 3,000 plants, animals and natural habitats – has been named one of The 50 Most Beautiful College Arboretums by Best College Reviews. Established in 1969, the gardens attract more than 35,000 visitors annually and provide ongoing opportunities for research and service learning.
FOOTBALL

Turnaround season

USF put together one of the biggest turnaround seasons college football has seen in some time and got a grand prize for its efforts.

Green and Gold filled Marlins Park to watch the Bulls light up the scoreboard in a 45-35 shootout loss to No. 25 Western Kentucky in the Miami Beach Bowl on Dec. 21.

The Bulls finished with eight victories, one shy of the school’s season record and double the 2014 amount. Head coach Willie Taggart was rewarded with a three-year contract extension and he’ll have the majority of his team back that shattered program records.

“The future is bright for USF football. There are a lot of guys returning next year,” Taggart says.

Taggart’s 2015 squad set new top season marks for total offense (5,741 yards), rushing (3,205 yards) and touchdowns (54). Sophomore Marlon Mack rushed for 108 yards in the bowl game to set a single-season rushing record with 1,381 yards. Sophomore Quinton Flowers now owns USF season records for touchdown passes (22) and touchdown runs by a quarterback (12). Junior Rodney Adams racked up 130 receiving yards in Miami and broke the Bulls’ season receiving records with 822 yards and nine TD catches.

Taggart’s squad punched its ticket to the program’s first postseason appearance since 2010 by winning seven of the last eight games. The Bulls wrapped up the regular season with four straight wins, the program’s best streak since 2011.

USF also set a program record with six conference wins after outscoring league foes, 175-70, during the four-game winning streak. USF dismantled Cincinnati, 65-27, on Senior Night and routed rival UCF, 44-3, in the regular season finale in Orlando.

“I’m very proud of this football team,” Taggart says.
ATHLETICS POSTS RECORD GRADUATION SUCCESS RATE

For the second straight year, the Bulls have posted a record 83 percent Graduation Success Rate (GSR) – matching the record established in 2014-15. The Bulls’ record-tying overall score was boosted by a record nine programs, including football, which matched or exceeded program record GSR scores.

Three USF women’s programs – basketball, softball and tennis – posted perfect GSR scores of 100 percent.

USF’s overall program GSR has risen substantially over the last six years and now well exceeds the national average of 75 percent for Football Bowl Subdivision schools.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL COACH AND HIS WIFE ENDOW SCHOLARSHIP

Longtime Bulls’ head coach Jose Fernandez – already the most successful head coach in USF women’s basketball history – has taken another step toward securing the future success of the program he has built.

Just months after signing a contract extension that will keep him at USF through 2021, Fernandez and his wife, Tonya, announced a gift to create the Jose & Tonya Fernandez Women’s Basketball Scholarship.

“Tonya and I are very fortunate to be able to make this gift,” Fernandez says. “USF has been an incredible place for us the past 15 seasons. The opportunity to be able give back and contribute to building the long-term foundation of our program is very powerful and rewarding.”

The Fernandezes made the lead gift to the scholarship program, which has a goal of endowing 15 full scholarships to student athletes in the future. The first recipient will be announced prior to the 2016-17 season.

ALUMNUS

Star linebacker returns to his roots

Following a seven-year stint playing in the NFL, former USF star linebacker Stephen Nicholas, Communications ’06, returned to campus in August as the newest defensive analyst.

“I’ll always have memories when I come back to USF,” Nicholas says. “Anytime I played [as a Falcon] on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers’ field I would have memories” he says of his days playing for USF at Raymond James Stadium. “It’s a place that I could call home, that’s just what it was.”

Nicholas ranks fourth in career tackles for USF with 326 from 2002 to 2006. After a professional career spent with the Atlanta Falcons, he posted 378 tackles in 101 games played.

In his new job, Nicholas assists head coach Willie Taggart and the team with any role that’s put in front of him.

“He took time for the guys to buy into” the way he runs the program, Nicholas says. “I came along so I can help him get his point across, to let his guys understand the expectations of this program and where we want to go with it, and of course, Taggart has done a great job with everything he’s done.

“The sky is the limit.”

– CHRIS VILLAR, CLASS OF ’18 | USFAA
Unstoppable
LEADERSHIP GIFT

Following the goosebumps

USF ALUMNUS STEVE FESSLER stood behind the podium in the atrium of the USF School of Music and addressed a room filled with well-wishers and supporters. Although all were in attendance to honor him and his husband, Randy Lord, for their recent gift funding two graduate assistantships at the school — it was Fessler, Vocal Performance ’77, who took the opportunity to say thanks.

After a career spent as a singer, performer, music instructor and conductor, he wanted to make sure that the people he credits with laying the foundation for his success knew how their contributions impacted the wonderful life he shares with Lord. It was Fessler’s turn to shine the spotlight on others.

He thanked Robert Summer, longtime USF director of choral conducting, for his “conducting brilliance” and for teaching him to always “prepare, prepare, prepare.”

He thanked retired USF voice teacher Annetta Monroe for her toughness and friendship, and for teaching him that communicating through music must always start from an honest place inside.

He thanked Ann Hawkins, who taught music theory and ear training, for instilling the musical foundation he relied upon throughout his career.

And he thanked his 93-year-old mother, Miriam, who sat in the audience, 75 years removed from her days dancing on the same program with the famous Al Jolson, for her encouragement and support.

“Our personal philosophy is to follow the goosebumps, not the money,” Fessler told the crowd. “We want to be able to say, ‘We’re glad we did’ instead of ‘We wish we had.’”

It was that philosophy that prompted their contact with the USF Foundation to discuss a giving plan that reflected their personal passions for the arts and music, as well as their desire to have a positive impact on the lives of students.

“Steve and Randy’s gift is significant, not just because it’s in excess of a million dollars, but also because of how they chose to structure it,” says Marion Yongue, senior director of development at the USF Foundation. “In addition to an ongoing annual gift, they’ve also included a deferred gift, which ensures that tomorrow’s USF music students will feel the benefit of their generosity just as much as today’s.”

“We feel strongly about giving back,” says Lord, a retired attorney and former actor, who made a similar gift to his alma mater, the University of Maryland. “We want to encourage young people to reach for their dreams; if our support can make their journey a little easier, we are honored to help.”

Graduate students Briana Moten and Kristian Singleton, who were selected to receive the Steve Fessler and Randy Lord Graduate Assistantship, are already feeling the impact.

“The Fessler and Lord gift has helped me grow into a more confident and responsible musician,” says Moten. “The growth and experience that I’ve gained over the course of my graduate career is priceless, and it would not have been possible without the generosity of Mr. Fessler and Mr. Lord.”

“This is our legacy,” says Fessler, whose own former students often return to tell him how his efforts have affected their lives. “We wanted to leave something to our family. For us, the students are our family.”

WLP CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

Since its founding by USF System President Judy Genshaft, Tampa Bay philanthropist Carol Morsani, and 25 other Founding Members in 2005, the Women in Leadership & Philanthropy program has grown to more than 200 individuals and 16 corporations committed to advancing women throughout the USF System to higher levels of achievement. To date, the program has raised more than $2 million to support scholarship, research and leadership development programs.

“What started as a program to bring women together to give back to the USF community has become a powerful vehicle to engage and empower women across the Tampa Bay region through education, scholarship and research,” says USF System President Judy Genshaft. “It has been my honor to watch this program grow over the last decade, and along with it so many inspiring women who have benefitted from its resources.”

Over the past 10 years, WLP has awarded more than $350,000 in scholarships to 125 students in the USF system, provided research awards in excess of $60,000 to 12 outstanding faculty members and presented educational and leadership development programs across the USF System. To learn more about WLP, visit www.usf.edu/wlp.

$889,335,200 REASONS TO SAY “THANK YOU!”

The USF: Unstoppable Campaign has raised more than $889 million from people like you. Together we are Unstoppable. Read more about the campaign at www.unstopable.usf.edu.
When 35-year-old Shams Rahman sees the TV images of children hiking across continents in search of a safe haven, or huddled in freezing rain at yet another blocked border crossing, he doesn’t have to imagine their suffering.

As a toddler, Rahman made a similar trek with his mother, who fled barefoot to a refugee camp in Peshawar, Pakistan, after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The intense heat of the desert proved the first of many difficult adjustments for the modern, upper-class family from Nangarhar Province. Rahman’s mother, who’d lost her shoes and other belongings when soldiers looted her home, caked her young son in mud from an irrigation canal to protect him from the unrelenting sun.

But parents can’t shelter their children from all of the hardships that come with life as a refugee, Rahman says, which is why his heart aches for the children swept up in the current crisis.

“Think of a kid who never did anything wrong, never opposed Assad [Syrian president Bashar al-Assad] ... every second they suffer,” says the USF alumnus and doctoral student, swiping at tears for the youngest refugees escaping their government’s retribution.

“Every refugee hates to be a refugee. No one wants to leave their land and their house and have to beg for a glass of water. Every day, they’re looking at the calendar and saying, ‘When will we go back? Tomorrow the conflict will be over and I will go back.’ ”

For many, including Rahman and his family, weeks turn into years, the years to decades. In the camp where he grew up, children plagued by poverty, tuberculosis, cholera, dysentery and malnutrition spent their days trying to earn a few coins for their families rather than learning to read, snuffing almost all hope for a better future.

Rahman, too, stayed hungry. Like the thousands of other children, he lived in a windowless mud hut that stood wall to wall with its neighbors with no water, sanitation system or electricity. But unlike many of his fellow refugees, he had well-educated parents who insisted he attend the United Nations’ camp schools. Though classes might be held outside in the dust using textbooks missing whole sections of pages, he learned.

In his early teen years, Rahman began to appreciate that.
“The kids I’m playing with can’t read and write. I can read a sign, a newspaper. I’m learning about health and how to avoid different diseases in the camp,” he says. “I realize I’m lucky.”

When he graduated, his high scores on a standardized test earned him a scholarship to medical school at a nearby Pakistan university for refugees. Still living in the camp, he often walked miles to class and took notes on discarded paper. After the 2001 fall of the Taliban, his family returned to Afghanistan, where he completed his degree in Kabul and went to work as a physician.

But Rahman grew impatient helping one patient at a time. Afghanistan suffers high rates of preventable infectious diseases and a shortage of trained health workers, according to the World Health Organization. He saw the same illnesses he’d seen growing up – parasite infections from drinking contaminated water; communicable diseases spread by unsanitary conditions; illnesses caused by vitamin and iron deficiencies.

He began working on public health projects with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and U.N. organizations. For the cost of one doctor’s visit, he discovered, a bottle of chlorine could essentially cure an entire village of cholera – a painful and sometimes deadly illness caused by drinking contaminated water. A few years in the field also taught him something else: He needed more education.

In 2010, he received a Fulbright scholarship to study for a master’s degree in public health in the United States. Accepted by several universities, he chose USF’s College of Public Health because its graduate program ranks high on “best of” lists (it’s now No. 16 in U.S. News & World Report’s national ranking); the faculty includes internationally known experts, and he could have dual concentrations.

“When I got my master’s, I realized if I’d had that degree when I was working in Afghanistan, I would have done things more efficiently, with lower costs and greater impact. Maybe I could have gotten more people to use that chlorine bottle; maybe I was too bossy or maybe I could have articulated the need for it better,” he says. “In the master’s program, you learn the science of public health and the art of public health – how to tailor the message to the culture.”

It also dawned on him that he could have an even greater impact by earning his doctorate.

“If you give dinner to one person, you help that person. If you pre-
Rahman, fourth from left in photo at far left, monitors the progress of work on a series of wells in Hirat province, Afghanistan. The nation suffers a high rate of preventable infectious diseases, in part because of a lack of clean water, according to the World Health Organization.

Afghan women take part in a program Rahman designed to provide literacy and health education through vocational training.

Afghan children play in a Pakistan refugee camp much like the one where Rahman grew up. The shelters, built by families from mud topped with scraps of wood, have no windows, doors, water or sanitation system.

pare a meal for a whole village, you help more people. But what if you train three or four good cooks in that community?” he asks. “Rather than cooking, I will train the cooks. That’s why I’m continuing with my doctorate – to eventually start a school in Afghanistan to train more public health professionals for the region.”

His USF adviser, professor of epidemiology Amy R. Borenstein, has no doubt Rahman will succeed.

“He has seen it all in his own life in Afghanistan, and his intention comes from a visceral place that few of us can imagine,” she says. “His earnestness and dedication, coupled with his intellectual capacity and curiosity, will allow him to carve out a meaningful path in public health in which he will touch millions of lives.

“His is the pure reason for seeking out public health as a career: truly wanting to help people and make a difference.”

And that’s why, when Rahman talks about the refugee crisis, tears spring to his eyes. The world has more refugees from violence than ever recorded – 59.5 million or one in every 122 people, according to the U.N.’s most recent Global Trends Report. More than half – 51 percent – are children. The report, comprising statistics from 2014, doesn’t include the most recent surge of Syrian, Afghan and sub-Saharan African refugees, or the throngs of Central American children who fled to the United States in 2015.

Rahman, who last year married Syeda Bokhari, a 2012 MBA and finance alumna, says he plans to train and equip public health workers in the region to help refugees and the many other people affected by conflicts and extreme poverty. But first, he needs to graduate, which should happen later this year. And he wants to work in the United States a while longer to get more research experience; he plans to establish a public health research collaboration between Afghanistan and the United States.

In the meantime, he has a message for the international community about the young refugees they see on TV.

“If you don’t want to give food or water, OK. But don’t stop the education of the kids,” he says.

“We can go without food for a few days, but we can’t recover from missing an education. It is a child’s only hope.”

The kids I’m playing with can’t read and write. I can read a sign, a newspaper. … I realize I’m lucky.”

– Shams Rahman, MPH ’13
After resigning her commission to care for her 5-month-old son who needed open-heart surgery, Maj. LaChiana Hamilton faced a new reality: civilian life. Over the next two years, she worked for a defense contracting company and a government contractor using the skills she had developed during nearly 12 years of service in the Army. But when her husband, a lieutenant colonel, received an assignment at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, in 2011, things quickly changed.

The market, she says, was flooded with veterans, and opportunities for employment were few and far between. Now a mother of two, Hamilton sensed a personal struggle ahead.

“I went from having a really good job to having no job at all,” she recalls. “I needed something to do; I was very close to being depressed.”

Hamilton decided to take advantage of her benefits under the GI Bill and go back to school. That’s when a banner on USF’s website caught her eye: “We’re Vet Friendly.”

Since 1973, USF has been serving the needs of veterans as they transition into civilian and academic life. In November, the university was named the second best college in the nation for veterans by Military Times EDGE magazine.

It was the highest ranking ever for USF on the annual list, which evaluates institutions in five categories: academic outcomes/quality, university culture, student support, academic policies and cost/financial aid.

Simultaneously, USF earned the top spot on Money magazine’s list of 25 great colleges for vets. In addition to academic quality and service for vets, Money factors value and affordability into its ranking equation.

Larry Braue, director of the USF System Office of Veteran Success, says the university’s commitment to serving vets goes beyond navigating benefits and helping them find work.

“Our goal is to help veterans with tailored services based on their indi-
individual needs, and to help them make connections in the university community and Tampa community."

That includes services to support veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI) and other war-related issues; academic and career mentoring; social programming and more, he says.

"Anything they need or want, we can probably get for them."

For Hamilton who already had a bachelor of science degree in biology, with a minor in chemistry, and a master's in human resources, a game plan was what she needed most.

"They helped me with a game plan; I had no plan," she says – ironic for a veteran who'd spent nearly a decade as a battle planner. "They put me in touch with a mental health counselor to deal with my PTSD and other issues I'd faced in the military."

Therapy and spending time with other vets help put her back on track and on her way to becoming a nurse.

In 2014, Hamilton was named a Tillman Scholar – one of 58 nationwide, chosen from a pool of more than 7,500 applicants. The two-year, $26,000 award allows her to focus on her schooling full time.

It was Braue who encouraged her to apply for the scholarship.

Today, Hamilton is working toward her doctorate degree in nursing at the USF Health College of Nursing. She hopes to improve primary care for pediatric patients like her son at military hospitals.

"She's a rock star," says Braue, who retired from the Army after nearly 28 years of service and joined USF in 2010. His staff now includes six full-time employees, 18 work-study student employees and 17 veteran tutors.

"Every veteran has a transition issue; some may not even realize it," he says. "We get them the resources they need."

And more: A chili cookoff, veteran family tailgates, a graduation party.

"Most of these vets come to school; they have families and they have work," Braue explains. "Nothing brings them together in a social community to connect."

Some of the most important connections are a step removed – the greater university community and Tampa Bay.

"We are committed to helping these student veterans build a network for their future," Braue says. "We’re trying to keep them in Tampa."

Bill McCausland, executive director of the USF Alumni Association and faculty adviser for the USF Student Veterans Association, has been involved with USF Veterans Services for four years. The association, he says, is a natural to partner with veterans.

"We’re a very student success-focused organization, and the relationship doesn’t end with graduation."

That's critical, according to Braue, who regularly enlists the support of the Tampa community to serve student vets.

He recounts calling the Tampa Chamber of Commerce looking for a mechanical engineer who would be willing to speak with a student veteran interested in that field. When he made the contact, the answer was a resounding "Absolutely."

"The Tampa community is fantastic; I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else and do this," Braue says. "I can cold call any professional in the city of Tampa and ask if they’d be willing to work as a mentor with a student vet, and not one will say no."

USF's commitment to student veterans is systemwide.

In November, USF St. Petersburg opened its Military and Veterans Success Center. The center uses a variety of services to assist the university's student veterans, active military and dependents from the moment they walk on campus. It includes a lounge with eight computers and a color printer, quiet space and offices that house staff and visiting specialists from the Department of Veterans Affairs and other local and state agencies.

Milton White, who retired after serving 25 years in the U.S. Marine Corps., runs the new center. It's a place, he says, where veterans can come together and find a sense of camaraderie with others like them – whether they are Vietnam veterans, post-9/11 vets or recently returned from the battlefield.

In addition to programming and support services, White plans to host workshops for faculty and staff in the resource center to increase awareness about what it’s like
to be a veteran returning to civilian life and school.

“These student veterans are going from being embedded in with troops to being embedded with younger college students. It’s a drastic change,” he says.

At USF Sarasota-Manatee, student veterans take advantage of their benefits to attend the university. Membership in the Student Veterans Society has more than tripled since 2012, when about 20 belonged to the student-run group, which holds events and raises money for veterans’ causes.

Veterans Services Administrator Todd Hughes says students at the university are more aware of veterans’ issues and are interested in learning about what they can do to help with recovery and reintegration into society.

For the past five years, USFSM has formally hosted veterans-related events. The latest event, which took place in November, included a color guard from the Sarasota Alpha Company of the Vietnam Brotherhood, as well as representatives from the Wounded Warrior Project, the Sarasota County Veteran Center and the Southeast Region Veterans Center Readjustment Counseling Service.

Jeff Sargent, who transferred to USF in 2014 after 13 years in the Army and two tours of duty in Iraq, can’t imagine coming into a campus setting without a program in place.

“I wouldn’t have had the support,” he says. “USF has been helpful from the get-go.”

When Sargent asked for an alternate assignment to avoid speaking in front of a class, Braue was quick to accommodate, and went a step further, suggesting Alternate Resolution Therapy – an alternative to traditional PTSD treatments that has been under study at the USF College of Nursing for more than four years, showing remarkable results among military veterans.

For Sargent, who had been seeking counseling since leaving the Army, the therapy was life-changing.

Today, he says, he’s taken advantage of all the services offered to vets at USF – and now he’s giving back, working in the Office of Veteran Success and volunteering as a vet-to-vet tutor. He’s studying to be an occupational therapist and hopes to work with vets who have been in situations similar to his own.

“The opportunity to work with vets – that’s my biggest motivator,” he says.

To others he advises, “Just walk in; don’t be scared to ask. There are so many resources available to you, and USF brings awareness to all that.”

Every veteran has a transition issue; some may not even realize it. We get them the resources they need.”

– Larry Braue
Serving veterans

USF’s commitment to the success of our nation’s veterans runs deep. From 2010 to 2015, USF faculty researchers and affiliates were awarded almost $71 million in grants and contracts focusing on service members’ and veterans’ rehabilitation. Their research covers topics including PTSD, robotics and prosthetics, speech and audiology, gait and balance, mobility, homelessness, aging-related disorders and sexual trauma. Here are just a few examples:

- Researchers in the School of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science are conducting advanced prosthetics research to improve the quality of life for combat-wounded warriors. In one study, researchers are evaluating which of three different types of multifunctional prosthetic feet are best for highly mobile soldiers and veterans with below-the-knee amputations.

- Researchers in the College of Nursing are studying an innovative therapy, which has been effective for PTSD, to alleviate veterans’ symptoms of combat-related and military sexual trauma. The treatment – Accelerated Resolution Therapy – has been under study at the college for more than four years.

- Architecture students are designing a prototype tiny home – 186 square feet – to provide permanent housing for homeless veterans. USF is a major partner in the National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans, established by the Department of Veterans Affairs to end homelessness among veterans.

- Researchers in the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute are conducting a survey of people who provide care for veterans injured while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan to understand their experience and the effects of caregiving.

- Researchers in the Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology at the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine are studying supplements useful in epilepsy treatment to fight seizures caused by hyperbaric oxygen toxicity, a life-threatening byproduct of breathing too much oxygen. Special Operations divers such as Navy SEALs are especially at risk. The research is being sponsored by the Office of Naval Research.
I SAT WITH MY LEGS DANGLING off the windswept hills between England and France, mesmerized by the vastness beneath me and feeling like the world was bigger and smaller all at once. Weeks earlier, I’d been a blissfully ignorant 20-year-old, happily living in my on-campus dorm just a couple hours away from where I was born. Now here I was, sitting on the cliffs of Dover in England, reading John Keats’s poem, Endymion, and feeling like the entire world had been opened up.

This is a story of transformation. Over the course of a month as part of the USF in London study abroad program last summer, my intellectual capacity was challenged and stretched to points I never knew possible. I was almost embarrassed about my previous naiveté, with an entirely new perspective on society, purpose and my own identity. I barely recognized myself, and I haven’t looked back since.

It all started with my first London class with Dr. Chuck Adams, dean of the USF Honors College. The course was “British Identity in the Age of Globalism,” which sounded like a very interesting but overall “typical” college course – focused on lectures, examinations, and the class discussions.

Of course, Dean Adams turned that preconception on its head within a day. Our “classroom” was a walking tour of Brick Lane, a historically diverse neighborhood in London that has been home to Jewish, African and Southeast Asian immigrants over the course of its history. Doug, an outspoken resident of the area around my age, led us around the neighborhood, pointing out street art and lamenting the gentrification of the neighborhood. Doug’s passion was as integral to the lesson Dr. Adams was seeking to teach as was the subjects Doug focused upon; Adams knew that many students assumed England was very similar to the America that many of his students knew, and only an instrument as blunt as Doug could shatter those notions. We laughed, argued and ate our way through Brick Lane’s memories. In any given class on campus, this would be the end of a story about an exciting field trip that spiced up the normal academic routine most of USF’s more than 48,000 students experience every day.

But this was only the beginning of the lesson. Following the tour, my classmates and I had the most engaging “lecture” I’ve ever experienced. Prompted by a simple question from Dr. Adams – “So, what did you learn?” – we launched into a discussion so passionate that some of us were on the verge of shouting as we tried to reconcile our new viewpoints with our old misconceptions. Dr. Adams moderated the conversation and gently directed us to new thoughts, but for the most part, he allowed us to learn in a way that was organic and real. In that moment, he set the tone for the first-hand, insight-based education we would experience over the course of the trip.

If someone asked me about the value of Education Abroad, I would explain simply that it offered an environment that encouraged “real” learning. That’s not to knock the incredible instructors and professors who have made my first 2 1/2 years of college the most rewarding of my life. But I’m sure that, given the opportunity, every single teacher at USF would kill for the ability to teach in the way Adams was able to. Instructors work for that moment when a student gains a realization that changes their life, and the format Adams facilitated helped me reach more of those realizations than any.
other class I have ever taken. If there’s another reason to study abroad, it’s this: the world is so much larger than I thought imaginable. Before I studied in London, I backpacked from Istanbul to Amsterdam by myself and thought that I was embarking on the greatest journey in human history. The sights and smells and feelings I experienced still come back to me when I think about the trip, and I wouldn’t trade the truth that I witnessed alone for any comfort that ignorance may provide. But it was a lot of witnessing for one young man, and studying in London gave me a wealth of new observations and difficult questions. How could my discomfort with the overtaking of American culture abroad influence my understanding of my identity as an American? How did the beauty and fear I experienced shape my identity as a man? What did it even mean to be a person?

Without the guidance of Dean Adams and Dr. Scott Solomon, an instructor for my class on political migration while in London, these feelings wouldn’t have had focus. Dr. Solomon’s course on political migration could have easily filled an entire semester with statistics, guest speakers and exams to help students understand the importance of the topic. But in London, Dr. Solomon was able to use different resources to engage students in more fulfilling ways. One day, we had the opportunity to tour the U.S. Embassy in London and discuss State Department policies on migration with actual State Department representatives. Lessons focused on policies encouraging emigration and incentivizing citizenship. Cultural trends hit home a lot harder when reinforced by a member of your own government chosen to make sense of these ideas. Most of our lessons were supported by a speaker or real-life experience, impressing more knowledge upon me in those two month-long courses than any other semester before.

Before the London program, I was supremely confident in my understanding of the world around me. I couldn’t imagine that there were perspectives so different from my own. Being in another country and dedicating myself to changing that intellectual foundation has been the most rewarding part of my college career thus far. I can’t really imagine my life without this experience – it’s almost as if a part of me is still in London, peeking around street corners, holding my breath with the anticipation of the next discovery.
USF IN LONDON is a new premiere study-abroad program open to all students, who spend four weeks immersed in London’s rich history, city life and culture in conjunction with specially tailored USF coursework. Courses range from biology to international affairs, with a special emphasis on the United Kingdom and its intersection with American higher education.

Students are housed in John Dodgson House, just a few steps away from the Kings Cross Train Station, as well as the British Library – home to the Magna Carta. With weekend excursions and unlimited use of Central London’s underground & bus service, students have ample time to explore, and access to museums, lectures, studio tours and more. For those who need financial help, a number of grants and scholarships are available to help.

The next program runs from June 26 – July 23, with limited seats available. Registration deadline is Feb. 15.

Education Abroad offers a variety of study abroad opportunities for students and faculty in over 25 countries, these include: semester exchanges, dual degree programs, summer and short term programs, international internships and service learning. Programs range from one week to one year and award academic credit. Education Abroad facilitates the incoming and outgoing exchange process and works closely with our international partner universities to develop new academic programming and exchanges.

Learn more at http://educationabroad.global.usf.edu
Hello fellow Bulls! Happy 2016!

The start of a new year always holds great promise, and that’s especially true this year for those of us who love USF.

Florida lawmakers will kick off 2016 with an earlier than usual legislative session, and among the myriad issues they’ll be grappling with is funding for our top priorities, outlined on pages 10 and 11 by USF System President Judy Genshaft. These are exciting, forward-thinking initiatives that will change lives for the better – not only for those of us affiliated with USF, but for the Tampa Bay area and people around the world!

These 2016 initiatives will play a crucial role in continuing to do what our great university does so well: giving students a world-class education; providing the tools necessary for life-changing research; serving as a primary driver for the regional economy; and developing solutions for the world’s most pressing problems.

But securing funding requires your help. That’s why I’m asking each of you to join me in adding a couple New Year’s resolutions to your 2016 list. We need our 303,000-plus Bulls, and all friends and advocates of higher education, to encourage lawmakers’ support of USF.

How can you help? Here are three easy ways:

1. Contact your state lawmakers and urge them to support USF’s initiatives because they’re good for generations of higher education students to come. Not sure of your Florida representative? Visit usfalumni.org/advocate. Don’t live in Florida? Find and contact the legislators representing the USF home counties of Hillsborough, Pinellas, Sarasota and Manatee.

2. Share your pride with friends, family and colleagues. No matter what you’re doing in life today, you have influence! Talking about your Bull pride, USF’s plans for the future and the positive impact those plans can have on us helps build awareness and support.

3. Be an advocate for higher education. An educated workforce improves the quality of life for everyone. Regardless of whether your friends and family, or our legislators, are Bulls, Knights, Gators or Seminoles, we share the same goals: to create a better world. Higher education remains the key to a bright future.

I’m constantly amazed by how USF, such a young university, has skyrocketed to the upper echelons of academia. We can all help our university continue to soar by making our voices heard. Every voice makes a difference.

With Bull Pride,

BETTY OTTER-NICKERSON, ’76
Chair, Board of Directors, USF Alumni Association
Life Member No. 1796

Meet your 2015-16 USF Alumni Association Board

Front row, seated from left: Mike Griffin, ’03, past chair; April Monteith, ’01 & MBA ’03, treasurer; Betty Otter-Nickerson, ’76, chair; Jim Harvey, ’88, chair elect; Merritt Martin, ’04 & MPA ’06, secretary
THE USF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION’S BOARD of directors includes alumni who’ve demonstrated a firm commitment to USF’s success, are Association Life Members and Circle of Excellence donors. It also includes two students: the student government vice president and the USF Ambassadors president; non-voting, ex-officio directors are the USF System president, the senior vice president for USF Advancement and Alumni Affairs, and the Association executive director.

The board sets policy and guides the direction of the Association as it builds mutually beneficial relationships between USF and its alumni.
For USF students, Philip Nutsugah is an inspiration. The USF alumnus and Cox Communications executive’s annual leadership talks have become a Bulls favorite.

PHILIP NUTSUGAH MOVES at high speed through his hectic daily schedule — precisely what you would expect from the man who oversees high-speed service for one of the nation's top Internet providers.

As vice president of broadband access products for Cox Communications in Atlanta, the USF alumnus spends much of his time traveling and overseeing the company’s leading-edge Internet initiative, an undertaking that aims to run fiber connections direct to customers’ homes and offers 1 Gigabit Internet services in Cox regional markets across the country.

Although the current Florida markets for Cox don’t include the Tampa Bay area, Nutsugah makes a point every year to carve out time from his busy schedule to return to his alma mater and share with students his thoughts on the keys to achieving successful leadership positions in today’s competitive work environment.

Leadership, according to Nutsugah, is about three core values: focus on results, commitment to teamwork, and a continual pursuit of excellence.

“Mr. Nutsugah taught me the importance of delivering,” says Luisa Laitano, a graduating senior in USF’s College of Arts & Sciences. “It’s easy to talk a good game and pour hours into your résumé, but if you don’t have the skills and grit to back up your promises, you won’t make it far.”

After fleeing civil unrest in his native Ghana, Nutsugah moved to the United States in 1982 and began taking classes at USF with ambitions of earning a business degree. However, after taking a communications class taught by USF professor Loyd Pettegrew, his educational focus took a new direction.

“I already loved writing, reading and researching stories,” says Nutsugah, “and Professor Pettegrew inspired me by his balanced teaching that incorporated anthropology, social sciences and a researcher’s view of the world. The way he incorporated communications with business … right away I was hooked!”

Likewise, Nutsugah impressed Pettegrew.

“He was a real star,” comments Pettegrew. “Throughout my decades of teaching, there are a handful of students that really stand out, and he was one of them.”

While a student at USF, Nutsugah benefited from exposure to a variety of successful community business leaders, as well as numerous internship opportunities thanks to help from Pettegrew.

One internship was with Coldwell Banker and another with the Tampa Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau, where he conducted research on the economic effect of Gasparilla celebrations on the Tampa Bay region.

“He fit in beautifully with what we were trying to do,” says Pettegrew. “He was a very intelligent student. He would question things and was always willing to work hard.”

It was that work ethic and intelligence that drew the attention of corporate America.

“I literally finished my last exam at USF on a Thursday, in 1988, and started working for GTE on Monday,” Nutsugah says, referring to a sales associate position that began his career trajectory. He remained with GTE (which merged with Bell Atlantic and later became Verizon) serving in various sales and management positions until 2005. In 2006, he joined Cox Communications to lead its voice communications product development team.

His leadership example, along with his enthusiasm for USF and compelling life story, has made him a favorite speaker among students.

“Mr. Nutsugah was not only a remarkable example of an individual that showed persistence and consistency to get to the position he is in now, but he also provided
Philip Nutsugah, ’88, regularly returns to USF to share what he’s learned about professional success.

Forever Bulls

The Zimmerman School of Advertising & Mass Communications

Philip Kofi Nutsugah is a 1988 graduate of the communication program in the College of Arts & Sciences. He resides in Atlanta with his wife, Pamela, a 1986 USF graduate with a degree in finance, and currently serves as the vice president of broadband access products for Cox Communications.
A LIFETIME OF FIRSTS

USF’s first – and for a time only – black student would go on to break ground in countless ways. Today, Ernest Boger II is a national leader in hospitality industry education.

Ernest Boger II, ’65, is so accustomed to breaking new ground he figures he should start a new organization. “It’s going to be called the First and Only Club,” he says, laughing. “I’ll be the first member. Maybe the only one, too.”

Indeed, the 70-year-old has compiled an impressive list of firsts.

He was the first African-American to earn an MBA in finance at the University of North Texas; the first to be awarded a certified hotel administrator designation from the American Hotel & Lodging Association, and the first to be named a Foodservice Management professional. He held the first Walt Disney World endowed chair at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, part of a program to produce more black hotel and restaurant managers in Florida.

But the most notable first comes from USF. The school had been open just a year when Boger arrived in the fall of 1961, the first and only African-American among 2,000 students.

Times were slowly changing. The U.S. Supreme Court had ruled in 1954 that state laws establishing separate public schools for black and white students were unconstitutional. Still, this was the South, where integration was a new concept and the Civil Rights movement hadn’t yet gained traction.

Boger didn’t choose USF to make a statement, though. It had more to do with finances.

As the valedictorian of the all-black Howard Blake High School in Tampa, he had numerous scholarship offers from elite Eastern schools, including Columbia and New York University. But none of them were full-tuition rides. His father, a hotel worker, and his mother, a co-owner of The News Reporter, a community newspaper, couldn’t help finance the shortfall or his travel and living expenses.

So when he was offered a full music scholarship from his hometown university, he took it. He picked psychology as his major, and music and Russian language as minors.

“It was the Cold War period,” he says of the latter. “I figured it just might come in handy down the road.”

Primarily a tuba and string bass player, he joined the University Community Choral Orchestra, the Jazz Lab Band and the USF Concert Band Ensemble. Music gave him a core peer group where he fit in easily.

Because USF was so young and had no history, Boger thinks his presence on campus created less of a stir than the first blacks at more established Southern universities. And he was not the only minority; USF also attracted students from Tampa’s vibrant Cuban community. He never felt like he stood out.
Except once.

One evening after a concert, the band members decided to stop at the now-defunct University Restaurant, about a mile west of the campus. Boger was putting away instruments and sheet music, so he walked inside after his bandmates had already been seated.

The manager pulled aside the band director. Who is that black man? He asked. When told Boger was a student musician, the manager said he would have to leave.

“If you can’t serve Ernie, then you can’t serve any of us,” the director said. The entire group rose and left, taking their business to a nearby Big Boy’s.

The next day, USF students and faculty held a protest at University Restaurant and called for a boycott.

“It was a well-documented event,” Boger says of the press coverage. The tuba player would go on to become a national leader in education and training in the hospitality industry and today is chair of the Hospitality and Tourism Management department at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. He credits his success to a strong work ethic and cultivating mentors for guidance and support. He never stopped honing his knowledge in the burgeoning hospitality field so he could stay ahead of the trends; he earned post-graduate degrees, including doctor of management, so he could build a tandem career in academia. He affiliated with professional organizations and completed several certifications that distinguished him in his field.

“I know I likely had more opportunities because I was an educated black man at a pivotal time in our country’s history,” he says. “I had people who wanted to see me succeed. I was willing to work hard for it.”

He also has an inherent quality that comes from within, says Rick Hamilton, director of the Tampa Convention Center.

“Ernie is a natural-born leader. When he walks into a room, he’s got the body language that tells you someone of importance has arrived,” says Hamilton. “But he’s also so approachable. I know I could pick up the phone and call him any time, and he would do anything he could to help.”

Boger came to the hospitality industry almost accidentally.

He was working in New York as a banker when President Johnson accelerated bombing missions in Vietnam. Boger enlisted in the Army, eager to serve his country overseas. But once his commanders learned about his psychology degree, he was assigned to serve as a personnel psychologist and chief testing officer in Dallas.

He moved into a civilian apartment community, where he noted his military posture and self-confidence and asked if he’d help manage the complex. Boger said yes, unknowingly launching his career in hospitality.

“I’ve always felt I was just where I was supposed to be at every juncture of my life,” he says. “One thing always would lead to another.”

And the hospitality sector is better because of him, says Bob Morrison, executive director of the Hillsborough County Hotel Motel Association in Tampa.

“He’s been a wonderful ambassador for our industry,” Morrison says. “With his reputation in training and staying on top of the trends, his students are usually the first hired by major companies like Hyatt and Marriot.”

Morrison says Boger never hesitates to try new ideas. For example, he incorporated golf into the curriculum at Bethune-Cookman because he knew that a lot of business and entertaining takes place on golf courses. Many hospitality students at the historically black university were at a disadvantage because they had never been exposed to the sport.

“Ernie has a vision. It’s a gift,” Morrison says. “As a result, he has cultivated a wide network of invaluable connections in our field.”

These days, Boger and his wife, Carmel, a former community-college administrator, split their time between two homes near the Atlantic Ocean – on a golf course in Daytona Beach, and in Princess Anne, Maryland. Two of his three grown children from his first marriage still live in Tampa, so he visits his hometown and alma mater regularly.

As a department head, he doesn’t have to teach. Yet he’s still in the classroom, leading introductory classes in hospitality.

“I don’t want students coming back to me years later, telling me they missed something basic,” he says. “So I’d rather be there at the beginning to make sure they get the proper foundation.”
Forever Bulls

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Application Deadline: January 29
Awards Reception and Ceremony: April 29

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USFfast56.com
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.

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 on USF student success

Twenty alumni groups have started funds to endow scholarships for their geographic or interest areas. Two of those funds have reached endowment and provide scholarships. All 50-plus groups contribute to scholarships and other student causes.

PHOTO: Between laughs and line dancing at a four-day fall reunion, a group of alumni launched their first scholarship fund, the USF Black Alumni Legacy Scholarship.

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Bulls protect USF
Honor, maintain and shape new USF traditions

Alumni group leaders and members protect USF year-round through all they do to connect and support fellow Bulls and share their pride in our university.

PHOTO: Seven groups – the Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and Orlando chapters, and the Engineering, Geology, College of Business and Music societies – received awards of excellence this fall for their work in 2014-15. In addition, Jon Hull, ’97; and Life Members Eileen Rodriguez, ’87 & MBA ’02, and Louis Struikman, ’07, received individual awards. Accepting were, front row left to right: Katherine Going, ’08; Bob Andrew, ’89 & ’92; Arupa Gopal, ’07; Tanya Bruce ’96; and Life Member Amy Bean, ’06. Back row: Zachary Pietrzyk, ’11; Brock Bjorn, ’13; Hull; Pete Danile, ’76, and Struikman.

Bulls stay together
Alumni connecting with alumni

Alumni groups hosted more than 260 events in 2014-15.

PHOTO: (Below) Brews and Bulls mix well during the Engineering society’s Bull Session at Cigar City Brewing in Tampa.

PHOTO: From left, Rose Asher, ’01; Marcus Watlington, ’12, and Life Member Scott Burgess, ’95, of the Greater Tampa chapter enjoy craft brews, door prizes and Bull spirit during a fall social at Coppertail Brewing Co. in Tampa.
NO MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE, YOU’LL ALWAYS BE A BULL!

The USF Alumni Association has alumni chapters all over the country. We also have college and special-interest societies for like-minded alumni. It’s easy to get involved. Just email the contact person of the group you’d like to visit.

INTEREST-BASED GROUPS

Anthropology Alumni
Brian McEwen
bmcwesen@cachillsborough.com

Architecture Alumni
David Hunter
David.Hunter@morganstanley.com

Bulls Varsity Club
Zach Pfeifer
ath-varsityclub@usf.edu

Clinical Psychology Alumni
Demy Kamboukos
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College of Behavioral and Community Sciences
Patty Cleveland
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Manley Jaquis
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College of Business Alumni
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Engineering Alumni
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Entrepreneurship Alumni
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Geology Alumni
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Honors College Alumni
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Kosove Scholarship Alumni
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Library and Information Science Society
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wharris3@mail.usf.edu

Lockheed Martin – Oldsmar
Brent Lewis
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Medicine Alumni
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Music Society
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Public Administration Alumni
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Public Health Alumni
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USF St. Petersburg
Heather Willis
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GEORaphICAL GROUPS

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Tallahassee
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nashvilleusfbulls@live.com

USF Alumni Association has alumni chapters all over the country. We also have college and special-interest societies for like-minded alumni. It’s easy to get involved. Just email the contact person of the group you’d like to visit.
Many of us struggle with achieving happiness and satisfaction at work. In fact, less than half of Americans are satisfied with their jobs, according to a 2015 survey by The Conference Board, a business research association.

Why settle? Instead of staying in an unhappy job or vainly searching for the perfect one, consider creating it yourself. Starting your own small business can address the two areas that make us happiest at work, according to those survey respondents: interest in what we do and the people with whom we work.

If you think you’ve got the right stuff to be a successful entrepreneur here are five tips to help you get there!

1. Set goals: You have to set measurable goals and track them to know whether you’re succeeding. Make sure the goals are achievable or you’ll lose confidence in your business.

2. Do your homework: Extensive research is necessary to ensure you understand the complexities of not only your industry, but of business management. Use the data to make smart decisions for you and your company.

3. Set a budget: Financial woes are the main cause of business failure. Set a realistic budget and then track all of your income and expenses so you’ll know whether you’re making or losing money. Oh, and don’t mingle your personal and your business finances – it complicates everything!

4. Market your business: If you don’t have buyers, it won’t matter how spectacular your goods and services are. Create a marketing plan, develop a budget for it, and follow through by measuring the effectiveness of your choices.

5. Follow the plan: You’ve heard it a million times: You must have a business plan. It’s true! Without one, you won’t know if you’re on target. Some folks succeed without a plan, but why leave that to chance? While creating it can be time-consuming, a business plan will save you time in the long run.

Starting your own business can be scary; it can also be the best decision you ever make. Seek out as much assistance as possible – there are many organizations, including the USF Small Business Development Center, whose mission it is to help you start and grow your business at little or no cost. Take charge of your happiness!

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Valid through January 23, 2016.
70s

CLAIRE BAILEY CARRAWAY, New College of Florida ‘77, has joined Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson PA as a shareholder in the real estate and land development and zoning departments in Tampa. Previously, Carraway was assistant general counsel/senior vice president at Bank of America.

RICHARD E. DAVIS, Political Science ‘73 & MA Guidance and Counseling ‘75, has joined Holland & Knight LLP as senior counsel in the Tampa office and a member of the Florida land use team. Davis has nearly 40 years’ experience in land use law in Florida.

LINDA DEAN, MA Library & Information Science ‘79, received the Member of the Year Award from the Northeast Florida Library Information Network for her work at the Alachua County Library District. Dean was recognized for her innovative programs and techniques designed to help children and teens develop literacy skills in a variety of media.

J. ALLISON DEFOOR II, Geography ‘76 & MA Criminology ‘79, is the new canon to the ordinary for the Episcopal Diocese of Florida, where he will serve as adviser to the bishop. A lawyer and former county sheriff and judge in Florida, DeFoor served as then-Florida Gov. Jeb Bush’s “Everglades Czar.” He became an ordained priest in 2007 and ministered to state prisoners.

SUSAN SANNEMAN KELLY, Criminology ‘76, is a 2015 finalist for the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals, an honor bestowed by the nonprofit Partnership for Public Service. Kelly leads the Department of Defense’s Transition to Veterans Program Office and is being recognized for her efforts to transform and enhance how the federal government prepares more than 200,000 service members a year for transition to civilian life. The medals are awarded to outstanding federal employees.

DELTRA LONG, MA Guidance and Counseling ’74, is a 2015 inductee into the St. Augustine High School Hall of Fame. She’s a real estate entrepreneur and a former educator and guidance counselor, and currently serves on the St. Augustine planning and zoning board. Long was one of the first four black students to integrate the high school in 1965 and the first black student to make the school’s honor roll.

SUSAN CAROL MCCARTHY, English Education ‘72, has released a new novel, A Place We Knew Well, published by Bantam Books, a division of Random House Publishing Group. McCarthy’s third novel is about the sociological effects of the Cuban missile crisis on Americans.

MORRIS PORTON, Finance ’75, has been elected chairman of the Pasco-Hernando State College (Florida) board of trustees for 2015-16. Porton is a retired Florida Traditions Bank senior vice president who previously served on college foundation’s board of directors. He’s a former Hernando County sheriff’s reserve lieutenant.

PATRICIA SMUKALL, Zoology ‘77, participated in Miami University’s Earth Expeditions global field course in Baja California during the summer of 2015. Smukall teaches science at St. John Vianney School in Orlando, Florida.

HERNIE VANN, MA Art Education ’73, recently had his Florida nature and wildlife paintings featured in a special public library exhibit in Tampa. Vann, who taught art in Hillsborough County public schools for 35 years, has won numerous awards for his work at local art festivals since retiring in 1995.

BILL YATES, Art ’73, had his photos of a 1972 Tampa roller skating rink displayed at New Orleans’ Ogden Museum of Southern Art. Yates is the owner of CYPIX, an aerial, location and panoramic photography company in Jacksonville, Florida.

80s

HAROLD ROY ADAMS, Mass Communications ’81, was named the 2015 recipient of the St. Petersburg Rotary Club’s Dr. Charlie Martin Rotarian of the Year Award. Adams is the public information officer at All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg.

DONNA ARNETT, Nursing ’81 & MPH ’87, is the new dean of the College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky. Arnett was previously president of the American Heart Association and associate dean at the University
of Alabama-Birmingham School of Public Health. She is the co-author of *Cardiovascular Genetics and Genomics in Clinical Practice*.

**DAVID BURCHFIELD**, MD ’81, is a 2015 inductee to the St. Augustine High School Hall of Fame. A professor and chief of neonatology in the Department of Pediatrics-College of Medicine at the University of Florida, Burchfield has been named one of “The Best Doctors in America” by his colleagues.

**TERRI HALL**, Mass Communications ’82, received the Golden Mouse Award for web design from the Florida Chapter of the International Organization of Women in Ecommerce. Hall is the president of Doubletake Studios, Inc.

**BRUCE HANSEN**, PhD Biology ’85, has released his second volume of *Flora of Florida* through University Press of Florida. The book identifies a vast array of plants that populate Florida and was co-authored by USF professor emeritus Richard P. Wunderlin.

**DONNA HENSON**, Finance ’86 & Accounting ’96, has joined Shinn & Co. in Bradenton, Florida, as audit manager. She has more than 17 years’ experience in financial, IT and project management.

**GARY HOOG**, International Studies ’83 & Secondary Education ’87, Life Member, was a national finalist in the Voya Unsung Heroes Awards Program. Hoog was recognized for developing an innovative teaching project based on oral history for Pedro Menendez High School in St. Augustine, Florida.

**FRANK LEDDA**, Psychology ’88 & MA ’90, has married Eric Steel in New York City. Ledda is a psychotherapist in Tampa and a substance abuse therapist at the University of Florida Health Florida Recovery Center.


**JOHN F. SHEEHAN**, Marketing ’81, has been named president of Airgas, Inc.’s 13-state South Division. He has been with Airgas, a leading supplier of industrial, medical and specialty gases, since selling his former business, TriTech, to the company in 2009.

**DR. DAVID A. THOMPSON**, Geology ’80, recently returned to his practice, Sarasota Oral and Implant Surgery, after serving with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan as a lieutenant colonel.

**MATTHEW HALL**, International Studies ’91, has joined the University of California Santa Barbara as associate vice chancellor for information technology and chief information officer. Hall was previously an account executive for Microsoft Corp.

**MICHAEL KELLER**, Business ’99, Life Member, was unanimously elected chair of the Florida Commission on Human Relations, which administers the state’s Civil Rights and Fair Housing acts. Keller is a businessman and Iraq War veteran.

**ANDREW J. MAYTS JR.**, Political Science ’93 and Life Member, was selected to participate in Leadership Florida, a yearlong program that educates future leaders about the social and economic issues affecting the state. Mayts, a GrayRobinson attorney and shareholder, focuses his practice on construction litigation.
BOB E. PARSONS III, Communication ’90, has joined the board of directors of the Green Beret Foundation, which provides financial assistance and advocacy to Green Berets injured in the line of duty and their families, and to the families of those killed in action. The president of Ronin Leadership, a management consulting company in Apopka, Florida, Parsons is a former Green Beret and U.S. Army Special Forces colonel.

JEFF SCOLARO, Art ’95, has joined WUSF TV as a lighting grip. He has more than 15 years' experience in the TV production industry as a videographer and director of photography.

SHANNON SHEPP, Public Relations ’94, has been appointed as the new executive director of the Florida Citrus Commission. She previously served as the interim executive director.

THERESA STERLING, Psychology ’99 & MA Linguistics ’02, received the 2015 Carol Combs Hole Award for her work as literacy coordinator for the Alachua County Library District. Sterling manages volunteers who work with non-English speaking and dyslexic adults.

SEAN STRINGER, Chemistry ’94, has opened NutriMost Sarasota, a wellness and weight-loss center. Stringer, a chiropractor, has established and managed several multi-disciplinary clinics in Tampa and Sarasota.

TOM VEIT, Political Science ’93 and Life Member, has been named chief marketing officer of United Soccer League, a professional men's soccer league in the United States and Canada. Veit previously served as a senior executive in Major League Soccer, World Wrestling Entertainment, and major collegiate athletics.

TRIZIA EAVERSON, Political Science ’03, spoke at the fourth annual Lecture in Law at the Florida Institute of Technology. Eavenson is a founding partner of Moore Eavenson Baughan, PLC, in Rockledge, Florida, and a member of the Florida Bar.

AMANDA GILROY, Economics ’05, has joined the Bank of Tampa as vice president and commercial relationship manager. Gilroy was previously a senior business banking relationship manager at Wells Fargo.

LONNIE F. GRIFFIN III, MA Sociology ’04, is the new dean of Savannah Technical College's Liberty Campus in Hinesville, Georgia. Previously, Griffin was the division chair for social sciences and humanities for Fayetteville Technical Community College.

JOHN J. BASTONE, MS Management Information Systems and MBA ’02, is the new director of customer analytics at Convergence Consulting Group, a Tampa-based company specializing in business intelligence strategy and implementation services.

RAMSEY CHABBAR, International Studies ’08, has been named assistant vice president and commercial relationship manager at the Bank of Tampa. Chabbar was previously a business relationship manager at Fifth Third Bank.

BARBARA CRUZ, Criminology ’00, has joined the Women’s Resource Center of Sarasota County as development director responsible for donor relations. Cruz previously served as executive director of the Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation, an international nonprofit organization.

SNAPSHOTS

Family SuperBull

Future SunDoll Stella Sheridan, 19 months, and her mom, former SunDoll Dina Busciglio Sheridan, ’99, cheer on the Bulls during Homecoming SuperBull XIX.

MARNIE WILLIAMS, Broadcast Program & Production ’97, has joined FOX 5 (WAGA) in Atlanta as its social media and engagement producer. Williams was previously social media marketing manager for The Weather Channel and is the founder and editor of Grapes and Hops wine and food blog.

00s
ROBIN GOMEZ, MPA Public Administration ’00, has been elected city manager in Fairmont, West Virginia. Gomez previously served as the city auditor for Clearwater, Florida.

ROBERT “BOB” HERRON, Management ’05 & MEd Curriculum and Instruction ’07, is the new facility manager for the Sam and Martha Gibbons Alumni Center at USF. Herron was previously the night and weekend facility manager for the USF Marshall Student Center.

DOUGLAS MACHADO, Communication ’01, has joined Iberia bank as vice president and business banking relationship manager. Machado previously served in a similar capacity at Bank of America.

ANNA MAYOR, Mass Communications ’09 & MA ’12, has joined the USF College of Public Health as an engagement officer. Mayor previously held similar positions at the Florida/Caribbean AIDS Education and Training Center.

DR. CHINYERE OKPALEKE, Biomedical Sciences ’08 & MS ’10, has founded Reality Speaks, a nonprofit organization that helps student-athletes prepare for life after sports. “Dr. ChiChi” was a Bulls basketball player who is now a resident physician at the USF Family Medicine Residency Program.

NICOLA PETERSON, MBA ’06, has joined Shinn & Co. in Bradenton, Florida, as audit principal, leading the for-profit audit function and specializing in owner-managed growth businesses. Shinn & Co. is a CPA firm. She’s a graduate of USF Sarasota-Manatee, where she was an Outstanding MBA Student award recipient.

JOSE VALENTINO RUZ, Music Studies ’09, was nominated for a Latin Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album for Make You Want to Move. Ruiz is currently pursuing a PhD in Music Education at USF. Kansas. Baskas is developing an adult education program for inmates. He’s a member of Kappa Delta Pi, International Education Honor Society.

ERIC BIEL, Criminology ’13, was part of a team of six students that made it to the fall finals for the prestigious Clinton Global Initiative Hult Prize. Biel, a USF MBA student, is chief operating officer for Tembo Education Group, which developed a cell phone education program to reach impoverished preschoolers in Nigeria. The team was the only one from the United States to make the finals.

SEENA SALYANI, (pictured above) MHA ’02 & MBA ’02, has been appointed CEO of Gastro Florida, Tampa Bay’s largest gastroenterology practice. He oversees operational and financial affairs, as well as organizational development.

ROBERT SPREHE, Civil Engineering ’03, has been named principal consultant of construction services at Professional Service Industries, Inc., in Tampa. Sprehe has more than 12 years’ experience in construction material testing.

WILLIAM M. WOODS, Geology ’06, has joined Trent Cotney PA in Tampa, a construction law group. Woods’ practice focuses on complex construction litigation and arbitration, professional liability and licensing defense, and construction lien and bond law, among other areas.

TERRILL CURTIS, Public Health ’11 & MPH ’14, has moved into a new position as a presidential management fellow at the Social Security Administration in Washington, D.C. He is now evaluating and implementing human capital plans for the agency’s workforce. Curtis’ fellowship continues until September.

LAUREN DELLERT, Environment Science & Policy ’12, (pictured below) participated in Miami University’s Earth Expeditions global field course in Baja California. Dellert is a high school biology teacher for the Pinellas County (Florida) School District.

DEVIN ARCHER, Accounting ’14, passed the certified public accounting exam. The exam, which is composed of four sections, has a 50 percent average passing rate. Archer has more than two years’ experience as an accountant.

RICHARD BASKAS, MA Teaching ’10, began a new career as an education specialist for the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons in Leavenworth,
Class Notes

TREY HANNAH, Biology ’10, (pictured above) participated in Miami University’s Earth Expeditions global field course in Australia during the summer of 2015. Hannah works for Volusia County Environmental Management as a pollution specialist in DeLand, Florida.

MICHAEL MARTINEZ, MD ’10, has joined Pain Management Consultants of Southwest Florida, P.L., where he specializes in anesthesiology and pain management for patients with acute, chronic and cancer pain.

DAWN MORGAN, Accounting ’13, passed the certified public accounting exam. The exam, which is composed of four sections, has a 50 percent average passing rate. Morgan has more than two years’ experience as an accountant.

ERIN MORSE, Music ’13, (pictured above) was one of five musicians selected in a national search to participate in the International Cultural Exchange for Classical Musicians. Morse, who plays viola, began a 10-month residency performance program in September with the Sarajevo Philharmonic in Bosnia.

CHELSEA O’NEILL, Accounting ’14, has joined CS&L CPAs, a certified public accounting firm, as a tax staff accountant. She has more than four years’ experience in accounting and administration.

VICTORIA PLECHAC-DIAZ, Mass Communications ’14, has joined WUSF Public Media as a full-time associate producer for program development and production. She has been with WUSF TV for more than a year.

MATTHEW R. PLOUGH, Criminology ’12, has joined the Sarasota Police Department as an officer. Plough was previously a police officer with the Daytona Beach Police Department.

ASSALLY RATTANACHANE, Management Information Systems ’13, was one of 12 delegates selected by the German American Chamber of Commerce to represent the United States in the Transatlantic Program for Young Technology Leaders. Rattanachane is a technology analyst at JPMorgan Chase.

MarIA (HAMMARBLAD) SADOWSKI, Management ’13, has joined the nonprofit Cat Depot in Sarasota as a communications specialist responsible for website administration, social media, graphic design and grants. Cat Depot is a cat rescue and adoption resource. Sadowski owns Sadowski Media.

KATHRYN SCHREIBER, Biomedical Sciences ’14, has joined the USF Foundation Board and Women in Leadership & Philanthropy as an administrative specialist. Schreiber was previously an election campaign intern.

LEN STEINBERG, Management ’10, has joined the Mittleman Jewish Community Center in Portland, Oregon, as program director. He was previously the program director at The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee. Steinberg has experience planning social, cultural and arts programs and coordinating large events.

R. CLAIRE STEPHENS, MFA ’13, has released a comics essay, Lady in Ink, published by Sweet Publications. The handmade, illustrated mystery is published as an old-fashioned form of popular literature, the chapbook, and is available for sale on the publisher’s website. Stephens teaches writing as a visiting instructor at USF.

MELAINA TRYON, English ’11, has joined the Global Product Liability group in Tampa. Tryon has experience working in investment banking at Raymond James and Associates in St. Petersburg.

BRANDON VERMILLION, Criminology ’12, has joined the Sarasota Police Department as an officer. Vermillion was previously a citizen’s patrol volunteer with the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office.

SAMUEL WALDRON, MSM Marketing ’12, has been appointed branch manager of the Morgan Stanley Wealth Management office in Venice, Florida. He has been with Morgan Stanley Wealth Management since 2012.

ALI YAZBACK, Biomedical Sciences ’10, has joined Ayan Dentistry in Naples, Florida, as a licensed general dentist. Yazback, who minored in public health and biomedical physics while at USF, earned a doctor of general dentistry degree at the University of Florida.

JORDAN ZUHR, Mass Communications ’11, was named senior digital specialist at MSLGROUP Boston, where she specializes in consumer and technology public relations, and strategic social and digital strategies.
After decades of higher learning, USF’s squirrels are among the smartest – and hungriest – on the planet. Friendly, fearless and occasionally frightening, they’ve been taking handouts from Bulls for generations.

- Ahhh, the USF squirrels
  Cody Rosa, ’11

- I lived in the village portion of campus from ’92-’94 and the squirrels would walk right in our room if my roommate and I had the door open.
  Mary Ann Palermo, ’94

- OMG ... I remember doing this when I was there in fall of ’89 through ’93!
  Danielle Steinberger, ’93

- I remember sitting under a tree studying when a squirrel got in my purse to look for goodies.
  Nicole Bell Benke, ’94 & MEd ’99

- This never happened in the ’70s, LOL. Iota dorm, 1975-78.
  John D. Bostick III, ’78

- In ’96, a squirrel attacked my friend and got stuck in his dreadlocks. Not pretty, but hilarious!
  Joanne Hickey Mousseau, ’98

- I remember sitting by the Chemistry building when a squirrel crawled into my backpack and began rummaging for food. It was time for class and I didn’t know what to do to get that squirrel out of there. It took more than a little shaking.
  Janet Vasquez, ’98

- Those squirrels were gangsta. Hanging by the students’ Health Services daring anyone to cross them. Always had to take the long way to Castor Hall.
  Mikey Petifort, ’07
### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

1. Publication Name: USF (formerly Alumni Voice)  
2. Publication Number: USPS# 025-203  
3. Filing Date: 10/1/2015  
4. Issue Frequency: Quarterly  
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 4  
6. Annual Subscription Price: Free to USF Alumni Association members  
7. Mailing Address of Office of Publication: 4202 E. Fowler Ave., ALC100, Tampa, FL 33620-5455.  
8. Mailing Address of Publisher’s Business Office: 4202 E. Fowler Ave., ALC100, Tampa, FL 33620-5455.  
9. Full Names and Mailing addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor:  
  - Publisher: Bill McCaulaard, USF Alumni Association, University of South Florida, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., ALC100, Tampa, FL 33620-5455.  
  - Editor: Penny Carnathan, USF Alumni Association, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., ALC100, Tampa, FL 33620-5455.  
  - Managing Editor: Rita B. Kneber, USF Alumni Association, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., ALC100, Tampa, FL 33620-5455.  
10. Owner: University of South Florida Alumni Association, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., ALC100, Tampa, FL 33620-5455.  
11. There are no known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders.  
12. Tax status has not changed in the previous 12 months  
13. Publication Date: USF (formerly Alumni Voice)  
15. Extent & Nature of Circulation USF Alumni Association Members Magazine

| A) Total number of copies printed (Net Press Run): | 29,475 | 41,000 |
| B) Requested distribution: | | |
| (1) Outside County Requested Subscriptions, including written, internet, telemarketing requests, advertiser’s proof copies and exchange copies: | 25,263 | 25,424 |
| (2) In-County Requested Subscriptions, including written, internet, telemarketing requests, advertiser’s proof copies and exchange copies: | 0 | 0 |
| (3) Sales through dealers, carriers, street vendors and others paid or requested distribution outside USPS: | 0 | 0 |
| (4) Requested copies sent through other USPS mail classes: | 0 | 0 |
| C) Total requested circulation: | 25,263 | 25,424 |
| D) Non-requested Distribution: | | |
| (1) Outside County Nonrequested Copies, including sample copies, requests over 3 years old, requests induced by a premium, bulk sales and names obtained from other sources: | 1,211 | 4,845 |
| (2) In-County Nonrequested Copies, including sample copies, requests over 3 years old, requests induced by a premium, bulk sales and names obtained from other sources: | 18 | 71 |
| (3) Non-requested copies sent through other USPS mail classes: | 15 | 30 |
| (4) Non-requested copies distributed outside of the Mail: | 2,873 | 10,430 |
| E) Total Non-requested distribution: | 4,117 | 15,376 |
| F) Total distribution: | 29,380 | 40,800 |
| G) Copies not distributed, including spoiled after printing: | 95 | 200 |
| H) Total: | 29,475 | 41,000 |
| I) Percent requested circulation: | 85.99% | 62.31% |
| J) Percent printed copies not distributed: | 0 | 0 |

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

17. The Statement of Ownership will be printed in the January (Winter) 2016 Issue.

18. Rita Kneber, Managing Editor

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### SNAPSHOTS

**Night at the Trop**

Rocky and the Tampa Bay Rays’ famed DJ Kitty enjoy the best seats in the house during USF Night with the Rays with Life Members Suzanne Lomascolo, ’96, left, Bob Tiller, ’83, and Linda Tiller at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg.
**Calendar**

**Feb. 9**
TULANE VS. USF WOMEN'S BASKETBALL at USF Sun Dome, Tampa, 7 p.m.; tickets at GoUSFBulls.com

**Feb. 13**
COLLEGE ALUMNI NIGHT AT DAYTONA INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY, inaugural NASCAR race in Florida’s newly renovated motorsports stadium includes pre-race track access, reserved hospitality room, general admission stadium seat and burger buffet; $150; email ckeirns@daytonainternationalspeedway.com

**Feb. 18-28**
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM, Shakespeare’s comedy about two couples in love with the wrong partners; Theatre 2, USF Tampa; $15 or $10 for students with ID and ages 60 and older; show times at theatreanddance.arts.usf.edu

**Feb. 20**
UCONN VS. USF MEN’S BASKETBALL in Tampa, 7:30 p.m.; tickets at GoUSFBulls.com

**Feb. 26**
BULLS ON BROADWAY: MATILDA, private pre-show reception and discount on balcony tickets for the award-winning Broadway musical based on the Roald Dahl children’s book; 7 p.m. reception, 8 p.m. show at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N. MacInnes Place, Tampa; $75.35; www.USFalumni.org/bullsonbroadway

**March 2-6**
SPRING DANCE CONCERT, works by students and faculty; Theatre 1, USF Tampa; $15 or $10 for students with ID and ages 60 and older; show times at theatreanddance.arts.usf.edu

**March 5**
BULLARNEY 2016, 20th annual Engineering Alumni Society fundraiser featuring Las Vegas-style casino, silent auction, food, drinks and music; 6 p.m. at Gibbons Alumni Center, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa; $100 or $75 by Jan. 31 and for 2011-16 alumni, USF staff and faculty

**March 19**
BRAHMAN BASH: A NIGHT OF BOOTS, BULLS & BLING, annual Alumni Association fundraiser featuring live entertainment, silent auction, food and drinks; 6-10 p.m. at Gibbons Alumni Center, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa; $60 per person ($55 for groups of 10 or more); www.USFalumni.org/brahmanbash

**April 16**
TAMPA BAY BREW BUS BREWERY TOUR, Music Alumni Society fundraiser features a bus ride (with Beer-Tender on board) to three Tampa Bay breweries for tours and beer, commemorative pint glass and other goodies; 2-7 p.m. – departs from International Plaza, 2223 N. Westshore Blvd., Tampa; www.USFalumni.org/BreweryTour
NATIONAL PARKS & LODGES OF THE OLD WEST

Explore the American frontier
May 25 - June 3, 2016

• Experience four national parks
• Fully guided tour includes Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Old Faithful and more
• Stay in spectacular historic lodges that are a destination unto themselves

www.USFalumni.org/travel