

Student Support Services



Annual Newsletter Spring 2018 Edition

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ELIMINATION OF THE ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

GRADUATION RATES FOR UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS ARE STRONG.

Reba Garth
Director-Student Support Services Program

Scan with Zapper App

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Student Support Services Program (SSS) has experienced another successful year, and we encourage you to celebrate our student success. SSS continues to meet its Federal Department of Education goals earning 15 of 15 points on its annual performance report, spring 2018. Our diverse student population contributes to the University of South Florida’s persistence and graduation rates. SSS has met the university’s preeminence goals three times, including most recently a 91% persist from one year to the next, fall 2017 and six-year graduation rates of 74% (2010 cohort) and 70% (2009 cohort). Currently 97% of our 220 students are in good academic standing. SSS Program contributes to the university closing the achievement gap between our Black, Latino, and White students. SSS partners with various university entities and

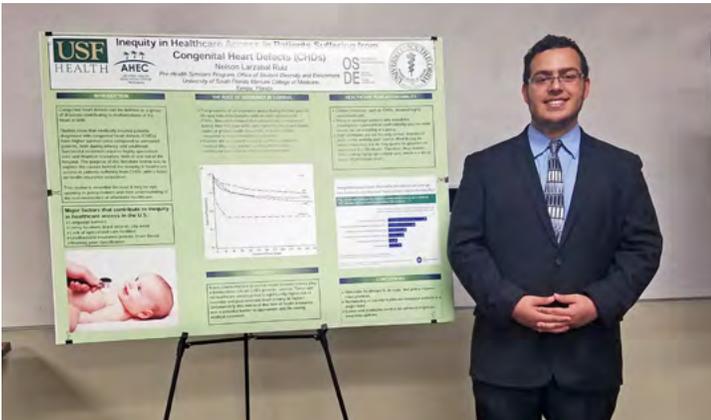
encourages our students to take advantage of all the resources USF has to offer. Our office recently won the prestigious USF Student Success Award for Development & Engagement. SSS students’ academic performance and campus involvement is exemplary as demonstrated in this newsletter. We appreciate the support of our partners and hope you enjoy reading about our students’ success.

Reba Garth
Director

Download the **Zapper app** to your mobile device.
Scan to hear a message from Mrs. Garth.



Student Spotlight: Nelson Larzabal Ruiz



Nelson Larzabal Ruiz is from Habana, Cuba, but has lived in Tampa for the last 5 years. Nelson was selected as the SSS Spotlight student because he is an outstanding scholar. Nelson is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences. He is pursuing this degree because his career goal is to become a physician. He plans to specialize in the field of cardiac and thoracic surgery to become a dedicated and passionate health professional. Nelson chose this particular career field because his family possesses a long and painful history of heart disease. Unfortunately, he has had dear family

members pass away due to heart disease and medical malpractice. However, Nelson intends to use this family misfortune as a driving force to achieve his dreams. Early on, Nelson pronounced that he would stand by the statement, "Under my watch, no person shall die because of a mistake." He is determined to hold true to this motto for years to come.

As a sophomore, Nelson aspires to accomplish many things while at USF, including engaging in long-term volunteer services to provide his knowledge and skills to a healthcare cause, whether it is strictly medical or social. Nelson is a USF Latino Scholar, a scholar in the Pre-Health Scholars Program, and also participated in USF HHMI STEM Academy. He currently works as a Student Assistant for the USF Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement and was formerly a Student Assistant for the USF Morsani College of Medicine Internal Medicine Department. Nelson has impacted the Tampa Bay community by volunteering at USF's Stampede of Service and as a Spanish Interpreter for the Judeo Christian Health Clinic.

Nelson desires to become a better leader through compassion and experience to set the example for the youth who look up to him among his family members. Additionally, Nelson has every intention to continue being one of the most active members of the Pre-Medical American Medical Student Association (PAMSA) so he can give back to this organization that has opened many doors for him as an undergraduate pre-med student. One of Nelson's greatest goals for his undergraduate journey is to become a better scholar and man by achieving academic and personal growth.

Nelson chose to attend USF because USF was his dream school. Since his sophomore year of high school and just learning English, Nelson wanted to become a Bull. He says, "Some prefer Harvard, others wanted Yale, but I wanted USF. GO BULLS!" Thanks to the AVID program at his high school, Nelson had the opportunity to tour all public universities in Florida, and USF has always been his favorite. Nelson believes SSS had a tremendously positive impact on his student success: "SSS has provided me with a united community of young scholars (like me) who desire nothing but success; this is key to a prosperous academic and professional career. Also the guidance offered by his counselor has made me think of SSS as a place of comfort where I, the student, am listened to and respected for my values and principles."

SSS is proud to spotlight this determined and hardworking student - congratulations to Nelson Larzabal Ruiz for accomplishing so much in his first 2 years at USF. We look forward to seeing more of your achievements!

Campus Quotes:

What does SSS Mean To You?

Max Joseph, Sophomore, Biomedical Sciences: "Having an SSS counselor reminds me that there is someone who is concerned with not just **my academic life**, but also my personal/social life. Great network of support!"

Keely Ricketts, Sophomore, Public Health: "SSS has encouraged, pushed, and **inspired me** more than I thought this program ever could. Every time we meet we discuss where I was, where I'm at, and what I need to be doing to get ahead of everyone else. My Counselor does not let me settle, and she knows my capabilities and pushes me to do my best. She rocks!"

Dakotah Goetz, Sophomore, Information Studies: "My SSS counselors and friends came together and treated me not as just another student, but **as a family member**. I am no stranger to adversity and having the support of my SSS family has made dealing with issues significantly easier and has allowed my character and work ethic to develop. The impact that SSS has had on **my success is immeasurable**. With the support and encouragement of my SSS family, I feel as if I can accomplish anything at USF and anything life throws at me."

Donvante Lavilis, Freshmen, Sociology: "They equip me with essential **skills to overcome** the challenges college can throw. Providing a safe haven and being my second backbone is how the program has been an asset to my academic life."

Shamara Ebanks, Freshman, Biomedical Sciences: "Without SSS I honestly don't think I would have made it to college. No one in my intermediate family has gone to college in awhile and I lacked the guidance and advice on what to do through the whole process. **Starting over** the summer with SSS allowed me to meet people in the same situation as me and they assisted me with tips and advice on class choices, scholarships, tutoring and all aspects of college life that I need to know about **I am very grateful.**"

Martina Calabrese, Sophomore, Business Management: "SSS has helped me succeed at USF by having a counselor who always **has my back**. My counselor keeps on me about my grades and is always telling me to get active and go to tutoring if I need help. Also, my counselor has been trying really hard to help me find a job."

Jose Andres Ardaya, Freshman, Health Sciences: "SSS has exposed me to a variety of resources aimed at assisting me with the struggles any college student faces. With the help of our counselors and peer coaches, I am able to recognize which path is **right for me** to take. I am also aware of which resources are best pertaining to me, for example, the counseling center. I am opportunistic for my future here at USF and will continue to succeed through this amazing program."

Ashley Giron, Sophomore, Criminology: "They made me feel like I had a family and made USF my home. The counselors have connected me with people all over campus and **motivated me** to be more than just an average college student. Without SSS, I don't know where I would be without this office's help."

Khalil Wilson, Sophomore, Communication: "SSS has helped me in a multitude of ways including: financial aid concerns, class schedule concerns and personal problems. They have helped me with job opportunities and volunteer work. They **keep me informed** of most of the activities on campus."

Student Success: Internships



Jessica Gamble

Congratulations to **Jessica Gamble** (Senior, Psychology) for being selected as the operations intern at Calton and Associates in Tampa, FL. Calton and Associates is a brokerage and investment advisor firm. As the operations intern, Jessica works in the office organizing, scanning, and uploading multiple documents. Such documents, include return letters and new account forms. Jessica also manages sending documents to clients and their financial advisors.

We are very proud of your accomplishments, Jessica!



Margie Ramirez

Margie Ramirez is a senior majoring in International Studies and minoring in Mass Communication, who had the opportunity to intern at the capitol of Florida. She had the wonderful opportunity to meet the Florida Governor and new Florida House Representative, Margaret Good.

Your internship was a wonderful opportunity! Continue to make us proud, Margie!



Janessa Toledo

SSS is proud to share the exciting news that **Janessa Toledo** (Junior, Mass Communication) has been selected to work as an intern for The Apostolic Wife (bit.ly/2HrizLt), which is a luxury wedding and event planning company that offers everything from full service event planning to corporate event planning throughout Florida. Janessa's career goal is to become an Event Planner. Some of her other accomplishments include: President of the National Pan-Hellenic Council and Student Assistant for the Center of Student Involvement on campus.

We know Janessa is representing USF well at The Apostolic Wife!



Keely Ricketts

Keely Ricketts (Sophomore, Public Health) completed an internship in the Dominican Republic at the NY Mets Baseball Academy in Boca Chica during the fall 2017 semester teaching English and American culture to help aspiring Mets players transition to life in the U.S. This language and culture instruction program focused on baseball, travel, customs, food, and pop culture. Keely had an exciting interning experience while earning class credit for participating in this program.

SSS is honored to have such inspiring interns like Keely!

Student Success: Scholarships

2018 Richard & Eva Pride Endowed Scholarship Winners



Carla Edouard

Carla Edouard (Bio Medical Sciences) and **Marcellus Brookes** (Engineering) have both been awarded the Richard & Eva Pride Scholarship. The Pride scholarship honors Dr. Richard Pride (Papa Pride), and his wife Eva Pride, as a living legacy to help students achieve their dreams by attending college here at USF. Dr. Eva Pride, was one of the first African American faculty members at USF. Dr. Richard Pride is a former USF TRiO Upward Bound Director, appointed in 1969. He is also the longest serving director, serving for more than 25 years. Dr. Pride was very active in the community and served as principal of several high schools in Hillsborough County. There is currently an elementary school named in his honor in New Tampa.



Marcellus Brookes

Congratulations to Carla and Marcellus for continuing this proudfest tradition!

USF Black Leadership Network (BLN) Scholarship

Frea'Drika Curry, freshman, was awarded a scholarship from the USF Black Leadership Network (BLN). The Black Leadership Network focuses on furthering academic and leadership opportunities for African American students in the USF System through scholarships and events at USF and the surrounding community.

Congratulations to Frea'Drika for being the first SSS student to win this scholarship!



Frea'Drika Curry

Congratulations to the following SSS Scholarship Recipients

Angeline Duroseau
Alice Campbell
Ashley Dempsey
Megan Frederick

Julius Jackson
Rayven Kirkland
Jasmine Smalls
Shaniya Briggs

Jennifer Fumero
Alex Honeycutt
Bayleigh Howe
Dervin Marseille

Shawn Richardson
Alondria Sotomayer
Aleena Tharayil
Luke Tharayil

SSS Summer Bridge Program



Dr. Virginia Tickles, NASA Engineer, Motivational Speaker



Frantzley Moise, Motivational Speaker



SSS Summer Check-In Day

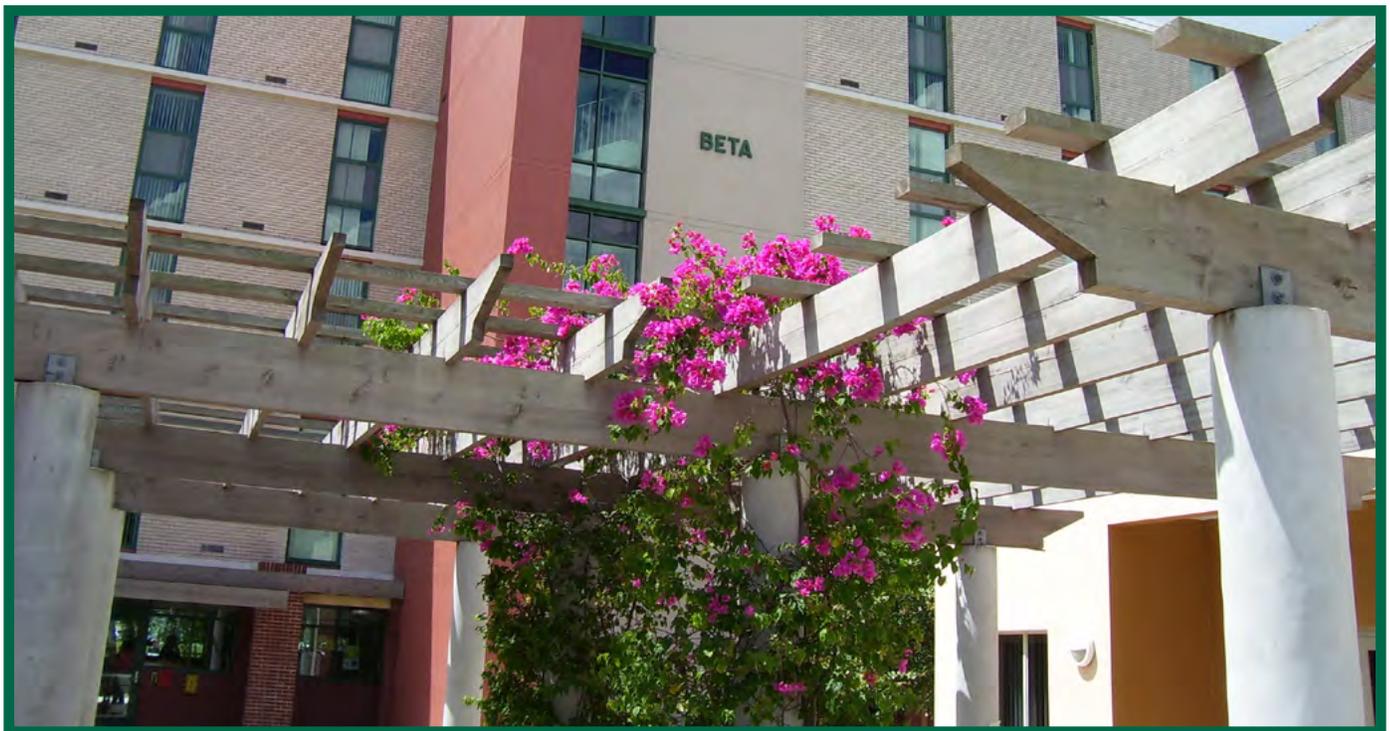
SSS Living Learning Community

We are excited to announce that for the first time in our history we have established a living learning community (LLC) for SSS students! The **SSS LLC** provides a supportive learning environment, access to faculty in residence, affordable living, and a sense of belonging on the USF campus. SSS LLC participants will also benefit from the laptop loan program, gain academic recognition, and an opportunity to earn the SSS scholarship. The purpose of our LLC is to enhance student success at USF through proactive, intrusive, comprehensive, and innovative SSS services that will benefit students throughout the academic year.

The SSS LLC will be located on the 2nd and 3rd floor of Beta Hall. Beta Hall was selected as the location for the SSS LLC because it is in the center of campus activities and was recently renovated. It is a traditional style residence hall. To learn more about Beta Hall, please click link. (bit.ly/2H9Dd3h)

The SSS staff is excited to have the new SSS LLC to better service our students! SSS counselors look forward to holding activities in the residence hall that promotes academic, social, and personal growth.

The SSS Director recently participated in a USF Housing Live episode to explain more about SSS, discuss the newly formed LLC, and answer questions from a live audience – click here to see the “Beta in Beta or Cooler in Castor” episode. (bit.ly/2Hbtdqh)



SSS Counselors Activities in Beta Hall:

- Hold office hours
- Conduct SSS programming
- Collaborate with partners on and off campus for activities that address student needs

An Exemplary Student: Lynecee Romelus



The Student Support Services (SSS) Program partners with various university entities and encourages all students to collaborate with campus resources. **Lynecee Romelus** is an example of an exceptional SSS student willing to expand her intellect and network by taking advantage of campus resources. Lynecee is pursuing a double major in Political Science and Sociology, while minoring in Africana Studies. Lynecee's most recent accomplishment involves her summer internship in Washington, DC for The Washington Center for Internship and Academics Seminars. She was afforded the opportunity to be a Paralegal/Legal Intern for Mil Mujeres Legal Services. Her internship provided her with the opportunity to conduct legal research and presented cases to the legal team, highlight the implications and significance of different visas to law enforcement and prosecutors, as well as prepare and process legal documents under the supervision of attorneys and accredited representatives to gain exposure to legal work.

Lynecee's achievements do not stop at her summer internship experience. Lynecee is a member of the USF Honors College and is a Certified Student Leader through the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement. She is the president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and Vice President of the Phi Alpha Delta, Pre-Law Fraternity, and was a Mentor for the Intercultural Student Leadership Conference. Lynecee plays an active role in serving the Tampa Bay community. She is involved in food

distribution with Thorn Ministries, was a site leader for Stampede of Service, and has volunteered with Feeding America Tampa Bay.

As a student in the SSS program due to graduate next year, Lynecee Romelus embodies what it means to be a low-income and first generation college student striving to be a success story. Lynecee says, "Without Student Support Services I would not be at the University of South Florida, and over the past few years it has impacted my life in more ways than one. SSS gave me a family, mentors and guidance when I needed it most. I was so fearful of how I would perform in college and the things I would experience being away from my family, but it has been a lot less intimidating than I thought. SSS is so much more than just a program that helps under represented students at USF, it molds us for our future and guides us along the path. I am forever thankful that SSS saw something in me and gave me a chance."

Lynecee's leadership and service is inspiring to all incoming students across the USF campus!

The Spirit of USF

SSS students, **Jose Manuel Torres, Karolina Hernandez, Deborah Grana** (SSS Alumni: CLCE Graduate Assistant), **Tracey Vilvert, Chrisna Lindor,** and **Nelson Larzabal Ruiz** (from L to R), are actively engaged in USF's Stampede of Service (SOS) through the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE). SOS quickly become an important tradition at USF as a way for students to get involved! SOS is an annual, one-day event where USF students join together to volunteer with the community in the Tampa area. SOS was founded by a USF student, who wanted to celebrate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

SSS students are involved in the Tampa Bay community and are proud Bulls!



Cultivating Leaders: ISLC

SSS students are engaged in USF's Intercultural Student Leadership Conference (ISLC) held annually through the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA). This conference is a full day of leadership enhancement. OMA says ISLC "is designed to strengthen the engagement and retention of underrepresented students at the University of South Florida by providing inspiration, co-curricular connections, and campus resources to support their path to success."

SSS students strive to be strong, effective leaders!



SSS Students are Global Citizens

Cortney Alleyne is an SSS senior student majoring in Public Health and minoring in Urban Studies. During the Summer 2017 semester, Cortney studied abroad in Ghana for 4 weeks. Cortney was able to expand her education abroad experience with assistance from the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Award.



We are proud of Cortney for being an adventurous global citizen!

SSS student, **Markayla Leggett**, took a Public Health course in Japan. Markayla learned a lot about why the Japanese have the highest life expectancy in the world. Markayla says, "SSS contributed to my study abroad trip by supporting me through my application process and helping me find ways to fund my trip."



We are proud of Markayla for representing USF as a global citizen!

SSS Students are Global Citizens

Urja and **Urvi Kaushik** traveled to India and were exposed to Indian street food, local markets, and traditional clothing. The twins went to the Rajasthan desert where they rode a camel and went horse back riding. They also rode the train to Shimla, where they saw 'beautiful snow.' Urvi says, "Coming back from this trip really made me appreciate the large student diversity here at USF and the numerous Indian student organizations and programs on campus that keeps me connected with my roots."



Urja and Urvi, you make us so proud for your willingness to expand your horizons!

Valoria Thomas studied Epidemiology and Public Health in London through the USF in London Program. London is the birth place for Public Health with famous pioneers like John Snow and Edward Jenner, so it made Valoria's learning that more rich. She says, "I visited many famous landmarks such as Big Ben, London Bridge, and Tower Bridge. It was the most amazing experience ever."



Congratulations on stepping outside of your comfort zone, Val!

SSS Bulls Winning:

Homecoming Queen

Deidra Rogers was voted as Homecoming Queen fall of 2017. She is a Criminology/Pre-Law major, a student in the Honors College, and plans to graduate fall of 2018. She currently works for Student Government as the Solicitor General and is the First VP of the NCNW USF student organization. She plans to pursue a career as a lawyer where she hopes to work on social justice issues and advocate for marginalized populations.

Congratulations on winning Homecoming Queen, Deidra!



SSS Bulls Winning:

Volunteer of the Month

Alex Pellet was awarded the Volunteer of the Month Award in November 2017 by the Corbett Trauma Center, which is the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay. Alex is known for her great work ethic, positive attitude, teamwork mentality, leadership, and diligence. Throughout her experience as a volunteer in Sexual Assault Services, she has shown the team time and again that she is a positive, motivated leader with amazing potential in this field. Alex has also recently been admitted to the USF Master's degree program in Social Work, where she plans to continue her work in this field.

Congratulations on your accomplishments, Alex!



SSS Students are Successful at USF!

Congratulations to the following SSS students with a USF GPA of 3.0 or above

FRESHMEN

Mousa Ahmad
Jose Ardaya
Martha Balleza
Andrene Baxter
Morgan Becwar
Giovanni Bell
Alyssa Bernstein
Shaniya Briggs
Skylar Cantone
Giselle Castro
Zavier Clark
Fabian Clarke
Astrid Cruz
Frea'Drika Curry
Arik Denmark
Mostafa Faituri
Drake Ferry
Juan Garcia
Annalieth Garzon
Ashley Gelman
Logan Green
John Guirguis
Alexys Gurreri
Caroline Haidinger
Zoe Henry
Kayla Heredia
Beachy Horace
Abbey Howard

Bayleigh Howe
Shayla Konosky
Brendon Latortue
Donvante Lavilis
Romy Lisse
Dervens Marseille
Matthew Medalie
Sarah Mohamed
Eddy Monzon
Romel Morales
Juan Moreno
Brandin Muniz
Maliek Parker
Bria Pitter
Alexia Powell
Samantha Puszkur
Matthew Reyes
Shawn Richardson
Jacob Richie
Joel Ringrose
Haley Rivera
Jaymie Rosenberg
Cassidy Rux
Melissa Salazar
Jasmine Sanchez
Anthony Soto
Aleena Tharayil
Luke Tharayil
Nia Thomas

Lisa Thompson
Alexandra Torres
Tina Tring
Julissa Valdez
Alex Verdellus
Daniela Vergaray
Anthony Vixayo
Danaizha Walker
Sasha Whiting
Demi Zeper

SOPHOMORES

Jesus Aguilar
Macy Bazard
Jasmine Beaulieu
Connor Benjamin
Alexandra Betti
Brianna Browne
Marcella Calabrese
Shamease Cooper
Shaienne Demerieux
Carla Edouard
Garrett Ferguson
Megan Frederick
Helen Giang
Jasmine Gilliard
Ashley Giron
Dakotah Goetz
Manuela Gonzalez

Laura Guilarte-Debras
Peter Guirguis
Amber Hernandez
Ivan Ibarra
Julius Jackson
Caroline Jeczalik
Max Joseph
Catherine Kelly
Victoria Kennedy
Rayven Kirkland
Kelly Korpela
Nelson Larzabal Ruiz
Lesther Lee
Boeun Lee
Chrisna Lindor
Angela Musto
Van Nguyen
Duaa Omari
Amanda Pham
Ayrillyn Pierre
Keely Ricketts
Alih Rosa
Stephanie Rozanski
Aryssa Simpson
Jasmine Smalls
Alexandra Vieira
Tracey Vilvert
Khalil Wilson

“Through the SSS counselor meetings, I have been able to share things about me and my family. It has helped me to reduce my stress levels, helping me succeed academically and personally.”

~ Martha Balleza, Freshman, Secondary Education

Congratulations to the 2017 SSS Grads!

Antonio Alsaleh, *Psychology*

Wilfredo Bautista Rivera, *Public Health*

Matthew Benton, *Civil Engineering*

Turaindranauth Bhairo, *Biomedical Sciences*

Katreina Cezair, *Health Sciences*

Lyne Charles, *Health Sciences*

Chavelk Collado, *Public Health*

Nicholas Cullen, *Criminology*

Derek Farmer, *History*

Maya Forbes, *Anthropology*

Ashley Fyffe, *Social Work*

Peyton Geftman, *Theatre*

Tatyannah George, *General Studies*

Renee Gordon, *Health Sciences*

Dana-Marie Gould, *Biomedical Sciences*

Ryan Haft, *Mass Communications*

Dejah Hammond, *Finance*

Jackeline Henry, *Health Sciences*

Lidice Hernandez, *Anthropology*

Marla Hernandez, *Elementary Education*

Amanda Hill, *Political Science*

Sezan Hossain, *Health Sciences*

Jasmine Ivy, *Public Health*

Jerry Jean-Pierre, *Finance*

Lindsey Johnson, *Mass Communications*

Marquelle Joseph, *Africana Studies*

Quenten Kadlec, *Spanish*

Emilia Kalogiannis, *Mass Communications*

Ariel La Salle, *Geography*

Sabrina Lauredan, *Women's and Gender Studies*

Aladaise Liburd Harrigan, *General Studies*

Colby Lomonaco, *Criminology*

Bernite Lorimaire, *General Business Admin.*

Camila Moraes, *Psychology*

Kendyl Muehlenbein, *Women's and Gender Studies*

Stephy Oge, *English*

Elly Perry-Trautman, *Geology*

Salvatore Prestigiacommo, *General Business Admin.*

Lenae Proctor, *Elementary Education*

Juan Pulido, *Public Health*

Karina Rios, *History*

Stephen Robinson, *Information Technology*



Kendyl Muehlenbein plans to go to graduate school to pursue a career in College Student Affairs from a social justice perspective.

Alumni Spotlight:

Dr. Watson Ducatel

Dr. Watson Ducatel entered the university via the Student Support Services Program (SSS) as a first-generation and low-income student. He is also an alum of the USF Upward Bound Program. Through support of the SSS Program staff informing students how to navigate the USF system, providing counseling, advising, coaching, workshops and serving as his family away from home. Dr. Watson Ducatel utilized every appropriate resource the university offered. He graduated from USF in 2006 with a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology. He now owns his own medical practice that he shares with his wife, another USF alumni who is a dentist. Healthy Bodies Medical & Dental Center is located close by in Brandon, Florida.

Dr. Watson Ducatel D.O., M.P.H. is an Internist at Health Bodies Medical and Dental Center. He is a native of Tampa, FL where he attended Chamberlain High School and University of South Florida. He attended medical school at Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine and went to Largo Medical Center, where he specialized in Internal Medicine. Internal Medicine is the medical specialty that provides expertise in treating people with one or more complex illnesses of their internal organs. Dr. Ducatel treat patients with diabetes, weight problems, lung diseases, arthritis, high blood pressure and more. In addition to his medical degree Dr. Ducatel also obtained a master degree in Public Health which he is currently using to design and execute health initiatives that will improve the health of entire communities. Dr. Ducatel serves on the American College of Osteopathic Internist Committee



Dr. Watson Ducatel D.O., M.P.H., F.A.C.O.I.

on Minority Health and Cultural Competency. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and a Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Internists.

Recently, Dr. Ducatel spoke at the Black Brown College Bound Summit to motivate young men of color to succeed in college. SSS plans to have him speak to current SSS students as a role model and motivational speaker.



Healthy Bodies Dental & Medical Center
3415 Brook Crossing Drive, Brandon FL 33511
P: 813-540-5005 F: 813 358-5667
HealthyBodiesMDC.com

Alumni Success Stories



Dr. Sade Smith

Dr. Sade Smith recently graduated from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Washington, D.C. Campus with a Doctoral Degree in Counselor Education and Supervision. Her dissertation explored the aspects of cultural capital that help first-generation African-American female students persist through their freshmen year. Dr. Smith thanks SSS, “With your support I was able to complete my study and graduate with my doctoral degree this past fall 2017 semester.”

You are an inspiration, Dr. Smith! Congratulations!



Alysia (Flowers) Augustine and her husband David Augustine are the owners of Augustine's Cheesecakes, a local bakery offering specialized, mini-sized gourmet cheesecakes in a variety of delicious flavors. Augustine's Cheesecakes offers these services: weddings, bridal/baby showers, corporate events, luncheons, dinner parties, b-day parties, special events. For more information, please go to augustinescheesecakes.com.

Be sure to support this SSS alumna at USF's Greens and Gold Fresh Market!



Aubrey Hall

Aubrey Hall graduated with her Bachelor of Arts degree in 2012 and her Master of Arts in 2014, all in Women's and Gender Studies. Aubrey says, “Having started my bachelors a semester early, in conjunction with the academic support of the [SSS] counselors, I was also able to graduate a year early. SSS has also inspired me to take every opportunity to better myself which has motivated me to pursue leadership positions at my agency, present at national conferences, and pursue a doctorate. Most importantly, SSS encouraged me to see the potential in everyone and everything. Without this program I would not have had the opportunity to see my own potential and would not be the bull I am today.”

You continue to make us proud, Aubrey!

Alumni Success Stories

Quenten Kadlec graduated from USF in May 2017 with a Bachelor's degree in Spanish. He now works in Bogotá, Colombia where he teaches English to high school students. He is enjoying working with his students and learning about the culture from a first-hand perspective. He studied abroad in Costa Rica while a student at USF, and that experience helped motivate him to pursue a career abroad using his language skills to help others.

We are so proud of you, Quenten!

Krystine White graduated with a B.A. degree in Communication, concentration of Relational Communication, and a minor in Leadership Studies. Krystine currently attends the University of Florida, pursuing her Master's degree in Student Personnel in Higher Education and completing an assistantship in the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars program and First-Generation Student Success. Krystine says, "SSS has left their mark on my life and I will always be grateful to have been a part of such an amazing program. I don't know where I would be without SSS, thank you!"

Congratulations on your success at USF and beyond, Krystine!

After her Summer 2017 graduation, **Stephy Oge** decided to pursue a higher education at USF in Strategic Intelligence as she works for the SSS Program as the Graduate Assistant. She was awarded the Graduate Student Success Fellowship from the Office of Graduate Studies, which waives her tuition and provides her with a stipend each fall and spring semester. She plans to couple her degree with a graduate certificate in Analytics and Business Intelligence to become a well-respected Intelligence Analyst for the public or private sector. Stephy says, "I credit almost all of my success in college to the support of the SSS program who believed in me more than I believed in myself. Thank you, 3x over!"

Help us in congratulating this stellar USF graduate!



Quenten Kadlec



Krystine White



Stephy Oge

College Success Workshops

SSS workshops are designed to give students important information to help them be successful at USF and in life. These workshops cover topics, such as:

- How to drop/add for classes using OASIS
- College major exploration and career decision
- Embracing diverse perspectives in a global world
 - The benefits of undergraduate research
- The benefits of living on-campus and joining campus organizations
 - How to read a DegreeWorks report and calculate a college GPA
- Tips for college success, including non-cognitive factors (i.e. time and stress management, study and test-taking skills)
 - Financial literacy, Financial aid, and scholarship information
 - Preparing for graduate or professional school
 - Internships, co-operative educations, shadowing, etc.



Urvi Kaushik (L) and Aleena Tharayil (R)

Meet the Student Support Services Staff

- **Reba Garth**, Director
- **Dr. LaTosha Thomas**, Assistant Director
- **Roshanda Pinson**, Counselor/Advisor
- **Brian Williams**, Counselor/Advisor
- **Eirleene Bristow**, Administrative Specialist
- **Stephy Oge**, Graduate Assistant
- **Cortney Alleyne**, Summer Program Coordinator
- **Erica Exalien**, Peer Coach
- **Logan Green**, Peer Coach
- **Merly Jean-Louis**, Peer Coach
- **Khalil Wilson**, Peer Coach
- **Joshua Beck**, Office Assistant
- **Markayla Leggett**, Office Assistant

Professional Development

In February, **Reba Garth** and **Roshanda Pinson** attended the 46th Annual SAEOPP (Southeastern Association of Education Opportunity Program Personnel) Conference in Savannah, Georgia. The theme was “SAEOPP in Wonderland.” The conference attracted more than 400 professionals in the college access and success fields for training workshops, educational sessions, networking opportunities, and special events.



In February, **Reba Garth**, **LaTosha Thomas**, **Roshanda Pinson**, and **Brian Williams** presented at the Inaugural National Student Success Conference: Innovators & Innovations. The workshop was titled, “Beautiful Minds: Stories of Student Success.” The presentation included a student panel with outstanding USF students and a musical chairs portion in which workshop participants were able to engage in dialogue with individual students in a small group setting. The workshop was highly rated by the attendees in the post-session evaluations and the presenters received very positive feedback about the workshop.

In March, **Reba Garth** attended the 38th Annual Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C. This policy seminar provides the TRIO communities an opportunity to help inform Members of the 115th Congress, congressional staff, and Trump Administration officials about the history and the success of TRIO. More importantly, this event gives participants a chance to represent the interests of low-income and first-generation students in the policy arena.

In March, **LaTosha Thomas** presented on a panel for the Student Success/Resources track at the 15th USF Diversity Summit. The theme of the summit was “Beyond the Turmoil to Peace and Justice: A Strong and Inclusive Community.” The USF Diversity Summit is a system-wide event hosted by the President and attended by our faculty, staff and students.

In March, **Brian Williams** attended the 2018 Tri-State TRiO Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. The theme of the conference was, “TRiOFormers: Transforming Lives 50 Years Later”. This conference brings together TRiO personnel from Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina to discuss ways to enhance student success among low-income and first-generation students.

In April, **LaTosha Thomas** attended the TRiO Priority #2 training on Budget Management and Statutory/Regulatory Requirements in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Thank you to the USF departments who contribute to the success of SSS students in various ways!

- Academic Success Center
- Black Faculty & Staff Association
- Campus Recreation
- Career Services
- Center for Leadership & Civic Engagement
- Center for Student Involvement
- Center for Student Well-Being
- Center for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention
- Financial Education & Outreach Program
- Housing & Residential Education
- New Student Connections
- Office of Academic Advocacy
- Office of Admissions
- Office of Community Engagements and Partnerships
- Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity
- Office of Graduate Studies
- Office of Multicultural Affairs
- Office of Orientation
- Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities
- Office of Undergraduate Research
- Student Health Services
- Students with Disabilities Services
- The Students of Concern Assistance Team
- University Scholarships & Financial Aid Services
- USF Athletics
- USF Counseling Center
- USF Dining Services



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Student Support Services 5 YR Award: Federal \$1,448,690 (72%); State \$563,269 (28%)