USF Moves Up in Rankings

This month, U.S. News and World Report released their “Best National Universities” list for 2020. In its highest position ever, USF was ranked 14 spots higher than last year, at No. 44 in the ranking for top public universities.

To make sure the rankings are accurate, the schools are divided into the following categories: national universities, national liberal arts colleges, regional universities and regional colleges. This allows universities and colleges with similar goals to be compared more fairly.

The ranking system is based on 10 categories and 15 indicators of “academic quality” to determine the overall ranking of a college or university. The main categories reviewed are outcomes, faculty resources, financial resources, expert opinion, student excellence, and alumni giving.

Even as the university moves up in the ranking, USF’s commitment to diversity and inclusion stays the same. One major accomplishment noted in the rankings is USF’s social mobility. Social mobility assesses an institutions success at enrolling, retaining, and graduating students who come from lower income families. USF was ranked No. 1 in Florida and No. 9 in the nation in this category. Along with closing the achievement gap between students coming from low and high income families, USF has also closed the achievement gap among black, Hispanic, and white students.

The hard work and dedication of the entire OAS team contributes greatly to USF’s upward trajectory as we help provide an environment that leads to student success.

Preparing for Flu Season

As October begins, flu season is coming in full-force. During last year’s flu season, 42 million cases of the flu were reported, with approximately 647,000 people hospitalized from it. Now is the perfect time to get the flu shot and make sure you are fully protected.

On Friday, October 18, the USF College of Public Health will host its annual Free Flu Shot Drive. This is the 23rd year of the college’s flu shot drive. The drive is a collaboration between USF College of Public Health, USF Health, and the Hillsborough County Health Department.

The drive will be held from 8 am to 4 pm, or while supplies last. There will also be health exhibitors at the event that employees can visit with. You must be 18 years or older to receive a shot and the shots will be administered on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The college is located at 3010 USF Banyan Circle. For additional information, contact Ms. Ellen Kent at ekent@health.usf.edu or call (813) 974-3623

If you cannot attend the event, flu shots are also available by appointment Monday through Friday at USF Student Health Services. You can call (813) 974-2331 to schedule an appointment. The flu shot is covered by most insurance plans, and is $25 without insurance. All Bulls are encouraged to get the flu shot so they are prepared and protected for cold and flu season. Don’t rely on hand sanitizer alone to keep you safe this year.

Reminders

- 3rd Annual USF Supplier Diversity Day in the Marshall Student Center on October 4
- October 6 - October 12 is USF Homecoming Week
- Homecoming Parade and OAS Watch Party in the Sessums Mall area on Friday October 11 starting at 6 PM
Good Luck In Retirement Barbara Donerly!

After 27 years of service and dedication to the University of South Florida, Barbara Donerly retired on September 27.

Since 1992 Barbara has made tremendous contributions to USF serving in her current role as Assistant Director of Campus Planning in Facilities Management, and prior to that, working as a Facilities Project Manager where she orchestrated campus master planning. A campus master plan provides an extensive and detailed layout to guide future USF growth and property development for years to come.

During Barbara’s tenure as a Project Manager, she played a huge role in the construction of many buildings and sites on campus. She considers the renovation of the MLK plaza to be one of her greatest achievements. “There was nothing there between the SVC and FAH,” said Barbara. Now the campus landscape includes a recasted full bust of Dr. King that is mounted at his true height, a granite wall inscribed with his famous “I Have A Dream” speech, a fountain, and a number of trees stretching from SVC to FAH.

“Working alongside Barbara, I learned to appreciate master planning more... to look long-term,” said Ray Gonzalez, Director of Campus Planning. “Day to day, her thought trend is always around what’s best for the university in terms of the big picture.”

The USF campus master plan includes a greenway that goes from Lake Behnke up to the northwest corner of campus. Barbara’s assistance with the implementation of the stormwater ponds was the first phase of a stormwater system that will go along with the greenway concept.

“Barbara has really great ideas about landscaping and trees that really helped this campus to be what it is today,” said Chaddy Hanwisal, Project Manager for Facilities Management. “Her passion for conservation and natural resources is very evident throughout our master plan.”

Under Barbara’s leadership, Campus Planning has planted over 5,000 trees, improved bike lanes, and expanded the shuttle service which now goes off campus to both the north and south ends. Barbara has also been a part of the expansion of campus housing and the addition of the Greek Village.

Barbara hopes that after she retires, her intended greenway concept for the campus will be completed. “That’s the one thing I’m going to enjoy watching in the future,” said Barbara. “But I know it’s going to be in good hands.”

Congratulations, Barbara! Thank you for your unwavering contributions to USF!

Let us know any feedback/ideas you have for upcoming newsletters: aaronnichols@usf.edu
Coming Soon: Campus Safety Awareness Month

For the fourth year in a row, USF will be participating in National Campus Safety Awareness Month (NCSAM). NCSAM provides an opportunity for members of the USF community to become educated and play a more active role in creating and maintaining a safe environment on-campus. Being aware of campus safety procedures can keep you out of potentially dangerous situations on campus.

Throughout the month of October, The University of South Florida Police Department and USF Department of Emergency Management will be hosting free safety education events and trainings for students, faculty, and staff. These trainings touch on a number of safety-related issues that impact the USF campus, such as active threats, hands-only CPR and First Aid, and self-defense. If you would like to view the full schedule of educational events and trainings happening during Campus Safety Awareness Month, visit bit.ly/SafetyMonthTraining. You will also receive an entry into a raffle every time you attend a training course during NCSAM.

New this year, will be a dunk tank where USF Police Officers and other USF employees will be volunteering to be dunked. For a small donation, attendees of the Safety Day event can have a chance at dunking one of the volunteers.

There will also be various demonstrations, including a motor vehicle crash rollover simulation, fire extinguisher training, and a K-9 demonstration. There will be specialized equipment (including bomb detection technology) and emergency vehicles on display. Law enforcement, fire rescue, and emergency management personnel will also be at the event to answer questions and talk about their work. Campus Safety Day is a great opportunity for all members of the USF community to become informed and prepared in case they ever run into a safety emergency, on or off campus.

Homecoming Week Festivities Around OAS

A week-long celebration of bull pride is coming up on October 6 - 12. Homecoming week is the most popular annual celebration for the USF community. The week is filled with exciting events, including the Stampede Comedy Show, the parade, the Homecoming Ball, and the Homecoming Concert.

This year, there are a number of activities OAS employees will be able to attend and participate in. Departments are encouraged to decorate their offices for the annual office decorating contest. Judging will take place on Thursday, October 10 for those who have signed up to be judged. A number of OAS golf carts will be decorated and driven in the Running of the Bulls Parade, which is held on Friday, October 11 at 6:30 pm. There will also be an OAS parade watch party in the Sessums Mall area starting at 6 pm that night. There will be games, snacks, and refreshments for attendees to enjoy before and during the parade.

Retirements

Barbara Donerly (27 years)
Associate Director
Planning

Anthony Williams (34 years)
Senior Groundskeeper
Facilities Management

Anniversaries

September 2019

Business Center
Donaté Alexander 7
Shawna Neckar 5
Sharon Smiling 3

Office of the Vice President
Wayne Espinola 13