The 25 Under 25 program recognizes outstanding undergraduate students from the University of South Florida’s College of Business. Students selected for this honor are individuals who are under 25 years of age and have demonstrated excellence in at least two of the following four areas: scholarship, professional development, leadership, and community/campus service.

The goal of this program is to highlight the positive impact students have on campus as well as in the regional community, and to recognize their leadership and academic achievements.

Nikolas Alfonso
Finance

Nikolas Alfonso and his father are the first father/son pair to have ever played for the USF baseball team. But beyond the baseball field, Alfonso’s father was a businessman who introduced him to another field — financial services and investing.

While Alfonso wanted to play baseball in college, he ultimately chose USF because of its business school and finance program. He made it onto the USF Baseball Team as a walk-on, where he plays and practices six times a week, as much time as other students might spend at a part-time job. That same work ethic has assured his success in his business classes, and he made the Dean’s List and the Big East/American Athletic All-Academic team three years in a row and has received scholarships from the business school.

As a baseball player, Alfonso has participated in multiple service events. His favorite service activity is the Friends of Jaclyn program, which allowed him to develop a lifelong relationship with Nick, a young cancer patient going through extensive treatment.

This summer, Alfonso left the baseball diamond for the Big Apple, where he completed an internship with JPMorgan Chase. Along with 40 other students from top universities, he was part of the Finance Analyst Development program, assisting the investor-relations team. He was offered a full-time position at the end of the internship. However, he decided to take a job with Raymond James Financial as part of the company’s competitive Options Analyst Program, which only accepts 10 graduating seniors nationwide.

Lauren Alford
Marketing

Lauren Alford seizes opportunities that come her way, developing a well-rounded résumé while maintaining academic excellence.

In 2014, as a freshman, Alford entered the USF Muma College of Business Elevator Competition, where students give a one-minute pitch to an executive to develop their speaking and interviewing skills. She earned second place in the competition. Not even an accounting major, Alford participated in the regional Deloitte FanTAXtic Case Study Competition after her accounting professor noticed her interest in the course. She gathered research about the specific tax topics that were assigned, and collaborated with her teammates to design a presentation. She has also maintained a 4.0 GPA.

Wanting to give back to USF, Alford serves as a mentor on the Academic Foundations Peer Leader Team in an elective seminar designed to help students be successful in their first year of college. She guides students during their community service project for the class and assists the professor with lecture activities.

Beyond the classroom, Alford is a member of Delta Gamma and the National Honor Society of Collegiate Scholars. She also works part-time.

Joycelyn Alleyne
Marketing and Management

Joycelyn Alleyne has her eyes set on a prize many students never dream of during their college career: USF’s King O’Neal award. This designation recognizes those who graduate with a perfect GPA. The junior who is double majoring in marketing and management -- with a minor in leadership -- has yet to earn even an A-minus!

Alleyne says that her quest for this honor is fueled by the knowledge that academic excellence is her passport out of Barbados and into America. The recipient of many scholarships, Alleyne understands that higher education is a luxury that not everyone can afford.

Her academic success has not come at the expense of campus involvement. She has been involved with Housing and Residential Education, where she served as resident assistant before becoming a resident life mentor who mentors 17 residence assistants in the Cypress community on campus. Alleyne is also an officer within the International Business Board. She is a member of Delta Gamma and the National Honor Society of Collegiate Scholars. She also works part-time.

José Alvarez
Finance
José Alvarez
Finance

Venezuelan native José Alvarez aspires to become an international investment banker. That decision led him to USF even though, he admits, he knew that it would not be an easy journey. Alvarez understood the difficulty of becoming an investment banker, so he actively pursued internships each summer. In 2012, he interned with Linio.com.ve, a start-up retailer. In 2013, he participated in a rotational program at Banco Venezolano de Crédito. And in 2014, he served as a campus ambassador for Bloomberg LP, introducing the Bloomberg Aptitude Test to USF.

Alvarez appreciated these internships but wanted to land a coveted spot at a Wall Street firm. He took a flight to New York City to meet with the only person he knew in the city, seeking advice and asking to build a mentoring relationship. Two months later, he was back in the Big Apple for a freshman project at Barclays investment bank, one of just 30 students selected from more than 300 applicants nationwide.

He knew the experience with Barclays could help him land another internship later on, though he didn't realize just how competitive the industry could be. Alvarez cold-called 40+ investment bankers, and his persistence paid off. He took another self-funded trip to New York City to network and soon was invited to participate in a final round interview at investment banks.

An international student from the African nation of Cameroon, Amanda Atanga has worked tirelessly to get the most out of her American college education.

Contrary to what Atanga says is the perception of education in Africa, she realized university education in the U.S. was about more than getting good grades: being involved outside of the classroom also mattered. She originally attended a small private university in Virginia, where she worked as a student assistant for the school's International Student Services office and served as an intern for the international student organization. However, she had always dreamed of earning a degree from a large institution with a well-recognized accounting program. She transferred to USF in 2013, where she joined Alpha Kappa Psi and became a business calculus tutor at USF's Academic Success Center.

Atanga has completed summer internships with some of the world's most prestigious institutions and companies. In 2013, she traveled to Tanzania to intern at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, where she worked with payroll and budgeting. The following summer, she worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers in Douala, Cameroon, and was assigned to audit engagements with companies such as Citibank and IHS Cameroon. She now works for Frank Arzt Tax and Accounting in Tampa as a junior accounting clerk. Atanga has also earned scholarships from USF, including the IEAm Grant Scholarship Award.

After graduating this semester, Atanga hopes to earn an MBA and Master of Accountancy degrees, as well as the Certified Public Accountant and Certified Internal Auditor designations.

Alexandra Bogovic
Marketing

Nearly every 25 Under 25 honoree has learned how to balance work, school, and life responsibilities. Alexandra Bogovic is no exception. She has earned a 3.80 GPA as a full-time student who works part-time and juggles internships and increasing campus leadership roles.

Bogovic, who helped lead USF's American Marketing Association to silver chapter status, is a well of energy. As a freshman, she helped plan the chapter's case event with Chevrolet. She later co-directed an AMA campaign to increase awareness of the importance of organ donation amongst college students. Bogovic learned how to lead a project, start to finish, and was later AMAs lead on a partnership to create an awareness campaign for USF Botanical Gardens. Bogovic is now president of AMA, which was named a Top 15 chapter in 2015, besting more than 353 chapters nationally.

While her participation in student organizations may have taught her how to lead and work on a team, Bogovic says her experiences - at Cox Media Group, Windows Campus Tour, Pearson Education, and Tech Data - helped her connect her classroom learning with real-world situations. Specifically, an internship at Tech Data helped her understand the importance of market research - and about failure and regrouping. When an initial approach to a research query did not yield results, Bogovic and other interns met with a supervisor and suggested other ways to approach the project - and ended up helping the Fortune 500 company better understand its market and market share in the cellular phone industry.

Harmelle Davis, Accounting and International Business

Harmelle Davis did not always want to become an accountant. However, when the Bahamian student took business classes in high school and excelled, her teacher encouraged her to enter a competition. As a result, Deloitte named her “Accounting Student of the Year” her senior year.

At USF, the 19-year-old double major has a 4.0 GPA, and she has already been a collegiate intern with Deloitte, serving as junior analyst for an audit of the Social Services Department in Nassau, Bahamas. She says working with the audit team taught her the importance of systems and processes. Davis plans to intern with the Big Four firm again this coming summer and eventually hopes to work in its financial analysis area.

Given her grades, it is no surprise that Davis is the president of Phi Eta Sigma honor society. She is also the founder, president, and fundraising chair of the Global Business Brigades, a student-led health and sustainable development organization. Davis was involved with the medical aspects of the agency her first year at USF and travelled with the group to Honduras last year, serving as part of a team that provided medical care for 500 people. When she realized a student chapter didn't exist in Tampa, she helped found one -- and, this summer, seven USF members will travel to Panama this summer to help with financial literacy, planning, and strategic consulting services. Beyond USF, Davis volunteers for a program that pairs kindergarten students with adult tutors for twice weekly sessions.
Bethany Dawson, Accounting

Bethany Dawson works hard to empower others. The Muma Scholar mentors first year students and encourages them to attend professional development events hosted by the highly selective Bulls Business Community. She says the BBC gave her opportunities such as a corporate tour at Deloitte, where she spoke with recruiters who gave her valuable career advice. Additionally, as a member of the Business Honors Program, Dawson was part of a committee to create a Casino Night charity event that raised more than $500 for the Wounded Warrior Foundation.

Dawson has always been passionate about community service. After her father conquered cancer, she participated in Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society several times. Through her sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha, she volunteered at the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure 5K, handing out medals and pink ribbons to survivors who crossed the finish line. Dawson contributed to her sorority’s annual “Stepping for a Cure” philanthropy event that helped raise more than $20,000 for breast cancer education and awareness.

Beyond volunteer work, Dawson works as a student assistant for the International Financial Management Association. She maintains the organization’s social media accounts, along with member databases including college chapters. Recently, she assisted in preparation for the FMA Financial Leaders’ conference with member databases including college chapters. Recently, she assisted in preparation for the FMA Financial Leaders’ conference.

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At USF, Ellis joined the National Association of Black Accountants, the International Students Association, the Student Advisory Board for the Lynn Pippenger School of Accountancy, and the accounting honor society Beta Alpha Psi. Ellis says Beta Alpha Psi enhanced his leadership skills. The chapter chose him as a team leader for Relay for Life that helped raise nearly $1,000 for breast cancer. Last year he served as chapter reporter and was in charge of five committee chairs and their respective committees.

Outside of USF, Ellis volunteers as a supervisor for his church. He orchestrates two or three annual events for 500-700 guests. Recently, he hosted an event in Daytona Beach, FL at the Hilton Oceanfront Beach Resort that offered free workshops about mission trips, and college admissions and finances.

His accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. Ellis received the Exceptional Scholars Award from the Business Honors Program. He accepted a position as an audit intern for Deloitte and Touche. He plans to graduate this summer and begin studying for his CPA exam.

Marcus Ellis, Accounting

Marcus Ellis defines resilience and does not let his obstacles hinder him. When he enrolled in community college after high school, his family could not afford to pay for his classes. He worked as a part-time cashier at Wal-Mart, and was offered a full-time management position, yet he declined the offer. His mother, an elementary school teacher, instilled the importance of education in him, so he transferred to USF and majored in accounting to prepare himself for a corporate job in an industry he enjoyed.

At USF, Ellis joined the National Association of Black Accountants, the International Students Association, the Student Advisory Board for the Lynn Pippenger School of Accountancy, and the accounting honor society Beta Alpha Psi. Ellis says Beta Alpha Psi enhanced his leadership skills. The chapter chose him as a team leader for Relay for Life that helped raise nearly $1,000 for breast cancer. Last year he served as chapter reporter and was in charge of five committee chairs and their respective committees.

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Ryan Gandolfo, Economics

While studying abroad in Qingdao, China, Ryan Gandolfo immersed himself not only in Chinese language but also in the emerging nation’s ancient culture and traditions. Because he had previously lived in Shanghai for two years, his classmates from USF frequently looked to him for help when having trouble during the program. Those experiences shaped his career goals: he dreams of becoming an influential representative who works to forge strong relationships between the United States and China.

Later, Gandolfo was chosen to participate in the U.S. Japan Council’s Building the TOMODACHI Generation project, which connects U.S. and Japanese students. This allowed him to collaborate on projects that benefit the Tohoku region, which was devastated by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, and present the group’s ideas in front of a panel of judges.

Stateside, Gandolfo served as a research intern for Hillsborough County Commissioner Mark Sharpe for a semester in 2013. That opportunity led to a research assistantship at The Potomac Advocates in Washington, D.C., where he researched Department of Defense budget justifications and prepared Federal Aviation Administration and National Space Security reports for the firm’s clientele. Gandolfo also took classes at The Washington Center.

Gandolfo is a member of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity and Omicron Delta Epsilon International Economics Honor Society. He serves as a Student Advisory Board member for USF’s Suicide Prevention Campus Project and volunteers for Habitat for Humanity. He participated in builds in the Philippines, Nepal, and in America.

Gabriela Garcia, International Business

An active member of the invitation only Bulls Business Community and the Business Honors Program, Gabriela Garcia says she did not come to USF to simply get a degree, she came to transform herself into a professional who leaves her mark on the university -- and make life better for herself and others in the process.

Garcia credits the BBC’s frequent networking opportunities and improv sessions for her understanding on how to work in a team and what it means to be a professional. A summer abroad experience with the Business Honors Program helped her better understand cultural differences and the importance of cultural literacy in international businesses. But the most important lesson she has learned, she says, is to say “yes” more often. Doing so has led her to leadership positions she never expected to hold. For the USF Residence Hall Association, she was a senator, director of programming, and then president, a position she currently holds. Garcia became a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority and now serves as a member of its leadership team. These leadership roles have allowed her to meet the goal she set before she got here: to leave her mark on USF.

Garcia said such engagement is as important to her as her coursework but one can’t overlook her academic success. She has a 3.91 GPA and her name has appeared on the dean’s list every semester that she has been at USF. In 2014, Garcia received the Exceptional Scholars Award from the Business Honors Program.
Anika Hasan
Finance and Economics

Coming from a society where the expectation of women is to get married and have a family, Anika Hasan aspired to make a name for herself outside of “Mr. Hasan’s daughter.” At USF, as a senator, an honors student, a committee vice chairwoman, a mentor, and a teaching assistant, she has achieved that goal and many more.

Hasan, a native of Bangladesh, has pursued opportunities at the Muma College of Business that have helped her develop professionally, academically, and personally. She is a teaching assistant for a required business and economic statistics course, where she helps grade papers, deliver lectures, and proctor exams. As a USF Student Government Senator, Hasan is also vice chair of the senate committee for appropriations and audit and a primary voting member of another committee. Both are responsible for budgeting $14.6 million of student funds. She attended USF Day at the Capitol in 2014, when students went to Tallahassee to lobby for more.

Hasan has served the USF community outside of student government by volunteering with philanthropies such as the Urban Scholars Outreach Program, Dance Marathon (Bulls for Kids), and Stampede of Service. She is also chair of the Muma College of Business Student Dean’s Advisory Council.

This summer she will intern for Raymond James Financial in its operational risk and privacy department. Hasan, who is fluent in four languages, hopes to eventually pursue a career on Wall Street.

Santiago Iguaran
Finance

The reasons Colombian native Santiago Iguaran, who will soon be the first person in his family to earn a college degree, came to the United States to study are straightforward. He wanted opportunities that weren’t available to him in South America and dreamed of providing his parents with a better lifestyle.

When he arrived in America six years ago, Iguaran, then 18 years old, spent hours in the library, teaching himself English, reading textbooks, listening to audiobooks. After two years, he passed the English proficiency test and began working toward an associate’s degree at St. Petersburg College. Even though he had passed the proficiency exam, language barriers proved troublesome. But he remained focused on his goals and earned an associate’s degree magna cum laude.

His success at SPC led to a full scholarship at USF, where he has thrived. He has been on the dean’s list each of the three semesters at USF. He received a study abroad scholarship in 2013, which allowed him to travel to Costa Rica. He learned about business practices in a similar - but different - culture, something he never dreamed of doing.

In 2011, his home country experienced one of the biggest disasters in its history due to an especially heavy rainy season. Thousands of families lost everything. Troubled by this news, Iguaran hosted fundraising events and canned food and clothing drives. Working with the government, he shipped supplies that helped nearly 100 Colombian families. He says the response from those receiving the basic supplies was one of the most moving moments of his life.

John Lindsey
Accounting

Provost Scholars Program participant John Lindsey likes to challenge himself. Lindsey not only committed to graduate in three years, but plans to do so with honors and as an active and engaged student who does more than just study.

The USF Honors College student and Bulls Business Community resident is part of the Business Honors Program and studied abroad with the honors program in Florence, Italy. Additionally, he is involved in Beta Alpha Psi and four honor societies.

Lindsey, who has a 3.93 USF GPA, will graduate in December with two internships under his belt. He recently finished an internship with Ernst & Young, working in the Big Four accounting firm’s assurance unit, where he helped with audit procedures, prepared client communications, and tested controls. Last summer, Lindsey served as an intern for Kawasaki Laboratories America, a medical device provider. There, he helped the firm’s controller with accounts receivable, prepared expense statements, and handled cash receipts.

As president of the Serve for Children Committee in the Business Honors Service Association, Lindsey organized a volleyball tournament that supported St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. He says that he hopes to be remembered as one who focused on his goals and proactively pursued them — but never lost perspective about the important things in life.

Michael Malanga, Accounting

Michael Malanga’s friends sometimes refer to him as an international student because of his unique perspective and distinct accent. Far from overseas, the New Jersey native has excelled as a leader during his three years at USF. He now prepares to transition to his newly elected position as the second most powerful leader on USF’s campus. As student body vice president, Malanga will establish and oversee a $14.5 million budget, hire student government staff and promote the university statewide.

Malanga’s leadership experience at USF began early. He became a Green and Gold Guide his freshman year and credits the experience for his outstanding public speaking skills. Through the Bulls Business Community, the Business Honors Program and its service association, Malanga worked on community service projects with thirty students who raised thousands of dollars for charities such as Make-A-Wish Foundation and St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

By the end of his sophomore year, Malanga represented the Muma College of Business as a senator. His peers in the senate elected him to sit on the budgeting committee and as the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Recently, Malanga was accepted into the USF Ambassadors program and is one of only 29 students to represent the university to its alumni base. Malanga looks forward to giving back to USF after graduation as a member of the Order of the Golden Brahman.
Joseph Marquis  
**Finance**

While he is proud that he will graduate from USF magna cum laude in just three years, Joseph Marquis wishes he had another year at USF because of the extracurricular opportunities. Marquis has lived in the Bulls Business Community, studied abroad twice, conducted several undergraduate research projects, participated in two internships, co-founded a student organization, led efforts to raise money for cancer research, and served as treasurer of two different student organizations.

The USF Honors College student interned for Kelly Ford’s finance team for a semester in 2012, verifying customer and vehicle data in the firm’s system. A year later, he spent a semester as an intern with Barndollar Financial Services, where he researched investments in asset classes and promoted financial planning seminars.

Marquis spent a summer traveling throughout China that sparked his interest in international business, and later he was one of 40 students who built homes in impoverished areas of Mexico. The following summer, he learned about art, fashion, food, and wine as part of a study abroad trip to Italy.

Stateside, Marquis served as treasurer for the 4th Annual Chinese Cultural Festival and for Habitat for Humanity. An Eagle Scout, Marquis volunteers for the American Red Cross and was the top fundraiser at USF for Relay for Life.

Kevin McKeon  
**Marketing**

Kevin McKeon admits that he initially measured his success as programming director for USF’s Center for Student Involvement, basing satisfaction on attendance levels for events he helped plan on a budget — everything from homecoming balls late-night programming series, where guest counts ranged from 100 to more than 2,700. He unexpectedly learned along the way that he should measure success by focusing on the opportunities to help connect students with their university in a meaningful way.

That lesson was strengthened by service as an orientation team leader for USF’s Orientation Office. As an OTL, McKeon has led countless campus tours, helped incoming students learn how to navigate USF’s registration systems, and spoken to large groups of new students about the opportunities available to those who want to serve. This service-centric philosophy — combined with his successes in event management and planning — led to an invitation for McKeon to present at the National Association of Campus Activities national conference in 2015, where he discussed how targeted entertainment has been a key element at USF events aimed to engage students and bolster school pride. McKeon also enjoyed the opportunity to study abroad in 10 countries as part of University of Virginia’s Semester at Sea Program, gaining hands-on experience with business courses and international corporate tours.

Shayda Milani  
**Finance**

It can be overwhelming to balance work, school, and family obligations along with social and community service work. Shayda Milani exemplifies what it means to balance these activities proficiently. After two years at USF, Milani applied and was accepted to the University of Southern California’s accounting school and received its highest merit based scholarship. She decided to stay at USF to seek out more opportunities the university has to offer.

Milani feels passionate about culture and had manifold global experiences. She studied abroad at the Florence University of the Arts and traveled to more than 25 cities in Europe. Last summer Milani studied Farsi, the native language of Iran, in the George Washington University’s language immersion program.

As a finance and Honors College student, Milani has maintained a 4.0 business GPA, as well as being on the Dean’s List every semester. She was also a student government senator her freshman year. She plans to attend law school after graduating next year and hopes to practice corporate law. As a sophomore, Milani interned at Sponsler, Bennett, Jacobs, and Adams, PA, a law firm in Tampa that specializes in corporate law and workers compensation. She analyzed financial statements and calculated returns for clients the firm represented, as well as attending several depositions, mediations, and hearings with company attorneys.

In addition to professional experience, she tutors at-risk students for the non-profit organization Starting Right, Now. Milani currently interned for Crossman and Company, one of the largest commercial real estate companies in the Southeast.

Joseph Nestor, General Business

Joseph Nestor knows what it means to face adversity. Despite a healthy past, he experienced a lung collapse three times in two months and had half a lung removed in what he sees as a “defining moment.” The lessons he learned from this moment helped him during stressful times as a student and reminded him of the importance of facing adversity head on, cherishing the support of others, remaining calm during times of duress, and building a diverse support network.

Nestor built that network in the Bulls Business Community, the Business Honors Program, and the Honors College. During his junior and senior years, he was a resident assistant, a job that led to service as vice president of the National Residence Hall Honorary Society. Additionally, he took part in on-campus service events through the Bulls Business Community, which led to his participation on a Bulls Service Break trip to aid homeless people in Washington, D.C.

In 2012, Nestor studied transitional economies in Slovakia and Austria. This inspired him to write his thesis on the behaviors of European bankers in Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece, and Spain during the 2008 financial crisis, which helped him understand the Irish economy’s crash, something significant to him as he holds dual citizenship in America and Ireland.

Nestor did all of this while working part-time as a fiscal assistant for USF during his sophomore and junior year. He handled accounts payable tasks, an experience that helped him land a spot in the highly selective JPMorgan Chase Summer Operations Analyst Development Program. In JPMCs Tampa office, Nestor responded to client inquiries as the bank transitioned to a new reporting system and updated compliance policies and procedures documents.
As a student leader helping international students acclimate to USF, Duy Nguyen understands how tough the transition process can be for students coming from other countries, as this is an experience he is very familiar with.

When he started his American journey three years ago, Nguyen says the experience was filled with awe. As a student leader with INTO, the pathway into USF for international students, he recalls that one of his favorite moments was planning a field day for the international students, getting to see remarkable teamwork as citizens from more than seven nationalities worked together to win a race. In over two years as a student leader, Nguyen has mentored more than 50 international students.

Despite Nguyen’s personal struggles with public speaking anxiety, his high expectations of himself led him to seek out leadership positions in the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals Student Roundtable. Originally, his comfort with numbers had inspired him to consider the treasurer position, but he realized that position wouldn’t provide the personal growth he wanted. Nguyen was elected sponsorship chair, and has secured two platinum sponsorships in that role from Johnson & Johnson and Marten Transport.

Nguyen hopes his experiences thus far are just the beginning of his transformative college journey. Coming from a small, coconut-worshipping town in Vietnam, he became an active leader in a large university community who positively impacts the lives of others.

Ashley Pierson is only a sophomore, but she has already achieved higher levels of involvement than many students do in four years.

As part of her Business Honors Program service project her freshman year, she decided to volunteer with Junior Achievement, a Tampa nonprofit that helps low-income children reach their potential and teaches them economic principles and planning skills. She enjoyed working with the organization so much that she continued even after completing her service requirement. This fall, she recruited more than 70 students from USF to volunteer for Junior Achievement. Pierson says Junior Achievement opened her eyes to the fact that many children don’t see going to college -- or even graduating from high school -- as a reality. She says she has seen how three hours of time from a college student can change a child’s life. In addition, Pierson recently served as a site leader for a Bulls Service Break to New Orleans.

Pierson also represents USF as a member of the Green and Gold Guides, giving multiple tours a week to prospective students. She is the main tour guide for high-ability student tours and all College of Business tours. She holds the social chair position in the organization, planning events so guides can get to know each other outside of their tour requirements. Pierson is more than a social butterfly, though; the accounting major and MIS minor has also earned a 4.0 GPA, finding substantial success academically.

One of the most important aspects of college life is what students do beyond the classroom, particularly as it relates to self discovery. That is especially true for economics major Carl “Trey” Steinhoff. At USF, he began to discover new disciplines. He connected with people who thought differently. He enjoyed challenging discourses that caused him to rethink his position on hot topics. He joined Free Thinkers at USF, a society that promotes reason and understanding through dialogue. Soon, he found himself exploring the arts and learning to paint. He joined a student organization that aims to educate people about renewable energy sources. He began to play intramural athletics.

It might sound as if Steinhoff was “trying to find himself” -- and perhaps he was. It all came together when he took a creativity and innovation course. He realized he could blend the foundational knowledge that start-ups need with the arts and a freethinkers mindset. He connected with faculty who explained what it takes to turn creative ideas into scalable ventures.

Steinhoff, a graphics intern for Tampa Bay Wave, a business incubator, participated in case competitions in the business school (his team took second in 2014 won in 2015). He also took part in the Start-Up Weekend competition, where contestants have three days to build and pitch a company to venture capitalists, coming in second.

Because of these experiences, Steinhoff founded USF’s Entrepreneurship Club to connect students with area entrepreneurs. These experiences also led to a job offer prior to graduation. He plans to work in Citi’s Anti-Money Laundering Unit.
A teenager working at his family’s handbag and diamond stores in Hong Kong might seem like a plotline from an exotic movie, but it was Bharat Tejwani’s life growing up. The junior finance major, who was born and raised in Hong Kong, was provided with a strong foundation in sales and operations. That foundation has served him well in his business education. After high school, he worked at an import-export firm with operations in the Middle East and Southeast Asia, but realized he was capable of achieving more. Hence, Tejwani decided to study at Pasco-Hernando State College and transferred to USF after earning his associate’s degree.

Despite having extensive business and world travel experience before coming to USF, Tejwani knew USF could help him grow professionally and personally. Tejwani has maintained a 4.0 GPA while being highly involved in USF. He began to volunteer at Metropolitan Ministries by helping cook food and serving homeless men, women and families, and lately, he has participated in various charity walks. He has also joined the Corporate Mentor Program and the Student Finance Association at USF. In addition, he is also a part of Delta Sigma Pi, a professional business fraternity, where he is currently the vice president of scholarships and awards.

Throughout her life, Amber West has filled her time with organizations such as 4-H and the Tampa Bay Children’s Chorus. Looking back, she can see she wasn’t only learning about dog shows or proper singing techniques — she was developing skills in leadership and communication that continue to serve her well.

As a freshman, Whaley was accepted into the Bulls Business Community and the Business Honors Program. She says the BBC professional development programs helped her think on her feet, be more outgoing, and think analytically. This year, she returned to the BBC as a lead mentor to help motivate this year’s freshman to get involved. She has remained committed to service, co-founding the Random Acts of Kindness student service group in the Business Honors Service Association, part of the Business Honors Program, and helping to lead the soup kitchen volunteer group within the organization.

Dakota Whaley is naturally inclined to get involved and give back. When she came to USF, Whaley jumped into professional development organizations that helped her develop leadership skills.

As a freshman, Whaley was accepted into the Bulls Business Community and the Business Honors Program. She says the BBC professional development programs helped her think on her feet, be more outgoing, and think analytically. This year, she returned to the BBC as a lead mentor to help motivate this year’s freshman to get involved. She has remained committed to service, co-founding the Random Acts of Kindness student service group in the Business Honors Service Association, part of the Business Honors Program, and helping to lead the soup kitchen volunteer group within the organization.

Whaley is also dedicated to her chosen major and profession of accounting. She is the vice president of Beta Alpha Psi, she has expanded her professional network and holds a leadership position as the chair for the 2021 banquet, which honors students who have earned an A or B in principles of financial accounting. To complete her honors thesis, she chose a nontraditional research project, which will result in the inaugural Women in Accounting Symposium at the Lynn Pippenger School of Accountancy.

Nicole Dibattista
Campus Recruiting Manager
Raymond James

Samantha Pauley
Account Manager
CDW Merchants

Phil Hauser
Vice President
T. Rowe Price Services

Colleen Chappell
President and CEO
ChappellRoberts

Susie Rice
President
RMC Property Group

William Halaby
Law Student
University of Chicago Law School

Mindy Silverman
Vice President/Recruiting Manager
T. Rowe Price

Chip Newton
Private Investor

Ross O’Bryan
Law Student
Boston College Law School

2014 - 2015 JUDGES
We’re proud to support the University of South Florida Muma College of Business 25 Under 25 recognition program. To this year’s honorees, we applaud your commitment to scholarship, leadership, professional development, and community service. T. Rowe Price believes in upholding a set of values that guides everything we do and every decision we make. Discover more of what we have in common.

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Joseph Adam has been an intern for Deloitte since January. He plans to work in Israel before taking summer classes and will graduate in December.

Sophia Benjelloun Since she was included in the 25 Under 25 roster, Sophia Benjelloun has been busy! She has interned at Nielsen, serving as an IT project manager; studied software engineering at Infosys in India; and enrolled in the MS in MIS program. She is also serving as a graduate assistant and a teaching assistant at USF.

Sarah Bolick is spending the spring semester in Oxford, England, as an exchange student at Oxford Brookes University. While in Oxford, she is studying a minor in Economics and conducting research to contribute toward her Honors Thesis on the topic of Food Insecurity. Before heading overseas, she interned at Cherry Bekaert in Tampa. She plans to return to USF in the summer and will continue to work toward an accounting degree.

Cassandra Coolidge moved to Atlanta, Georgia in 2014 to attend Emory University School of Law on a merit scholarship. She hopes to practice corporate law in Atlanta and eventually represent a company as in-house counsel.

Bianca Echtler will intern this summer with JPMorgan Chase in New York City for the Corporate Analyst Development Program. This two-year rotation program introduces interns to the company’s project management, business management, process improvement and strategy and analytics units.

Giampiero Fuentes will finish his studies in May. He plans to spend some time travelling the world immediately following graduation.

Francis Gelormini will intern this summer with Verizon for a second rotation. After he graduates this December, he will earn his MAcc in fall 2016.

Marcos Gonzales recently won the Gilman National Scholarship to study abroad in Argentina this summer. He serves as a USF Ambassador and represents the Muma College of Business as a Student Government Senator. He will graduate in December.

Kayla Jacobson graduated in 2014 and was hired as the community liaison for a non-profit called Vincent House in the Pinellas Park, Florida area. The mission of this organization is to help individuals with mental illness gain the confidence and the skills they need to find a job and feel comfortable within their own community.

Oumie Jallow graduated from USF in 2014 and is now an intern with Deloitte in the Big Four firm’s Miami office. She plans to return to USF in the fall to pursue a MAcc degree.

José Jarquin is the Americas Product Manager for the Cisco Solutions Group at Tech Data, a Fortune 200 IT products distributor.

Katelyn Leal interns for Raymond James in the Accounting Systems & Projects department. She is involved in USF’s Relay for Life and participates in the Corporate Mentor Program and volunteers at Academy Prep.

Michael Maurer is studying abroad in England and advancing his photography career. This summer, he will write his thesis on the impact that studying abroad has on national identity.

Jodi McFarlane graduated summa cum laude in 2014 and landed a job at ConnectWise, a premier business management platform for technology companies worldwide. She recently transitioned into the role of media production coordinator where she works with the media buyer on advertisement placements and performance.

Harrison Milanian graduated in 2014 and now manages a few businesses in Wesley Chapel. He recently volunteered in India for two weeks and built shelters, and helped a village in Bilaspur install basic lighting.

Thang Nguyen interned last summer at Freedman’s Office Furniture & Supplies and became its acting marketing manager. He also works on content marketing for Kaizen Platform. He will graduate in May.

Shivam Patel graduated in 2014. A former intern with Goldman Sachs, Patel considered joining the Wall Street firm but, instead, opted to participate in Raymond James’ OPTIONS rotational program. He is in the third of three four-month rotations at the financial services firm’s headquarters in St. Petersburg, Fla.
Natalie Pearson will graduate in May. She has been selected to serve as a collegiate leadership consultant for Gamma Phi Beta International Sorority. She will spend the next year working with collegiate chapters nationwide.

Brian Rohl is pursuing a MACc degree at USF. He plans to sit for the CPA exam shortly after graduation next year.

Matthew Smalbach will receive a Masters in Applied Financial Economics from Northeastern University in Boston. He worked at the Boston Federal Reserve Inflation Risk Analysis Department after his graduation in 2014. He will take the CFA Level 1 test in June.

Shelby Thomas studied abroad for a semester in Hirakata, Japan to cultivate her Japanese. She works alongside the college’s National and Competitive Intelligence program. She will represent USF at the United States Naval Academy in Maryland. She was accepted into the Critical Language Program in Japan for eight weeks for language study.

2012-2013 Honorees

Mary Babcock was presented with USF’s Golden Bull in 2012 and was named to USF’s Homecoming Court in 2014. She is involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters and is completing a second with Deloitte. She will graduate next semester.

Evan Burroughs works in defense financial management at the United States Special Operations Command. Soon he will transition to a role at Central Command with Northrop Grumman. He also passed the CFA level 1 exam and will take the level 2 exam this June.

Isabel Carta graduated with three international internships under her belt. She works in the retail and investment services unit at T. Rowe Price in Tampa, Fla. She plans to relocate to the firm’s Baltimore, Md. office this fall to work in the company’s finance and operations unit.

Yogesh Chatulani is a software engineer at Tata Consultancy Services in Dallas, Texas. He is a mobile/tablet development lead for a Citibank project and he helps with client and offshore coordination with Tata’s development team in India. He is also working on the iWatch app.

Kayla Chesanek will graduate with an MBA/MS in Sport and Entertainment Management from USF in May. She works full-time as the special assistant to the EVP/Chief Revenue Officer of the Orlando Magic, handling special projects and analyzing data/trends for several departments within the organization.

Kristina Crane was hired by Citibank in 2014 as an analyst and is a subject matter expert (SME) for the newly hired analysts. She visited Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for six weeks to help train and mentor analysts in the firm’s Asia headquarters.

Diana Devitt works in customer service at Publix.

Oscar Garcia II is a member of Macy’s executive development program. He intends to pursue an MBA and, in the following year, hopes to launch a consulting company.

Chris Gryniewicz interned at Crosstree Capital Partners, Inc. and is working full-time as a research associate at Manning & Napier, an investment firm.

John Tuy graduated in 2014 and received USF’s Outstanding Graduate award during the May commencement exercises. He serves as tax intern at PricewaterhouseCoopers. He will attend graduate school at USF and plans to take the CPA exam in 2016.

Vanessa Williams works for Raymond James Financial as a marketing research analyst. She specializes in competitive intelligence to support recruiting.

Jeannie Yawn completed an internship with MMGY Global, a travel and tourism agency in Orlando. She recently accepted an account coordinator position with Merkley & Partners, an advertising agency in New York City.

Ashley Young studied abroad for a semester in South Korea as an exchange student. She will graduate in May.

Fadwa Hillili is an intern with the Walt Disney Corporation in the Corporate Tax IT department. She will receive a Masters in Accountancy in May and plans to take the CPA examinations in July. In the fall, she will work for PricewaterhouseCoopers in its assurance program.

Arian Howard works in operations for Morgan Stanley in New York City. He is also a volunteer for “New York Cares” and is an active member of the USF Alumni Association in New York. He intends to begin graduate school in a few years.

Huzzatun Iqra was named USF Homecoming Queen in October and will graduate in May. After that, will serve as an intern with Deloitte. She plans to pursue a Master’s of Accountancy and CPA licensure.

Jennifer Keller earned a master’s degree in accounting with a tax concentration in 2014. After completing three internships with Crowe Horwath, she is now a full-time staff accountant there.

Ahad Khan graduated from USF as a King O’Neal Scholar (4.0 GPA) and recently finished his first semester of graduate school at Wake Forest University. He is an intern with Deloitte’s Mergers and Acquisitions Transactions Services Group in New York City but will return to North Carolina in the fall to finish his graduate program. He expects to graduate in December and plans to work for Deloitte while he prepares for the CPA exam.

Brittni Lowery attends graduate school at the University of Rhode Island, where she is pursuing a master’s degree in human development and family studies (with a focus in college student personnel). She is a graduate assistant for URI Housing & Residential Life. She is also an intern at Bryant University, working in the Office of Fraternity & Sorority life.

Chad Masters has signed with Next Model Management and is pursuing an international modeling career that has him travelling between Los Angeles, Miami and New York. He has modeled in Europe as well. Brands he has worked with include Macy’s, Izod, Perry Ellis, PGA Tour, Vineyard Vines, TYR Athletic wear, Zingara Swimwear.

Alejandro Mendez will receive a Masters in Public Health at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. He works as a research assistant for the Comprehensive Drug Research Center with the University of Miami where he coauthored four abstracts and
Krystyn Ramdial for Axis Group, LLC, serving as an account manager. He was one of the inaugural students in the Business Honors Program. He plans to pursue an MBA within the next five years. Petar Bambasek landed a business development and marketing strategy position last April at Scanalytics Inc., emerging technology startup based out of Milwaukee. Scanalytics went through a Microsoft Ventures Accelerator in Seattle in the fall, has been named one of the 5 IoT Startups to Watch by TechRepublic and won an Internet of Things Award in Retail. In the past year, Petar also served on the communications committee of the Milwaukee Interactive Marketing Association.

Megan Blizard is a traffic coordinator at FKQ Advertising + Marketing. She is also a RYT-200 Certified (Registered Yoga Teacher) and teaches yoga classes a week at Heat Yoga & Fitness in Clearwater, Fl.

Matthew Casey is participating in a rotational program at Grow Financial. He is currently working in the Assistant General Counsel’s office but will soon move to the company’s Analytics Department, where he will test financial models for new business development. A former member of the Student Managed Investment Fund, Casey is on the board for the financial services educational program at USF and serves as a mentor for students in the ASA classes. He will soon sit Level II CFA examination.

Anson Angail works in the products and strategy department of GTE Financial. He is on the board of directors of East Pasco YMCA, a member of Emerge Tampa Bay and a member of the Greater Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce.

William Bakos works for Goldman Sachs in New York City.

Jessica (Barber) Spellins is married Ryan Spellings, also a former 25 Under 25 honoree. She worked for T. Rowe Price in Maryland before recently moving to Santa Barbara, California, where the two just purchased their first home.

Lindsay Berstling studied for a year in Rennes, France, at Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Rennes before graduating from USF with a dual degree. She now lives in Muscatine, Iowa, where she works for HON as a solutions account associate.

Megan Blizard is a traffic coordinator at FKQ Advertising + Marketing. She is also a RYT-200 Certified (Registered Yoga Teacher) and teaches yoga classes a week at Heat Yoga & Fitness in Clearwater, Fl.

Matthew Casey is participating in a rotational program at Grow Financial. He is currently working in the Assistant General Counsel's office but will soon move to the company's Analytics Department, where he will test financial models for new business development. A former member of the Student Managed Investment Fund, Casey is on the board for the financial services educational program at USF and serves as a mentor for students in the ASA classes. He will soon sit Level II CFA examination.

Tyler Rehm is a senior development manager at Health Axis. He is also involved in several independent projects ranging from online certification training, charter school lottery implementation and management and mobile app development.

Jessica (Richardson) Glover is a student at USF's medical school, where she is heavily involved in leadership positions, serving as the co-chair of community service and the director of collegia in the Student Council, vice president of the Women in Surgery interest group, and vice president of an interdisciplinary oncology group.

Cassandra Sanchez is a private equity fund accountant at LeverPoint Management LLC in Clifton Park, New York.

Melissa Stewart lives in North Carolina and works as a commercial credit analyst at BB&T. She plans to earn an MBA.

Shalicia Torbert will earn dual degrees in business administration and national security. She works for the United States Department of Defense as an intelligence analyst.
Julio Novo studied transitional economics abroad in Bratislava, Slovakia, backpacked through ten European countries and participated in the “Running of the Bulls” in Pamplona, Spain before graduating summa cum laude with a degree in finance. He now lives in Baltimore, working as an associate analyst for T. Rowe Price, where he conducts fundamental equity research.

Alexis Nowell finished her softball career at USF as part of the first team in program history to go to the women’s college World Series. She works for T. Rowe Price in Tampa and was recently promoted to the personal services department.

Alvaro Ruiz graduated magna cum laude in 2013. In 2014, he was selected for a U.S. Army assignment working along the Texas-Mexico border and participated in a U.S. Army language immersion program in Puerto Rico. Today, he is on the investment finance team at Citi Private Bank in Miami, Fla.

Steven Schertzer is a regional mortgage loan originator with GTE Financial, where he has worked since his graduation in 2012. He handles support and training in seven community financial centers, as well as the sales volume for his region.

Grant Sittig graduated as a King O’Neal Scholar (4.0 GPA) in 2013. He attends the University of Florida Levin College of Law. This summer, he will work as a summer associate at GrayRobinson, PA in Tampa.

Aaj Solanki is a Master of Accountancy student at USF and a financial accounting teaching assistant. He is studying for the CPA exam and will begin working with Deloitte full-time in 2015.

Silvia Soto Avella is a junior programmer at Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation in Tampa. She has worked there since 2012.

Frank Territo is a business analyst at The Bank of Tampa. He works with the executive vice president and chief financial officer of the holding company on asset/liability management. He is also on the board of directors for the Tampa chapter of the Risk Management Association.

Michael Tomaino is an investment banking analyst at Deutsche Bank Securities in New York City.
Sean McCaskill is a senior private equity and hedge fund accountant at Marcum, an accounting and advisory service firm. He lives in New York City.

Sean Motta is an engineer with Duke Energy at the Bartow combined cycle power plant in St. Petersburgh, Fla. He graduated from the firm’s rotational training program for plant engineers and is now an engineer with the combustion turbine programs team in the turbine and generator services division. He is responsible for several fleet-wide initiatives.

Ross O’Bryan is a student at Boston College Law School. He aims to work in corporate/business law, specifically working on mergers and acquisitions and in venture capital/private equity. He hopes to work at one of the top three BigLaw firms in Boston after graduation.

Wilnelly Ortiz is a marketing coordinator at Roc Nation in New York City.

Sahir Quraeshi is in his second year of medical school. Additionally, he created and runs a Polo news website, worldpolonews.com and built a full polo training facility at his farm in Miami, Fla. He will play in a polo tournament in Zambia this summer.

Sarah Reynolds works in the Corporate & Real Estate Banking Group at Raymond James Bank in St. Petersburgh, where she analyzes the underwriting process of new and existing credits. She is also pursuing an MBA at USF.

Paul Robertson was admitted into the JD MBA dual degree program for finance, corporate law, and alternative dispute resolution at Michigan State University. He studied international business law in Japan and previously worked with the Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi.

Ryan Spellins is an analyst at Lockheed Martin, where he handles projects for several of the largest programs awarded in the defense industry. He is pursuing an MBA at Arizona State University. He and former 25 Under 25 honoree Jessica Barber Spellins married and recently purchased a home in Santa Barbara, California.

Volkan Turan is a process improvement consultant in the performance consulting sector of JPMorgan Chase. He also hosts Tampa Car Meets.

2009-2010 Honorees

William Brewer works for Bristol Myers Squibb as a senior audit analyst in the company’s Global Audit Services Department.

Jennifer Brody is a full-time mother. She plans to return to the corporate world in the near future.

Justin Fries has been with Citi since his graduation and was recently promoted. He is now an application developer/intermediate programmer analyst. He is married and has two children.

Richard Grieder is the manager of management reporting for Sealed Air Corporation in Charlotte, NC, where he prepares internal financials that help drive investment decisions on a non-GAAP basis. Now a CPA, Rich earned a Master of Accountancy degree from Notre Dame.

Brittany Grossfield is an executive team leader at Target in Augusta, Ga.

James Hansen works for Ernst & Young in its assurance services practice in Orlando, Fla. He handles financial statement audits and works on one of the company’s Global 360 accounts in Lake Mary, Fla. A CPA who was recently promoted to senior associate, he trains and supervises staff and interns and presents audit findings to E&Y’s engagement team executives.

Joshua Horn finished his undergraduate career as a King O’Neal scholar (4.0 GPA) and went on to earn a MAcc from USF. He is a senior financial analyst at Intertape Polymer Group and is a project manager for Mergers & Acquisitions and Financial Planning & Analysis projects.

Torrell Jackson lives in Atlanta, Ga. Shortly after graduation, he enrolled in Bank of America’s Management Leadership Development Program and is now the Financial Center Manager for a branch in downtown Atlanta. He will soon move to Pittsburgh, Pa., as he was recently awarded a fellowship at Carnegie Mellon’s Tepper School of Business. There, he hopes to earn an MBA as well as a master’s degree in healthcare policy. He and his wife dream of launching a chiropractic practice management company to aid minority students who want to build their own practice.

Ryan Kania is the executive director for Advocates for World Health, a non-profit organization that distributes medical equipment to impoverished communities worldwide. The agency is pursuing national expansion and recently won the Kairos 50 Fellowship.

Ryan Kearns is a senior sales manager at Premium Business Solutions in Tampa, a private investment firm that invests in small businesses to help fund their future projects, equipment purchases, and expansions.

Matthew Kelsey works for Homes by WestBay. He manages three communities for the company and is selling homes in the Riverview, Fla. area.

Jamie Kenney is a process owner at Nielsen. He is also launching his own website, Tampa Bay Organizations, which will localize social networking in the Tampa region.

Michael Kotarinos recently earned a graduate degree in statistics from the University of Florida.

Angela Martin is an account manager for TEK systems, where she has worked for four years.

Anthony Morrison works at CNN in New York and was recently promoted to associate producer for its morning show, New Day. Anthony is also frequently found behind the lens as his photography company, Anthony Morrison Photography, is fast becoming a go-to for PR and fashion clients as he is a regular photographer for New York’s Fashion Week events. He is a destination weddings photographer and a photographer for Disney Creative Media, where he shoots Disney Fairytale Weddings and Executive Events throughout the year in Orlando, Fla. as well as large-scale corporate events at locations across America.

Ingrid Poole began her career as an auditor for PricewaterhouseCoopers and later worked in accounting for Warren Averett. But, she always had an interest in real estate and property management and recently changed careers. She is now a real estate associate at Chirino Real Estate in Tampa.
The University of South Florida is a global research university dedicated to student success. The USF Muma College of Business boasts one of America’s best accounting schools, a top-ranked Center for Entrepreneurship, world-class research faculty, and a comprehensive portfolio of business education programs. BusinessWeek ranks our part-time MBA program higher than any other public university in Florida and our information systems major is ranked in the top 25 in America.

We create intellectual capital and produce graduates who are not only ready for today’s workplace, but who are also trained to be forerunners in tomorrow’s workforce.

We value global education. Our students participated in study abroad programs in India, China, Japan, Bratislava, Italy, Peru, and a host of other nations last year. And global industry leaders came to Tampa to serve as guest lecturers or to participate in special education programs.

Our high standards attract top employers worldwide, such as Google, Microsoft, JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, Walt Disney World, Amazon, Nielsen, Booz & Co., T. Rowe Price, Raymond James, SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, HSN, and FedEx.
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