

# FROM THE DIRECTOR



The primary mission of the School of Aging Studies is excellence in applied aging research and education. Our emphasis is on research that is aimed at improving the lives of older adults and their family members. Areas of research include aging and health, cognitive aging and Alzheimer's disease, public policy and long-term care, and aging and health disparities.

Our gerontology education programs are among the oldest and largest in the United States. USF's M.A. in Gerontology program, which began in 1967, was one of the first graduate programs in Gerontology in the US, and it was recently joined by the M.S. in Applied Aging Sciences. Our Ph.D. in Aging Studies program, which began in 1994, has gained national prominence. Graduates of the Ph.D. program are now in top jobs in academia, government, and private industry. We have also shown tremendous growth in our undergraduate programs, including our Bachelor of Science in Aging Sciences and our Bachelor of Science in Long-term Care Administration. Moreover, we reach about 3,500 students who take a gerontology course every year, from nearly every major on the campus.

Our faculty produce high quality, high impact scholarship and publish routinely in top journals. Our extramural funding continues to grow. Our senior faculty are Fellows in the Gerontological Society of America, and several are Fellows in the American Psychological Association and the Association for Psychological Science. Our faculty serve on major editorial boards and review panels and are recipients of awards such as the American Society on Aging Gloria Cavanaugh Award for Excellence in Teaching, the University of South Florida Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, the American Psychological Association Division of Adult Development and Aging Master Mentor Award, the Margret Baltes Award for Outstanding Research, the Fulbright Distinguished Chair Award and Distinguished Program Development in Clinical Gerontology Award.

We have a number of unique assets that contribute to the success of the School of Aging Studies. We have received strong and consistent support from the USF administration, and the university and the Tampa Bay area provide us with a rich environment for aging research and education. We are fortunate to be able to partner with many outstanding programs and faculty throughout USF, as well as the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, The USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute, and the VA Medical Center. We also work closely with community agencies including the Alzheimer's Association, Area Agency on Aging, and local hospices and retirement communities. We have also been fortunate to receive support from generous donors who have helped us endow scholarships and awards for deserving students.

I hope that you will be motivated to learn more about our research and educational programs, to enroll in our courses, and to work with us in our goal of improving the lives of older adults and their family members.

I look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Andel". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Ross Andel, Ph.D.  
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