

FACULTY-IN-RESIDENCE SPOTLIGHT

The Academic Initiatives team in Housing & Residential Education is committed to helping students succeed by establishing relationships with faculty and staff in order to maximize the flow of academic resources at the University of South Florida.

Dr. Kevin Mackay has been an FIR within Housing & Residential Education for the past five years. Dr. Mackay earned his Ph.D. in Physics with Astrophysics and a Postgraduate Qualification in Higher Education teaching at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland in 2000. Dr. Mackay has experience both in industry as well as teaching Physics and Astronomy at multiple institutions. His interests include extra-solar planets, Astronomy education, and thin-film magnetic materials.

Role at USF: Instructor, Department of Physics, College of Arts and Sciences

Currently Teaching: AST 2002 - Descriptive Astronomy, AST 2004 - Stellar Astronomy & Cosmology, AST 3033 - Contemp. Thinking in Astronomy, AST 3044 - Archaeoastronomy, and IDH 3350 - Natural Sciences Honors

Resides in: Maple Hall

Signature Programs: Star Party/Planet Watch, Irish Soccer Breakfast, Moonlight Canoeing, Crawfish Boil



STUDIOUS BULL SPOTLIGHT



Name: Ish Holligan

Role: STEM LLC Resident Assistant, Cypress B

Years at USF: 2nd year Bull

Major/Area of Study: Chemistry with a concentration in Biochemistry and a minor in Africana Studies

How do you manage your time as a student with extracurricular activities?

I plan out my schedule or things to do for each day so that I'm able to effectively manage my balance between school, work, and my personal life.

What are your top three success tips during finals week?

1. Stay hydrated and eat healthy
2. Incorporate self-care into your study schedule to de-stress
3. Take breaks, but be sure to spend more time studying than taking breaks

If you could give one piece of advice to residents, what would it be?

Don't spend your entire college career trapped in textbooks. Stay on top of your work but also enjoy college because time flies.

Name: Diana Wisth

Role: Education LLC Resident Assistant, Beta Hall

Years at USF: 4th year Bull

Major/Area of Study: Secondary Math Education

How do you manage your time as a student with extracurricular activities?

My planner is my life. I write everything down to make sure I constantly stay organized. It might be the teacher in me that makes me so structured, but it keeps me on top of things so I never miss deadlines!



What are your top three success tips during finals week?

1. GO TO OFFICE HOURS
2. Don't procrastinate! You may think cramming for an exam is beneficial but it's not! You will feel calmer and better prepared studying for the exam two weeks out than the night before, trust me, I know from experience!
3. Have an outlet. Whether that be exercising, reading a book, watching Netflix, etc., have something to take your mind off of studying for a short period of time so you don't go crazy!

If you could give one piece of advice to residents, what would it be?

USE ALL THE UNIVERSITY HAS TO OFFER!! College is your best investment because you're investing in yourself! So make sure you get your money's worth! Go to all of the free events USF has to offer, take advantage of a free gym membership and counseling, and get to know the people on campus because they will impact your experience so much!

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CORNER



Did you know that the Academic Initiatives team works behind the scene to build meaningful partnerships with USF faculty and staff? One way the Academic Initiatives team builds these partnerships is through their Faculty Fellows program. Faculty Fellows are faculty members who engage with students outside of the classroom to broaden the academic experience of students and enhance the work environment of the faculty member.

Dr. Makut Matawal is currently an instructor within the College of Public Health. Prior to coming USF, Dr. Makut earned his medical degree from Nigeria and was a medical officer in an OBGYN practice. Dr. Makut has earned a master's degree in Public Health (Health Policy) and Business Administration along with a graduate business certificate since being at USF. His interests include health policy, healthcare financing and maternal and child health issues. In his spare time, Dr. Makut loves traveling, music, exercising and watching a great game of soccer.

With finals week right around the corner, Dr. Makut has three tips on how to be successful:

1. Get a study partner to help with finals review and other test preparation.
2. Attend classes frequently as it gives you a good opportunity to ask questions for grey areas .
3. Use resources on campus such as the Academic Success Center or your professor's office hours to maximize your overall success.

FINALS REVIEWS ARE ALMOST HERE!

Housing & Residential Education's **Finals Reviews** are quickly approaching! Finals Reviews occur at the end of the Fall and Spring semesters, the week prior to Finals Week. This event is a partnership between Housing & Residential Education and the Marshall Study Center (MSC) to offer students an opportunity to attend a final exam review session outside of their scheduled classroom hours. Our focus is to provide students with additional study support and resources to ensure their continued academic success.

Review sessions generally are scheduled to last 90 minutes. There are a variety of review sessions available across many disciplines. Some of those sessions include, but are not limited to: astronomy, chemistry, physics, biology, calculus, accounting, genetics, etc. This semester, Finals Reviews will take place in the **Marshall Student Center (MSC)** from **Monday, November 27 – Tuesday, December 5**. All students enrolled in the course will be invited, but we will give opportunities for extra academic support as well. To access the Finals Review schedule, go to housing.usf.edu and click on 'Final Exam Review Sessions' under the 'Residential Learning' tab!

