

# USF

UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH FLORIDA  
MAGAZINE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the  
USF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
SUMMER 2019

## MEET THE PRESIDENT

USF welcomes  
**Dr. Steve Currall**



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# USF

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA MAGAZINE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the  
USF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
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## FEATURES

### 28

#### Cover story: Meet the president

Steve Currall brings three decades of experience at public and private universities to his new role.

### 36

#### Oh the places you'll go!

Alumni offer Steve and Cheyenne Currall a guide to Bull hangouts.

### 40

#### Dinner is served

The days of the campus cafeteria are long gone.

## University

4 From the President

6-9 First look

10-21 University

22-25 Athletics

26-27 Philanthropy



Photo: USF Dining's registered dietitian, Mary Waddill (left), and marketing director Jessica Cicalese focus on providing students with healthy choices.

Photo: KRISTIN SEAMAN | USF Dining

## Forever Bulls

48 5 minutes with Bill

49 Your 2018-19 USFAA Board Officers

50-55 USFAA's Fast 56 Awards

56-59 Into the eye: Devon Meister, '03, alumna profile

60-63 2019 Outstanding Young Alumni

64-65 Where's Rocky?

66-68 Chapters & societies

70-74 Class notes

Cover Photo: RYAN NOONE | USF News

# From the President

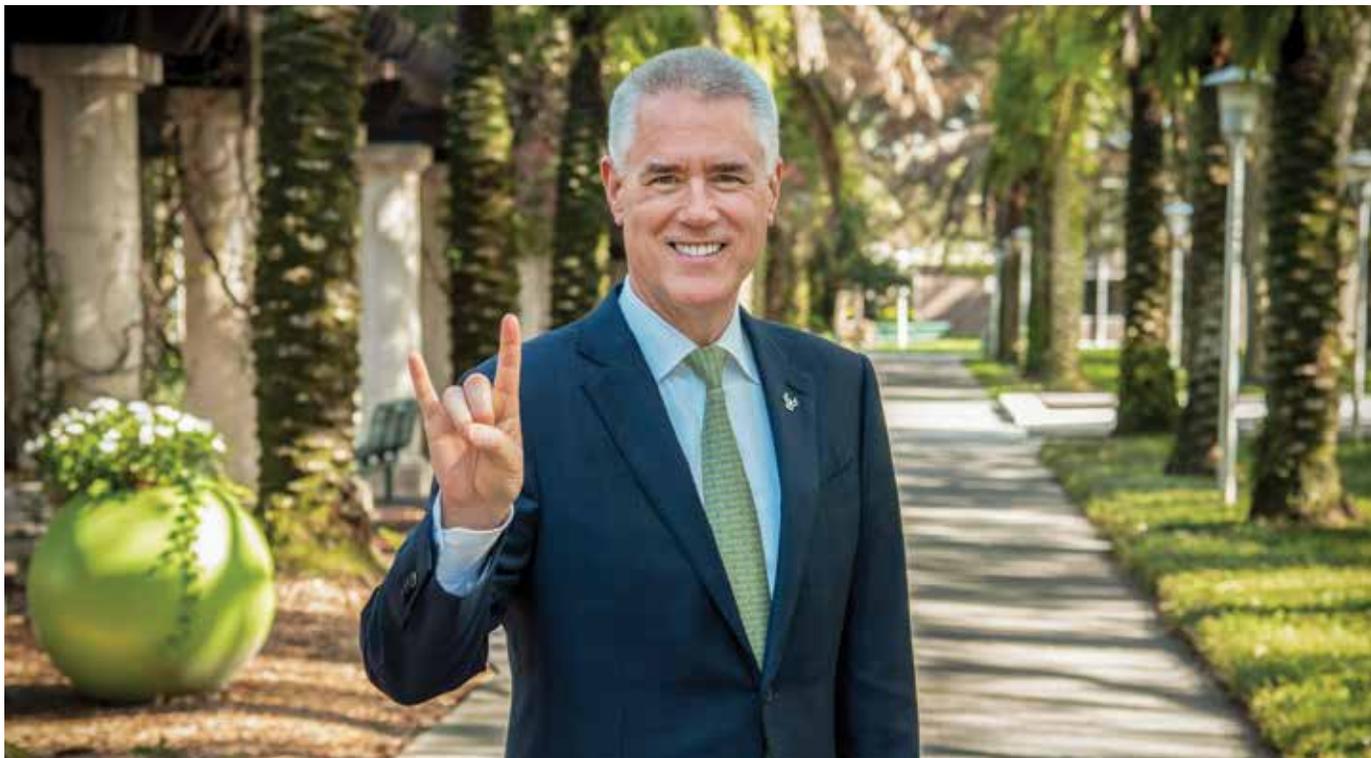


Photo: RYAN NOONE | USF News

## Dear alumni, friends and supporters of USF:

I AM THRILLED TO JOIN YOU as the seventh president of this outstanding university. For me, the presidency is a position of stewardship and service – service to you; to our students, faculty and staff; to the university’s evolution as an elite research university; to the growing economic impact of the Tampa Bay region; and to the ideals of higher education that the USF community holds dear. Thank you for your confidence in me.

I wish to share with you my vision and plans for the coming year.

The University of South Florida has reached an exciting inflection point in its history. Our trajectory is steeper than any other public university in the country that has not yet reached membership in the Association of American Universities (AAU). We are well on our way to reaching AAU eligibility.

Our momentum is due in large part to our agility as a young and enterprising university, coupled with the fact that we are embedded in a vibrant urban community within a progressive and entrepreneurial state. I am confident that USF can become to the Tampa Bay region what Stanford has been to Silicon Valley: an innovative, intellectual engine that will power the region’s most audacious aspirations.

USF already has so much momentum because of the university community’s relentless focus on strategic goals during the past several decades. Those goals include driving student success, research productivity, economic development and global visibility. My mission will be to build on this momentum, creating an environment where we can continue moving forward. My singular objective for the remainder of my career will be to advance the incredible trajectory of USF.

One of my first priorities will be to embark on a listening tour across each of our campuses so that I can better understand our

shared values, competitive differentiators and strategic opportunities. I am eager to get to know you and hear your ideas. I also want to immerse myself in our communities so the university can forge an even stronger reciprocal relationship with the region we serve.

This issue of *USF Magazine* will better introduce Cheyenne and me to you. We appreciate the opportunity to share our backgrounds and our excitement in becoming members of the USF family.

The magazine also is a great way for me to learn more about USF. There is a fun article on how campus dining has changed over the years; I imagine it is a far cry from what you experienced during your time as students! The days of cafeteria food that so many of us remember are long gone. The focus today is on health and nutrition, choice and convenience.

You will meet a couple of highly accomplished students, including youngest-ever USF graduate Drew Falkowitz, who will return this fall to pursue his master’s degree in biology. We also are very proud of Keller Blackwell and Willie McClinton, who were named Goldwater Scholars for 2019. That is the nation’s most prestigious undergraduate award for science research.

Thanks to those of you who offered suggestions in this issue of the magazine for fun places and activities for Cheyenne and I to experience. From unique restaurants across the region (we have already dined at the Columbia restaurant twice!), to the USF Botanical Gardens and so much more, we know we will have a wonderful time exploring and enjoying all things USF and Tampa Bay.

Cheyenne and I are deeply grateful for the warm welcome we have received from the USF community and others in the Tampa Bay region. I hope to meet you soon. In the meantime please share any ideas, questions or suggestions with me at [president@usf.edu](mailto:president@usf.edu).

GO BULLS!

**STEVE CURRALL**  
USF President

# USF funding priorities included in new state budget

FLORIDA'S 2019-2020 BUDGET, signed into law June 21 by Gov. Ron DeSantis, includes funding for critical projects at USF.

Here is a breakdown of USF funding priorities passed by the legislature and approved by the governor:

- \$12.4 million toward completing the construction of the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine and Heart Institute in the new Water Street district of downtown Tampa. It was critical that USF received the final portion of funding this year so the facility can open on schedule in December 2019. This state-of-the-art facility, pictured below, is one of the most significant projects in USF System history and will be transformational for the Tampa Bay region and state of Florida.
- USF Sarasota-Manatee received \$5 million in recurring funds for operational support, which will help provide new

course and degree program options for students on that campus.

- USF St. Petersburg received \$3.5 million in recurring funds for operational support, which will help provide new course and degree options for students on that campus.
- USF St. Petersburg's Citizen Scholar Partnership program received \$300,000 to continue its partnership with the YMCA Youth in Government program.
- USF received \$200,000 to implement and oversee a new pilot program to provide "alternative treatment options" for veterans certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or a branch of the U.S. military as having PTSD or a traumatic brain injury (TBI). Alternative treatments include accelerated resolution therapy (ART), hyperbaric oxygen therapy and music therapy.

USF is published quarterly by University Communications & Marketing and the USF Alumni Association for alumni, friends and members of the USF community.

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Photo: COLTON MORGANTI / USF



# First Look



# FIRST CLASS

This spring, 67 high-achieving USF students were inducted as the first class of Eta of Florida Phi Beta Kappa (PBK) members at USF. PBK is the nation's oldest and most prestigious national honor society.



**The first class of USF Phi Beta Kappa members includes:**

- Fernanda Arcay
- Aliya Atcha
- Mitsy Audate
- Paola Bahena
- Pulcherie Bello
- Harper Cassidy
- Mariana Castaneda
- Alexis Coiner
- Joanne Donovan
- Kaley Dovale
- William Ebanks
- Sarah Eldin
- Cecilia Estrada
- Anna Fennell
- Natalie Fulle
- Laura Garcia
- Bailee Glickman
- Zoe Greco-Musters
- Jadyne Heffern
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- Jennifer Lopez
- Abygaille Loubeau
- Cassandra Ly
- Morgan Malof
- Reilly Maxwell
- Samantha McGilvray
- Brianna McGlade
- Hannah Nelson
- Anh Nguyen
- Vi Nguyen
- Isabella Perello
- Andres Perez
- Renee Perez
- Ashley Phillipson
- Ivan Pineda
- Alison Pullen
- Rocio Raggio
- Caroline Reges
- Nicole Restrepo
- Samantha Santana
- Kimberly Santos-Melendez
- Hannah Schwartz
- Omar Sey
- Haley Shields
- Joel Skaggs
- Sebastian Smith
- Laura Tamayo
- Nicoleta Ursu
- Sarah Usewick
- Alexa Valence
- Valeria Vallejo
- Kimberly Van
- Sitara Varughese
- Alexandra Weber
- Maria Zambrano
- Valeriya Zhurul

# HAVING A BALL

WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM AND A PRETTY GOOD PITCH, Diana Ekonomou, '75, Life Member, got the Alumni Association's Member Appreciation Bulls Baseball Game off to a rollicking start in March.

No surprise there.

Ekonomou and her husband, Tony, have continually delivered for USF.

They fund two scholarships for military veteran students. The Ramon F. Campo WWII Last Mile Scholarship for business majors is named for Diana's father. The Anthony Ekonomou WWII Last Mile Scholarship for engineering majors bears World War II veteran Tony's name.

Both help veterans who have exhausted their G.I. Bill, which covers three years of what is typically a four-year undergraduate degree.

"We support our military a thousand percent," Diana says. "The sacrifices they make for us are priceless."

After his service in the Army Air Corps, Diana's father wedged in business school night classes because he had a job and a family to support. Tony was in the Army's engineer division, but post-service college plans were cut short because he helped support his family by working construction-related jobs.

"It's a similar story for many veterans, so we want to support them and their education," Diana says.

Through the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, founded by Diana's father, the Ekonomous also fund a baseball scholarship and a split scholarship for softball and women's basketball in memory of their daughter, Cristina, who died in 1982 at age 4.

Additionally, the USF baseball batting cages are named for Diana's mother, Josephine Ramil Campo, an avid fan. "We don't want the funds to go to buildings so much, but instead to people," Diana says.

"It's a thrill to support the wonderful veterans and our dedicated USF athletes."

— JOEY JOHNSTON, '81

**Diana Ekonomou, with her husband, Tony, winds up for the ceremonial first pitch at the Bulls vs. Eastern Carolina University baseball game**



AMARIA MCGEE, Class of '22 USFAA

# First Look



# University

## GILMAN SCHOLARS

### Greatest Growth honor recognizes diversity in study abroad

USF HAS BEEN NAMED a 2017-2018 Gilman Scholarship Greatest Growth Institution in the category of racial and ethnic minority students. This honor comes from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs' Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

The Gilman Scholarship, available only for lower-income students who receive a federal Pell Grant, provides up to \$5,000 for study-abroad costs. Overall, USF increased its total number of Gilman Scholars from 16 in 2016-17 to 37 last year, the highest among colleges and universities in Florida and sixth in the nation. Of those 37 recipients, 29 were racial or ethnic minority students. The university has seen a significant increase again this year, with 52 Gilman Scholars for the 2018-19 academic year – again the most of any Florida university.

All Gilman recipients study or intern abroad for a minimum of three weeks and have the opportunity to gain a better understanding of other cultures, languages and economies. The goal is to better prepare them to assume leadership roles with an understanding of international relations.

USF also earned the 2019 Andrew Heiskell Award

for Innovation in International Education in the category of access and equity.

“We are immensely proud of our diverse group of Gilman Scholars and their work to increase USF’s global understanding and impact,” Ralph Wilcox, USF provost and executive vice president, says “This talented group of 37 scholars embodies USF’s commitment to diversity and access as well as serves as a model for fellow students to engage with USF’s Office of National Scholarships for not only this award but the many other prestigious opportunities available to all students.”

This latest recognition stems from USF’s innovative and strategic efforts to increase diverse study-abroad participation. It includes the USF Education Abroad Inclusion Initiative, a system-wide endeavor to increase participation in credit-bearing international experiences by students who are traditionally under-represented in study-abroad programs, including minority, Pell Grant-eligible and transfer students. Since launching in 2014, the program has generated a 34 percent increase in study-abroad participation by Hispanic students, a 49 percent increase in participation by multi-racial students and a 55 percent increase in black student participation.

In addition, USF’s Office of National Scholarships has worked closely with USF’s Education Abroad office and multiple campus partners to increase the number of qualified applicants for the Gilman award.

Of the 52 USF Gilman Scholars this year, 13 students received their awards during the early application window for summer 2019, the most from any institution in the United States.

– AMY HARROUN '05 | Judy Genshaft Honors College

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 225%

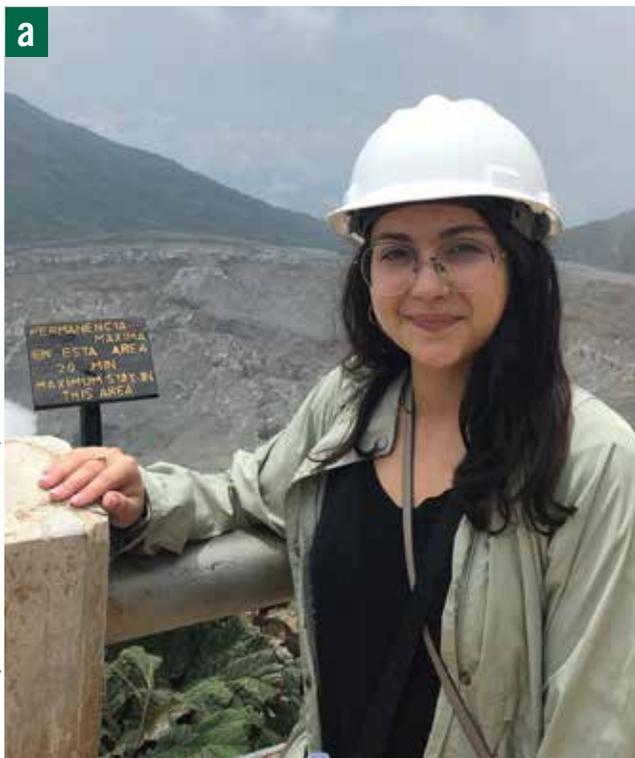
Growth in Gilman Scholars from 2016-17 to 2018-19

# 52

USF Scholars participating in 2018-19

# 12

Countries where 2018-19 USF Gilman Scholars interned and learned



Photos: Courtesy of the USF Office of National Scholarships

## Gilman Scholars intern and study around the world

**a** Olivia Sciandra observes Costa Rica's beautiful biodiversity at Irazú Orosi Volcano. Sciandra studied intensive Spanish and learned about Costa Rica's conservation efforts with the USF Costa Rica Spanish Language program.

**b** Kilian Kelly, left, interns in a rural medical clinic in the Dominican Republic with the Kerolle Initiative, a community health organization dedicated to improving health quality in vulnerable communities. Kelly also conducted research on clean water accessibility in rural communities on the Dominican Republic's north coast.

**c** Chyenne Tran says "Go Bulls!" in the University of Osnabrück gardens during the Judy Genshaft Honors College's Germany Beyond the Classroom program in Osnabrück, Germany. Tran collaborated with local university students and learned about German history and culture.

**d** Morgan Woods overlooks the Danube River in Budapest before traveling to Romania. Through USF's Romania Human Osteology and Bioarchaeology program, she excavated a church and developed skills for her future career as a forensic anthropologist.

**e** Raquel Ogletree poses in a traditional South Korean hanbok during an exchange to EWha Women's University in Seoul, South Korea. In addition to learning about Korean culture, Ogletree took classes on the South Korean judicial system for her criminology major.



## LEADERSHIP

# Zimmerman named chair of the USF Board of Trustees

JORDAN ZIMMERMAN '80, IS THE NEW CHAIR of the University of South Florida Board of Trustees (BOT), following his unanimous selection by board members. Zimmerman has served as the BOT's vice chair since June 2016. His term as chair is for two years.

Zimmerman, Life Member, is founder and chairman of Fort Lauderdale-based Zimmerman Advertising, the 14th largest advertising agency in the world with published billings in excess of \$3 billion. In 2015, he donated \$10 million to the USF College of Arts and Sciences to name the Zimmerman School of Advertising and Mass Communications. USF is also home to the Zimmerman Advertising Program.

He succeeds Brian Lamb, '98 and MBA '17, Life Member, who resigned from the BOT to accept an appointment from Gov. Ron DeSantis to serve on the Florida Board of Governors (BOG), which oversees the 12-member State University System. The BOG appointed Tampa businessman Mike Griffin '03, Life Member, as Lamb's replacement on the Board of Trustees.

USF trustees also elected Les Muma to serve a two-year term as the board's new vice chair. Muma '66, Life Member, is the retired chairman and CEO of Fiserv, Inc., a publicly traded financial services and technology firm he co-founded. Together with his wife, Pamela, the Mumas have made transformational gifts of more than \$56 million to USF that benefit numerous programs in academics, athletics and health.



**Left: At 16, Drew Falkowitz is USF's youngest-ever graduate. After interning at Yale this summer, he plans to return to USF for his master's degree in biology.**

## YOUNGEST ALUMNUS

# 16-year-old graduate makes history

IN THE DAYS LEADING UP TO May's spring commencement, Drew Falkowitz was very much in the spotlight. As the youngest person ever to graduate from USF, his achievement captured significant media attention.

But the 16-year-old – who started reading when he was 20 months old and was in kindergarten by the age of 4 – took it all in stride, not out of arrogance, but rather humility. And for that, the Tampa native gives all the credit to his parents, Tracy and Steve.

“The most important advice and assistance my parents gave me throughout my entire journey was how to stay humble,” he says.

Attending classes at USF with older students was one of the easiest parts of college for Falkowitz.

“Everyone at USF has been super accepting of me and they don't seem to care too much about my age,” he says. “We were all studying the same material together, and I'm able to carry myself well enough to maintain working relationships as well as lasting bonds with my peers. I barely ever experienced any obstacles at USF because of my age, whether from my peers, faculty or administration.”

With his bachelor's degree in cell and molecular biology in hand, Falkowitz is spending this summer as a research assistant at Yale University. He will return to USF this fall to pursue a master's degree in biology. He then plans to apply to joint MD/PhD programs “so I can earn both a doctorate to conduct research in medical genetics and a medical degree to oversee clinical trials and provide genetic counsel.”

To date, his research focus has been on Alzheimer's disease and Angelman syndrome, a genetic disorder that primarily affects the nervous system. Falkowitz also is interested in schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and other related mood disorders.

“Though I'm not sure what specific conditions I want to focus on, I do know that I want to utilize the amazing strides made in the field of gene therapy to treat, cure or otherwise increase the quality of life for patients suffering from inadequately understood and stigmatized conditions,” he says.

He also wants to put a medical degree to use beyond research.

“I want to provide genetic counsel to individuals and families wishing to understand more about their genome and help them plan for their future health and the health of their children,” he says.

For those who may be traveling a path similar to his, Falkowitz again reflects on the counsel his parents shared with him: “You're not your intelligence, you're what you do with it.”

“Never presume that you're better than anyone else just because your brain developed a little differently,” he adds. “That's just a biological advantage that one needs to translate into real achievement before you have the right to take pride in yourself. Humility is obviously an integral part of this sentiment, but the other part is just as important. You've been given the opportunity to accomplish those great things for the benefit of everyone.”

Intelligence, Falkowitz says, “is merely the potential to do great, but drive and determination are the fire that will take you there, and empathy and compassion are the reasons why we'll all be the better for it.”

– TOM WOOLF

## WITH HONORS

### Two students named Goldwater Scholars

TWO USF JUDY GENSHAFT HONORS COLLEGE students, Keller Blackwell and Willie McClinton, have been named Goldwater Scholars for 2019, chosen out of nearly 1,300 students nationally who were nominated through a highly selective process. The scholarship is the most prestigious undergraduate award in the country for science research and provides \$7,500 for educational expenses and re-search support.

McClinton, a computer science major, is currently involved in two research projects with the university. The first is working with assistant professor Marvin Andujar to create technology that will allow patients with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS) to paint pictures using their brains. McClinton has worked on the brain computer interface to allow the technology to work in virtual reality, giving artistic freedom to those who are no longer able to create art in traditional ways. The long-term goal of the project is to distribute it to the ALS community.

McClinton is also working on a smart phone app with associate professor Sriram Chellappan. Now in the Beta phase, the app will allow people to take photos of mosquitos to identify their species. “Certain species carry diseases such as Zika and malaria,” McClinton says. “The goal is to create a way for citizens in mosquito-prevalent areas to identify those mosquitos and take the necessary precautions.”

Also looking to protect citizens, Blackwell, a pure mathematics major, is completing research under profes-sor Gretchen L. Matthews at Virginia Tech that will help protect personal data in the future. “Within a few decades, quantum computers will defeat our current means of achieving secure communication,” Blackwell says. “My research uses mathematics to create problems that cannot be efficiently solved by quantum computers. These prob-lems will be used to improve cryptography and protect sen-sitive data, which we create at an ever-increasing pace.”

A non-traditional student, Blackwell spent a decade working full-time in the restaurant industry before starting college. A transfer student from California, he was im-pressed by the level of caring and individualized assistance he received from professors, specifically Thomas J. Bieske and Diego Ricciotti. “There are specific challenges that you deal with as a non-traditional student,” Blackwell says. “I’ve had such excellent mentors at USF who have gone above and beyond to help me succeed. My career goal is to become a university professor and give back to others in similar situations.”

Both Goldwater Scholars plan to pursue their doctor-ates. McClinton’s career goal is to work with artificial intel-ligence to create multi-purpose robots that can perform a wide range of daily tasks.

Blackwell and McClinton worked with the university’s Office of National Scholarships (ONS) and its director,



Photo: AMY HARROUN | Honors College



**There are specific challenges that you deal with as a non-traditional student ... My career goal is to become a university professor and give back to others in similar situations.”**

– Keller Blackwell

Sayandeb Basu, on their research goals and Goldwater applications. “Dr. Basu has been a great mentor to me,” McClinton says. “I’ve worked closely with him since my freshman year, and really appreciate his guidance and support.” ONS works with students across the USF System to identify prestigious scholarship opportunities and craft competitive applications.

The two award recipients bring USF’s Goldwater Schol-ar tally to 11 in the university’s history. Previous scholars have gone on to earn other nationally competitive awards and study at internationally prominent institutions as they work on research projects.

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program was established by Congress in 1986 to honor Sen. Barry M. Goldwater, who served his country for 56 years as a soldier and statesman, including 30 years of service in the U.S. Senate. The purpose of the Founda-tion is to provide a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians and engineers by awarding scholarships to college students who intend to pursue careers in these fields.

**Above: Willie McClinton, left, and Keller Blackwell, right, with Judy Genshaft Honors College dean Charles Adams.**

## LIBRARIES PRESERVING HERITAGE

# A new partnership in preservation brings 3D leaders together

A NEW PARTNERSHIP IN HERITAGE PRESERVATION and open data access has the USF Libraries working with leaders in the field of 3D digital heritage, bringing increased levels of interaction and availability of resources to the world.

The USF Libraries Digital Heritage and Humanities Collections (DHHC) is partnering with two global leaders in 3D heritage documentation, CyArk and Historic Environment Scotland, to form the Open Heritage Alliance (OHA). These founding members of OHA offer unique insights into the best practices for 3D data capture and sharing, and have come together around standards, formats, approaches, ethics and archive commitment. Together, they've begun the journey to provide open access to cultural heritage 3D data, while maintaining integrity, security, and standards relating to discoverable dissemination. OHA has contributed significant legacy and ongoing 3D research and documentation projects to Open Heritage 3D, a repository of 3D digital heritage data.

OHA will function as the governing body of Open Heritage 3D to provide democratized access to primary heritage 3D data submitted by donors and organizations. It will help facilitate the operation platform, archive and organization of resources into the future.

The partnership is being further supported by Google Arts & Culture, which is providing high-visibility web development platforms for models, images and digital stories that correspond to each of the partners' projects. Google's partnership with Open Heritage 3D showcases data and transforms the projects into 3D interactive journeys, allowing visitors to "explore iconic locations in 3D, discover the tools of digital preservation, and download ... collection(s)." Many of the Open Heritage 3D collections are now viewable on Google's platform, including the DHHC's Apollo 1 Memorial at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

The DHHC selected its work documenting our nation's space history at Cape Canaveral as the first showcase project to appear as both open access data on Open Heritage 3D and as a Google Arts & Culture showcase. The Apollo 1 Memorial and Launch Complex 34 site was selected not only because of its significance to U.S. national history and the tragic loss of life associated with these early exploration endeavors, but because this site is imperiled and facing an uncertain future due to weathering, erosion and increased storm impacts.

With 2019 the Apollo Program's 50th anniversary, and as a tribute to the tragedies and triumphs of space exploration, these 3D data sets are available for use in the classroom and for interpretive and educational opportunities.



These data are also archived within the USF Libraries' digital collections repository, ensuring that if the need arises, access to the information is preserved and discoverable for the future.

Preservation strategies are critical in conserving significant and universally important historical monuments, structures and collections. 3D and digital technologies hold great promise in the safe keeping, archiving and sharing of these places and objects that matter, but too often information is not readily available or accessible in times of need, such as disaster response. These same data, when available, also provide opportunities for sustainable heritage tourism, education and engaging interpretation strategies – changing the way we see and learn about the world around us.

Lori Collins, MA '02 and PhD '07, research associate professor and co-director of DHHC, says, "The 3D revolution is creating novel areas for research collaboration, archival collection schemes and curriculum integration, including innovative opportunities for libraries to become strong partners through the creation of digital heritage collections. Libraries can be active partners in heritage projects and in the curatorial and discoverability dimensions relating to these new types of information, thereby amplifying 'traditional' digital heritage work."

**Above: Launch Complex 34 shown in a 3D point cloud from a terrestrial laser scanning survey.**

**Right: Computer-Aided Drawing model of the pedestal, showing elevations and perspectives, design details and color texture information.**

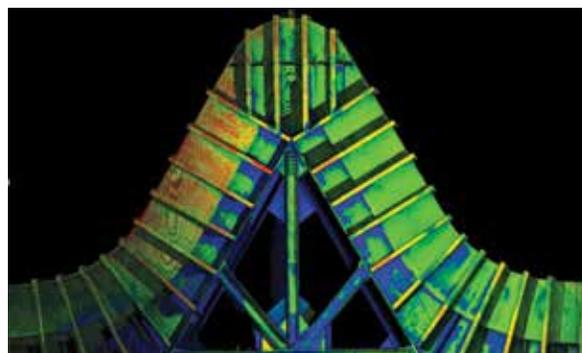
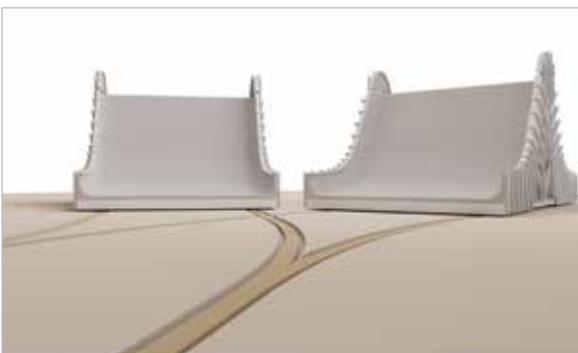
– MAGGIE TRELA | USF Libraries



Above: 1963 photo shows the Saturn 1 SA-4 launch vehicle on the pad at Launch Complex 34, which was built between 1959 and 1961.

Bottom left: Flame deflectors and rail at Launch Complex 34.

Bottom right: 3D laser scan image showing the unique inverted V-shape of the flame deflectors.



## COGNITIVE TRAINING

### Alzheimer's study seeking volunteers

HEALTHY OLDER ADULTS IN the Tampa Bay area can help themselves and others by participating in a project that may reduce the chances of developing dementia.

USF researchers hope to attract 1,600 volunteers by the end of the year for the pioneering PACT study – Preventing Alzheimer's with Cognitive Training. There are training sites at USF Tampa and USF St. Petersburg, as well as in Lakeland and Dade City.

Leading the study for USF is Jerri Edwards, a professor of psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences in the USF Morsani College of Medicine. Michigan State University is a partner in the study, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

"We are building on prior work," Edwards says. "We had a lot of success showing a particular type of cognitive training can reduce the risk of dementia."

According to the Alzheimer's Association, 5.8 million Americans suffer from the disease; that number is projected to grow to 14 million by 2050. Someone in the U.S. develops Alzheimer's every 65 seconds.

In Florida, 560,000 people age 65 and older are living with the disease. By 2025, the number of people affected by Alzheimer's is expected to be 720,000.

Volunteers for the PACT study must be 65 or older. They cannot have dementia or other neurological disorders, but a family history of Alzheimer's does not disqualify a person. The clinical trial consists of a variety of brain games on a computer in which participants are asked to indicate what they saw or heard and solve puzzles. Each volunteer will visit a training facility three times to learn how to follow the mental regimen. Over three years, they will complete 45 hours of computerized training on their own, and the researchers can lend a tablet with Internet access to participants.

Researchers will monitor the participants for cognitive improvements or signs of decline.

Previous studies have shown such training may be an effective way to reduce chances of developing dementia. Findings from the 2017 Advanced Cognitive Training for Independent and Vital Elderly study showed that among nearly 3,000 healthy older adults, those who completed 11 or more computerized sessions had up to a 48-percent reduced risk of developing dementia across a 10-year period than adults who did no exercises at all.

To learn more about the PACT study, call 813-974-6703 or visit [www.pactstudy.org](http://www.pactstudy.org).

– TOM WOOLF

## ALZHEIMER'S BY THE NUMBERS

# 1,600

Volunteers USF researchers hope to attract for the PACT study

# 5.8 million

Americans with Alzheimer's

# 14 million

Projection of Americans with Alzheimer's by 2050

# every 65 seconds

Someone in the U.S. develops the disease

Volunteers participate in a study run by USF Health and Michigan State called PACT. The study is recruiting 1,600 volunteers 65 years old and older to determine whether computer brain exercises can prevent dementia.

Photo: ALLISON LONG | USF Health



## INVENTION AND INNOVATION

# USF tops in Florida for U.S. utility patents

FOR THE SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, USF stands with the world's top universities in inventing new technologies, tools and objects that have been granted a U.S. utility patent, according to rankings compiled by the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) and the Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO).

Based on new patents secured during the 2018 calendar year, USF is seventh among American public research universities and 16th among all universities worldwide in generating new patents. The ranking places USF in rare company among the more than 1,000 academic institutions generating new, novel and useful inventions granted intellectual property protection from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The 96 patents that USF inventors earned in 2018 was tops for any Florida university, and span a wide array of technologies – from clean energy solutions to sustainable water technologies to nanoscale particles designed to improve drug delivery in the fight against central nervous system diseases.

Combined, the three universities that comprise the Florida High Tech Corridor Council – USF, the University of Florida and the University of Central Florida – secured 218 patents. This places Corridor Council ahead of nationally recognized centers of innovation, including North Carolina's Research Triangle and the University of Texas System.

The NAI and IPO have published the *Top 100 Worldwide Universities Granted U.S. Utility Patents* report annually since 2013.

Among the new technologies patented by USF faculty are these projects:

### Process for Converting Landfill Gas to High-Value Liquid Fuels

College of Engineering researchers have developed a process for converting the gas emitted from solid waste in municipal landfills to high-value liquid fuels – creating a cleaner, renewable energy source. When solid waste biodegrades, it produces a landfill gas composed of methane and carbon dioxide that can be used to generate fuels. USF inventors engineered a process to convert this gas into high-value liquid diesel and jet fuel. The technology is also applicable for use at wastewater treatment centers, agriculture farms and other facilities where anaerobic digestion will produce biogas. The technology is the basis for the startup T2C-Energy and the patent is held by USF engineering professor Babu Joseph, associate professor John Kuhn and USF alums Ali Gardezi, MS '10 and PhD '13; Timothy Roberge MS '12; and Devin Walker MS '12. In 2014, Walker – who now serves as CEO of T2C-Energy – was named one of *Forbes* magazine's 30 Under 30 for his innovative work with the startup.

### Manganese Ion Coated Nanoparticles for Delivery of Compositions into the Central Nervous System by Nasal Insufflation

USF researchers have developed a novel method that delivers genes or small interfering RNA into the brain by nasal insufflations using nanoparticles. A team of USF Morsani College of Medicine

faculty developed new nanoparticles that can be safely delivered to the brain in a non-invasive manner for the treatment of Huntington's disease and other neurological disorders. The nanoparticles allow for more effective therapeutic delivery without the need for invasive neurosurgical injection. Also, the nanoparticles can be visualized by MRI and other similar techniques, allowing clinicians and researchers to visualize the uptake of the nanoparticles and the distribution of the therapeutic. The current method of delivering therapeutic genes or viral vectors into the brain is by minimally invasive neurosurgical injection. For diseases like Huntington's, which involves the entire brain, injection of a viral vector into multiple brain regions is not feasible.

The technology was invented by professor Juan Sanchez-Ramos, assistant professor Vasyl Sava, assistant professor Shijie Song, distinguished professor Shyam Mohapatra MBA '99 and professor Subhra Mohapatra.

### Electrospun Cactus Mucilage Nanofibers

College of Engineering professor Norma Alcantar, associate professor Sylvia Thomas and master's degree alum Yanay Pais MS '11, teamed up to produce a new patent using the fibers of a prickly pear cactus to clean and purify water. The technology builds on what has for centuries been a folk practice in Mexico and Central America where contaminated water was boiled with the cactus mucilage to clear it of heavy metals and contaminants.

The engineers fabricated the inexpensive and sustainable cactus mucilage for use in cleaning oil spills from water, as well as purifying contaminated water. The portable system effectively removes arsenic and bacteria such as *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) and *Bacillus cereus* from water. This natural, biodegradable product also can be fabricated into a nanofibrous material via electrospinning to create filters to remove bacteria, arsenic and heavy metals from water.

– VICKIE CHACHERE | Research and Innovation



Technology that utilizes the fibers of the prickly pear cactus to clean and purify water is just one of the 96 patents secured by USF researchers in 2018.

Photo: ADOBE STOCK

## ETA OF FLORIDA CHAPTER

### Phi Beta Kappa installed at USF

IT'S BEEN A GOAL FOR MORE THAN 30 years and USF is now home to its own chapter of Phi Beta Kappa (PBK), the nation's oldest and most prestigious national honor society.

The new Eta of Florida chapter was recognized during an installation ceremony, pictured below, which included the induction of 67 students selected for their excellence in the arts and sciences (pictured on page 6).

Only 10 percent of U.S. colleges and universities, the majority of which are private, have PBK chapters. Graduates include 17 U.S. presidents; 40 Supreme Court justices; including seven of the nine current sitting justices; and more than 140 Nobel Laureates.

"At every level of the institution, the University of South Florida is committed to providing an excellent liberal arts education for its diverse student community," PBK secretary Frederick M. Lawrence said. "We are confident that commitment will stand the test of time, enabling this chapter, and its exceptional students, to shine."

The Eta of Florida inductees represent an elite 2 percent of their graduating class and have completed a broad range of liberal arts and sciences coursework, including foreign language study and mathematics.

The chapter also inducted several Foundation members, chosen for their commitment to the ideals of the liberal arts and sciences, including:

- Judy Genshaft,\* former USF System president
- Steven Greenbaum,\* philanthropist

- Ralph Wilcox,\* USF System provost and executive vice president
- Terrell Sessums,\* chairman, Florida Board of Regents and former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives
- Samuel Bell, former Majority Leader of the Florida House of Representatives
- Betty Castor,\* fifth president of USF
- Brian Lamb,\* member of the Florida Board of Governors and former chair of the USF Board of Trustees
- Carol and Frank\* Morsani, philanthropists
- Pam\* and Les\* Muma, philanthropists
- Paul Luna, president and CEO of Helios Education Foundation

"We are delighted to honor these tremendous friends of the university and of higher education, along with our remarkable students," Charles Adams, Judy Genshaft Honors College dean and Eta of Florida chapter president, said. "This is a very important day in the history of the University of South Florida. Sheltering a chapter serves to confirm our standing as a premier national university and speaks to the quality of our academic culture and the excellent education that we provide for our students."

USF is the 290th U.S. college or university to shelter a Phi Beta Kappa chapter. Installations of new chapters occur only every three years and follow an intensive, multi-year application and evaluation process that includes two rounds of data collection and a visit from members of the Phi Beta Kappa Committee on Qualifications. Among the criteria reviewed are the university's educational rigor in the arts and sciences, governance structure, faculty excellence, demonstrated commitment to academic freedom and institutional dedication to liberal education.

— AMY HARROUN '05 | Judy Genshaft Honors College

Photo: SANDRAC.ROA | USF News



From left: Charles Adams, Judy Genshaft Honors College Endowed Dean; Lynn Pasquerella, Phi Beta Kappa president and president of the Association of American Colleges and Universities; Frederick M. Lawrence, secretary and CEO of The Phi Beta Kappa Society; Matthew King, USF history department assistant professor and Eta of Florida historian; Eric Eisenberg, USF College of Arts and Sciences dean; Ralph Wilcox, USF provost and executive vice president; and Kevin Yee, director of USF's Academy of Teaching and Learning Excellence and Eta of Florida Secretary were part of the installation ceremony.

\*Denotes USF Alumni Association Life Members



Bill Heller, center, is congratulated by David O'Neil, assistant director of the Bishop Center. From left, son Jim, wife Jeanne, and regional chancellor Martin Tadlock look on. More than 300 guests attended the naming ceremony.

**LEGACY**

## USFSP renames building to honor Bill Heller

FOR MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, Bill Heller has been a transformative figure at USF St. Petersburg, filling the roles of campus CEO, dean, professor and advocate. Now the university is recognizing his many years of devoted service by naming the building where he taught in his honor.

Coquina Hall, which houses the College of Education, is now known as H. William Heller Hall. The university marked the occasion with a spring ceremony at the University Student Center.

“Bill Heller has left a legacy at USF St. Petersburg that will be felt for generations to come,” regional chancellor Martin Tadlock said. “His wisdom, his leadership and his kindness made a lasting impact on all who are fortunate enough to know him. We are so pleased to have the opportunity to recognize Bill’s many contributions by renaming Coquina Hall in his honor. It’s our way of saying thank you for years of generous service to our university and to our region.”

More than 300 guests attended the ceremony, reflecting the many communities Heller touched over the past 27 years. He came to St. Petersburg from the University of North Carolina Charlotte in 1992 to serve as dean and campus CEO at USF St. Petersburg.

Heller is credited with helping launch USFSP’s transformation from a small, commuter campus that served only upperclassmen and graduate students to the thriving regional university it is today.

After stepping down from this leadership role at USFSP in 2002, Heller became a professor, dean of the College of Education and director of the Bishop Center for Ethical Leadership. He announced his retirement late last year.

In addition to his many roles at the university, Heller was also a noted community leader. He served as a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 2006 to 2010.



Charlie Justice, '93, Life Member, a former member of the Florida House of Representatives who now serves as a Pinellas County commissioner, filed the legislation in 2006 to rename Coquina Hall after Heller once he retired. The two met when Justice was a student assistant at USF St. Petersburg and they later served in the Florida Legislature together.

During the ceremony, Justice told the crowd he was excited to have Heller serving alongside of him and thought he might be able to impart a little wisdom to his friend and mentor.

“I wanted to finally be able to maybe, just maybe, share a little experience with him,” Justice said. “I had been up there for years. Maybe I could show him the ropes. That was Monday. By Tuesday, he did what he always did. He learned and he worked and was an instant leader on issues that mattered.”

Heller also served on a multitude of boards and committees throughout the region. He was president of the board of Bayfront Medical Center, the chair of the Pinellas Cultural Foundation, an honorary life member of Great Explorations, a board member emeritus of the Mahaffey Theater Foundation and was active on the board of SPCA Tampa Bay.

“He is, as we like to say in St. Pete, one of the reasons the ‘sun shines here,’” said Kanika Tomalin, deputy mayor and city administrator for St. Petersburg. “For decades he has been the very embodiment of our Sunshine City, his bright, warm light illuminating all those fortunate to cross paths with him.”

— CARRIE O'BRIEN | USF St. Petersburg

## WORKFORCE INNOVATION

### USFSM recognized for workforce development efforts

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA SARASOTA-Manatee was named CareerSource Suncoast Education Partner of the Year during the 2019 State of Talent Conference Innovation in Workforce luncheon on May 2 at Art Ovation hotel.

USF Sarasota-Manatee regional chancellor Karen A. Holbrook accepted the workforce excellence award, which recognizes USFSM's outstanding commitment to building a stronger community and workforce through a multitude of academic programs and hands-on learning experiences.

"It's a great honor to be recognized by our community partners, and we value their participation in everything we do to help prepare our students for success when they enter the workforce," she said. "We want all of our students to stay here in Sarasota-Manatee and contribute to the future of this great region."

USFSM actively partners with businesses and organizations to identify their employment needs and tailors programs and services to train students to meet those needs on an ongoing basis. Many of these partnerships result from the work of the USFSM Career Services team, led by coordinator of Career Services Toni Ripa '95 and MA '08.

"These programs are transformational," Ripa said. "Students who take part in them are often stepping out of their comfort zone. They develop relationships with workforce partners that impact their lives. Participation in these programs develops the skills employers seek in applicants and distinguishes students in the job market. As a result, our workforce partners begin to build pipelines of talent and can make better hiring decisions through meaningful assessments of our students' abilities."

Here are a few examples of USFSM's unique efforts:

■ USFSM partnered with FCCI Insurance Group in developing the Risk Management and Insurance program, with 22 students having already graduated and 78 students currently enrolled. The program creates a pipeline designed to help address the shortfall of knowledgeable workers in the risk management and insurance industries by 2025.

■ USFSM partnered with David Kotok, co-founder of Cumberland Advisors, to convert a classroom into a



Top photo: Regional chancellor Karen A. Holbrook, second from left, joined students and their mentors to wrap up the USFSM Pilot Mentor Program, a yearlong exercise that matched students with executives in the students' field of study.



Center photo: Jennifer Grondahl, director, Corporate & Community Partnerships – Baltimore Orioles, with student Carter Bedinghaus at the Sarasota Chamber Shadow Day



Bottom photo: Student Sami Araboghli, at the Manatee Chamber Shadow Day, spoke with Deputy John Murrell of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office.

Bloomberg Lab with 12 terminals. This access enables students to conduct in-depth research in economics, finance and markets with real-time data, reducing onboarding time for applicants in the financial sector. Since the terminals were installed, 151 students have earned Bloomberg Market Concepts Certification.

PHOTOS: ALEXANDRA BAYER / USFSM

■ USFSM partners with The Resort at Longboat Key Club as an official “teaching hotel” where College of Hospitality & Tourism Leadership students rotate through operations and administrative divisions. More than 300 students have become better prepared for careers in the tourism and hospitality industry through this partnership.

■ The Career Services Office hosted Turn the Tables, which flipped the traditional career fair format by giving students the opportunity to set up displays promoting their skills and experience while recruiters circulated through the room to meet potential candidates. Turn the Tables was an unqualified success, with 17 of the 22 student attendees who responded to a post-event survey receiving an offer, and 14 of them accepting either an internship or a full-time job.

■ USFSM offers several programs that pair students with workplace mentors: Career Shadowing with Manatee and Sarasota county chambers of commerce; Career Connection Days with Manatee and Sarasota county governments; and a recently completed Pilot Mentoring Program. Many students have landed jobs and internships through these programs.

■ USFSM annually hosts the Northwestern Mutual Leadership Series, a series of workshops conducted by Northwestern Mutual designed to help students improve in areas such as planning, goal-setting, time management and leadership skills on and off the job.

■ Incredi-Bull Critical Thinking is a unique, university-wide program to help students excel in an area that is consistently identified by employers as one of the most desirable traits in employees: critical thinking skills.

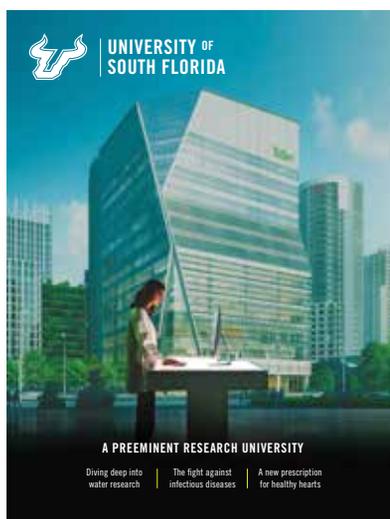
USFSM was among three organizations and one individual honored during the luncheon by CareerSource Suncoast. Here is the full list of winners:

- Education Partner of the Year: USF Sarasota-Manatee
- Business Partner of the Year: SouthTech
- Community Collaborator of the Year: Gulf Coast Builders Exchange
- Leader in Action Award: Susie Bowie with Manatee Community Foundation

— JOHN DUDLEY | USF Sarasota-Manatee

## GLOBAL REPUTATION

# Times Higher Education special section highlights USF research



USF has partnered with *Times Higher Education* (THE), a globally recognized higher education publication based in the United Kingdom, to produce a special section focused on key areas of research at the university.

The publication includes an overview of USF and its growth and stories about water research, efforts to eradicate deadly diseases around the world, the work of the Health Informatics Institute in creating a better understanding of diabetes and other autoimmune diseases, business analytics and big data, research

focused on age-related decline, and treatment and prevention of cardiovascular disease.

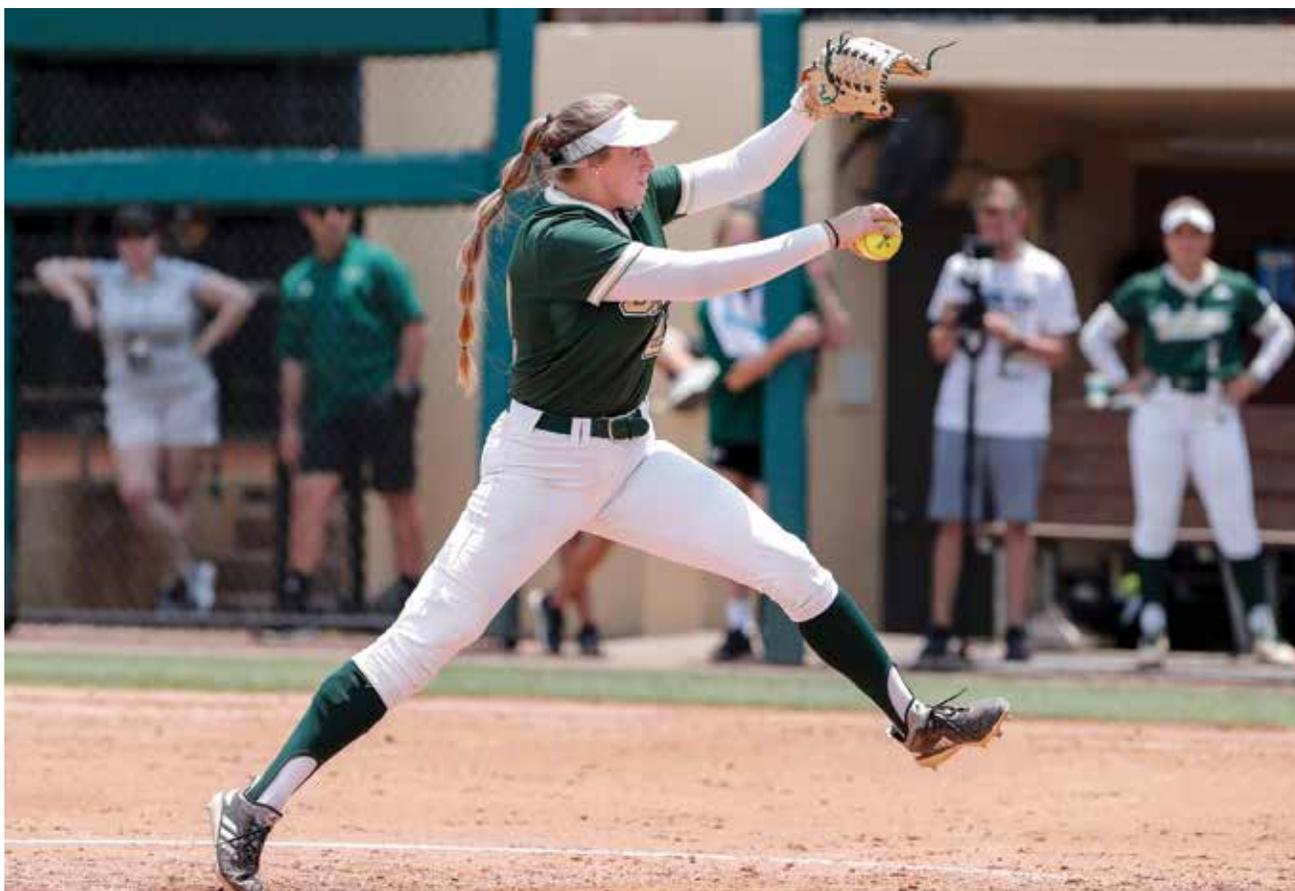
The research publication was distributed to THE’s 6,000 print subscribers around the world and was posted to THE’s website. It is available at <https://bit.ly/2J3dkQz>.



## USF NEWSROOM

# Telling the stories behind the stats

FROM THE ICE SHEETS of Antarctica to the deserts of South Africa, USF researchers are changing the world. The mission of USF News is to share these compelling stories and bring colorful multimedia content to your fingertips. Learn more about the great work happening in USF classrooms, research laboratories and abroad. Visit the revamped website [www.usf.edu/news](http://www.usf.edu/news) to stay up-to-date on all the latest USF System news.



Left: NFCA Second Team All-American and American Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Year Georgina Corrick

Right: USF's men's basketball team celebrates the College Basketball Invitational tournament championship.

## AROUND THE PLAYING FIELDS

### Bulls busy in postseason this spring

USF WAS REPRESENTED WELL on the postseason stage this spring with eight different programs in competition.

Head coach Brian Gregory's **men's basketball** team completed the top turnaround in the NCAA this season, setting a program record with 24 wins – 14 more victories than last season – and captured the College Basketball Invitational title, which marked the program's first postseason tournament championship since 1990.

Head coach Jose Fernandez's **women's basketball** team fought through injury adversity and advanced to the second round of the Women's National Invitation Tournament. USF posted its eighth consecutive season with at least 19 wins and made its eighth straight postseason appearance.

Led by recently announced Tokyo 2020 U.S. Olympic softball team head coach Ken Eriksen, '84, Life Member, **USF softball** (41-19) started its 15th NCAA Regional appearance with NFCA Second Team All-American and American Athletic Conference (AAC) Pitcher of the Year Georgina Corrick striking out 11 batters in the Bulls' 3-2 win over No. 21 South Carolina in Tallahassee, Fla. Prior to regionals, USF captured its second straight AAC regular season title and was awarded the league's automatic bid to the NCAA tournament for the first time in conference history.

Head coach Ashley Fisher's **men's tennis** team defeated No. 23 Alabama, 4-3, in the first round of the NCAA

tournament in Austin, Texas. USF earned one of the tournament's 30 automatic bids after securing its fifth AAC championship with a 4-3 victory over War on I-4 rival UCF in Orlando. Conference player of the year Alberto Barroso-Campos also competed in the first round of the NCAA Singles Championship.

Head coach Steve Bradley's **men's golf** team made the program's seventh consecutive NCAA Regional appearance in Stanford, Calif., with a new-look roster that included three freshmen and two juniors. Conference freshman of the year Albin Bergstrom tied for 10th at the Stanford Regional before receiving Division I PING All-Southeast Region Team and Division I All-Freshmen Team honors. In addition, Bergstrom was named a Division I PING All-America honorable mention in June.

Eight members of the **men's and women's track & field** programs competed in the NCAA East Preliminary in Jacksonville on the campus of the University of North Florida. USF's participant list included D'Angelo Ennis (two-time conference triple jump champion), David Bell (pole vault), Stone Baker (pole vault), Chelsea Francis (100, 200 meters), Maurice Nock (100, 200 meters), Brittany Krug (javelin), Stephanie Lambeth (pole vault) and Imani Carmouche (high jump).

Head coach Allison Jolly's **women's sailing** team placed 14th at the Sperry College Sailing Women's National Championship in Rhode Island. It marked the seventh national finals appearance for the Bulls in the past eight years.

– TOM ZEBOLD | USF Athletics



Photo: AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Men's tennis at the 2019 conference tournament in Orlando.



Men's golf conference freshman of the year Albin Bergstrom





Photo: Courtesy of USF Athletics

## GROWING SUPPORT

### BullsFest a success

THE FIRST BULLSFEST SINCE 2014 saw support soar through the roof at Raymond James Stadium for a program that would make the late and great Lee Roy Selmon proud.

The largest BullsFest crowd ever, more than 500 people, filled the West Club on May 18 for the premier auction event that raised funds for USF Athletics' Selmon Mentoring Institute. The substantial support served as a huge boost toward the \$4 million endowment goal that would keep the unique program alive in Selmon's name forever.

"We're not only going to be able to raise the awareness of the Selmon Mentoring Institute but raise great dollars to help formulate that program and make it even stronger in the future," vice president of athletics Michael Kelly, Life Member, says.

Since its inaugural class in 2014, 151 USF student-athletes have graduated from the Selmon Mentoring Institute, which continues to fulfill Selmon's passion for preparing Bulls well for life after sports. The progressive

program provides one-on-one mentorship opportunities for USF's nearly 500 student-athletes to develop as people and professionals.

The mentor pool consists of more than 120 experts from area companies like USF Health, the Tampa Bay Lighting and Rays, ESPN, *Tampa Bay Times*, Parks Motor Group and Tampa Police Department. BullsFest 2019 presenter R.R. Simmons was one of 19 new mentors this academic year.

"We are encouraged by the growth the program has seen thus far and we are extremely excited about what is yet to come," says Kristen Harris, director of the Selmon Mentoring Institute and Student-Athlete Enhancement. "The goal is to endow the program, so the Selmon Mentoring Institute remains a USF Athletics staple and continues to impact the lives of our student-athletes. As we begin to move into the sixth year of the program, more student-athletes are participating and taking ownership of their futures."

**Above: More than 500 Bulls supporters packed Raymond James Stadium in May to raise funds for the Selmon Mentoring Institute.**

— Stories by  
TOM ZEBOLD | USF Athletics

## FOOTBALL IS COMING

# Future football schedules packed with big-name opponents

IT'S CERTAINLY GOING TO BE fun to be a USF football fan for years to come.

USF vice president of athletics Michael Kelly has added more big-name opponents to the Bulls' future football schedules, recently announcing a three-game series with Alabama that joins USF's other series with Florida and Miami.

Raymond James Stadium will be rocking when USF and Alabama start the series in Tampa on Sept. 16, 2023. The series then shifts to 101,821-seat Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa, Ala., for the final two games on Sept. 7, 2024 and Sept. 12, 2026.

The addition of the Crimson Tide series increased the Bulls' scheduled non-conference games against Power 6 opponents to 17 through 2028, including games against six foes that have won a total of 34 national championships. USF also will play home-and-home series against notable programs Boise State (2025 and 2027) and BYU (2019 and 2021).

In the coming years, Bulls fans will see the program play nine games against ACC opponents and six against SEC foes. USF's future ACC opponents are Georgia Tech (2019), Louisville (2022, 2024 and 2026), Miami (2025, 2027-28) and NC State (2021 and 2024). Future games against SEC opponents include clashes with Alabama (2023-24 and 2026) and Florida (2022-23 and 2025). The Bulls will open the 2019 season at home against Big Ten foe Wisconsin on Friday, Aug. 30, and will face Big 12 opponent Texas in 2020.



## STANDOUT ATHLETES

# Three Bulls to enter USF Athletic Hall of Fame

THREE FORMER PROGRAM STANDOUTS have been selected to enter the USF Athletic Hall of Fame this fall.

**Shantia Grace** '11 (women's basketball, 2005-09), **Sara Nevins** '14 (softball, 2011-14) and **George Selvie** '09 (football, 2006-09) make up the Class of 2019 that will be honored during the induction ceremony at the Marshall Student Center on Nov. 15.

"We are very excited to welcome this tremendous class of Bulls that have had such a significant impact on USF Athletics to the Hall of Fame," USF vice president of athletics Michael Kelly says.

Grace, a three-time All-Big East selection, will be the third Hall of Fame inductee from the women's basketball program, joining Wanda Guyton (Class of 2009) and Jessica Dickson '07 (2012). Grace, a former guard, owns program career records for assists (610) and starts (129). Grace also is the Bulls' top single-game scorer (44 points vs. Coppin State, 2008) and ranks third all-time at USF in scoring (1,941 points), seventh in steals (194), fifth in three-point percentage (.356) and third in games played (132). The current Booker High School (Sarasota) basketball head coach ended her USF career in excellent fashion by earning 2009 Women's National Invitation Tournament MVP honors after leading the Bulls to the championship title.

Nevins joins Monica Triner '99 (Class of 2011) as Hall of Fame members from the softball program. Nevins, a three-time All-America selection and the 2014 American Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Year, finished her collegiate career as the program's all-time leader in wins (101), saves (20), innings pitched (844.1), strikeouts (1,103), strikeouts per seven innings (9.14), opponent batting average (.170), appearances (190) and tied for first in games started (109). She pitched two of USF's three perfect games and nine no-hitters, eight solo. The former U.S. Women's National team member posted a USF record 336 strikeouts during the 2012 season and led the Bulls to their first-ever Women's College World Series appearance that year.

Selvie is the third member of USF football to earn Hall of Fame honors, joining Anthony Henry '00 (Class of 2011) and Marquel Blackwell '02 (2013). Selvie, a former defensive end, is the only two-time, first-team All-America selection (2007-08) in program history and was an NCAA statistical champion in 2007, recording an FBS-best 31.5 tackles for loss that season. The 2007 Big East Defensive Player of the Year and 2007 Bill Willis Trophy winner set program records for tackles for loss (31.5) and sacks (14.5) in 2007 as the Bulls reached a new program milestone by ranking No. 2 nationally that year. The six-year NFL veteran still owns program career records for tackles for loss (69.5), sacks (29) and forced fumbles (9), and he's tied for first in starts (50).

Since inducting its first class in 2009, the USF Athletic Hall of Fame currently has 22 individuals and one team among its honored members. The 2019 class will be the first to be inducted to the Hall of Fame since 2013.

# WITH HONORS

## Judy Genshaft, Steven Greenbaum make transformative gift for new Honors College building

By KILEY MALLARD

**T**he word of the day was “historic.” The university community had gathered on the USF Maple Drive lawn for a special announcement. Joel Momberg, CEO of the USF Foundation, welcomed the crowd and was the first of many to use the word “historic” throughout the ceremony.

“Today is historic for many reasons, not least of which is the size of the gift and the donors who gave it,” he said.

The crowd soon learned of the incredible generosity of then-President Judy Genshaft, together with her husband, Steven Greenbaum, who made a gift of \$20 million to build and name the Judy Genshaft Honors College.

The ceremony took place on the site of what will be the new Judy Genshaft Honors College building.

“It is an honor to be here today to announce this uniquely historic gift,” Jordan Zimmerman, ’80, chair of the USF

with, mentor and support the students.

“Their support has enhanced the Honors College experience, sent students around the world and helped shape our scholars in a variety of disciplines,” he said.

The Honors College is a very personal calling for Genshaft, whose professional background is in the psychology of gifted students.

“Gifted students, our honors students, have unique needs,” she said. “They need to be challenged and have space to think creatively in order to thrive.”

One of the first things Genshaft did as president of USF was to formally establish the Honors College. At the announcement she reflected on the decision to grow the honors program into the impressive college that it is today. “I knew that investing in the Honors College and its students would elevate the entire university.”

The new building, designed by New York-based Morphosis Architects and Tampa-based Fleishman/Garcia, will be five stories and approximately 80,000 square feet, including classrooms, study areas, faculty and adviser offices, event areas, music and art rooms, student collaboration venues, a coffee shop and more.

“This wonderful new facility would be impossible without the support of Judy and Steve, and it is just the most recent of their many positive impacts in the Honors College,” Adams said.

In addition to a \$1 million gift to establish the university-wide Genshaft/Greenbaum Passport Scholarship Endowed Fund, Genshaft and Greenbaum have contributed more than \$4 million toward the Genshaft/Greenbaum International Honors Study Scholarship, which has sent hundreds of honors students around the globe since 2013.

“Travel has always been a big part of our lives, and we know that it can be transformational in terms of opening the mind to new cultures, new perspectives and new ideas,” Genshaft said. “It’s our role to provide these experiences to students through education and travel experiences.”

Greenbaum said the program is their way of ensuring students have opportunities to gain those experiences and have heard from many Honors College students that traveling abroad has had a profound impact on their lives.

“We love hearing from our students each year about their travel-abroad experiences,” Genshaft said. “They all come back changed for the better. It shapes who they are as open-minded and culturally competent individuals.”

Over the years, students have brought back bulls from all over the world for Genshaft, who said the collection has



Board of Trustees, said. “Up until now it has only been a dream: a new home to cultivate and teach our honors students, our best and brightest. That dream will soon become a reality.”

Charles Adams, dean of the Honors College, spoke of the support the college has received from Genshaft and Greenbaum through the years, both in the funding of study-abroad scholarships and also in devoting their time to meet



Photo: MATT MAY

come to represent the global reach of a USF education. The collection will be housed in the new facility.

Honors College alumna Indira Ranaweera '17, who is now a third-year medical student in the USF Morsani College of Medicine, spoke at the ceremony about how her first travel-abroad experience, funded in part by the Genshaft/Greenbaum International Honors Study Scholarship, helped her to learn Spanish, which she now uses with her patients nearly every day. Ranaweera has since been to 16 countries to volunteer, conduct research or explore.

"I am excited for my future as an OB/GYN because, thanks to the Honors College, Genshaft/Greenbaum International Honors Study Scholarship and Morsani College of Medicine, I am well-equipped to take care of a diverse set of patients, domestically and internationally," she said.

"Based on our research, Dr. Judy Genshaft has given more to the university in her 19 years than any sitting university president in the United States," Momberg said. "This is indeed a historic moment for USF and American higher education. We are so grateful for all President Genshaft and Steven Greenbaum have done for our university."

Their giving has touched nearly every area of the USF System and supported several diversity initiatives, including the Latino Scholarship Program, the Black Leadership Net-

work and Women in Leadership & Philanthropy. Genshaft and her family also donated an additional \$3 million to endow the deanship of the honors college.

"Anybody who has ever met President Genshaft knows that her passion for USF and its students knows no bounds," said Sydney Kitson, vice chair of the Florida Board of Governors. Kitson said the Board of Governors frequently discusses the importance of providing students with opportunities and experiences to prosper throughout their lives.

"The Judy Genshaft Honors College, with its art studio, music lab, computer lab and a multitude of collaborative spaces, embodies that concept," Kitson said.

Greenbaum said supporting the Honors College elevates the entire university in so many ways, and Genshaft agreed.

"We're already entering a new era of unprecedented achievement at USF," she said. "We see this gift as an extra boost to that momentum."

Momberg wrapped the ceremony with words of gratitude to Genshaft and Greenbaum.

"Thank you, Judy and Steve, for making history here today," Momberg said. "The future of USF is bright and you both continue to light the way." ■

**Former President Judy Genshaft, center, capped off 19 years of service with a historic gift to advance USF's Honors College. At the naming event, she is surrounded by Chairman of the USF Board of Trustees Jordan Zimmerman (left), and husband Steven Greenbaum (right), Honors College Dean Charles Adams, (far right), and honors students.**

**Opposite page: Architects' rendering of the new Judy Genshaft Honors College, designed by New York-based Morphosis Architects and Tampa-based Fleishman/Garcia.**



“

USF is an institution with great momentum, one with a lot of runway ahead of it to ascend to greater heights.”

– Steve Currall



Photo: RYAN NOONE | USF News

# President **Steve Currall** 'USF REPRESENTS **FUTURE** of higher **EDUCATION'**

By TOM WOOLF

**A**s a young person, Steve Currall dreamed of being an architect. Then, as now, he says, "I have a great passion for building things."

With that dream in mind, he started his undergraduate degree as an architecture major.

Although he later shifted his career aspirations, "That early interest, combined with my later organizational behavior education, led to my devotion to building organizations," Currall says. "My life mission is to continue building institutions of higher education to help our students, faculty, staff and community flourish."

Currall, who became USF's seventh president on July 1, agreed to be considered for the position because he viewed USF "as a university with an extraordinary upward trajectory. USF represents the future of higher education. It is a beacon of hope and opportunity for our students. USF reached new heights under the leadership of President Genshaft, the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors.

"USF is an institution with great momentum, one with a lot of runway ahead of it to reach its potential and to ascend to greater heights," he says, adding that USF "is a public research university with greater promise than any other in the nation."

He brings to his new position three decades of experience as a faculty member and administrator at research universities, both public and private, in the United States and abroad.

Before pursuing his passions in college and in his academic career, Currall learned valuable lessons growing up in the Midwest.

## **Formative Years**

Currall appreciated the very stable family life that his parents, Jim and Connie, provided, as well as the life experiences they shared with him. His father earned a master's degree in social work and was employed at a Kansas City, Mo., psychiatric hospital. Currall's mother stayed home with him, later earning an associate degree from a community college and then her bachelor's and master's degrees in educational administration. She worked in higher education administration at a local medical school.

Diversity has been central to Currall's life since childhood. His parents often socialized with colleagues of his father, which presented Currall with his first meaningful exposure to individuals from other

countries such as Germany and Egypt, as well as members of the African-American community. The profile of his public school district also reflected the broad socioeconomic, demographic, religious and political makeup of metropolitan Kansas City.

Currall's father was heavily involved in the civil rights movement in Kansas City; as a 10-year-old, Currall attended civil rights marches and other activities with his father and mother. Currall lost his mother in 1989. His father, now 89, continues to live independently in the same house in Kansas City.

Those and other experiences help to explain "my enthusiasm about the diversity and inclusion of the USF community. Because of its amazing fabric of cultures, I am excited to be a new member of the USF community."

During his high school years, Currall was told that he had the intellectual capacity to accomplish whatever he wished.

"In fact, as a 14-year-old, the school librarian wrote in my annual yearbook that she knew that, secretly, I was an intellectual but that I simply did not know it at the time. Other priorities captured my attention at that age, however."

He enjoyed success as an athlete, playing baseball on a city championship team, playing basketball and starting varsity on the high school football team his junior and senior years. He also ran track; he earned all-state status as a member of the state runner-up mile relay team. In college, he decided to focus on his intellectual and academic pursuits.

## College

"I know what it's like to be at a large public university as an 18-year-old," Currall says, recalling his time at Kansas State University, where he enrolled in 1977.

"The first two or three years of college are a time of profound transitions for every young person. Students are finding their role, identity and their career path. It is a great deal for any 17- or 18-year-old to navigate.

"Because of my experience, I have empathy for USF students as they begin their university journey. I want our students to experience connectivity by feeling a bond among their colleagues and a support network. I want each of our students to know that our university is committed to building that community for them. Student success is fundamental to our purpose as a university."

Initially, Currall pursued a degree in architecture. He later found himself gravitating toward psychology, partly from exposure to his father's career. By his sophomore year, he switched his major to psychology.

"That was a pivotal time for me. It was an intellectual revelation," he recalls. "I became intrinsically motivated to develop my intel-

lectual life. I was fascinated by the subject matter I was studying!"

That revelation showed up in his grade-point average. The spring of his sophomore year, he achieved nearly straight A's and continued to perform at that level throughout the remainder of his undergraduate years.

"That was a watershed moment," he says of his transition to psychology. He also decided that he was more intrigued by industrial and organizational psychology – the psychology of the workplace – than clinical psychology.

By his junior year, Currall had transferred to Baylor University, where he earned his bachelor's degree cum laude in psychology in 1982. He then spent what turned out to be a "fortuitous" year as a fundraiser for Baylor – experience that has come in handy over the years in his role as a dean, provost and now as a president. Throughout his career, Currall has held key leadership roles in obtaining philanthropic gifts totaling \$56.5 million.

After a year in the university fundraising position, Currall earned a Rotary Foundation scholarship to study for a year in England. The organization initially wanted to send him to a remote university in England.

"One of my early negotiating successes in life was convincing Rotary to assign me to the London School of Economics," he says with a laugh.

Thus began another watershed moment, as this was the first time Currall had traveled outside of the United States. The London School of Economics is one of the most international universities in the world; in fact, he was the only American in his master's degree program. His diverse classmates came from Finland, Jamaica, Norway and Hungary, among other countries, "so that further opened my eyes to people from different geographical backgrounds."

As great as the academic experience turned out to be, his living conditions were anything but.

"I lived in a dorm room that was so narrow I could reach out and touch both walls with my hands," he says. "During the winter, the wind would come in through gaps in the windows. And, it was the worst food I had ever eaten. But I had the time of my life in London, studying and learning and expanding my world view."

After earning his master's in social psychology in 1985, Currall was admitted to Cornell University to pursue his doctorate in organizational behavior. Cornell's location, in Ithaca, N.Y., was "geographically isolated," Currall says. Winters were brutal.

"But Cornell was a great academic experience, it's an amazing intellectual environment," he says. "I was a deeply committed

academic by that time. I was so energized by the magic of academic inquiry and discovery."

At Cornell, he met his future wife, Cheyenne, who was in the same doctoral program.

"We met at the coffee machine one day and struck up a conversation," Currall says. "I'd go and visit her in the library. I was trying to find the courage to ask her out but I didn't think she was interested."

She was, however, and eventually decided to take the initiative.

"He came and talked to me in the library every day for two weeks, so yes, I was pretty sure he was interested," she says, laughing at the memory. "I finally had to ask him to lunch."

Steve and Cheyenne married in Philadelphia in June 1991. Currall had earned his doctorate in 1990, but she was still completing her program. As he wanted to stay close to upstate New York, Currall took his first faculty job at Temple University in Philadelphia.

## Career

Currall's professional journey has taken him to three Association of American Universities institutions – a key aspiration for USF: Rice University, the University of California, Davis, and the University of Chicago as a visiting scholar. In addition, Currall has served as vice chair of the board of directors and executive committee for the 10-campus University of California Global Health Institute; as a department chair and vice dean at University College London; as a dean at the University of California, Davis, and most recently as provost and vice president for academic affairs since January 2016 at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Like USF, SMU and UC Davis are multi-campus systems.

Throughout his career, Currall has had moments that shaped his perspective and direction.

One of those occurred during his 12 years at Rice University in Houston. In 1997, he read a magazine article on the role of Stanford University in the development of Silicon Valley.

"What I found so fascinating was not so much the story of the entrepreneurs, but the role of a university in serving as a catalyst for regional economic development and new job creation," he says. "I became fascinated with the idea that a university could create high-quality, high-paying jobs. So, not only does a university do research, deliver education and supply the workforce. The university also has an economic development role through job creation."

That realization led him to create the Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship



Photo: RYAN NOONE | USF News

in 2000, which Currall directed for five years. The Alliance helped start 160 technology companies that raised \$300 million in equity capital.

“My hope is that USF would be to Tampa Bay what Stanford has been to Silicon Valley,” he says, noting USF’s “amazing performance” in terms of patent generation and spin-out companies.

His success with the Alliance led to his appointment, while still an associate professor, as the William and Stephanie Sick Professor of Entrepreneurship in the Brown School of Engineering at Rice, a \$2.5 million endowed chair that he held from 2001 to 2005.

Currall then moved to University College London, where he held faculty and administrative positions, including serving as professor and the founding chair of the Department of Management Science and Innovation in the Faculty of Engineering Sciences from 2005 to 2009. The creation of the department proved to be an opportunity to use his skills of persuasion.

“To found the department, I had to secure the support of the eight other department chairs in the Faculty (college) of Engineering Sciences,” Currall explains. “Despite the fact that I am not an engineer, and I am not British – in fact, I was the only ‘non-Brit’ – I had to convince them to support the formation of the new department. To make things even more difficult, I had to convince them to pool some of their departments’ financial resources to found my new department.”

He accomplished that mission. He then had to secure the approval of the 600-member Academic Council (professors and readers) for the entire university. In two years, the department was launched.

In 2009, Currall joined the University of California, Davis, which, like USF, is a young university (it became an independent university in 1959). He served as professor of management and dean of the Graduate School of Management. He also served as vice chair of a blue ribbon committee charged with creating a plan to grow research from \$780 million to \$1 billion annually. The UC Davis research enterprise has grown to \$850 million today.

In 2014, he was promoted as the chancellor’s senior advisor for strategic projects and Initiatives. In that role, Currall used his organizational expertise to lead multiple strategic planning initiatives, including the development of a new campus in Sacramento, 12 miles away from the Davis campus.

Currall also chaired a task force on how to establish UC Davis as a university of the 21st century. He similarly aims to position USF as a university of the 21st century.

“A university of the 21st century has a core of academic excellence in research, creative activities and teaching,” Currall says. “And it also has a deep engagement with its community, and has as part of its mission, a responsibility to address significant societal challenges. USF is incredibly well-positioned. It is already doing that; we can do even more. That’s another reason why I’m excited about

joining USF.”

In his role at SMU, Currall oversaw the admission of student-athletes, eligibility and support services. Athletics is “a vital component of the fabric of the university community” and a key to alumni engagement. The former all-state athlete enjoys watching and supporting university teams, adding that at USF he is committed to “victory with integrity.”

Currall is confident that his experience at both public and private institutions will be of benefit to USF. So too will his overseas experiences.

“My London experiences, both during my recent years as an administrative leader and professor in London, and my master’s degree 35 years ago, sensitized me to the value of being a university with a global footprint,” he says. “Those experiences will inform how we will work together to bolster USF’s global brand.”

Currall views the presidency of USF as “an extraordinary stewardship opportunity.”

“A university president must fulfill many roles,” he says. “One of those is to facilitate the university community’s dialogue about how best to envision the future of the university. That will be our vision; not solely my vision. Another role is to inspire my colleagues to flourish in their jobs. We’re a team and everyone must perform effectively for USF to reach its aspirations. And a third component of the role is to advocate. I will be a tireless and deeply committed advocate on behalf of the university to all of our stakeholders.”



“

**I hope to inspire women to realize that the sky is the limit regardless of their background. USF is an amazing place to grow and expand your talent.”**

**- *Cheyenne Currall***

# CHEYENNE CURRALL

## hopes her life story inspires others

**C**heyenne Currall, a seasoned global business executive, corporate psychologist and the wife of new USF President Steve Currall, says she feels privileged to be a member of the USF community. “There is so much growth and innovation under way at USF and throughout Tampa Bay, and I am excited to join this vibrant community,” she says.

With a successful career that spans a variety of industries in the U.S. and abroad, her personal journey is a story of resilience through life’s ups and downs, similar to that of many other immigrants in the United States.

### Formative Years

Currall’s family in China was highly visible. Both her father and mother were early leaders of the People’s Republic of China. Later, each of them became chairman and CEO of large state-owned companies.

China’s Cultural Revolution, from 1966 to 1976, upended all of that.

During the Cultural Revolution, the government ostracized three groups of people: CEOs of big companies who were accused of being capitalists; intellectuals for their western ideologies; and “old money” from previous Chinese generations.

With her parents as CEOs, the family was affected dramatically; her parents were imprisoned and her four brothers and sisters were sent to the countryside to work on farms. As the youngest – just 8 years old – she was required to remain at home. Alone.

“I had to figure out quickly how to survive,” Currall says.

There were times, as she walked the streets, that other children threw stones at her because she was the daughter of well-known business leaders. Fortunately, a couple of restaurant owners were willing to take the risk of secretly cooking for her. A sympathetic teacher snuck into the house during the evenings to teach Currall how to wash her hair and wash her clothes. Previously, those tasks had always been handled by nannies.

“An experience like the Cultural Revolution makes one very humble,” she says. “I also learned, at a very young age, that your true friends are those who help you when you are at your lowest point. The best friends during difficult times are often just everyday people. Whether it was the restaurant owners who fed me or the teacher who taught me how to wash my hair, it was very touching.”

With most of China’s schools closed, Currall relied on her older siblings’ books to educate herself. Later, her

mother returned home. Her brothers and sisters also gradually returned.

“My father, a man of integrity, refused to accept false accusations against him as a capitalist,” Currall says. “He was kept locked away in prison until the end of the Cultural Revolution in 1976, when the new government declared the Cultural Revolution itself was ‘wrong and a serious disaster’ brought onto its people and the country.”

Another historical event that would also shape Currall’s life occurred in 1972 when President Richard Nixon visited China.

“I watched on TV how our premier, Chou En-lai, skillfully engaged in dialogues with the U.S. president,” Currall says. “That event absolutely fascinated me. I was inspired to be a diplomat, to bring people from different countries together.”

### College

During the Cultural Revolution, most Chinese universities were also closed. In 1977, the government reinstated the higher education system. A number of universities were reopened, and hundreds of thousands of prospective students applied. Currall competed successfully and was admitted to Liaoning University in northeast China in 1978. Pursuing her dream of becoming a diplomat, she majored in English and foreign literature. She graduated at the top in her class in 1982 and planned to pursue a career in foreign affairs.

With plans to open additional universities, however, China desperately needed more university professors. So, instead of being allowed to pursue a diplomatic career, she was selected to become a professor of English at Shenyang University of Technology.

Her path changed again in 1984. After presenting a paper at an international comparative literature conference in Shanghai, she was admitted by Brown University, an Ivy League university in Rhode Island, for the doctoral program in comparative literature. At that time, there were no doctoral degree programs offered in China. Therefore, to pursue a doctorate, she had to go abroad.

“I had to go through a Chinese government selection process, and I was part of the first group sent to the U.S. as humanities students,” Currall recalls.

While in the U.S., Currall began to reflect on her experience during the Cultural Revolution. She became more and more interested in studying the power of leadership – how one person’s ideology can turn a country into a revolution. Under the guidance of her international study adviser



at Brown, she decided to shift her focus to organizational psychology – with an emphasis on leadership and business strategy.

Currall transferred to Cornell University, where she earned her master's degree in educational psychology and a doctoral degree in global business strategy and organizational behavior, specializing in global leadership effectiveness. At Cornell she met her future husband, Steve, who was in the same doctoral program. They have been married for 28 years.

### Career

Currall describes her career as pursuing two parallel paths.

"I was brought up by two CEO parents, so naturally I was very in tune with the business world. That experience, coupled with my business strategy training, has made global business development an exciting career path for me for many years."

Her other career path is corporate psychology.

"This is more rooted in my personal experience and the understanding of the power of leadership, how leadership dynam-

ics can change a country, an organization, a business or a person," she explains.

Currall has conducted psychological profiles of hundreds of executives around the world and helped them achieve breakthroughs in their leadership that not only changed themselves but also the organizations they were leading. "Changing one person at a time so they can have a big impact – this has been very gratifying for me," she says.

During the past 10 years, Currall has had opportunities to leverage her two parallel experiences together, using her business development skills and people skills in global fundraising for several organizations, including the University of California, Davis, and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

Additionally, Currall co-founded the global merger and acquisition integration practice at Arthur Anderson Business Consulting. She was a corporate psychologist at YSC in London, a global business psychology and executive coaching consulting firm.

Currall turned her interest to health care in 2001 after the loss of her father

to a medical complication and her desire thereafter to create greater access to world-class medicine to benefit people around the world.

She served as CEO for University College London International Medical Services; executive director of international services and development at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston's Texas Medical Center; and principal director for international business development at the University of California, Davis Health System.

Since 2017, she has led global advancement at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Among her responsibilities are global visibility building and fundraising, commercializing innovations on a global scale, forming strategic alliances and establishing international patient services.

"Now that I will be in Tampa, I will be integrating myself into the USF community and adding value to USF wherever I can be of assistance," she says. "I will also look for professional opportunities outside of USF and hope I can also bring value to the Tampa community broadly."

Currall looks forward to getting to know USF's students, noting, "Steve and I don't have children, so I'm looking forward to 'adopting' 50,000 students at the university."

She also hopes to be a mentor.

"I'm a woman and an immigrant who, fortunately, was able to advance in my career," she says. "I hope to inspire women to realize that the sky is the limit regardless of their background. USF is an amazing place to grow and expand your talent."

Currall also emphasized that she and her husband will be living in the Lifsey House on campus.

"I hope that's an indication of how much we look forward to being members of the university community," she says.

— By TOM WOOLF



**... He has a mission to see students excel beyond getting their degree. He wants them to have research experiences, to be involved in start-ups, to apply what they are learning in the classroom."**

**— Sheri Kunovich**

# SMU colleagues give new president HIGH MARKS

**M**ANY IN THE SOUTHERN METHODIST University community in Dallas were paying close attention when USF's presidential search committee interviewed four finalists on the Tampa campus in March.

Dayna Oscherwitz, assistant provost for general education, said the "academic grapevine" at SMU was especially busy that week.

"People were reading your media websites in dread," she says.

USF's new president, Steve Currall, joined SMU as provost and vice president for academic affairs in 2016. Colleagues there give him high marks for his thoughtful approach to leadership.

Oscherwitz, who served as president of SMU's Faculty Senate last year, has been a faculty member and department chair during her 17 years with the university. She describes Currall as a consensus-builder.

"One of the things that everyone here knows about him and will miss is that when making big decisions or coming up with projects, he actively solicited input from all relevant stakeholders," she says.

Although hesitant to make generalizations about SMU's faculty, Oscherwitz says that "by and large, he had a very positive relationship with the faculty."

"He's done a lot of town hall forums here and was always well prepared," she says. "He was willing to take any question and he gave thorough answers. He's not afraid to say what he genuinely thinks."

Oscherwitz also says Currall is particularly interested in urban universities and their relationship with the cities they serve.

"He's quite brilliant and visionary in terms of having an understanding of how universities work and where they ought to be going," she says.

Sheri Kunovich, who has been a faculty member and department chair during her 14 years at SMU, has served as associate provost for student academic engagement

and success for the past year. Currall created her position as part of a reorganization of the provost's office.

"He wanted someone focused on undergraduate student success and retention," Kunovich says. "One of the nice things about him is he has a mission to see students excel beyond getting their degree. He wants them to have research experiences, to be involved in start-ups, to apply what they're learning in the classroom."

Currall also made it a priority to have colleges work together more collaboratively. Historically, Kunovich says, SMU's colleges have operated "very autonomously from one another."

"Getting different colleges to share their classrooms is fraught with complications," she notes. "Faculty like to teach when and where they've always done it. When you tell one college to share with another college, it may not be good for the faculty member but it is good for the colleges. We're using resources more efficiently and more equitably."

Kunovich says she is "incredibly thankful" for the direction Currall provided for SMU's future. In particular, she cites an initiative Currall led that resulted in the report, *Continuing the Ascent: Recommendations for Enhancing the Academic Quality and Stature of Southern Methodist University*. Released a year ago, the report was the culmination of an 18-month process that gathered input from various constituencies across the SMU campus.

"Even though his time here was relatively short, he's had a significant impact," she says. "He brought the faculty together around the importance of improving academic quality in the classroom. When you are a campus that's pretty successful, you can become content. In *Continuing the Ascent*, he asked us to think about how to get to that next level. I find it exciting to think about that kind of change. I appreciate that he brought that to our community."

— By TOM WOOLF

# Oh the places you'll go!

## *A Bulls' guide to great hangouts*

By PENNY CARNATHAN '82, Life Member



Photo: PENNY CARNATHAN

**O**ver the years, USF's new president has hopscotched across the country, with a skip and a jump overseas to London, for study and work. But Tampa Bay marks a first for Steve Currall. He's lived in Waco and Ithaca, Davis and Dallas, but never in Tampa, St. Petersburg or Sarasota. Actually, never in Florida.

Fortunately, we Bulls can make the president and his wife, Cheyenne, feel right at home. No one knows the best local hangouts like USF alumni. We learn as students where to find the cheesiest pizza and the hottest entertainment on the cheap, and turn those places into cherished traditions.

Here are a few hangouts where Bulls have planted the Green and Gold. You'll be as likely to find a good deal as a fellow Bull here, and if you happen to spot Lifsey House's new residents, be sure to give 'em a Horns Up!

### **CDB Pizza & Italian Restaurant**

An 8-minute bike ride from the Curralls' front door, CDB's Pizza at 5104 E. Fowler Ave. has been serving Bulls since 1975. Though it's no longer owned by colorful co-founder Pat Iacovella, its pizza still gets plenty of raves.

"Their pizza was, and is, to die for – and you might, given the abundance of cheese and meat toppings with that yummy sauce and thick crust," says David Weeks, '82, Life Member. "But you'd go out with a full belly and a satisfied smile that the mortician couldn't wipe off your face!"

### **Skipper's Smokehouse**

In 1980, three Air Force buddies opened a smokehouse takeout that hosted Sunday afternoon jams at 910 Skipper Road in Tampa. It grew into a favorite venue for eclectic live music, from Grateful Dead cover bands to Trout Fishing in America's kids' show; fresh-shucked oysters; and fried gator tail. Customers can eat inside surrounded by old Florida dive bar décor, or outside at weathered picnic tables beneath moss-draped live oaks.

"I remember many Wednesday nights for Reggae



Night, with 1-dollar Red Stripe beers and my toes in the sand dance floor,” says Jim Harvey, '88, Life Member and former Alumni Association board chair.

### USF Botanical Gardens

On the west side of the Tampa campus lies the 16-acre USF Botanical Gardens, where the Curralls can find respite in the Rainforest, healing in the Medicinal Garden or sun salutations during Yoga in the Gardens. Events throughout the year include plant sales, the Taste of Honey fundraiser, classes and workshops. Established 50 years ago and open to the public, the gardens are part of the Department of Geography, Environment and Planning in the College of Arts and Sciences. More information at [gardens.usf.edu](http://gardens.usf.edu).

### Columbia Restaurant Ybor

Many a USF student-athlete has brushed up on table manners during etiquette dinners at the historic restaurant and many a Sun Dolls dancer has celebrated the end of the school year at a Columbia banquet. Established in 1905, the Tampa landmark remains a favorite for its delicious



Opposite page: Bulls have been ordering CDB Pizza for 44 years.

Above, top: A yoga class in the tranquil USF Botanical Gardens.

Above, bottom: Bulls helped turn Skipper's Smokehouse, former takeout joint, into a popular food and music venue.

Photo: SKIPPER'S SMOKEHOUSE

Spanish cuisine, ornate dining rooms, genteel servers and nightly (except Sundays) flamenco dancers.

Bulls feel the love here. Fourth-generation CEO Richard Gonzmart, Life Member, is a Bulls Club board member and former USF Foundation board member, among other contributions. He's also a recipient of the USF Class of '56 Award for non-alumni who go above and beyond to support USF and the community.

### The International Boba House

Bulls flock to the Boba House for Friday Night Open Mic; walls covered with original art for sale; video gaming; big, comfy chairs and couches; baked goods; and, oh yeah, boba – Thai bubble milk tea. It opened just west of USF at 2764 University Square Drive about a decade ago.

“The Boba House is the spot for young adults to show off their hidden talent on stage in front of an enthusiastic crowd every Friday,” says Walter Villa, '18. “Everything from comedians, musicians, rappers, singers, and poets provide the Boba House with pure entertainment that is hard to find anywhere else,”

### Tavern at Bayboro

“The Tav” has been a USF St. Petersburg treasure since 1981. It's such a fixture of campus life, its former owner was known as “the mayor of USF St. Pete.” Located on the edge of the waterfront campus, it's famous for its “crunchies” – locally caught fresh grouper fillets breaded with corn flakes and sliced almonds.

There's live music Friday nights and open mic on Wednesday nights.

“The Tavern at Bayboro is the place to be on campus. It's a huge source of pride for us at USF St. Pete,” says Anna Bryson, '19. “Anybody who's been there can tell you it's a special place – it always feels just like home.”

### Capogna's Dugout

When USF football is playing away, Pinellas County area Bulls head to Capogna's at 1654 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Clearwater, to watch the game on 18 TV screens. The sports bar has been serving up heaping helpings of Bull pride along with pizza, burgers and Italian fare for years, even roping off the parking lot for USF football kickoff parties complete with the Herd of Thunder pep band.

Owner Al Capogna is the father of two former Bulls football players – Vincent Capogna and Nick Capogna, '08.

### The Cafe at USFSM

Two years ago, students and faculty from the College of Hospitality and Tourism Leadership took over the on-campus eatery, which had been operated by a food-service vendor. Instead of pre-made and griddle-cooked sandwiches, they upped the freshness-and-tastiness quotient with made-to-order entrées, soups, salads and sandwiches. It's a hit!

“One of the favorite Bulls hangouts is The Café at USFSM,” says Dr. Anila Jain, '81, Life Member, USF Distinguished Alumna and past Alumni Association board chair.



Left: When Bulls have something special to celebrate, they head to Columbia Restaurant, Tampa's 114-year-old iconic landmark.

Right, top: Watching rowers compete at Nathan Benderson Park is a popular pastime for USFSM Bulls.

Right, bottom: Tom Herzhauser, left, “the mayor of USF St. Petersburg,” sold the Tavern at Bayboro to longtime colleague Dennis Bixler, right, and his wife, Stephanie, in April.

Photo: COLUMBIA RESTAURANT





### Nathan Benderson Park

USF Sarasota-Manatee Bulls enjoy a unique attraction, a 400-acre lake that's a world-class rowing venue. The Sarasota County-owned park has been tapped to host the 2020 U.S. Olympic and Paralympic rowing team trials in April, and it hosted the 2016 Olympic trials. What's more fun than watching top athletes fly across the water? ■

*Thank you to contributors Anna Bryson, USFSP '19; Richard Gonzmart; Jim Harvey '88; Bob Herron, '05 and MEd '07, Life Member; Bruce Imler, '96; Dr. Anila Jain, '81; Paul Johnson, '70, Life Member; Theresa Lopez, '18; Bill Marriotti, USFSM '15, Life Member; Walter Villa, '18; David Weeks, '82*



Photo: ANNA BRYSON, '19



“The days of cafeteria food are long gone.”

# DINNER IS SERVED

By TOM WOOLF

## *Health and nutrition, convenience and choice drive innovation in today's food services*

**D**avid DiSalvo, resident district manager for Aramark/USF Dining, has had a front-row seat to dramatic changes in dining on university campuses during his 16 years in hospitality services in higher education.

"The days of cafeteria food are long gone," says DiSalvo, who has been in his role with USF Dining the past six years.

Students reflect societal trends and also serve as a predictor of the future of dining.

"More than anything, populations in higher education are really good peeks under the curtain as to where things are headed," he says. "Our customers – students – are sophisticated. They have sophisticated means of accessing information, such as smart phones, and as responsible providers, institutions have to align with that demand. Shifts in dining generally are most evident in higher education."

Traditional campus cafeterias have been replaced by a variety of innovations, including rotating menus, a Flip Kitchen, True Balance and mobile ordering. The priorities for today's students are health and nutrition, convenience and choice.

Jessica Cicalese '11, marketing director for USF Dining – and a registered dietitian – can attest to how much has changed in just the eight years since she was an undergraduate.

"When I was a student, there were far fewer dining options. Today, we have more than 30," she says. "We have three all-you-care-to-eat dining halls, designated vegan stations and an allergen station. We have many different populations at USF and we want to make sure we have something for all nationalities and cultures."

USF Dining's locations range from the Top of the Palms at the Marshall Student Center to popular retail outlets, including Starbucks, Einstein Bros. Bagels, Burger Fi, Subway, Jamba Juice, Pollo Tropical, Chick-fil-A, Wicked Eats by Cat Cora and local Bay Coffee & Tea Company. A makeover of the food court in the Marshall Student Center is taking place this summer, and new options will include Panera Bread, Bento Sushi, a hot ramen bar and a salad bar. USF Dining also caters events across campus throughout the year.

By way of comparison, during the 2000-01 academic



David DiSalvo

year, students, faculty and staff had 12 campus options, including Crossroads Café, Café Good Eats, The Corner Grocery, Good Stuff, etc., and Firehouse Grill. Some alumni may recall USF's first food service provider, Morrison's Cafeteria, and its lone dining hall in USF's first student union, the University Center.

Philadelphia-based Aramark has been the university's food service partner since 2002. The company, which provides dining services on more than 300 college and university campuses across the country, recently signed a new 10-year contract with USF.

"The relationship with Aramark has been fantastic," says Nancy Santiago, director of USF Auxiliary Services. "There is a big focus on healthy, sustainable initiatives and that aligns with our university's mission."

She credits DiSalvo and his team with "constantly looking to move the needle" based on sound research.

"We leverage the fact that as a large corporation, they can handle the market research. They have a methodology to do certain research analyses to determine what's the right fit for each university," Santiago says. "They look at concepts and at what USF needs."

They also actively engage with students.

"USF Dining does a good job of listening to our students," Santiago says. "The fact that they actively engage with our university community and positively react to the feedback is one of the many reasons as to why I'm so happy with our partnership."

For example, when it became clear that sushi is a pop-



## “Everybody **breaks bread**; that’s how you bring people together.”

ular option among students, USF Dining installed a sushi machine from Japan in one of the dining halls.

Representatives of USF Dining meet with the 80-member Residence Hall Association (RHA), which doubles as a dining advisory council, on a monthly basis during the academic year. Sixteen residence hall councils, along with an executive board, comprise the RHA.

Evan Collins, an education major from Honolulu, is president of the RHA.

“We appreciate the fact that Dining welcomes an open conversation,” he says. “Our relationship is very positive, very constructive.”

Adds J.D. Salazar, a public health major from Altamonte Springs, Fla., and RHA vice president, “We get to see the people who make the decisions. We see them implement changes that we recommend.”

Students enjoy the variety of options available, the convenience, and the focus on health and nutrition. There’s a social aspect as well, particularly in the dining halls, and students appreciate the relaxed atmosphere.

Asked what more USF Dining could be doing to accommodate students, Collins pauses.

“Just the fact that I have to think for a long time about the need for any improvements is a statement in and of itself,” he says.

DiSalvo notes that the university and USF Dining share the goal of building community.

“This is the students’ home, and we take that very seriously,” he notes. “We want people to feel welcome and included. Everybody breaks bread; that’s how you bring people together. We understand that and leverage that in our programming decisions.”

Weekly dining events are among the initiatives that help bring students together. Wing Wednesdays proved to be “wildly popular” at one of the dining halls during the spring semester, Cicalese says. Examples of other sponsored events include National Cappuccino Day, National Greek Yogurt Day and National Nacho Day.

Building community also means being socially responsible. Since March 2017, USF Dining has donated more than 1,200 pounds of fresh produce and Einstein Bros. bagels to the Feed-A-Bull food pantry. Among other initiatives, plastic straws have been removed from several key locations, including the Marshall Student Center. The Sip Smarter Campaign will expand to all retail locations across campus in the 2019-2020 academic year. Aramark research shows that 94 percent of Generation Z’ers (born between the mid-1990s and mid-2000s) believe companies should help address social and environmental issues.

With its 30-plus dining halls and retail outlets, USF Dining is a major campus employer, with 1,300 associates. More than half are students.

“Many student employees become leaders for us,” DiSalvo says. “USF is one of the top recruiting schools for Aramark both in the U.S. and internationally. The student



engagement piece benefits our organization and of course, students. There's nothing like being served by a peer. That has a level of authenticity to it. Feedback flows more freely and that helps us adjust as needed."

Across all of its locations, USF Dining serves 20,000 meals a day during the academic year. Of that total, approximately 5,000 a day are dished up at the Hub, which opened in 2017 at The Village residence hall complex. Students, faculty and staff can choose from nine stations, including globally inspired entrees, pizza, deli offerings, salads, desserts and Italian specialties.

"The Hub is an accumulation of a lot of years of learning and mistakes," DiSalvo says, referring to USF Dining's ongoing research into college dining trends. "The Hub is a great space that not only incorporates technology and the most cutting-edge trends, it's breathable. It expands when demand dictates, but it also contracts. Most of us eat in a certain time frame for a sit-down meal. The Hub needs to expand at traditional peak times but contract efficiently because there are always people who are hungry."

USF Dining Services devoted two years to designing and "gathering the best of the best from around the country" for the Hub.

"We have flexibility for future growth," DiSalvo says. "Equipment choices, power, data, all the things in that space can behave well for five years and for up to 15-20 years. Whatever is the next best thing easily can find a home there."

USF is one of the few universities in the country to feature the Aramark-branded True Balance kitchen, which has proven to be a big draw at the Hub. The kitchen is isolated from the other stations so it remains free of seven of the top eight food allergens.

"It offers a lot of lean protein and vegetables," DiSalvo says. "It gives people some piece of mind while introducing the broader population to healthier eating."

Adds Cicalese: "It puts students and their parents at ease. It's one of our most popular stations, even for those without allergies and dietary needs."

USF Dining's emphasis on building community is integral to Argos Exchange, which also opened in the fall of 2017. While similar to the Hub in that it also is a multi-concept venue, Argos is a la carte, rather than all you can eat.

"Argos is a community building that happens to have food inside," DiSalvo says. "If you want to come in to collaborate, do that. If you want to come in to hang out, do that."

Argos also features a demonstration kitchen, where USF Dining's chefs demonstrate meal preparation for students and share recipes.

New concepts are constantly in development. USF Dining is slowly introducing campus bicycle deliveries, which are directed especially toward faculty and staff. Orders are placed using the Tapingo mobile app on a smart phone. In addition, mobile ordering through the Tapingo app – already in use at most dining locations – will be available in the Marshall Student Center, where long lines are a regular occurrence during lunch hours. So much so, Cicalese notes, that "a heat mapping exercise we performed to see the traffic during the noon hour showed you can't move" in the food court.

"Personalization and convenience are key," DiSalvo says of campus dining in the 21st century. "Health is at the pinnacle of what we use to make decisions."

**Above: The Hub, in The Village residence hall complex, opened in 2017.**

**Opposite page: Registered dietitian Mary Waddill in the re-designed Argos Exchange.**

What's  
on the

Menu?



**V**egan. Vegetarian. Plant-forward. Flexitarian. Food allergies.

Keeping up with the dietary needs of thousands of USF students may seem daunting, but not to Mary Waddill.

USF Dining's registered dietitian for the past two years, Waddill embraces her many opportunities to help educate students about food – and about cooking.

"A big piece of my job is outreach, such as hosting tabling events, providing nutrition education presentations or conducting cooking demonstrations, which I do on a weekly basis," she says. "With cooking demonstrations, I try to focus on making cooking doable, easy, helping students learn how to prepare a balanced meal."

There is no question that today's students have a much sharper focus on healthy eating. A USF Dining survey shows that 62 percent of students want to eat more vegetables; 60 percent want to reduce meat consumption; and 42 percent would try new plant-based foods. In response, vegetarian and vegan selections now make up 30 percent of USF Dining's menus.

According to peta2's 2018 Vegan Report Card, two-thirds of the nation's colleges and universities now offer vegan meals on campus. The organization, a youth animal rights group and a subset of PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), has surveyed university dining programs for the past five years.

For the third year in a row, USF earned an "A+" on the annual report card.

"As a whole, the culture around food is transitioning," Waddill says. "The idea behind plant-forward eating, specifically by making plant-based foods like fruits, vegetables,

legumes and whole grains the focus of your meals. That approach is more encompassing than a vegan or vegetarian diet."

According to Aramark, USF's food service partner, 85 percent of college students nationally are likely to order plant-forward meal options. Top choices include Southwestern salad, hummus bowl, fajitas, lasagna with vegetables and veggie/bean burger.

As is the case at many universities, a "flexitarian" diet also is a growing trend at USF.

"You may choose a vegan diet one week, then try something different the next week," explains Jessica Cicalese '11, USF Dining's marketing director who also is a dietitian. "Students are experimenting with different diets that focus more on plant proteins."

In addition to nutrition education sessions and weekly cooking demonstrations, Waddill regularly meets with individual students. She calls those one-on-one counseling opportunities "a great amenity" for students.

"I meet with at least one student a day," she says. "We discuss food allergies, how to navigate the dining halls, how to lose weight, or how to build muscle. I also debunk a lot of fad diets. Students appreciate having an evidence-based resource rather than just relying on what's on the Internet. I try to provide them with information to allow them to make their own healthier choices, because every student has different needs."

Waddill also created a QR Code that provides students with all macro and micro nutrient information for residential menus with one scan on a smartphone.

"Students really want the education about how eating affects their health," Cicalese says.

— By TOM WOOLF

## RECIPES TO MAKE AT HOME

### Mango Quinoa Salad

#### Ingredients:

½ cup romaine lettuce  
½ cup mixed greens  
1 cup quinoa  
½ cup fresh mango, diced  
1 tbsp green onion, sliced  
2 tbsp almonds, sliced and toasted  
2 tbsp dried cranberries  
1 cup Tropical Ginger Vinaigrette

### Tropical Ginger Vinaigrette

½ cup pineapple  
2 tbsp rice wine vinegar  
2 tbsp orange juice  
1 ½ tsp lemon juice  
1 ½ tsp sugar  
1 ½ tsp gingerroot  
1 ½ tsp cilantro  
½ tsp garlic  
1/8 tsp salt  
1 pinch cayenne pepper  
¼ cup olive oil

#### Directions:

To prepare tropical ginger vinaigrette, combine all ingredients in blender or food processor, except oil. Blend until smooth.

With blender running, slowly add oil in a thin, steady stream until emulsified.

In a bowl, combine romaine lettuce, mixed greens, quinoa, mango, jalapeno, scallion and tropical ginger vinaigrette dressing. Top with toasted almonds and cranberries. Enjoy!

Makes 4 servings, 330 calories each

# Aquafaba Chocolate Mousse

## Ingredients:

1 tbsp coconut milk (unsweetened)  
½ cup semisweet chocolate  
½ cup reserved garbanzo bean liquid  
2 pinches cream of tartar  
2 tbsp granulated sugar

## Directions:

In top of double boiler, over hot (not boiling) water, heat coconut milk. Add chocolate. Stir until chocolate is melted and smooth. Remove from heat.

In a mixer bowl with whisk attachment, beat reserved bean liquid and cream of tartar on medium-high speed until foamy, 5 minutes. Gradually add sugar, beating until stiff peaks form.

Add 1/3 of the whipped mixture to the melted chocolate. Whisk until well blended.

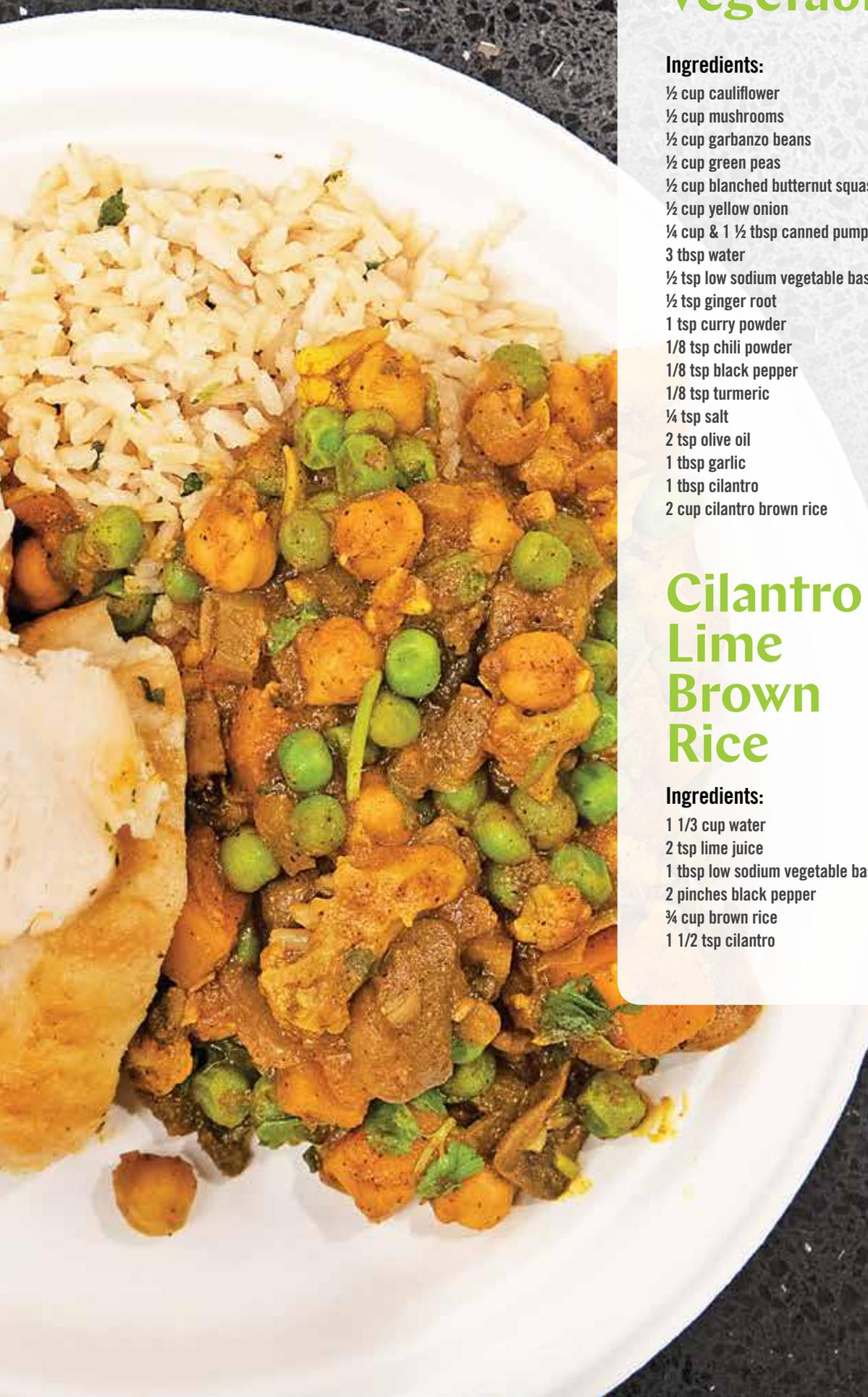
Gently fold remaining whipped mixture, one half at a time.

Into each of the four dessert dishes, portion in chocolate mixture.

Cover and refrigerate overnight.  
Keep chilled for service and enjoy!

Makes 4 servings  
230 cal per each





## Pumpkin-Curry Vegetable Sauté

### Ingredients:

½ cup cauliflower  
½ cup mushrooms  
½ cup garbanzo beans  
½ cup green peas  
½ cup blanched butternut squash  
½ cup yellow onion  
¼ cup & 1 ½ tbsp canned pumpkin  
3 tbsp water  
½ tsp low sodium vegetable base  
½ tsp ginger root  
1 tsp curry powder  
1/8 tsp chili powder  
1/8 tsp black pepper  
1/8 tsp turmeric  
¼ tsp salt  
2 tsp olive oil  
1 tbsp garlic  
1 tbsp cilantro  
2 cup cilantro brown rice

### Directions:

For cilantro-lime brown rice, in stockpot over high heat, bring water, lime juice, base and pepper to a boil. Add rice and stir. Return to a boil. Reduce heat and cover. Simmer rice until water is absorbed, about 20-25 minutes.

In stockpot over medium-high heat, combine pumpkin, water, lemon juice, base, ginger root, curry powder, chili powder, pepper and ground turmeric. Cook, stirring constantly until sauce is hot, 3 to 5 minutes.

In sauté pan, heat oil. Add onion, garlic and cauliflower. Stir-fry until tender-crisp, 2 to 3 minutes.

Add mushroom. Stir-fry 3 minutes.

Add garbanzo beans, frozen peas, butternut squash, salt and pumpkin sauce. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat. Simmer 2 minutes.

On serving plate, layer brown rice, vegetable mixture and 1 tsp cilantro. Enjoy!

Makes 4 servings  
250 cal per serving

## Cilantro Lime Brown Rice

### Ingredients:

1 1/3 cup water  
2 tsp lime juice  
1 tbsp low sodium vegetable base  
2 pinches black pepper  
¾ cup brown rice  
1 1/2 tsp cilantro

*Recipes courtesy of USF Dining*

# 5 minutes with BILL



## *My fellow Bulls,*

ONE THING HASN'T CHANGED since you were a student – summertime at USF. From the outside, our great university appears to be dozing in the sun, quietly awaiting the arrival of students at the end of August.

Nothing could be further from the truth!

Plenty of students are here taking summer classes, although not enough to fill up the parking lots. (Alumni, if you've been meaning to visit the USF Bookstore or check out what's new on campus, now's the time!) But most of our busyness this summer is easier felt than seen.

There was sadness as we said good-bye to Judy Genshaft with her July 1 retirement. We could not have asked for a more passionate and visionary president who, at the same time, made such a personal impression on the many students who matriculated under her leadership. Simultaneously, there's excitement about the historic gift she and her husband, Steve Greenbaum, left behind: \$23 million to help build the new Judy Genshaft Honors College and endow its deanship.

There's also joyful anticipation as we welcome our new president Steve Currall and his wife, Cheyenne. President Currall brings a wealth of academic leadership along with his own experience as a leading university professor who received more than \$21.5 million in research funding. He appreciates how important dedicated alumni are to a university's success, so we look forward to him getting to know our proud, committed Bulls.

We're feeling pride, too. In the last weeks of the school year, your Alumni Association celebrated the tremendous success of some of our highest achieving alumni. The USF Fast 56 Awards recognize the fastest-growing Bull-led businesses in the world, and the awards ceremony brought those exceptional leaders together in one room. That made for an exciting evening and a rare opportunity to chat with cutting-edge entrepreneurs. Meet them on page 50.

And we honored five USF Outstanding Young Alumni ages 35 and younger. To see all they've accomplished in just a few short years post-graduation and hear them talk about how USF contributed to their success was pure inspiration. It was an event to remember and one I invite you to join us for in April 2020. Meet the 2019 Outstanding Young Alumni on page 60.

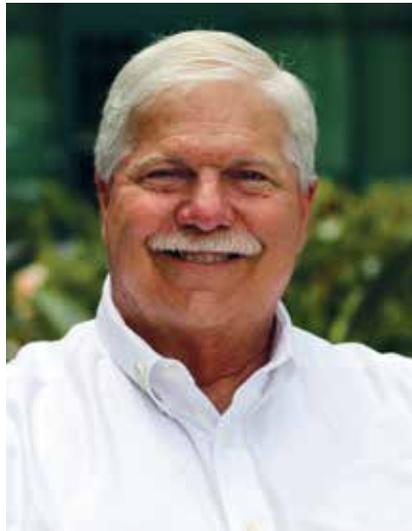
The opportunities to connect with fellow Bulls don't stop with the end of the school year! Volunteers with the Greater Tampa Area Alumni Chapter are hard at work putting together their fourth annual Bulls Block Party, planned Aug. 17 in Tampa's Ybor City. Aug. 18 is USF Day with the Rays, a tradition that brings together thousands of alumni and their families for a great day of baseball at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg. Both are fun engagement opportunities for all to enjoy.

In the meantime, we're spending the summer planning ahead for the fall. We hope to see you cheering at Bulls football games, including tailgate parties at Georgia Tech and Navy; celebrating your Bull pride at the Homecoming Welcome Home Party (mark your calendar for Oct. 11!); and teeing off at the 2nd Birdies for Bulls Golf Tournament Oct. 25.

Have a great summer, and if you run into Dr. Genshaft, President Currall, or any of our 345,000 other Bulls around the globe, be sure to give them a Horns Up and an enthusiastic "Go Bulls!"

**BILL McCAUSLAND, MBA '96**

*Executive Director, USF Alumni Association  
Life Member No. 2331*



## Your 2019 USF Alumni Association Board Officers



The USF Alumni Association's board of directors includes alumni who've demonstrated a firm commitment to USF's success and are Association Life Members and Circle of Excellence donors. It also includes the USF president or designee and a representative appointed by the USF Board of Trustees, neither of whom had been named at press time. Two students, the student government vice president and the USF Ambassadors president, also serve. Non-voting, ex-officio directors are the senior vice president for USF Advancement, and the association executive director.

This slate of board officers will serve through Dec. 31, 2019.

The board sets policy and guides the direction of the Association as it builds mutually beneficial relationships between USF and USF alumni.

*Clockwise from top left:*

*Chair:* **Merritt Martin**, '04 and MPA '06

*Chair elect:* **Randy Norris**, '79

*Past chair:* **April Monteith**, '01 and MBA '03

*Secretary:* **Monique Hayes**, '01

*Treasurer:* **Bill Mariotti**, USFSM '15

*Directors:*

**Arthur Bullard Jr.**, '74 and MBA '82

**Troy Dunmire**, '00

**Maggie Fowler**, '93

**Maribel Garrett**, MA '95

**Justin Geisler**, '04 and MBA '06

**Fadwa Hilili**, '13 and MAcc '15

**Andrew Jones**, '11

**Andrew Ketchel**, '10 and MPA '12

**Karla Stevenson Mastracchio**, '03

**Ruben Matos**, MPH '92

**Brigid Merenda**, '97

**Luz Randolph**, '06 and MEd '08

**Valerie Riddle**, '84 and MD '89

**Lauren Shumate**, '10 and MA '14

**Christine Turner**, '97

**Bruce Van Fleet**, '73

**Tonjua Williams**, MA '96

**Liz Wooten-Reschke**, '01 and MPA '06

*Student representatives:*

**Travis McCloskey**, Tampa Student Government vice president

**Brielle Iacobino**, USF Tampa Ambassadors president

*Ex-officio directors:*

**Joel Momberg**, USF Advancement and Alumni Affairs senior vice president; CEO USF Foundation

**Bill McCausland**, MBA '96, USF Alumni Association executive director

# Who's No. 1? USF's Fast 56

reveals fastest-growing Bull-led businesses

The 56 fastest-growing Bull-led businesses in the world include tech and health-care companies, film studios and restaurants, engineering and accounting firms. Their owners, founders or executive leaders – all former USF students or graduates – celebrated their success during the USF Fast 56 Awards in April.

The highlight of the event? A dramatic countdown of the top 25 rankings.

“When we talk about USF as a transformative force in the Tampa Bay region and in Florida – as well as nationally and globally – that’s a credit to our alumni,” then-USF System President Judy Genshaft told the award recipients and their guests. “You are creating a brighter future for others through your commitment to innovation, invention and best practices.”

Pipas Law Group of St. Petersburg emerged as the No. 1 fastest growing company. Baldwin Risk Partners of Tampa, led by Elizabeth Krystyn, '87, Life Member, was recognized for having the largest percentage of cumulative growth among companies with more than \$50 million in revenues. Blue-Grace Logistics of Riverview, led by Bobby Harris, '10, took the prize for highest annual revenue.

The USF Fast 56 recognizes 56 businesses (as in 1956, the year USF was founded) based on revenue growth over a three-year period. To be eligible for the award, an organization must have been in business for at least three years, have revenues of \$250,000 or more for the most recent 12-month period, and be owned or led by a former USF student.

In addition to honoring exceptionally successful businesses and their leaders, the program serves as a valuable networking opportunity for some of USF's most creative entrepreneurs. Students also benefit thanks to the Fast 56 scholarship for Bulls with innovative business ideas ([usfalumni.org/scholarships](http://usfalumni.org/scholarships)).

Here's a look at the top 10 Fast 56 businesses and their Bull leaders. To nominate a business, including your own, for the 2020 USF Fast 56, visit [usfalumni.org/fast56](http://usfalumni.org/fast56).

Find the complete list of award recipients on page 52.



**Pipas Law Group**  
St. Petersburg

[pipaslaw.com](http://pipaslaw.com)

Christian Pipas, owner, '07

Chris Waters, manager, '12

Pipas Law practices personal injury and civil litigation, providing clients with a high level of service and care while remaining closely connected to them throughout the process.



**VIBEngineering**  
St. Petersburg

[www.vibengineering.com](http://www.vibengineering.com)

Sara E. Calhoun,  
president, MS '98

Jay Calhoun, vice  
president, MBA '87

VIBEngineering provides traffic and Intelligent Transportation Systems planning, design and construction support expertise throughout Florida and the southeastern United States.



**Healthy Bodies  
Medical & Dental  
Center**  
Brandon

[www.healthybodiesmcdc.com](http://www.healthybodiesmcdc.com)

Dr. Watson Ducatel, chief  
medical officer/CEO, '06

Dr. Martha Ducatel, chief  
dental officer/CFO, '06

At Healthy Bodies, physicians and staff listen more, learn more and do more to elevate patients' health and perfect their smiles.



**ComplianceQuest**  
Tampa

[www.compliancequest.com](http://www.compliancequest.com)

Prashanth Rajendran,  
CEO, MS '91

ComplianceQuest is a highly flexible, 100 percent native Salesforce platform-based enterprise quality management system. It streamlines quality, compliance, content and collaboration management workflows across the enterprise.





**Intex Builders, LLC**  
Tampa

[intexbuilders.net](http://intexbuilders.net)

Shantell McLean,  
managing member, '03

Founded in 2009, Intex is a general and roofing contractor specializing in multi-family housing renovations. The company offers complete interior and exterior renovation services.



**Walker Chiropractic and Wellness Center**  
Miramar

[www.walkerchiropracticfl.com](http://www.walkerchiropracticfl.com)

Dr. Venessa Walker,  
chiropractic physician/  
owner, '04  
*Life Member*

Walker Chiropractic and Wellness serves Miramar, Fla., and the surrounding area with chiropractic solutions to individual needs, whether that's pain relief or improving overall health and wellness.



**Hammerlane Apparel**  
Ocala

[www.hammerlaneusa.com](http://www.hammerlaneusa.com)

Joel Raney, founder, '11  
*Life Member*

Jeff Correa, brand  
manager, '10

Hammerlane Apparel is a lifestyle brand representing those with a passion for the world of diesel. South Florida Strong, a division of Hammerlane, is a licensed collegiate brand of apparel for USF fans.



**The Joint, The Chiropractic Place**  
Tampa

[bit.ly/2Hy5g90](http://bit.ly/2Hy5g90)

Dr. Eddie Leonard,  
president, '02

The Joint Chiropractic's mission is to improve quality of life through routine and affordable chiropractic care. The network of consumer-friendly clinics is served by individually selected doctors of chiropractic.



**Patel, Greene and Associates, PLLC**  
Bartow

[www.patelgreene.com](http://www.patelgreene.com)

Hiren Patel, president,  
'99 and MCE '03

Gordon Greene, vice  
president, '03 and  
MBA '08

Patel, Greene & Associates is a transportation engineering firm that offers roadway, drainage, structural, traffic and environmental services throughout Florida. It has offices in Bartow, Tampa and Winter Park.



**Baldwin Risk Partners**  
Tampa

[baldwinriskpartners.com](http://baldwinriskpartners.com)

Elizabeth Krystyn,  
founding partner, '87  
*Life Member*

BRP is an award-winning, entrepreneur-owned and -inspired insurance distribution holding company focused on managing resources and capital to fuel clients' and partners' organic and partnership growth in the insurance industry.

5



6



7



8



9



10



## The 2019 Fast 56

Accelerated Waste Solutions, dba  
JUNK SHOT App

ALLMAG Auto Parts

AspirEDU, Inc.

Baldwin Risk Partners

Bayside Urgent Care Center

Belleair Market

Bill Marriott Site Development Co., Inc.

BlueGrace Logistics

BMOC, Inc.

Boddiford Consulting LLC

Cardinal Roofing

Cayer Behavioral Group

ClearTrust, LLC

Colliers International

ComplianceQuest

Davis Industrial

DCE Productions

Diamond View

Dynamic Communities

Element Engineering Group, LLC

Flatwoods Consulting Group Inc.

Fredrick James: Accounting, Tax &  
Consulting

Hammerlane Apparel

Healthy Bodies Medical & Dental  
Center

ImageLift

Intex Builders, LLC

Kinney Engineering LLC

KirkpatrickPrice

Lair Services

LeBel Landscaping

Little Greek Franchise Development, LLC

Manatee-Sarasota Building Industry  
Association

McCormick Stevenson Corporation

McKay Advertising + Activation

Medical B&T Services, dba PracticeForces

Mueller Pye & Associates, CPA LLC

MyArea Network, Inc

Onicx Energy, LLC

Park Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

Patel, Greene and Associates, PLLC

Pipas Law Group

PJ's Coffee of New Orleans-Harvey dba  
Bellinaloo Coffee LLC

Playbook Public Relations, LLC

Quantum Peak Consulting, LLC

Raney's Inc.

Service Planning Corporation

Tampa Civil Design, LLC

TeleVoIPs

The Getaway

The Grow Group, INC.

The Joint, The Chiropractic Place

VIBEngineering, Inc.

VirTex Enterprises

Walker Chiropractic and Wellness Center

WG Communications Group

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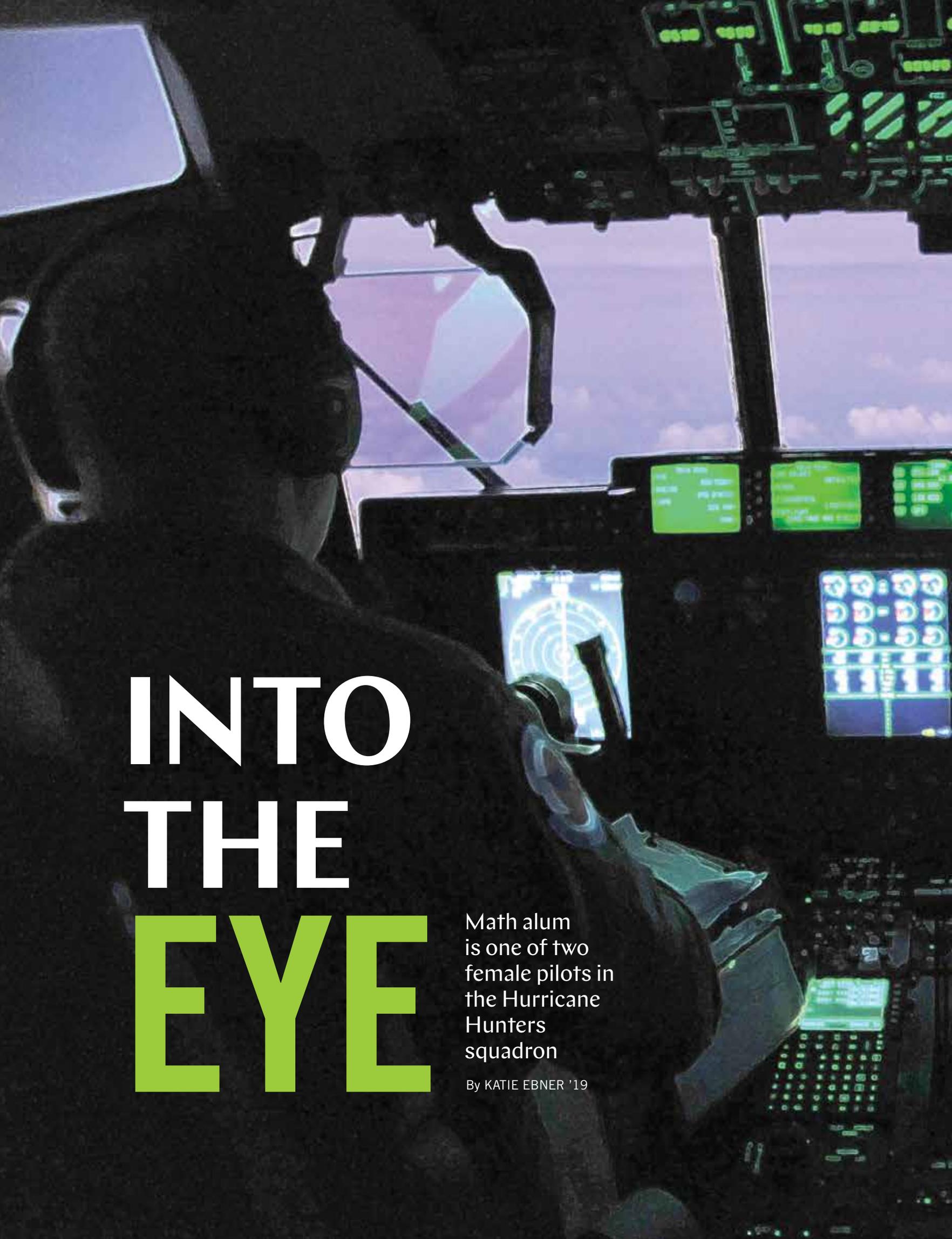
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A photograph of a pilot in a cockpit, viewed from behind. The pilot is wearing a headset and is looking out the windshield. The cockpit is filled with various instrument displays, including a primary flight display (PFD) and a multifunction display (MFD). The displays show various flight parameters and data. The overall lighting is dim, with the primary light source being the instrument displays.

# INTO THE EYE

Math alum  
is one of two  
female pilots in  
the Hurricane  
Hunters  
squadron

By KATIE EBNER '19



**T**HERE'S ONLY ONE WAY to learn how to fly into a hurricane and that can make for some perilous on-the-job training. "We're flying through the eyewall into the eye, and all of a sudden, it felt like the wind was taken out from underneath us, and our right wing started to dip," Air Force Maj. Devon Meister, 39, recalls of one of her first flights with the Hurricane Hunters in 2012. "We got water intrusion in two of our engines because we're pointed up in the air, and the water's pouring straight into our engines."

They'd brushed past a mesocyclone, an airborne tornado, as Tropical Storm Rafael became Hurricane Rafael over the Caribbean Sea. Stabilizing the WC-130 Hercules aircraft would require some serious problem-solving. But that's what Meister does best – she was a math major.

Photo: Lt. Col. Jim Hitterman, 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron aircraft commander, and co-pilot Meister fly into Tropical Storm Guillermo off the coast of Hawaii in 2015.



Photos: US Air Force/Maj. MARNEE A.C. LOSURDO



**Encourage your kids to challenge themselves in whatever capacity they happen to be in ... I think that's where victory lies, and you can apply those victories to anything. ”**

*– Devon Meister*



Photo: US Air Force/Tech Sgt. KIT THOMPSON

“You never quite know what you’re going to go into with a severe storm, and I like that about it. I think it’s very cowboy, very Wild West,” she says.

Meister, who graduated from USF in 2003, is one of two female pilots in the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron -- the Hurricane Hunters. They’re part of the U.S. Air Force Reserve’s 403rd Wing stationed at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss.

This time of year, she flies into hurricanes and tropical storms to collect data for the National Hurricane Center, which uses the information to provide more accurate forecasts. Come winter, she plunges into the storms that trigger deadly flooding and mudslides in California, and the Nor’easters that threaten the nation’s East Coast.

But hurricane season, June 1 to Nov. 30, is the most grueling. Meister may fly into and out of a major storm for 14 hours straight.

“If I get enough sleep, I eat right and I work out, then my body feels up for it,” she says.

Women first entered fighter pilot training for the Air Force in 1993 – when Meister was 13 years old. They now make up about 27 percent of the Air Force Reserve, but female pilots comprise less than 2 percent of that number.

“I really enjoy showing little girls that it is possible, that they can be an Air Force pilot, too, if they want to,” says Meister, who set her sights on a military career before college. “To see their eyes grow pretty wide when they learn that I’m not only a crew member on the plane, but I fly it through hurricanes, it’s very rewarding.

“Encourage your kids to challenge themselves in whatever capacity they happen to be in, whether it be math, whether it be soccer, whether it be doing something new, or doing something they thought they couldn’t do. I think that’s where the victory lies, and you can apply those victories to anything.”

Meister grew up in Ohio and moved to Brandon, Fla., as a young teenager. After high school, she enrolled at Hillsborough Community College, then transferred to USF,



**Left: Meister talks to students during a hurricane awareness tour visit in Texas. She enjoys showing girls career possibilities they may not otherwise have been exposed to.**

**Opposite page Top: Meister prepares for a training flight in 2018. She has been with the Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunters since 2011.**

**Bottom: A WC-130 Hercules, the plane used by members of the Hurricane Hunters, is outfitted with weather instrumentation pallets for diving into severe storms.**

where she enrolled in the ROTC, the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. That helped her gain valuable social and professional skills.

"It's like a sorority-type club, a fitness club and a leadership club all rolled into one."

Her favorite math class was combinatorics, sometimes referred to as the science of counting. From associate professor Greg McColm she learned some of the problem-solving skills that would later help her navigate life-or-death situations.

"The puzzles that we were trying to solve, a lot of them were math proofs, but some of them were, 'Wow, this could be a question I have in 20 years,' " she says. "I'm interested in figuring out how to put the pieces of this puzzle together to get to the answer."

Meister also has a meteorological degree from the Naval Postgraduate School and an MBA from Washington State University. And she's the single parent of a 13-year-old son, Gabe, who takes it in stride that his mom flies into hurricanes.

While she's working on her next goal, becoming an instructor pilot, Meister says she loves having a job that can make a difference to so many lives. Having lived in Florida, she knows how devastating hurricanes can be and how important it is to get the best information to those who may be in their path.

"People say 'Follow your passion,' and that's great, but my passion, for example, is helping people, so that's not necessarily a job or a career," she says. "But I can do that in any job I have." ■

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# FEARLESS

PENNY CARNATHAN, '82

## 2019 Outstanding Young Alumni share more than meets the eye

**O**n the surface, USF's five 2019 Outstanding Young Alumni – accomplished Bulls age 35 or younger – couldn't be more disparate. They include a legislator and a preacher, medical inventor and music teacher, and an architect who specializes in play.

But, while they pursued different callings, these alumni share qualities that helped them persevere and excel.

"We all know it's OK to struggle; it's OK to fail. We all have that in common," says Melissa "Mely" Salguero, '09, the 2018 GRAMMY Music Educator of the Year.

She and Dr. Jacqueline Darna, '07, whose naturopathic wristbands are sold in thousands of stores across the country, rely on personal mantras. And they put them where they can see them every day. Salguero's is painted on the piano in her New York City classroom: Work hard, dream big, and never give up.

"Mine is on my sparkly cup, which I love and use every morning," says Darna. "It says, 'The dream is free but the hustle is sold separately.'"

The 2019 USF Outstanding Young Alumni were honored at a May awards ceremony and reception at the Gibbons Alumni Center. The evening included a question-and-answer session moderated by Eric Eisenberg, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"You're very different people but the thing you all have in common is you went to the University of South Florida," Eisenberg said. "What was it about your experience here that really positioned you for success?"

Lawyer and three-time Florida legislator Chris Sprowls told a story about a special professor. Ryan Swanson, CEO of The Urban Conga, recounted collaborating with talented faculty and students at the School of Architecture and Community Design.

"It's the significance of relationships," said Keith Babb III, who works with children and families in need. "When I enrolled in the MPA (master of public administration) program, I was a young kid surrounded by all these individuals who'd been in their careers for years. The late Dr. Joan Pynes saw something in me and she remembered my name. I continue to pursue my goals because of Dr. Joan Pynes."

*For more information about the Outstanding Young Alumni Awards or to submit a nomination, visit [usfalumni.org/oyaa](http://usfalumni.org/oyaa).*

Photos: MATT MAY Photo



**Jacqueline**

## Keith W. Babb III

Social Work '07 and MPA '10

**His greatest strength:** “My wife says this all the time: ‘Sometimes your greatest strength is your greatest weakness.’ My greatest strength is my heart. I try to care for so many people, and sometimes that leaves your heart open to getting wounded. Despite the wounds, I keep caring, because somebody cared about me.”

It was easy to get in scrapes with the law when Babb was a boy being raised by a single parent in impoverished Pahokee, Fla. When he was 12, a local church gave him a second chance, and he got a third when, after straying from his faith, he rededicated his life in 2005 and committed to serving others in need of second chances. He has founded and/or led several nonprofits, including The Way Church of Tampa Bay and the award-winning 2nd C.H.A.N.C.E. Center 4 Boyz, a delinquency prevention program. He’s the director of One More Child-Hope Street, the local affiliate of an international nonprofit that serves children and families in need.

Babb’s work has been recognized by the Tampa Bay Lightning Foundation’s Community Heroes program and earned a \$25,000 State Farm Neighborhood Assist grant.

## Dr. Jacqueline Darna, NMD

Biomedical sciences '07

**Connecting a science background and business ambitions:** “I never had a business class, never had a marketing class. Mentorship was really big for me. People would introduce me to people and I would tell my story, make my pitch. ... Business is really about people. It has nothing to do with what you’re selling.”

An anesthesia clinician and naturopathic medical doctor, Darna suffered unrelenting nausea in the days following an emergency cesarean section in 2013. She turned to two proven aromatherapy and



acupressure strategies for relief: sniffing peppermint leaves and taping gauze balls to a particular pressure point on the inside of her wrists. It got her through and, later, she searched for a product that combines the strategies. Finding none, she created NoMo Nausea. Now sold around the world, the wristbands made her the 2017 winner of *The Big Pitch*, hosted by Kevin Harrington of TV's *Shark Tank*, and the 2018 WBENC Pepsico Choice Competition.

She has since added NoMo Migraine and NoMo Sleepless Nights to her product line, has been featured on NBC's *Today* and received Express Scripts Co.'s Pharma Hero Award.



**You're very different people but the thing you all have in common is you went to the University of South Florida. What was it about your experience here that really positioned you for success?"** *– Eric Eisenberg*



## Melissa “Mely” Salguero

Music Education, '09

**On overcoming doubt:** “A lot of my students, I give them a saxophone to try to learn to play and they say, ‘I can’t do this.’ I tell them you can’t say that to me. You have to persevere. Struggling is OK and even failing is OK. The important thing is we keep moving forward toward our goal, and we can’t ever give up on our dreams.”

Salguero has been teaching music at P.S. 48 Joseph R. Drake Elementary School since 2010. Located in the South Bronx neighborhood of Hunts Point, the school is home to the most at-risk community of children in New York City; more than 59 percent live in poverty. With no money and no supplies, Salguero built the school’s music program from the ground up, raising more than \$260,000 for instruments and starting a fifth-grade band. In 2014, after thieves broke into P.S. 48 and stole many of the instruments, Salguero shared the story on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*.

In 2018, she was named the GRAMMY Music Educator of the year, and this year, the Varkey Foundation and the Global Teacher Prize named her one of the top 10 teachers in the world. Her goal is to make learning music fun, relatable and accessible to all.

## Fla. Rep. Chris Sprowls

Political Science '06

**How USF helped position him for success:** “I had a political theory professor, Dr. Michael Gibbons. We would sit and talk and quasi argue for hours. He said something that stuck with me through my career. He said, ‘You ask a lot of questions. Never lose that curiosity. That will help you be successful.’ What I learned from him was don’t be afraid to ask the questions and don’t be afraid of the answer. The goal is to find the truth.”

Tampa Bay’s No. 1 most powerful politician, according to FloridaPolitics.com, Sprowls is destined to be a future speaker of the House. As a law school student, he was elected national chairman of the American Bar Association’s law student division and focused on increasing the number of pro-bono legal clinics serving military veterans nationwide. He went on to become the assistant state attorney for Pasco and Pinellas counties. In 2014, he was elected to represent northern Pinellas County in the Florida House. He easily won reelection in 2016 and 2018.

Praised as a lawmaker who understands complex issues and forges fair solutions, he has passed bills establishing uniform standards for ride-share services; reforming the Public Service Commission; protecting patients from surprise hospital bills; and collecting and reporting criminal justice data, among others. Sprowls is an attorney with Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney.

## Ryan Swanson

Master of Architecture '13

**What he'd do with \$10 million:** "The biggest hurdle for us is trying to implement play in everyday public spaces. When people hear the word play, it's hard because 1) they immediately associate it with kids and 2) they're afraid of liability. So I would use that money to tell everybody about what play can do ... If play be-

**comes part of our natural daily routine, we can begin to let go and barriers will begin to break down and people can connect."**

As a graduate student, Swanson began toying with the idea of encouraging community activity and social interaction within underutilized urban spaces. He and two colleagues hosted pop-up events featuring interactive installations across the country. At one, a homeless man approached asking for money. He was invited to play and Swanson watched as the man happily tossed a 12-foot beach ball with a family that might have shunned him in other circumstances. Inspired, Swanson soon left his job and launched The Urban Conga, a multidisciplinary design firm that creates interactive installations and immersive environments to inspire exploration and creativity.

Swanson's work can be found across the country, and he's having a global impact as well. He represents the United States in the British Council's Creative Producers International Program, speaking around the world about putting people and play at the heart of urban design. ■

Photos pg 62-63: MATT MAY



# Where's Rocky?

Thanks to his many globe-trotting friends, Rocky goes places no bull has gone before. Catch him sightseeing, showing off his Bull pride, or sampling the local cuisine to help chart his journey through the year.



## a and b

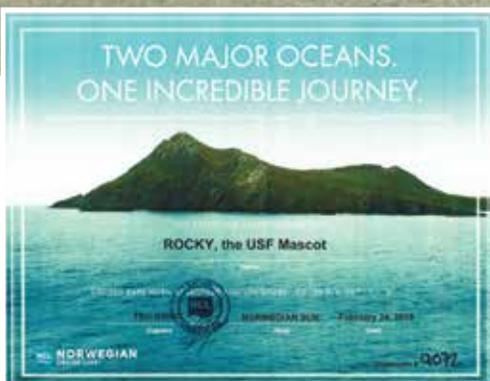
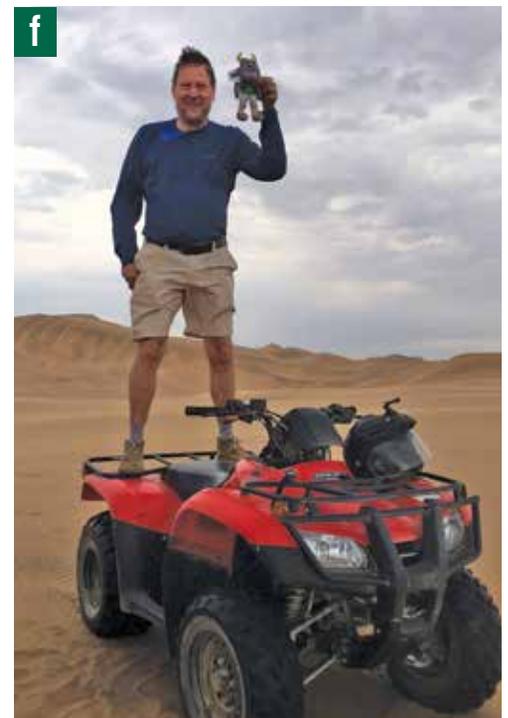
Who rules The Rock? Rocky, of course! He and **Jacki Jackson**, '80, Life Member, visit Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay.

**C Stuart DeMattia**, '11, dons his warmest Bulls gear to hit the slopes with Rocky at Steamboat Springs, Colo.

**d** Could it be ... the Bull Runner? In Scotts Bluff, Neb., Rocky and **Julie Wernicki**, '07, Life Member, find what may be a primitive version of USF's bus system on the Oregon Trail.

**e** Rocky joins **Stan Kinmonth**, '78, and **Lily Kinmonth**, '78, on a cruise around South America, which included traversing the treacherous waters surrounding Cape Horn (Rocky's certified!) and a stop at "the end of the world" – Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost town on the planet.

**f** Why hoof it when you can be four-wheeling? Rocky scales the Swakopmund sand dunes of Namibia with pharmacy manager **Oliver Emberger** of the USF College of Pharmacy.



Email your high-resolution photo (300 ppi) and details to Penny Carnathan at [pcarnathan@usf.edu](mailto:pcarnathan@usf.edu) or mail to her at USF Alumni Association, 4202 E. Fowler Ave. ALC100, Tampa, FL 33620-5455.

# Chapters & Societies



**Whether they're getting together for a cause,** or just because, USF's alumni chapters and societies are among our alma mater's biggest cheerleaders. From London to Charlotte, N.C., Bulls and their families and friends raise money for student scholarships; tackle community service projects; meet for tailgates and watch parties; and attend events together, among a host of other activities.

Even when it looks like they're just having fun, participants in USF's chapters and societies make a tremendous impact on our university. By forging bonds, wearing and sharing their pride, and building community relationships, they create the strong foundation that has made USF a Preeminent Florida Research University.

**a** Computer engineering instructor **Jason Lewis**, far left, and **James Swantek**, '15, Life Member (in bright green jacket) join friends for some blackjack at the 25th annual Bullarney in March. The Engineering Society's annual fundraiser has raised more than \$500,000 for student scholarships, educational programs, travel grants and more.

**b** Some Bulls go above and beyond to stay connected. Raleigh-Durham Chapter members **Sean Allen**, '12, left, and **Ben Wadsworth**, '09, helped deliver their baby Bulls on the same day, March 25, at the same hospital, UNC REX Hospital in Raleigh, N.C. Welcome to the Bulls family **Aaron Jensen Allen** and **Nicholas Howard Wadsworth**!

**c** And the winner is ... **Walter Schuller**, MS '06! From left, **Amy Calfee**, '81; **Gary Hoog**, '83 and '87, Life Member; **Jade**, their server at Jacksonville, Fla.'s, Wicked Barley Brewing Co., co-founded by **Philip Maple**



Email your high-resolution photo (300 ppi) and details to Penny Carnathan at [pcarnathan@usf.edu](mailto:pcarnathan@usf.edu) or mail them to her at USF Alumni Association, 4202 E. Fowler Ave. ALC100, Tampa, FL 33620-5455.

'03; and **Ellen Shanks Roseblum**, '72, Life Member, hold a prize drawing for a bounty of USF swag. They're members of the Jacksonville-St. Augustine Chapter.

**d** Members of the New York City Chapter spend an April afternoon kicking around at the New York City Football Club's match against Orlando City at Yankee Stadium. Pictured from left: **Katie Reich**; **Kevin Reich**, '10; **Brandon Schuster**, '14; **Arian Howard**, '13; unidentified; **Heather Agatstein**; **Gary Kallio**, '16 USFSM.

**e** Celebrating spring is a no-brainer for the **Greater Tampa Area Chapter**, which got together for a spring training game at Tampa's George M. Steinbrenner Field in March. The chapter hosted a pre-game tailgate, and the Bulls had a block of seats from which to watch the Yankees trounce the Toronto Blue Jays 17-7.



# Chapters & Societies

No matter  
where you live,  
you'll always be  
a Bull!

The USF Alumni Association has alumni chapters all over the country. We also have college and special-interest societies for like-minded alumni. It's easy to get involved. Just email the contact person of the group you'd like to visit.

## Interest-Based Groups

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**College of Business Alumni**  
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# Class Notes

## 1960s



**JOANNA S. FOWLER**, Chemistry '64, is a 2019 Florida Inventors Hall of Fame inductee. She is a senior chemist emeritus at Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York and a National Medal of Science recipient.

## 1970s

**DAN DOBROWOLSKI**, Geography '79, Life Member, was featured on *CNN Travel* by way of his company, Escape, which designs and builds luxury tiny homes. Dobrowolski is a former Chicago TV meteorologist.



**KATURAH JENKINS-HALL**, Psychology '77, MA '82 and PhD '84, was elected board chair for the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg. She has worked as a licensed clinical psychologist for more

than 30 years.

**CHARLES LOGUE**, Zoology '76, joined Spartanburg Water in Spartanburg, S.C., as the special projects manager for the company's technical services section. He has more than 35 years of experience working in the public water, wastewater and stormwater utility industry.



**JUDGE CATHERINE PEEK MCEWEN**, Political Science '79, Life Member, judicial officer of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida, was reappointed by the U.S. Court of

Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit to a second 14-year term. She was appointed to the court in 2005. McEwen is a USF Distinguished Alumna.

**EDWARD PAGE**, Criminology '78, was recertified as a board certified criminal trial advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He has practiced white-collar criminal defense and civil litigation in the Tampa office of Carlton Fields, PA since 2000.



**RANDY SCHULKERS**, Management '71, was commissioned as a Kentucky Colonel, the highest title of honor bestowed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in recognition of his accomplishments. He is the captain of the Seckatary Hawkins Club in Powhatan, Va.



**DALE SMREKAR**, Geography '71, published his first novel, an epic fantasy titled *OZ, Wonderland & Other Places*. He plans to release his second novel this year.

## 1980s



**HAROLD ASTORQUIZA**, Finance '85, Life Member, former Alumni Association board member, was named to the 2019 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Advisors list. He is the senior vice

president, financial advisor and resident manager at Morgan Stanley in Tampa.



**NORA BERGMAN**, Journalism-News Editorial '89, recently released *50 Lessons for Women Lawyers*, a book that aims to empower women in the legal profession.

**MICHAEL BETTS**, Communication '83, is the new executive director for First Night Harrisonburg, a New Year's Eve celebration in Harrisonburg,

Va. He is the founder and race director of the biannual Grand Caverns Signature 5K.

**JAIME BRENKUS**, Mass Communications '83, released his second book, *If You Want to Live, Move!*, co-written by Elaine LaLanne. He has been a coach and personal trainer for nearly 30 years.

**CHRISTOPHER C. BROSS**, Finance '89, was named deputy executive director of operations for the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority. He was previously the chief contracting officer for more than 14 years.

**JOHN CHIANG**, Finance '84, joined Ideal Legal Group, Inc., in Los Angeles as a special counsel. He previously served as treasurer for the state of California.

**DR. GERARD CURTIS**, Biology '88, joined Urology Treatment Center in Sarasota as a physician. He was previously a urologist at Lakewood Ranch Medical Center and Doctors Hospital of Sarasota and chief of urology at Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

**MANLEY JAQUISS**, Criminology '86 and MA '15, Life Member, former Alumni Association board member, was honored as a criminology distinguished alumnus and inducted into the USF Department of Criminology's Wall of Fame. He is a correctional probation senior supervisor with the Florida Department of Corrections in the 13th Judicial Circuit.

**JOHN LONG**, Management '82, Life Member, was named executive vice president and COO at the University of Delaware. He was previously COO and special adviser to the senior vice president of strategic financial strategies at USF.



**JAMES MCCLINTOCK**, MA Zoology '80 and PhD Biology '84, received the Finn Ronne Memorial Award in recognition of his accomplishments in polar field research. He is an endowed

professor of polar and marine biology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

**JOHN E. MEAGHER**, Political Science '82, was named managing partner for the Miami office of Shutts & Bowen, LLP. He is chair of the firm's insurance practice group.



Send us your class notes!

Send Class Notes submissions and high-resolution (at least 300 ppi) photos to [pcarnathan@usf.edu](mailto:pcarnathan@usf.edu) or mail to Penny Carnathan, USF Alumni Association, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., ALC100, Tampa, FL 33620-5455

**ELIZABETH MENENDEZ**, Finance '84, Life Member, was appointed president-elect of the executive board for the 2019 Florida Certified Commercial Investment Member Chapter, West Coast District. She works for Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate, LLC, in Tampa.

**ALEX MLADEK**, Accounting '89 and MAcc '90, is CEO and CFO of Foundation Finance Company LLC. He co-founded the company and has served as CFO since 2012.

**DIANE MORTON**, Political Science '81, was the Community Champion honoree as part of the Top Corporate Counsel Awards by the Tampa Bay Business Journal. She is the general counsel and executive director of the Warehouse Arts District Association.

**DR. CRAIG UECKER**, MD '88, joined New You Medical in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He is a board-certified plastic surgeon with more than 25 years of experience in cosmetic surgery and congenital reconstructive surgery.

**THOMAS WOLFF**, Criminology '80 and MA '91, was honored as a criminology distinguished alumnus and inducted into the USF Department of Criminology's Wall of Fame. He is the manager of the Tampa Police Department's communication bureau.



**ADRIA BEENHAKKER DICKEY**, Speech Pathology and Audiology '97, was re-elected as president of the North Tampa Bar Association. She also received the Brian Weakland Award for her leadership and service to the organization.



**DR. JOHN FALLON**, MBA '98, joined Renovia Inc.'s board of directors in Boston. He has more than 20 years of experience in internal medicine.

**TIM FETTER**, Finance '98 and MBA '01, was named co-CEO of Seminole Financial Services. He previously was the principal/executive vice president of credit and risk management.

**DR. GALEN CUONG LE**, MD '92, joined Watson Clinic in Lakeland, Fla., as a radiologist. He specializes in body imaging, nuclear medicine and PET scans.

**MICHELLE LEDFORD**, Marketing '95, chairs the Lakeland (Fla.) Chamber of Commerce. She is the cofounder of MADE, a branding agency that does marketing, advertising and public relations in Lakeland.

**REGINA LOMBARDO**, Criminology '91, was honored as a criminology distinguished alumna and inducted into the USF Department of Criminology's Wall of Fame. She is the associate deputy director and COO of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

**CALVIN MAGEE**, Criminology '94, joined the University of Mississippi football team as a tight ends coach. He previously was the offensive coordinator and running backs coach at the University of New Mexico.

**KIMBERLEY MUNZO**, Criminology '99, was honored as a criminology distinguished alumna and inducted into the USF Department of Criminology's Wall of Fame. She is the founder and CEO of AspirEDU, Inc.



**LEANNE SALAZAR**, Nursing '99, was appointed to COO of Oak Hill Hospital in Brooksville, Fla. She previously served as the hospital's chief nursing officer.



**MONIKA SHEALEY**, Special Education '95 and MA '98, was named senior vice president of the division of diversity, equity and inclusion at Rowan University in Glassboro, N.J. She was previously dean of the College of Education at Rowan.

**ALISON SMITH**, MA Psychology '94 and PhD '96, joined Emily Rogers Consulting + Coaching in Lakeland, Fla. She was previously the senior vice president of human resources for Publix Super Markets.

**BRIAN TANNEBAUM**, Political Science '91, is the new chair of the Innocence Project of Florida. He is special counsel at Bast Amron, LLP, in Miami.



**BRYAN T. VEITH**, MCE '99, Life Member, was named an American Society of Civil Engineers fellow by the board of directors. Veith is the CEO, president and business consultant for Veith Engineering & Business Solutions in Bradenton.

## 1990s



**MARIE BOURGEOIS**, Clinical Chemistry '91, MPH '06 and PhD '10, was elected president of the Southeastern Chapter of the Society of Toxicology. She is a research assistant professor at USF's College of Public Health.



**DEBBIE CHANDLER**, General Business Administration '92, has been named a board leadership fellow by the National Association of Corporate Directors. She serves as CEO of Matthews Vu Medical Group in Colorado Springs, Colo.

## 2000s

**CATHERINE ASTL**, English '09, had her second novel, *The Colonists*, published by Brighton Publishing. The novel focuses on three women with social stigmas.

**JENNY BLOEM**, Accounting '00 and MAcc '01, joined Northpointe Bank's corporate accounting team as vice president and controller in Grand Rapids, Mich. She was previously director of finance at Grand health Partners.

# Class Notes

**CAPT. NICHOLAS D'ANDREA**, International Studies '06, received the William O. Studeman Military Award from the Intelligence and National Security Alliance. D'Andrea, who serves in the U.S. Air Force, was recognized for exceptional contributions to U.S. intelligence and national security.

**MARY-ELLEN EDMISTON**, Chemistry '09 and MS Medical Sciences '10, joined St. Joseph's Health's palliative care department in Syracuse, N.Y. She previously completed her residency at WellSpan Good Samaritan Hospital in Lebanon, Pa.



**ROBIN GOMEZ**, MPA '00, is the new city manager for Clarkston, Ga. He was previously city manager of Fairmont, W. Va.



**BEN GRAFFAM**, MA Special Education '00 and PhD '05, had his book, *Reimagining the Educated Mind*, published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. He is a teacher at Haines

City High School's International Baccalaureate East program in Haines City, Fla.

**KERRIANN GREENHALGH**, Chemistry '04 and PhD '08, is the founder, CSO and CEO of KeriCure Inc., a developer of skin and wound-care products. KeriCure was recently accepted into the Quake Capital accelerator program for startup companies.



**YAHAIRA LOPEZ**, Elementary Education '09, was named Osceola Elementary's Teacher of the Year. She teaches fourth grade at the school in Volusia County, Fla.



**DR. FRANCINE MCCAIN**, MD '03, joined the University of Texas Health East Texas Physicians Athens as an OB-GYN. She completed her obstetrics and gynecology residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

**MIKE MCQUILKIN**, Finance '01, was named the 2019 Mr. Seminole at the Seminole (Fla.) Chamber of Commerce's annual awards banquet. He is the owner of Oak Manor Senior Living Community in Largo, Fla.

**MELANIE MORGAN**, MA Library and Information Science '05, joined the Neuse Regional Library System in North Carolina as its director of libraries. She was previously the director of the Madison County (N.C.) Public Library system.

**SUZIE NELSON**, Education '08 and MEd '11, was named the 2019 Assistant Principal of the Year by the Polk County (Fla.) School District. She is assistant principal at Chain of Lakes Elementary School in Winter Haven, Fla.

**JESSICA SMITH**, Communication '01, Life Member, joined USF University Advancement as the Gibbons Alumni Center's sales and events manager. She previously worked for IM Events in Tampa.

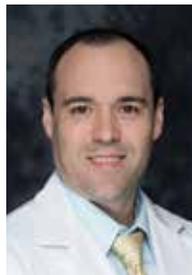
**JACOB SUEN**, Electrical Engineering '00, was appointed president of Airgain, Inc. in San Diego, a leading provider of advance antenna technologies. He was previously senior vice president of the company.



**MICHAEL SUTTON**, Criminology '03, Life Member, was elected chairman of the board for the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce in Clearwater, Fla. He serves as CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas County, Inc.

**TARA THORNTON**, Psychology '02 and MS Management '12, was promoted to director of human resources for Minor League Baseball. She joined Minor League Baseball in 2017.

**DR. CARRIE VEY**, MD '06, was elected vice president of the Florida Academy of Family Physicians. She is the program director for the Family Medicine Residency Program at Halifax Health in Daytona Beach, Fla.



**DR. JUSTIN WAGONER**, MD '05, was promoted to medical director of Women's Care Florida's pathology laboratory in Tampa. He joined Women's Care Florida physician group in 2018 and

previously served as director of clinical pathology at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center in St. Petersburg.

**JOHANNA P. WOOD**, Hospitality Management '06, USF Sarasota-Manatee, was rated by Martindale-Hubbell as Av Preeminent, a designation only 10 percent of all attorneys hold. She is a shareholder in GrayRobinson's Tampa law office.

**ART ZIMMET**, MBA '05 and MS '08, joined the law firm Chiumento Dwyer Hertel Grant & Kistemaker, PL, of Daytona Beach, Fla., as an associate attorney. He was previously a managing partner at MAS Partners LLC in the Tampa Bay area.

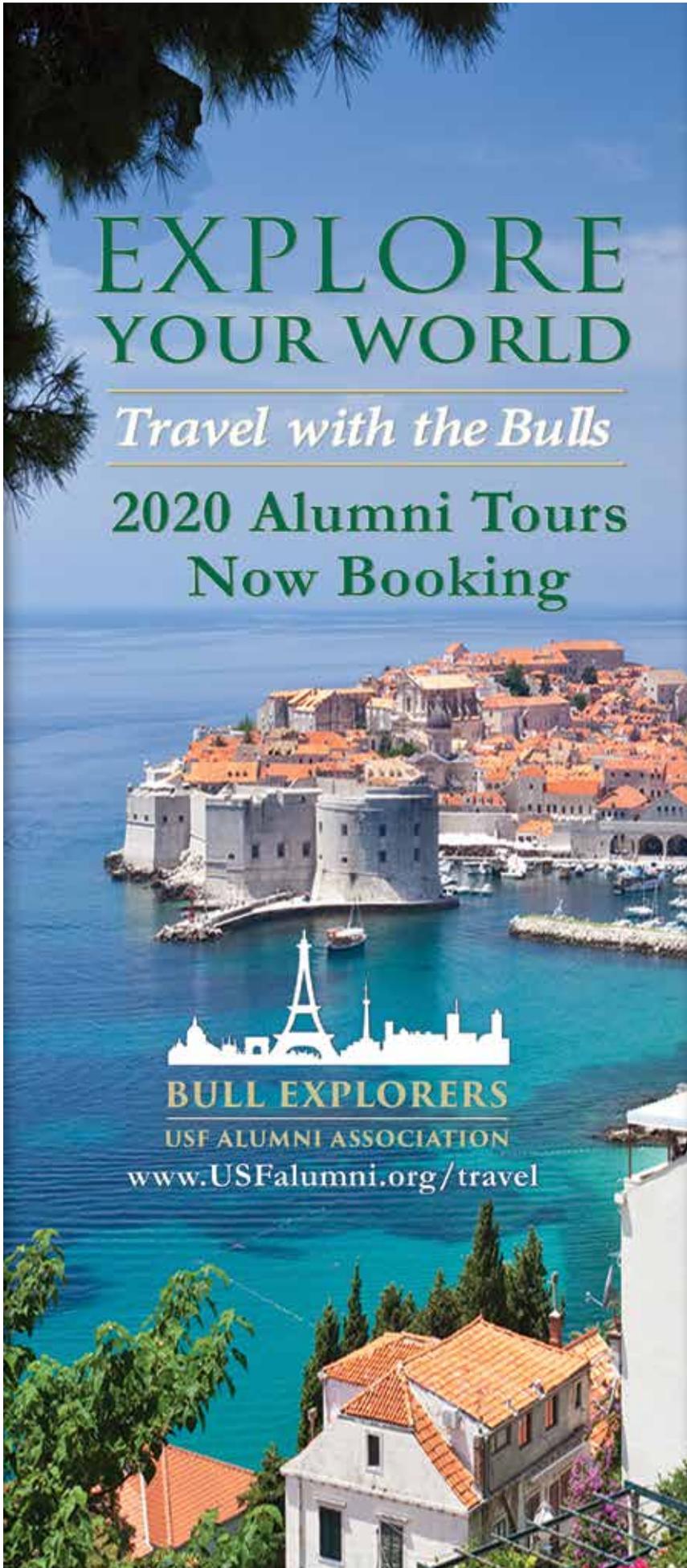
## 2010s

**SAMUEL ARMES**, Economics and Finance '18, is the blockchain director for the Seminole County (Fla.) Tax Collector's Office. He will also serve as the legislative affairs director for the tax collector's office.

**EMILY COLÓN**, International Business '10 and MPA '14, is the new assistant city manager of Lakeland, Fla. She was previously a program administrator for Pasco County, Fla.

**CASSANDRA DECKER**, MA Applied Anthropology '15, joined CareerSource Suncoast in Bradenton as community investment manager. She previously served as community engagement senior specialist for United Way Suncoast in Tampa.

**KRIS DUMKE**, Marketing '14, opened Bridgewater Commercial Real Estate, a commercial brokerage, in St. Petersburg. He previously worked at Coldwell Banker Commercial NRT as a broker associate.



**BIANCA ECHTLER**, Accounting and Finance '16, is an associate financial adviser with RBC Wealth Management in Sarasota. She previously worked as an associate integrated channel marketing manager with Carillon Tower Advisors.

**ERICA GEIGER**, Criminology '13, was named director of special projects and initiatives by Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody. Geiger was previously director of political affairs for Moody's campaign.



**LAURA GUIDRY**, Accounting '15 and MAcc '17, earned the Certified Public Accountant designation. She is a staff accountant for Concannon Miller accounting firm in St. Petersburg, serving McDonald restaurants franchisees. She has been with the firm since 2017.

**ERIC HALL**, MEd '17, was appointed chancellor for innovation at the Florida Department of Education. He was previously deputy state superintendent of innovation in North Carolina.

**MARY LANZINO**, Marketing '18, is the new marketing and community relations coordinator with the Bradenton Marauders and Pittsburgh Pirates. She previously worked for the Detroit Tigers and Lakeland Flying Tigers, as well as the Tampa Bay Lightning.

**ALVIN LEE**, MA Library and Information Science '18, was selected as an Authenticity Project Fellow. The fellowship program is sponsored by the HBCU (Historically Black Colleges & Universities) Library Alliance and Digital Library Federation and provides mentoring, learning and leadership opportunities for HBCU librarians.

**ANGELA MANN**, Nursing '11 and MS '11, joined the endocrinology department of Watson Clinic in Lakeland, Fla., as an advanced practice registered nurse. She is a member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, American Association of Critical Care Nurses and Polk County Advanced Practice Nurses Association.

**TRAVIS MARN**, MEd '12 and PhD '18, received the 2019 Outstanding Dissertation Award from the American Educational Research Association's Qualitative Research Special Interest Group. He is an assistant professor of

# Class Notes

child development and educational psychology at Southern Connecticut State University.

**BELICIA MONTGOMERY**, MBA and MS Sport and Entertainment Management '17, was named manager of business and data processes for Minor League Baseball. She joined Minor League Baseball in 2016.

**REBECCA PAFFENROTH**, MS Nursing '18, joined Watson Clinic Dermatology at Zephyrhills, Fla., as a nurse practitioner. She is certified by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

**NOEL REHM**, Geography '17, is the chief meteorologist for KLST, a CBS-affiliated TV station in San Angelo, Texas. He previously served as a weekend meteorologist and multimedia journalist in Abilene, Texas.



**EDNA RUIZ**, Mass Communications '16, joined NBC2 in Fort Myers, Fla., as a morning reporter. She was previously a multimedia journalist and fill-in anchor in Macon, Ga.



**ARTHUR SANTOS**, English '13, joined the USF Health Development and Alumni Relations team as an assistant director of development. He previously worked as a sponsored research administrator at USF.

**MARISSA SMITH**, Communication '15, joined the music department at WME's Nashville, Tenn., office as a social action agent. She has been with the talent agency since 2016.

**ROBERT WINSLER**, MA Mass Communications '14, was appointed to the College of Central Florida district board of trustees. He is president of Winsler Consulting and Advocacy, LLC, in Crystal River, Fla., and is an adjunct professor at the University of Tampa.

**SHAWN ZAMANI**, Public Health '18, was one of 34 people in the United States to be named a Gates Cambridge Scholar. Zamani earned a scholarship for post-graduate studies at the University of Cambridge in England. The scholarship is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

## In Memoriam

**VICKI AHRENS**, Special Education '73 and MA '75, Life Member, USF Alumni Association board member, June 9, 2019

**CINDY LITTLE BIGGER**, Elementary Education '67, March 2, 2019

**JAMES "JIM" BOAZ**, Engineering Technology '88, Dec. 17, 2018

**PATRICIA "PAT" (THOMSON) BONANNO**, MA Guidance and Counseling Education '72 and MA '80, Jan. 12, 2019

**PATRICIA COLDIRON**, Accounting '81 and Elementary Education '85, Feb. 11, 2019

**FRANZ COLE**, English '82, March 19, 2019

**DR. ROBERT P. DALTON JR.**, Chemistry '86, Dec. 17, 2018

**WAYNE L. DAUGHTRY**, Psychology '67, MA '68, Geography '95 and Geology '95, Jan. 20, 2019

**ROBERT "BOB" DENHAM**, Management Information Systems '92, Feb. 13, 2019

**JOHN C. ELLISON**, MEd '95, March 14, 2019

**EDWARD E. ELOSHWAY**, MA Guidance and Counseling Education '73, March 18, 2019

**ELISE EWART**, MA Guidance and Counseling Education '76, Jan. 4, 2019

**MARTHA CAROL (LEONARD) EWING**, Business Administration '93, May 29, 2019

**JAMES FLEMING**, Political Science '68, Jan. 24, 2019

**TIFFANY (WALTERS) GARDNER**, Psychology '03, USF St. Petersburg, March 24, 2019

**PATRICIA GOLDBURG**, Elementary Education '88, Dec. 9, 2018

**DONNA J. GOLUB**, Early Childhood Education '70, Jan. 7, 2019

**JASON GOULDE**, Communication '95, Feb. 4, 2019

**KENNETH E. GRIFFIN**, Management '96 and MBA '98, Life Member, Jan. 22, 2019

**LETA ELVIRA HAMM**, MA Library and Information Science '90, Feb. 26, 2019

**ROBERT L. HEINCHON**, Special Education '70, Feb. 21, 2019

**MICHELLE IGNAT**, Finance '95, Jan. 4, 2019

**ERIN ELLEN (O'MARA) JAMES**, Interdisciplinary Social Science '00, March 10, 2019

**BRIAN KOGER**, Political Science '12, Dec. 22, 2018

**LAUREN MANDEL**, Mass Communications '77, Feb. 18, 2019

**JOHN R. MANNING**, Interdisciplinary Natural Sciences and Zoology '73, Jan. 25, 2019

**THOMAS MARTINO**, Finance '81, Jan. 7, 2019

**NANCY CLAIR (LAWLER) MCCONNELL**, Accounting '65, Dec. 2, 2018

**TIMOTHY P. MCNULTY**, Art '76, Feb. 27, 2019

**CHARLES MILLER**, Art '99, March 21, 2019

**EMMA (GUTHERY) MOSTELLER**, MA Guidance and Counseling Education '68, March 2, 2019

**CARI JEAN MUSICK**, Criminology '01, Dec. 3, 2018

**PATRICIA ANN NELSON**, Sociology '85, Feb. 23, 2019

**KIM K. NORD**, International Studies '77, Jan. 7, 2019

**THEODORA "TEDDY" O'NEAL**, MA Guidance and Counseling Education '70, March 16, 2019

**DONALD A. PARRISH**, Sociology '71 and MA '74, Dec. 15, 2018

**STEVEN F. PEET**, Criminology '78, March 27, 2019

**ESTHER LOUISE "LOU" PERRY**, MA Guidance and Counseling Education '68, Jan. 31, 2019

**LANCE B. PETERSON**, Management '70, March 8, 2019

**BARBARA DEAL RICKETT**, English '83, Jan. 29, 2019

**MINERVA ROSA**, MA Teaching '05, Feb. 6, 2019

**PEGGY C. ROSS**, Elementary Education '91, MEd '06, USF St. Petersburg, Jan. 30, 2019

**GEORGE H. RUSSELL JR.**, Accounting '71, Dec. 26, 2018

**RACHEL (STEERE) SAUMELL**, Finance '96, Jan. 14, 2019

**DEANNA (CARLSON) SIMPSON**, History '95 and MA '98, Jan. 23, 2019

**NANCY TALLEY-ROSS**, PhD Applied Anthropology '91, Nov. 27, 2018

**KENYON F. TILLOTSON**, Psychology '81, MA '84 and PhD '16, March 12, 2019

**JEFFREY WAGNER**, Finance '86, Life Member, Feb. 11, 2019

**VIRGINIA WEISS**, International Studies '72 and MA '80, Jan. 7, 2019

## Faculty and Staff

**NORMAN BLAKE**, Professor Emeritus, College of Marine Science, Dec. 26, 2018

**CLARA B. COOPER**, Professor Emeritus, Humanities and American Studies, Jan. 29, 2019

**DR. NOORBIBI GOOD**, Professor, Co-founder of USF Division of Allergy and Immunology, Dec. 16, 2018

**MARK A. KOORLAND**, Professor, USF St. Petersburg, College of Education, Dec. 20, 2018

**NANCY KUTCHER**, former Director of Information Services, March 21, 2019

**JOHN "JACK" LEVY**, Professor, USF College of Education, Feb. 14, 2019

**STEVEN LONG**, Assistant Director, University Communications and Marketing, March 2, 2019

**GELA MACEACHERN**, Sun Dome Assistant to the Director, March 2, 2019

**DR. RICHARD "BUDDY" MARTORELL**, USF Medicine Charter Faculty, March 13, 2019



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