

# USF



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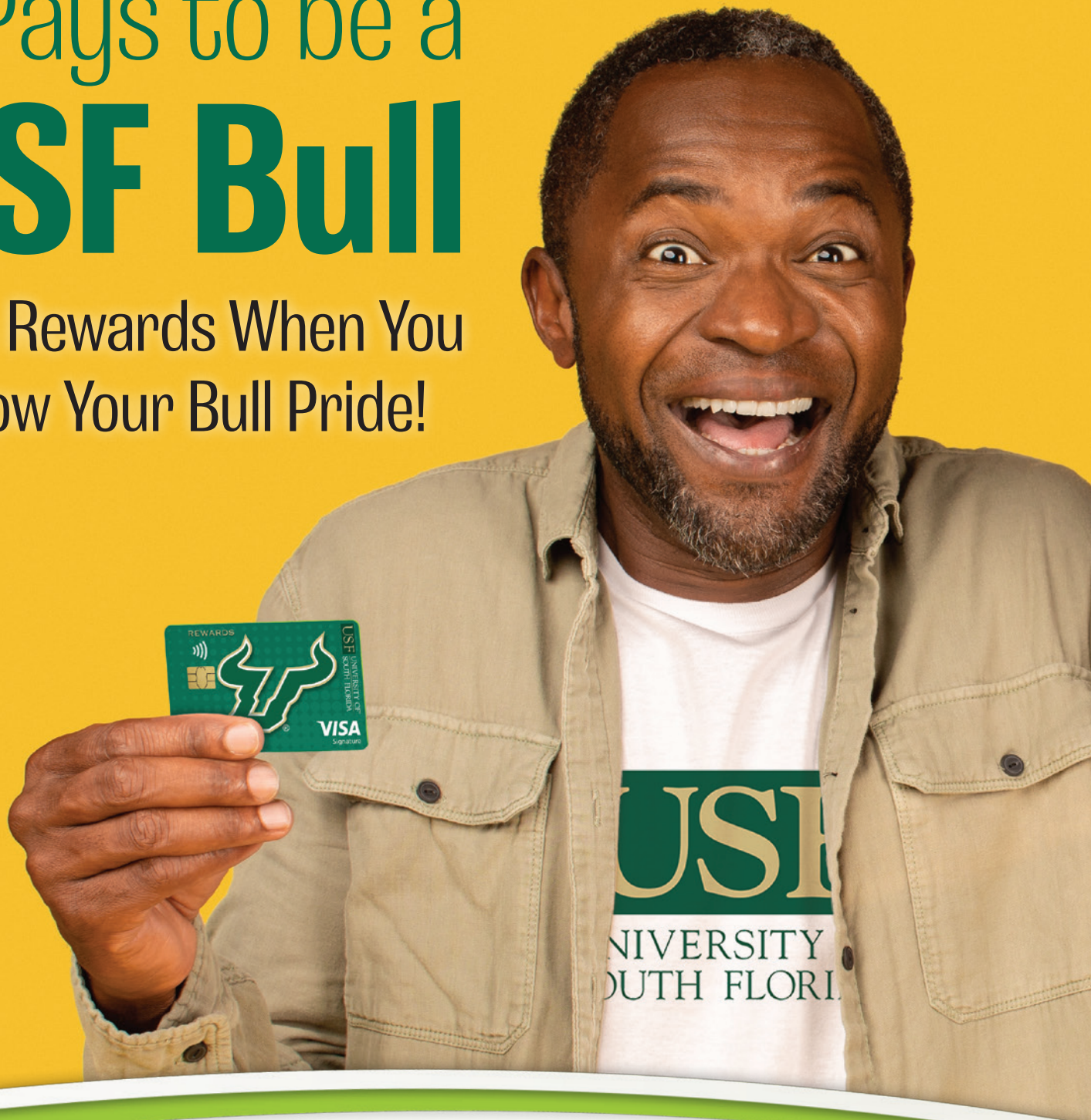
- Cut the nets! Men's basketball blows up the record books
- USF Libraries puts vintage photo collection at your fingertips
- Indian movie star is Horns Up for USF

# TERROR, WONDER... Triumph!

Four marine scientists make history  
racing across the Atlantic in a rowboat

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# USF

UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH FLORIDA  
MAGAZINE

The OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the  
USF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
SPRING 2024

## FEATURES

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### About the cover

Salty Science, the rowing team led by USF Professor Chantale Bégin, celebrates the end of its 3,000-mile journey — and historic first-place victory in the women's class — in the World's Toughest Row-Atlantic. The team was North America's first to win in the category.

Photos, cover and above:  
WORLD'S TOUGHEST ROW-ATLANTIC



# From the President



## Dear alumni, friends and supporters of USF

THE SPRING ISSUE of USF Magazine is filled with stories that inspire and reflect the passion, courage, discipline and perseverance that are in the DNA of USF Bulls everywhere.

In our cover story, which begins on page 28, you'll meet the gritty, determined crew of Salty Science, the rowing team led by USF Professor Chantale Bégin. During their 38-day race across the Atlantic Ocean, the four women endured exhaustion, seasickness, unruly and unpredictable seas, and even flying fish. Undeterred, Salty Science captured first place in the women's class in the World's Toughest Row-Atlantic, the first North American team to win in that category. In the process, they raised money to educate the next generation of marine scientists.

We also introduce you to the Investment Club at USF, one of the largest such student-organized clubs in the nation. Members have benefited from a robust internship program offered by the New York-based investment firm Star Mountain Capital at its Tampa office. But, as you'll learn on page 24, former club president Gabriel Mocelin and other members are so passionate about helping their fellow students, they asked the firm's CEO, Brett Hickey, to make an even larger investment by establishing a scholarship fund to benefit all USF business students. Hickey and Star Mountain Capital were soon on board — with that and more.

Bulls Nation also has been inspired by the remarkable turnaround engineered by our men's basketball team and first-year Coach Amir Abdur-Rahim

— the unanimous choice for Conference Coach of the Year by his peers. What a season: A first-ever regular season conference title, a first-ever Top-25 ranking, the nation's longest winning streak, and three straight sell-out crowds at the Yuengling Center. We're extremely proud of our student-athletes and coaches. Read more about this memorable season on page 18.

There's another group of student-athletes who are just as dedicated and accomplished — our cheerleaders. As you'll read on page 20, USF's cheer squads set the national standard for excellence. The All-Girl Cheer Team won a pair of national titles during the Universal Cheerleading Association College Nationals — the fifth and sixth national championships earned by USF cheer programs in the last four years.

As we celebrate the many accomplishments of our student-athletes, we are also looking ahead to the impact our on-campus stadium will have as the home of our football and other athletics programs and as a venue for concerts, festivals and more. The illustration on pages 22-23 gives you an idea of our plans for the stadium, projected to open in fall 2027. Since we first announced this project, it is the topic I hear about most often from our passionate supporters, who are genuinely excited about what a game-changer this facility will be for our university.

Everywhere you look — in the Tampa Bay region, across our state and nation, and globally — USF Bulls are making a positive difference. Thank you for all that you do to support our great university.

**RHEA F. LAW, '77**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**LIFE MEMBER #976**

# Green and Gold Points of PRIDE

## • RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY •

### \$692 million

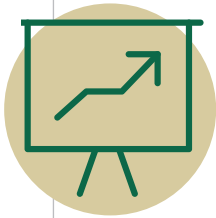
In research funding awarded to USF in fiscal year 2023, up nearly 27% from 2022

### 57%

Of last year's research awards came from federal agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Defense

### \$416 million

In research awards went to the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine in 2023



## • NEW RANKINGS •

### No. 6

Nationally for the number of faculty and administrators (eight) selected for the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program  
— **Fulbright Scholar Program**

### No. 14

Among U.S. public research universities for producing new U.S. utility patents; No. 24 among all American public or private universities; and No. 34 among universities worldwide  
— **National Academy of Inventors**

### No. 22

Online MBA program in the nation — up 73 spots over the past five years  
— **U.S. News & World Report 2024 Best Online Programs**

### No. 23

Online graduate business program (non-MBA) for veterans  
— **U.S. News & World Report 2024 Best Online Programs**

### No. 24

USF Men's Basketball national ranking in February, a program first  
— **Associated Press and USA TODAY polls**

### No. 58

Online graduate engineering program  
— **U.S. News & World Report 2024 Best Online Programs**



## • NEW HONORS •

### 2 Emmy Awards

The InEd Studios team, part of USF Innovative Education, took home two awards at the 2023 Suncoast Regional Emmys. The team won for Best Director and Best Magazine Program (series) for "Portraits in Patriotism," created in collaboration with the College of Education.

## 2023 International Impact Award for Global Teaching and Learning

— **Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)**

## 2 elected to National Academy of Inventors

Professor of Medical Engineering Mark J. Jaroszeski, '90, MSCH '90 and PhD '93, Life Member, and Professor of Molecular Medicine Niketa A. Patel, PhD '98, were recognized for breakthrough discoveries and inventions in drug delivery and medical engineering, and diagnosis and treatments for challenging diseases.

USF magazine is published three times a year by USF Advancement and USF Communications & Marketing for alumni, friends and members of the USF community.

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**USF Alumni Association Vice President and Executive Director** Bill McCausland, MBA '96

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# First Look





## GO BULLS!

Students go wild with excitement during the Feb. 18 nationally televised Bulls home basketball game against then-24th-ranked Florida Atlantic University during the team's first sell-out game in 20 years. The Bulls won 90-86, notching win No. 11 on their historic 15-game winning streak. It marked the first of three-straight sell-out crowds over 10,000 at Yuengling Center.

The packed student section was a sea of lime-green replica jerseys — a giveaway for the first 1,000 fans in attendance. Alumni also converged on the Yuengling Center in record numbers.

Read more about men's basketball's "season for the ages," pg. 18.

# First Look



## Full STEAM ahead!

Daniella Gurganus, a USF junior majoring in environmental science, demonstrates how sand and gravel help filter water as youngsters get ready to assemble their own water-filtering experiments.

“It’s why spring water appears so clean compared to river water,” explains environmental sciences instructor Jim Ivey, PhD ’09, behind her in the photo.

Gurganus and Ivey were two of about 180 USF St. Petersburg volunteers at the Feb. 10 St. Petersburg Science Festival. Launched in 2011, the free festival includes dozens of immersive exhibits and demonstrations in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM).

This year, it drew about 15,000 visitors.

The festival is held alongside MarineQuest, the annual open house hosted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, located a short walk away.





We are  
#oneUS

Groundwater

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# University Community



## For goodness' sake

Students and alumni rolled up their sleeves for the 2024 USF Stampede of Service, going to work for their local charities in observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day. The 19-year tradition is now available to students year-round, and alumni for several weeks. Thanks to alumni chapters and societies from coast to coast, it benefits communities across the country.

**410**  
VOLUNTEERS

75 students  
335 alumni

**29**  
COMMUNITIES  
IMPACTED

8 by students  
21 by alumni

**42** PROJECTS  
COMPLETED

8 by students  
34 by alumni

**1,349 Hours Donated\***

**Students 336, Alumni 1,013**

*\*Totals are for Jan. 12-27 for students,  
Jan. 13-March 2 for alumni*



**We never get through setting examples, no matter what we do in life."**

**– Frank Morsani**

## Surprise!

Tampa Mayor Jane Castor declared Feb. 5 Frank and Carol Morsani Day during a surprise appreciation party co-hosted by USF.

"We never get through setting examples, no matter what we do in life, that's our obligation — leaving this world in a better place than we found it," Frank Morsani told the crowd, which included USF President Rhea Law and representatives of The University of Tampa,

Moffitt Cancer Center and the Straz Center for the Performing Arts.

Since moving to Tampa in 1970, the couple has given generously to those and other institutions, transforming countless lives.

"We couldn't have given to better organizations," Carol Morsani said. "We've been wondering how to celebrate our [73rd wedding] anniversary. This is it."



**We couldn't have given to better organizations. We've been wondering how to celebrate our [73rd wedding] anniversary. This is it."**

**– Carol Morsani**

**Go to [usf.to/surprise](https://usf.to/surprise) to see a video recap of the event**

## Outstanding!

Six alumni aged 35 and younger are being celebrated as USF's 2024 Outstanding Young Alumni. Established in 2004, the award recognizes the exceptional professional and community accomplishments of our youngest alumni.

Recipients are:



• **Jonathan Davila, '11**, president and co-founder of Vū creative and virtual production technology company



• **Corbyn Lichon, '13**, chief accounting officer for Baldwin Risk Partners (BRP Group), one of the 20 largest insurance brokerage firms in the nation



• **Shane McClanahan, 2015-18**, pitcher for the Tampa Bay Rays and two-time Major League Baseball All-Star



• **Kyle L. McIntyre, '15**, deputy director of congressional affairs at Headquarters U.S. Space Force



• **George Papadeas, '13**, chief operating officer of Next Net Media, a \$40 million-plus digital marketing company



• **Janae Thomas, MPA '18 and PhD '23**, is an associate at Quintairos, Prieto, Wood and Boyer, and a judge advocate for the U.S. Air Force Reserve

## This boot is made for ... dancing

The iStride therapy shoe has stroke sufferers dancing for joy. Literally.



Invented and patented by Kyle Reed, associate professor of mechanical engineering, iStride helps people quickly pick up the pace after a stroke. Walking speed improved an average 50% in patients after just a month of therapy, according to a study recently published in the academic journal *Frontiers in Neurology*.

“She was dancing. She hasn’t danced in years,” KC Hostetler said of her mother, Maria Magdalena Valencia Juarez.

iStride is licensed by Moterum Technologies Inc., which is partnering with health-care providers to make the shoe more widely available.

Read the full story: [usf.to/TherapyShoe](https://usf.to/TherapyShoe)

## 87 projects include water tower refresh

Repainting USF Tampa’s landmark 20-story water tower, inside and out, topped the list of 87 long-awaited repairs, renovations and replacements on all three campuses. The job’s done, and the tower now sports a fresh, new look — and protection against corrosion.

It ranked No. 1 because the tower supplies drinking and firefighting water for a large swath of the campus. Other projects include replacing the leaky roof on USF’s first building, the John and Grace Allen Building, and addressing electrical, fire alarm and HVAC system issues throughout USF.

All 87 projects should be complete by 2026. The work is funded by nearly \$73 million the state allocated in 2022-23 to support USF’s Capital Renewal Program.



# University Community



JAY NOLAN

**Above:**  
OLLI-USF members  
and prospective  
members learn about  
course offerings  
during a January  
open house.

## NEVER STOP LEARNING!

### OLLI-USF offers low-cost classes for ages 50-plus

WHEN HE RETIRED AS A senior business executive, Kevin Chittim looked for activities that would excite and engage him, plus give him the chance to meet new friends. He heard about Great Books, a literature class offered by Osher Lifelong Learning Institute-USF, and gave it a try.

Eight years later, Chittim has taken nearly 500 classes at the institute, designed for ages 50-plus and known as OLLI-USF. For seven of those years, he has served as a volunteer faculty member and is in his second stint on its board of advisors.

“OLLI is for people who value the joy of lifelong learning, making great friends, sharing life experiences, mental and physical activity, and finding stimulation or new interests in our retirement years,” he says.

Fellow student, teacher and board member George Hyde says OLLI can be a fulfilling new avocation for people who’ve spent decades finding purpose through work and raising children.

“OLLI saved my life after I retired,” he says. “It gave me another reason to feel good about myself, another reason to get up in the morning and look forward to my day.”

A low-cost, member-based program, OLLI-USF is one of 125 Osher institutes at universities across the country. USF’s OLLI is more than 30 years old, operating under

other names prior to 2005. It offers more than 300 classes throughout the year, including technology training, foreign languages, history, literature, philosophy and exercise. There are no tests, no grades and no pressure.

“A few years ago, we began expanding accessibility. Now in-person classes are offered at more than 10 partner venues throughout the Tampa Bay area. Many of our courses are offered online as well,” says OLLI director Veronica Maxwell, ’05, Life Member. “We continue to expand, diversify and improve our programs to make them available to more people, because — as our name says — learning is lifelong!”

OLLI isn’t just for scholarly pursuits; it also connects members with shared interests. Nearly a third of its members enjoy a dozen groups dedicated to pastimes such as hiking, dining out and board games.

When members expressed a desire to connect with younger people, OLLI branched out. Most recently, members have been helping stock the pantries of Feed-A-Bull, which offers free food to any USF student in need.

“All OLLI-USF teachers are volunteers,” Maxwell says. “They are seasoned experts in their subject areas, who love sharing their life experiences with their peers and want to continue offering their help to the community at large.”

OLLI memberships start at \$50 a year. Classes range in price from \$10-\$70 for one to six sessions.

For information, visit [usf.to/OLLI-USF](http://usf.to/OLLI-USF).

- ALEXIS AGNEW, Class of 2025

## USF ST. PETERSBURG

### \$3M will provide new anti-trafficking tools

TWO MAJOR PROJECTS WILL ADDRESS human trafficking in Florida thanks to nearly \$3 million in recent federal support.

USF's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Risk to Resilience Research Lab will develop a statewide database to assist in investigations and expand an online platform that provides resources to survivors.

"By creating and expanding these tools, we will be better able to combat and reduce this illegal activity in Florida while providing essential resources to survivors when they need it most," said Joan Reid, '04, MA '04 and PhD '10, USF St. Petersburg professor of criminology and director of the TIP Lab. "We can't thank Rep. Kathy Castor and Rep. Scott Franklin enough for their leadership on issues related to disrupting human trafficking and providing support for our lab."

At Castor's request, nearly \$1 million will go towards developing and operating a statewide human trafficking data repository called TIPSTR.

In addition to assisting law enforcement in investigations, the database will address gaps in victim services, develop prevention programs and provide a better understanding of the magnitude and trends in human trafficking across Florida and over time. It will be the first statewide human trafficking database and should be ready to launch by the end of the year. It's being developed with tech partner Allies Against Slavery.

At the request of Rep. Franklin, about \$1.85 million will go towards expanding the TIP Lab's BRIGHT Network (Bridging Resources and Information Gaps in Human Trafficking). The online platform helps human trafficking victims escape and get back on their feet by streamlining efforts to connect them with organizations and resources addressing housing, health, mental health and legal aid. Resources for clothing, food and employment will come online later this year. All are highly vetted for trust and safety.

## MUMA COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

### Lab helps analyze AI's impact on business

STUDENTS AND FACULTY NOW HAVE high-tech tools to help everyone better understand the opportunities and impact of artificial intelligence in business.

The Behavioral AI Lab is part of the Center for Marketing and Sales Innovation Customer Experience Lab, nationally recognized for helping a variety of industries maximize their influence on consumers.

It's equipped with biometric sensors to track the tone of a person's voice and word choice, eye movement, facial expression, stress and electrical activity in the brain. With 20 computer



stations, the capability to control ambient light and sound, and five interaction rooms, the lab provides researchers with tools to examine human response to AI in online and in-person studies.

"This lab is an important asset in preparing our students for the world they will join," says Rob Hammond, DBA '17, associate professor and director of the center in the Muma College of Business.



GUILLERMO SPELUCIN RUNCIMAN / ISTOCK

## USF HEALTH

### A new treatment for traumatic brain injury?

MILITARY VETERANS WHO'VE SUFFERED a traumatic brain injury may benefit from a study of hyperbaric oxygen therapy, now underway.

A recent \$14 million grant from the Florida Legislature is funding the five-year study led by Dr. Harry van Loveren, professor and chair of the USF Health Department of Neurosurgery and Brain Repair.

Later this year, the study will begin recruiting participants, to include Florida veterans, active-duty troops and reserve service members. It will compare the benefits for those who receive hyperbaric oxygen treatment versus other treatments. It will also examine results for veterans with and without post-traumatic stress disorder.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy involves breathing pure oxygen in a pressurized environment to fill the blood with enough oxygen that allows tissues to repair. The therapy is a proven treatment for decompression sickness, some serious infections and air bubbles in blood vessels.

# University Community



## INNOVATIVE EDUCATION

### Online learning has become a whole studio production

Multipliers and exponents and the exponential power of education — this is the lexicon of a math teacher's math teacher. Assistant Professor Sarah van Ingen Lauer, PhD '13, helps future educators learn how to spark children's mathematical curiosity and unravel the mysteries of numbers.

Remarkably, she'll soon be doing so online, a feat inconceivable a decade ago.

"I contemplated this years ago, but I didn't know how it would be possible to achieve the same quality online as in person," she says.

Her Math Methods class, which relies heavily on interaction and modeling teaching practices, will go online for the first time this summer. She has no doubt it will engage students just as well as the in-person class and encourage their active participation.

While online learning has evolved with the internet since the 1990s, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated its use and demand for more engaging and effective approaches.

**Above and right:** InEd Studios films one of six videos for Assistant Professor Sarah van Ingen Lauer's online Math Methods course, which will launch this summer.

**Opposite page:** Jason Su, an InEd Studios cinematographer and video editor, and intern Natalie Pytlarz prep the set for filming.

Van Ingen Lauer worked with USF Innovative Education and its digital learning team to put Math Methods online. InEd's learning designers have been partnering with instructors for the last decade to reimagine the digital classroom. With teams on USF's three campuses, they develop creative content and design complementary educational tools for 60 to 80 online courses per semester.

Learning designer Janine Diaz Cotto says it starts with meticulous planning.

"We analyze the course, the students and the instructional challenges," she says. "We discuss what students are expected to achieve and planned course activities. Then we map out the course progression

“

**I contemplated this years ago, but I didn't know how it would be possible to achieve the same quality online as in person. ... It allows future teachers to revisit and refine their techniques, ensuring they learn how to explain lessons effectively to children.”**

– Sarah van Ingen Lauer

and pinpoint areas where more student interaction or engagement would be beneficial.”

Discussion boards, peer review activities, group projects, interactive media and live, synchronous sessions encourage active participation.

For Math Methods, Diaz Cotto worked with InEd Studios' cinematographers and producers to craft a half-dozen engaging videos, while learning designers developed interactive presentations and infographics, blending storytelling with educational insight.

Producer Diana Trueman says they aim to breathe life into lessons. In the early days of video instruction, she says, the camera was in the back of the room or provided a close-up of someone talking.

No more.

“Filming it in a way that depicted me drawing mathematical illustrations, adding viewer-friendly text and presenting different angles was brilliantly executed,” says van Ingen Lauer. “It allows future teachers to revisit and refine their techniques, ensuring they learn how to explain lessons effectively to children.”

– LORIE BRIGGS, '88 and MA '13 // Innovative Education



## USF ST. PETERSBURG

### St. Pete to house Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel's papers, photos

THE PAPERS AND ARTIFACTS of Nobel Peace Prize recipient and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel will become part of the permanent collections at USF St. Petersburg and the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg.

Wiesel, who died in 2016, became a renowned writer and lecturer on human rights after surviving the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps as a teenager.

His physical and digitized papers, including unfinished manuscripts, photographs, and video and audio recordings, will be housed at the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library's Special Collections Department at USF St. Petersburg. USF plans to create the Elie Wiesel Center for Humanitarian Ethics, to include a historical archive and searchable database.

“We envision the center bringing together faculty from political science, philosophy, anthropology, criminology and other fields to develop major research initiatives around humanitarian ethics,” says Thomas Smith, vice provost at USF St. Petersburg and a Florida Holocaust Museum board member.

Wiesel's Nobel Prize and other artifacts will also become a cornerstone of the exhibition at the Florida Holocaust Museum, a longtime USF partner.

“For almost 30 years, my father taught at Eckerd College, and he and my mother fell in love with St. Petersburg,” said Elisha Wiesel, son of Elie and Marion Wiesel and chairman of the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, “which is why I'm honored to be a part of solidifying the importance of this location.”

The foundation announced the decision in February.

# University Community

## USF SARASOTA-MANATEE

### Students as business consultants? Win-win

THE COURSE DESCRIPTION FOR Global Student Consulting, advertising a “high-impact, experiential learning” opportunity with an international edge, caught the interest of 10 students representing a mix of majors, from health to the arts.

Professor Greg Smogard



By the end of the fall 2023 semester, the undergraduates — most with no previous business experience — had developed viable solutions for vexing problems faced by two alumni-owned businesses in Sweden and the Netherlands.

Along the way, some of the students became quasi-experts on the green industrial revolution and Sweden’s sparsely populated northern-most region.

Others learned how to analyze markets and businesses’ strengths and weaknesses. All honed their skills in teamwork, delegating duties, and setting

and meeting goals and deadlines.

Their beneficiaries also ended the year with valuable new tools.

“They did such a great job,” says Sol Spier, ’16, founder and CEO of Dawning Digital, a marketing agency based in the Netherlands. “I saw all these different perspectives because we had students in finance and health care, in marketing and in arts.”

Since fall 2019, Professor Greg Smogard has offered Global Student Consulting as a capstone course for undergraduates in the Judy Genshaft Honors College and the Muma College of Business. Last year, it earned him a USF Global Education Faculty Award.

The assistant vice president of innovation and business development at USF Sarasota-Manatee, Smogard gets rave reviews from both students and the organizations he enlists as partners.

“Professor Smogard was a really great teacher,” says Taitana Celestin, a political science major who collaborated with four other students on behalf of Sweden-based MindDig, a talent

acquisition and recruitment platform. “He really is a drop-everything-to-help type of teacher.”

Amna Wajahat, a senior majoring in business analytics and information systems, served as a consultant for Dawning Digital, based in the Netherlands.

“When I read the course description, I really thought this was meant for me,” she says. “Dr. Smogard was there to help us, but our deliverables were a result of how much we put into it.”

Smogard says the course offers two major benefits.

“Working directly with an international company on a real-world problem or opportunity gives the students the chance to develop some unique skill sets,” he says. “At the same time, it’s a great way for USF to connect with and maintain a close relationship with our international alumni.”

#### Problem No. 1: MindDig

Founded by Chana Svensson, ’08, and Marcus Gustafsson in 2020, MindDig recruits workers to sub-Arctic Sweden, where a green industrial revolution is hungry for skilled employees. In recent years, dozens of companies — including Skanska, Northvolt and H2 Green Steel — have moved to the area to launch industrial decarbonization efforts.

The company wants to expand to neighboring Norway and Finland, but its leaders had questions.

“How do we scale this thing going forward?” asked Ludwig Zivkovic Rosendal, chief operating officer. “Where do we focus our resources?”

His five student consultants left their first meeting with a broad scope of work, including marketing, sales, technology and organizational growth.

“The industrial green revolution was something I’d never heard of,” says accounting major Patrick Meehan, who spent the first six weeks learning everything he could about it. “We had to wrap our heads around it before we could even start to think about next steps.”

MindDig’s executives were impressed with the final results.

“They provided us with a long-term

MindDig founder Chana Svensson, '08



Student consultant Patrick Meehan



Working directly with an international company on a real-world problem or opportunity gives the students the chance to develop some unique skill sets.

— Greg Smogard



Dawn Digital founder Sol Spier



Student consultant Anna Wajahat



perspective.” says Rosendal. “It shows great insight and maturity for them to say, ‘You’re doing too much, you need to slow down and focus and perfect what you have before you try to do more things.’”

The company is already incorporating some of the recommendations.

## Problem No. 2: Dawning Digital

Spier founded Dawning Digital in 2017, when the freelance clientele for her digital marketing services outgrew her capacity. She’d always dreamed of living in Europe and moved her company to the Netherlands with help from the Dutch American Friendship Treaty.

Her 2023 challenge: growing her U.S. and European client base.

Wajahat and her teammates reviewed Spier’s business plan and performed a market analysis, compiling data on the markets she wanted to serve, such as price points, buying habits and competition. They also conducted a SWOT analysis, a data-driven examination of an organization’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

“They put together a wonderful presentation with such great suggestions, including a whole plan of how I can scale my company,” says Spier. “What really impressed me, they provided multiple solutions. Now I get to pick and choose.”

- GEORGIA JACKSON, '14 and MFA '18



### CAMPUS EVENTS

## First Rocky’s Run 5K, Bulls Family Fest draw thousands

MORE THAN 500 RUNNERS converged on USF’s Tampa campus March 2 for the inaugural Rocky’s Run 5K, benefitting K-12 programming across all three campuses. Rocky’s Run was immediately followed by Bulls Family Fest, a free public festival that attracted an

estimated 4,000 adults and children from the greater Tampa Bay community.

“The weather was perfect, the campus looked beautiful, and it was great to see students and faculty, along with alumni and plenty of families who may never have visited USF before,” says Caryn Preston, '15, assistant director in USF’s Office of Youth Experiences.

“One of the main goals of our office is to ensure that every child growing up in the Tampa Bay area benefits from the presence of USF in the community. We welcome children and families to our campuses through summer camps and events like this throughout the year.”

Rocky’s Run took racers on a winding route through the heart of campus, past colorful bougainvillea and beneath shady live oak trees. The overall winners were, in first place, Joaquin Arevalo; second, Nathaniel MacLeod; and third (just 9 years old!), Alexis Theuerkauf.

Following the race, visitors roamed the Bulls Family Fest, where more than 100 exhibitors provided music, crafts, games, sports, information and plenty of giveaways near the Marshall Student Center.

Special guests included Rocky D. Bull’s pals, the Tampa Bay Lightning’s Thunderbug and Cyber Florida’s Pixel, who joined in a mascot race.

Rocky won.

For information on K-12 programming at USF, visit [www.usf.edu/ypx](http://www.usf.edu/ypx).

# Cut the Nets!

## Men's Basketball plays a season for the ages

**S**HOWERS OF CONFETTI falling on the Yuengling Center floor. A first-ever regular season conference title. A first-ever Top 25 national ranking. The nation's longest winning streak. Three-straight home sell-out crowds. A raucous SoFlo Rodeo student section that swelled to near 4,000 at numerous games. The Bay area buzzing and a national spotlight on USF.

USF men's basketball experienced a season for the ages under first-year head coach Amir Abdur-Rahim. He came to USF in late March 2023 from Kennesaw State, where he led men's basketball to its first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance.

"This ain't the same ol' South Florida," he proclaimed in the preseason. And boy, was he right!

Since rebounding from a Dec. 2 loss at UMass with a resounding 88-72 victory over Florida State on Dec. 9, the Bulls went on to win 21 of their last 23 regular season games to run away with the American Athletic Conference regular season champi-

onship by two games, including wins at No. 10 Memphis and vs. No. 24 Florida Atlantic (a 2023 NCAA Final Four participant) before a roaring Yuengling Center record crowd of 10,659.

"USF is one of the hidden-gem stories of the season," said Andy Katz, a college basketball correspondent for the NCAA and a Big Ten Network analyst.

The Bulls' program-record 15-game win streak, which included seven consecutive road wins, vaulted them into the No. 24 spot in both the Associated Press and USA Today Coaches polls in March as the program made its first-ever top 25 appearance. More than 31,000 fans crammed into sell-outs in the last three home games, while lines to get into an ever-growing student section stretched hundreds of yards from the Yuengling Center gates.

The Bulls finished their first-ever undefeated home conference season with an 85-72 win vs. Tulane on March 5 with 10,354 fans in attendance. After the game, Coach Abdur-Rahim and the Bulls cut down the nets and hoisted a championship trophy

as confetti cannons fired, the band played on, and fans reveled in the stands.

ESPN college basketball studio analyst Seth Greenberg, who served as USF's head coach from 1996-2003, said the Bulls' unexpected rise has been "incredibly impressive" and praised Abdur-Rahim.

"I think he has done an incredible job," Greenberg said. "He has brought energy and ownership while connecting with the campus community and the students. They see it as their team. That's a big part of the process, and when you get ownership, you can play off that in so many ways.

"Winning obviously helps and it's the most important thing. But they play a fun style of basketball. Their late-game execution is really good and the stuff they're doing really fits their personnel. I see a focus, a sense of purpose, and an attention to detail that's extremely impressive. This isn't a one-hit wonder. USF is building something."

The Bulls equaled a program record win total at 24-7 as they headed into play in the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) at rival UCF.

Abdur-Rahim was a unanimous choice for AAC Coach of the Year as USF's 16-2 conference mark shattered the previous program best by four wins, and standout guard Chris Youngblood, with 15.1 points per game (ppg) was named AAC Co-Player of the Year. Veteran guard Selton Miguel (14.9 ppg) earned AAC Sixth Man of the Year and Most Improved Players honors, while freshman Jayden Reid was named to the All-Freshman Team.

"It's really cool — it's cool for our university," Abdur-Rahim said. "I get text messages from all across the country, 'Man, do you know how cool it is that people are recognizing what's going on in Tampa, Florida?' All across the country.

"You want an impact. You want to make sure people feel special."

- BRIAN SIEGRIST // Athletics



# Athletics



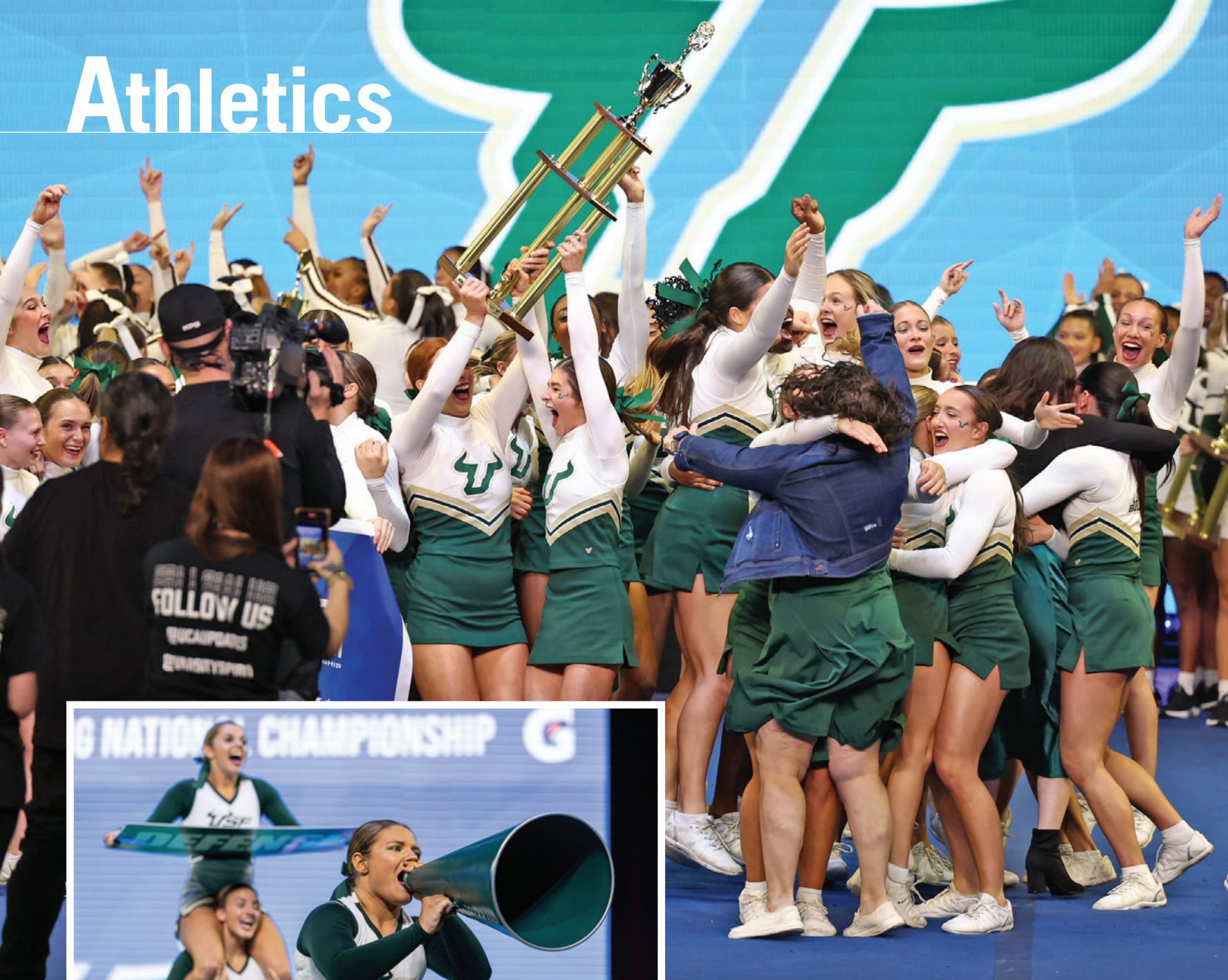
Opposite page: The Bulls celebrate their first-ever regular season conference title.

Above: Kobe Knox makes an electrifying dunk at the Feb. 18 home game vs. FAU, the first of three home game sell-outs.

**2024-25 season tickets: [USFBullsTix.com](https://USFBullsTix.com)**



# Athletics



## CHEERS!

### Dynasty built on impossible stunts, grit, camaraderie

THEY PROVIDE THE BACKDROP OF SCHOOL SPIRIT, fun and energy at USF's big-time athletic events. Along the sidelines and during timeouts, they captivate fans with choreographed stunts and acrobatics.

Now, fittingly, their accomplishments are center stage. It's time to give a cheer ... for the USF cheerleaders.

The cheer squads have built a national championship dynasty, establishing USF as a powerhouse destination for competitive cheerleading.

In January, USF's All-Girl Cheer Team captured two national titles during the Universal Cheerleading Association (UCA) College Nationals in Orlando, becoming

the first Division I program to win national titles in the Division IA Game Day and Traditional competitions during the same year. They were the fifth and sixth UCA national championships earned by the USF cheer programs in the last four years.

Meanwhile, USF's Coed Cheer Team saw a historic string of three national titles—in 2021, '22 and '23—before finishing second this year in the Division IA Large Coed Game Day category and fourth in the Division IA Large Coed Traditional category. USF is only the second program (along with Kentucky) to earn three consecutive national championships.

"There's really no difference between us and our other USF athletic teams in that it's all about resilience and grind and everyone comes here with the intent of winning national titles," says Sandy Clarke, '07, All-Girl team coach.

For UCA competitions, the Game Day routines resemble the presentations fans see at USF football and basketball games (think high energy and big smiles). The Traditional routines are a more elaborate series of stunts,

jumps, pyramids and tumbling set to music — an awe-inspiring display of high-level gymnastics.

Each squad strives to stretch boundaries by coming up with moves never before attempted. Success comes down to how well they execute, as determined by a subjective judging panel.

During this year's All-Girl Traditional competition, USF ranked fifth coming out of the preliminaries. After a near perfect final routine — no deductions for mistakes — the squad members clutched one another's hands as they awaited the final results.

"I can't let go. We're all holding hands and our heads are down," recalls Kayla Rivera of Spring Hill, a public health major. "My palms get sweaty and my hands are shaking. When they said our name, everything went silent in my head. The world freezes for a moment. It's like you're standing on top of a mountain, looking down at everybody. You're so happy because you know that all of the work has paid off."

USF's Coed Cheer Team knows the feeling. The squad had not competed nationally for 13 years when it returned to the contest in 2016. In just six years, it climbed from 12th place to its first national championship in 2021.

"We were definitely shooting for four straight [national titles] and this time, we had our most difficult routine ever and we made an error," says assistant coach Gillian Guadagnino, who served as head coach for eight years before flipping responsibilities with her husband, Ronnie Patrick. "The journey is always better than the destination, so we're pleased with our preparation.

"Good teams are led by coaches; great teams are led by athletes. They set our standard with the work ethic established outside of practice."

Squad member Ramsey Robinson was a 6-foot-5 high-level basketball player from Rockledge High School on Florida's East Coast before injuries forced him to concentrate more on academics than athletics.

While watching a USF football game, he noticed the athletic skill of the cheerleaders. "I can do that," he thought to himself. "In fact, I want to try and do that."

"I can tell you, it's as athletic and grueling as anything I've ever done," says the biomedical sciences major. "It stinks that we couldn't get our fourth national championship, but winning three in a row was legendary."

It's a feat that will be long remembered.

"One day, if I have an office somewhere, 100 percent I'll have a framed picture of our team hanging up there. The memories of what we accomplished here at USF, they'll never go away," says Gabe Rodriguez of Port St. Lucie, who's majoring in mechanical engineering.

"But what I'll remember most is the camaraderie, the friendships and the way we came together as a team."

- JOEY JOHNSTON, '81



### USF All-Girl Cheerleading Team

*Coaches:* Sandy Clarke; Kelly Budnick, '10; Leighton Clarke; Jessica Sherman, '17

*Athletes:* Zaniyah Anderson-Spencer, Haylee Apostoloff, Regan Barnes, Katelyn Blalock, Malayna Boring, Avery Brooks, Taryn Brown, Hayley Clark, Dallas Cornish, Tori Crawford, Sophia Crow, Sage Dawson, Kayla Dick, Vivi Falkstein, Sammi Fischer, Leilani Gillie, Riley Guell, Bella Guerra, Ryleigh Hajek, Ella Harrelson, Gabby Healis, Hollyn Cate Henderson, Wesleigh Hobbs, Maddie Hollis, Makayla Johnson, Melanie Kral, Kierra Lane, Louie Louis, Jaylee Luna, Lanie Mullowney, Juliette Pacheco, Sasha Payne, Sammy Radzwilka, Camryn Rausch, Kayla Rivera, Paytann Rollins, Emily Selba, Kate Shapiro, Mikenzie Shiflett, Jessica Sinphay, Marissa Smith, Ally Stoyan, Natalie Virgen, Izzy Watson, Emalee West, Regan Williams and Rylee Zais

### USF Coed Cheerleading Team

*Coaches:* Ronnie Patrick, Gillian Guadagnino, SaVannah Wright

*Athletes:* Joseph Apisa, Kendrick Bland, Thomas Crawford, Kenzie Davis, Chloe George, Brian Gomez Jr., Brandon Gray, Trenton Hayden, Madison Holland, Gabriel Hopkins, Logan Keester, Kaleb Kelley, Skylen Kerbs, Alexis Kouras, Lindsey Nichols, Gabriel Oliveira, Ashlyn Pinner, Stephon Ramos-Benavides, Madalynn Redo, Tatum Reel, Ramsey Robinson, Gabriel Rodriguez, Katie Ross, Erica Scarborough, Harly Sultuska, Dylan Tardie, Tatum Taylor, Kayla Unterweiser, Jordan Wilson, Sarah Wood and Eric Zell

# VISION

**USF's on-campus stadium will provide a grand year-round gathering space for the university and Tampa Bay communities, with an orientation aimed at maximizing shade, state-of-the-art audio and visual technology, and plenty of green and gold.**

**Groundbreaking is anticipated this fall, with completion in 2027. Design work is ongoing, but here's some of what fans can expect.\***

\*Architectural features as of Jan. 26

Suites and multiple club spaces will provide fans with several premium options, as well as chair-back seating throughout reserved seating areas.

**35,000 seats with multiple options**

**TGH Center for Athletic Excellence**

See inset, lower right

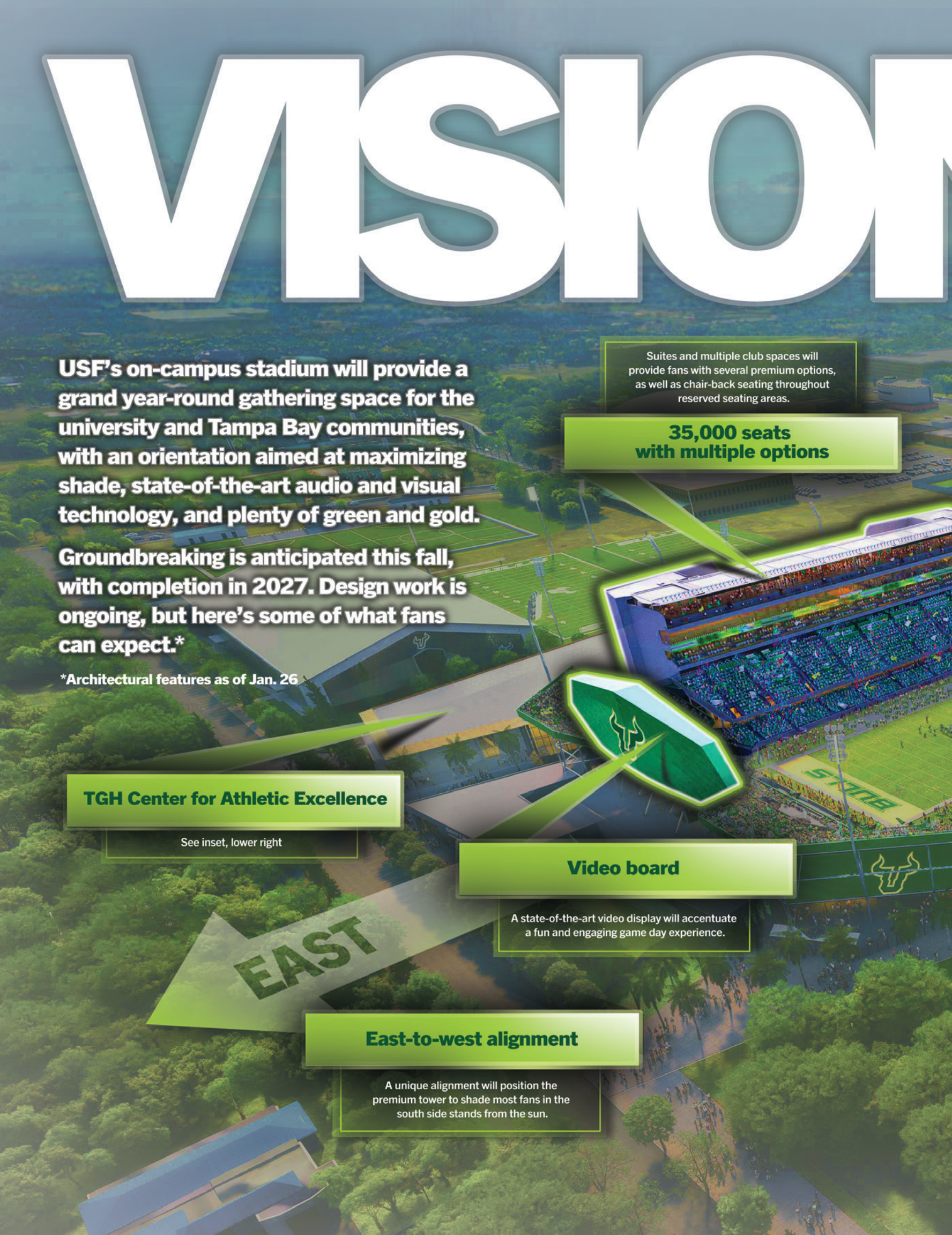
**Video board**

A state-of-the-art video display will accentuate a fun and engaging game day experience.

**East-to-west alignment**

A unique alignment will position the premium tower to shade most fans in the south side stands from the sun.

**EAST**



# W 2027

Seating for at least 8,000 with custom features for students and shaded spaces beneath for socializing.

## Just for students

## USF Federal Credit Union Champions Way

A paved walkway extending to USF Genshaft Drive will be flanked by tailgating space for a dramatic entrance by athletic teams and performances by the Herd of Thunder marching band and spirit squads.

Fans will enjoy convenient hospitality amenities and sponsor activations inside the stadium security perimeter.

## North lawn

## Tampa General Hospital Center for Athletic Excellence

State-of-the-art performance facility focused on student athletes' well-being, including training, nutrition and recovery.

# Student Investment Club makes a pitch, scores a win-win

## Finance students asked Star Mountain Capital to invest in their education

**T**HEY DIDN'T KNOW IF THEY COULD DO IT. Had they made a mistake? Did they reach too high?

Nerves gave way to excitement when students at the Muma College of Business learned their guest speaker's flight had landed. Time seemed to slow with every passing second. Then, a car pulled into the parking lot, the driver opened the door, and out stepped the CEO of New York-based investment firm Star Mountain Capital, Brett Hickey.

He had come to address the Investment Club at USF, one of the largest such student-organized clubs in America. Members wasted neither time nor words after greeting him.

"We're thankful for what your company is doing; we've gained valuable experience from your internship program," said Gabriel Mocelin, club president at the time. "We would like to further impact our USF community with your help."

During the three-minute walk from the parking lot to the auditorium, the students detailed their philanthropic proposal. Star Mountain Capital had already provided immersive, apprentice-style internships at its Tampa office for some club members. Would the firm be willing to increase its investment by establishing a scholarship fund for USF business students?

Impressed, Hickey agreed to make a generous donation.

Students don't often spearhead efforts to secure private gifts supporting their classmates. And success for such endeavors is even more rare. But this is the type of initiative expected of finance students, and the Investment Club aims to embolden its members, compounding their success in the classroom.

Created in 2016 by a handful of students, the club's ranks have swelled to over 1,300 members, making it the largest student-led organization at USF and the largest such organization in the Southeast. Members gain opportunities for equity research and investment management, networking and mentorship. The club has a strong history of alumni placement in firms that shape global financial markets.

"We wanted an opportunity that students didn't have in the past, and that is what Star Mountain Capital has been able to provide with their internship program, which has trained more than a dozen club members to date," says Mocelin, now club chairman. "When it comes to finance industry recruiting, this program brightens the spotlight on Muma College of Business graduates."

The firm's relationship with USF began in 2021, when it expanded to downtown Tampa with an office designed to provide employees with lifestyle options akin to those at its New York City headquarters. It also executed a talent development strategy, including a year-round internship program.

The company quickly recruited its first USF intern. Soon after, it had a dozen more on board. It has since promoted three former interns to full-time roles as analysts.





# USF Rising



**“We really wanted something better for USF. We wanted an opportunity that students didn’t have in the past, and that is what Star Mountain Capital has been able to provide with their apprentice-style internship program.”**

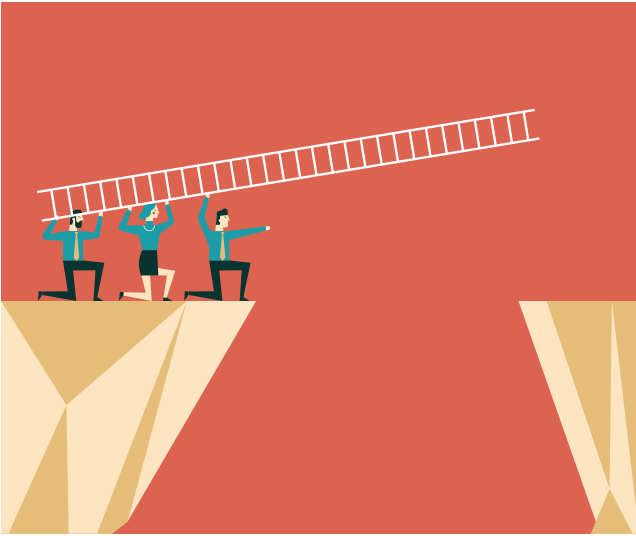
– Gabriel Mocelin

Hickey says the students’ work ethic impressed him. So, when club members pitched the idea of a larger investment, he realized both the firm and the students could benefit.

“Star Mountain Capital is committed to lifelong learning and recognizes the importance of undergraduate studies coupled with relevant internship experience to shape young professionals’ careers as they enter the financial industry,” he says.

“We want Star Mountain Capital to be a part of USF students’





**The club formed in 2016, created by a small group of finance students. In just seven years, its ranks have swelled to over 1,300 members, making it the largest student-led organization at USF and the largest such organization in the southeastern United States.**

From left: Justin Kwitchoff, Gabriel Mocelin, Paola Scotto Di Perta, Lan Phan

careers and help develop their skills at an early stage. It was a pleasure to provide this support through the donation, and we believe with the students' ambition and determination, the donation can produce compelling returns by encouraging students to reach farther and higher."

In addition to establishing the Investment Club Scholarship, which is available to any undergraduate or graduate student at the Muma College of Business, the firm hosts workshops for club members and, for the third time, is sponsoring the club's annual Student Investment Tournament. Last year's tournament, which challenges teams to create and present a stock pitch, included competitors from seven Florida universities.

Students are especially happy that Star Mountain Capital is continuing to expand its internship program, with more than 30 positions expected this summer.

"The transparent, open and collaborative culture at Star Mountain Capital creates a great environment to learn, including where — even as interns — we are able to participate in the weekly investment pipeline and



“We want Star Mountain Capital to be a part of USF students’ careers and help develop their skills at an early stage.

– Brett Hickey

investment committee meetings as well as work directly with senior team members,” says club member and intern Paola Scotto Di Perta.

The club and the firm are working together toward a shared goal, adds Justin Kwitchoff, club vice president and intern.

“We want USF students to feel empowered to aim higher than they thought possible.”

- ALLEN AMANI, '10 / Advancement



## USF HEALTH

### Pamela Muma Women’s Health Center celebrates milestone



Lead physician Dr. Denise Edwards examines a patient at the USF Health Pamela Muma Women’s Health Center.

THE USF HEALTH Pamela Muma Women’s Health Center celebrated its fifth anniversary in February.

“We took a plan and were literally gambling on whether it would work,” says Pam Muma, who spearheaded development of the center after her own struggles navigating the health-care system. “By the end of the first year, I could finally say, ‘Yeah, it’s going to work.’”

The unique concierge service provides and coordinates women’s stress-free health care. Members receive on-site testing — often with same-day results, and access to USF Health specialists, among other benefits.

“With the complexity of health care, new pharmaceuticals, medical devices and the shortage of doctors, the hardest thing for a patient is to find an excellent doctor who knows and cares about you,” says patient Ann Sahlman. “At the Muma center, no question is insignificant, no concern is overlooked. But, most of all, the emphasis on preventative care is saving lives.”

Housed in the USF Health South Tampa Center for Advanced Healthcare, the center has grown to 350 members and doubled its staff since opening. In coming years, it plans to continue accepting new members while expanding services and patient education.

Pam Muma, Life Member, is a USF alumna and recipient of the 2022 USF Donald A. Gifford Alumni Service Award. Her giving and volunteerism span decades and are often focused on health care and education. She and her husband, Les, are among the largest individual donors to USF.

TERROR, WONDER...

# Triumph!



4 marine scientists  
make history racing  
across the Atlantic in  
a rowboat



By DAPHNE KOTSCHESSA ALMODOVAR / University Communications & Marketing

**T**HE NIGHT WAS MOONLESS, PITCH-DARK. Massive waves crashed onto the deck of the 28-foot rowboat, Emma, tossing it like a toy in the vast expanse of the Atlantic Ocean between Europe and North America. Alone below in a tiny cabin, Isabelle Côté covered her eyes and tried to claim her allotted two to three hours of sleep.

“I don’t want to be here. I don’t want to be here,” she thought.

“I had no idea what I was going to find when I opened the door of the cabin,” she later recalled. “Would my teammates still be on deck? I was terrified.”

While she lay curled in the cabin, her teammates — Chantale Bégin, Lauren Shea and Noelle Helder — fought towering wave crests and deep troughs.

“I don’t even know how to describe the feeling of staring down a 25-plus-foot wall of water from the deck of our boat,” says Shea. “All you can do is sit there and hope desperately that this won’t be the one that breaks directly on top of you.”

Days before, on Dec. 13, 2023, the women had boarded Emma and pushed off from Spain’s Canary Islands for a 3,000-mile race across the ocean — the World’s Toughest Row-Atlantic. After 38 days, 18 hours and 56 minutes, they finished first in the Women’s Class on Jan. 20 — the first North American team to ever win the category. They came in seventh overall out of 38 teams.

During their time at sea, they would celebrate birthdays, Christmas and the New Year with dehydrated meals. They would row for 12 hours a day; try to sleep on sodden mattresses in stifling heat; endure seasickness, rashes and swollen limbs. They would experience terror — and wonder.

The course for the four friends, marine scientists aged 27 to 60, had been set eight years earlier at the University of South Florida.

Salty Science, from left, Chantale Bégin, Lauren Shea, Noelle Helder and Isabelle Côté, pose in the weeks before their intercontinental row.



**I**N 2015, SHEA AND HELDER, then marine biology undergraduates at USF, took a field course in the Caribbean led by Bégin, a USF professor. The two students stood out among their cohort and Bégin asked them to join her as field assistants. With shared interests, pastimes and values, the trio quickly bonded.

Shea graduated in 2017 and was working in Antigua when she happened upon a spectacle: The winners of the 2020 Atlantic race, an all-male team, were rowing across the finish line into Nelson's Dockyard English Harbour.

An athlete who'd spent a lot of time on the water, she was immediately intrigued. She witnessed the finish again in 2021, this time on her 25th birthday, and knew it was something she wanted to try.

She also knew who might join her.

Within a day, Bégin, 42 at the time, and Helder, a 25-year-old 2016 grad, said, "Yeah! Let's do this thing!"

They wanted a fourth teammate, and Bégin reached out to Côté, then 58, her doctoral advisor at Simon Fraser University in Canada. The three generations dubbed themselves Salty Science, a nod to their sometimes unabashed personalities and their commitment to marine conservation.

While the women were competitive runners and swimmers, none knew how to row in the ocean. They embarked on three years of preparation, including 18 months of intensive physical training entailing 10 to 14 hours a week working out and rowing in the Gulf of Mexico with a coach. They did it all while juggling full-



For about 18 months, the team practiced rowing in the comparatively placid Gulf of Mexico.

time jobs, families and work toward advanced degrees.

They never dreamed of winning the race. They were novice rowers! They aimed to cross safely with their friendship intact, and row as fast as they could. They also hoped to raise awareness and \$500,000 for ocean conservation. They had “Rowing Across an Ocean for the Oceans” emblazoned on Emma’s hull.

They would learn that this race is less about being an elite rower and more about being creative and resilient when problems arise, understanding how to navigate while leveraging winds and currents, and relying on one another’s strengths. In those areas, they’d had plenty of practice.

They never dreamed of winning the race. They were novice rowers! They aimed to cross safely with their friendship intact, and row as fast as they could.



**T**HE WORLD'S TOUGHEST ROW tests competitors physically, mentally, emotionally and technically, says CEO and race director Carsten Heron Olsen. It requires rowing for hours in cramped quarters with little sleep while assessing weather conditions and making critical navigational decisions.

Those challenges were compounded in the 2023-24 race when teams rowed straight into ferocious conditions whipped up by a mix of low pressure systems and strong head winds, he says. Some of the boats ground to a standstill. Many were pushed off course and their crews had to fight their way back to a route that would ensure arrival in the West Indies island of Antigua.

Côté had no offshore experience. Training in the Gulf of Mexico, a pond compared to the open Atlantic, did not prepare her for the size of the waves that Salty Science encountered in the first 10 days.

"At least during the day, you could see what was

coming for you," says Shea. "When nighttime came around, you lost any ability to see beyond the end of your oars."

Turning back was not an option.

"You can't make it back because of the dominant winds and currents, and there's no safety boat shadowing you. There's no helicopter that can reach you by the time you are a few hundred miles offshore," says Bégin.

And Emma had no engine.

But after every terror-filled night in those early days, the sun inevitably rose. The four women celebrated by sipping coffee on deck and listening to music. Restored, they could face another day.

They were rewarded with amazing sights, from seabirds thousands of miles offshore to whales, dolphins, tuna schools so dense they couldn't avoid occasionally hitting a fish with an oar, and sharks, including one that rammed the rudder.

"I was the first to get hit by a flying fish jumping on





deck — and it hit me right in the face, which hurt a bit more than I was expecting,” says Helder. “They are like little missiles!”

They also came to realize that stalwart little Emma wasn’t going to let them down.

“Once I started trusting the boat, I think that allayed a lot of fears,” Côté says. “Because, boy, she did not want to capsize.”

The equipment, though, was another matter. Oars split and oarlocks bent. The women struggled to fashion repairs amidst high seas.

“When the watermaker broke, I went into the cabin, and I cried,” Shea admits. “And then I reemerged, and I said, ‘OK, I had my breakdown. Now I’m gonna think about how to fix it.’”

Shea switched out the pump and rebuilt the electronics with satellite phone guidance from a technician.

Back at home, spouses, partners, children and

friends cheered them on.

Bégin’s husband, Brendon “Boomer” Baumeister, is the assistant marine superintendent at the Florida Institute of Oceanography, located at USF St. Petersburg. He texted daily weather reports that helped the team chart courses to take advantage of favorable winds and currents. He proudly shared their progress on social media.

“Salty Science is absolutely crushing it,” he posted Jan. 13. “They are currently in 1st place women’s. We are pretty sure a North American women’s team has never won this race.”

Olsen attributes Salty Science’s historic win to the team’s individual and group strengths.

“They are outwardly tight-knit, consistent with their goals and aims, which of course aligns with the fact the team consists of three generations of STEM women,” he says. “They have spent a lot of time together in relatively stressful situations before.”

**Above, from Dec. 13, 2023 to Jan. 20, the four women rowed steadily across the Atlantic.**

**Inset, Côté and Shea celebrate Christmas at sea with candy canes.**

Following Toughest Row tradition, the four women hoist celebratory flares as they finish the race.

Below, team members reunite with family and friends at Nelson's Dockyard English Harbour in Antigua.



“ALL OF A SUDDEN we're the first women's team and it's like, whoa, how did that happen?” says Shea.

“I think that, as we've kind of taken a step back and reflected on all that we did to get there, it also maybe isn't that surprising. ...

Our preparation for the trip and our intentions going into the trip and throughout the trip of remaining friends and supporting each other, that's why we won.”

Getting off the boat was challenging.

“For two days I could not walk unaided,” says Côté.

The hours spent gripping oars left them struggling, for a time, to open jars or hold a pencil in their calloused, clawed hands. And despite gobs of sunscreen and high-tech UV clothing, all suffered overexposure from the blazing sun.

It's all worth the effort, they say. While they're still working hard to achieve their goal of raising \$500,000 for educating the next generation of marine scientists, at presstime, they were more than halfway there. The money will be divided evenly among the nonprofit Bamfield



Marine Sciences Centre in British Columbia; Green Wave, a Connecticut nonprofit; and Shellback Expeditions, a nonprofit co-founded by Bégin and dedicated to involving young marine scientists with conservation projects in the Eastern Caribbean.

Olsen says Salty Science's influence will be seen for years to come. A documentary about the team is in production and the BMSC Salty Science Scholarship is being established at the Bamfield Centre.

As for Emma, she's already got her next adventure lined up. She's been sold to a team planning to row from California to Hawaii — the World's Toughest Row-Pacific.



Left, Salty Science shares an emotional embrace at the end of their 38-day row.

Below, from left, Bégin, Shea, Helder and Côté show off their championship trophy. They were the first-place women's team in the 2023 World's Toughest Row-Atlantic.



To contribute to the Salty Science ocean conservation fundraiser, visit [www.saltyscience.org/donate](http://www.saltyscience.org/donate).

### WHERE THEY ARE NOW

**Bégin** continues to teach multiple courses, including an annual service-learning field course in the Caribbean, in USF's Bachelor of Science marine biology program.


**Shea** is completing her master's degree at the University of British Columbia, where she is conducting research in global fisheries economics.

**Helder** is a marine ecologist and geospatial scientist with the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

**Côté** is a professor of marine ecology at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. She has partnered with Bamfield Marine Science Centre in Canada to create the Salty Science Scholarship fund, designed to make marine science education more accessible to diverse students.



# Photographs *and* Memories



# *USF Libraries puts unprecedented views of Tampa history at your fingertips*

By ZIBBY WILDER / USF Libraries

**A** TREASURE TROVE OF HISTORIC Tampa photographs — many never before seen by the public — became available in March to anyone with a computer. Spanning the 1950s to about 2010, the photos capture daily life in the city and chronicle its transformation from lush natural woodlands and wetlands to housing developments, office parks and highways.

“This collection picks up where the famous Burgert Brothers photos leave off,” says Andy Huse, '96, MA '00 and MA '05, curator of USF Libraries' Florida Studies collection. “The Burgert Brothers documented life in Tampa from the late 1800s to the mid 1900s. Now, we continue the story.”

The new collection is the work of George “Skip” Gandy IV, grandson of Gandy Bridge builder George S. Gandy II. A professional commercial photographer, Skip donated more than 100,000 prints, negatives and slides to USF Libraries in 2012. He died in 2020. Last year, concerned about the aging collection's deterioration, the libraries launched a community fundraiser, collecting more than \$43,000 to expedite digitization.

“The Gandy collection is a great resource for researchers, and we couldn't afford to wait any longer to get the reformatting started,” says Amanda Boczar, MA '23, curator for Digital Collections. “I am grateful that there is so much interest from the public, and their generosity has vastly increased our pace for providing digital access.”

Alumnus and photographer Chip Weiner, '80, launched the fundraiser with a \$20,000 challenge grant. “People my age are interested in Tampa's visual history,” he says. “It's a unique collection, and every picture has a story.”

The Frank E. Duckwall Foundation was also instrumental in providing funding.

More than 10,000 photos will be available online by the end of the summer through USF Libraries' Digital Commons [usf.to/USFGandyphotos]. More will be added through this year and next. While many photos lack dates and caption information, a team will be evaluating hand-written notes on the folders, and USF Libraries welcomes information from viewers who recognize people, places and times. Email [digitalcommons@usf.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@usf.edu).

Skip Gandy and his father, George “Sandy” Gandy III, were prolific father-and-son photographers. The elder Gandy worked as a news photographer, while

Skip attended USF for a time before graduating from Emory University and eventually becoming a commercial photographer, specializing in aerials. With an innovative gyroscope-mounted camera in the belly of his plane, he shot perfectly level photos.

In addition to buildings going up (and coming down), restaurant and department store openings, he documented daily life.

“I was lucky enough to get to know Skip and discuss his work,” says Huse. “The Gandy photos are an amazing resource for those wanting to explore Florida’s rapidly changing landscape. His imagery captures a state in mid-transformation, for better and worse. His role as an aerial photographer for developers meant that his subject was often the area’s pristine nature just before it disappeared.”

The libraries’ Digital Collections include more than 80,000 letters, newspapers, oral histories and other primary resources. Adding the Gandy collection is part of a three-year plan, 2023-26, to increase online images and improve access to them. The libraries team expects to add at least 15 more collections this year and next. ■

*Previous page:  
Super-Test Amusement  
Park, 1950s*

Children prepare to go for a drive at the Super-Test Amusement Park, 2924 N. Dale Mabry Highway. Owned by neighboring Super-Test gas station, the park included a Ferris wheel, miniature train and other rides, along with a small zoo and concession stands. Customers earned free ride tickets with gas purchases. The park opened in 1953 and closed 11 years later.

*Spring clean!, Undated*

Publix employees pose by a display of brooms and other cleaning products. Founded in Winter Haven, Florida, in 1930 by George Jenkins, Publix stores dominated Florida grocery chains by 1959. Once considered a unique Florida experience, Publix supermarkets are now found in seven states.



*Go Bucs!, 1980*

Popular radio personality Jack Harris goofs off with the 4-year-old Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Harris has endured as an iconic voice of Tampa Bay since the 1970s.





*Growing skyline,  
circa 1984*

Workers pause to review plans during construction of the 42-story Barnett Plaza tower, 101 E. Kennedy Blvd., at one time Tampa's tallest building. It is now the Bank of America Plaza.



*Downtown Tampa,  
undated*

Looking north on Florida Avenue, a thriving downtown Tampa lures visitors to Arthur Murray Dance Studio and The Hub bar, a decades-old fixture, now located near Tampa Theatre on Franklin Street.



*Curtis Hixon Hall,  
undated*

Built in 1965, downtown Tampa's Curtis Hixon Hall was the go-to for big events, including shows by Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix, among others. Its glory years waned in the mid 1980s, and the venue was razed in 1993, replaced by museums and other public spaces.

*Columbia Restaurant  
parade float, 1960*

In 1959, Columbia Restaurant made national headlines with a gushing article in The Saturday Evening Post, a wildly popular magazine. The restaurant celebrated with a float in the Gasparilla Parade of Pirates.







*Fairyland at Lowry Park, undated*

Children visit An Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe Tampa's (now ZooTampa) Fairyland. Built in 1957, the children's 15-acre park charged no admission for a frolic among life-sized depictions of children's stories and nursery rhymes. By 1999, Fairyland's attractions had all been removed as the zoo expanded and upgraded.

*Bayshore Baptist Church, about 1960*

Founded in 1926, Bayshore Baptist Church refreshed its image with this publicity shot.



# For India's newest Bulls, a sprinkle of

# Stardust

Ojas Rawal, '08,  
advocates for USF  
in his homeland

By ARUNA DASGUPTA / USF World

IN THE HEART OF MUMBAI, INDIA, in “the most precious corner of my house,” stands Ojas Rawal’s shrine to USF — a collection of Bulls awards and swag lovingly gathered over two decades. A successful film, theater and TV actor, he is a passionate advocate for international higher education, particularly at USF.

So for 18 years, he has helped prepare Indian students for life here and at other U.S. universities.

Rawal has a packed calendar. Last May he was in Los Angeles shooting a biopic, “Minus One Dollar,” for Gujarati-language cinema. A few weeks later, he toured western India and the U.K., regaling audiences with the Gujarati comedic play “Aaje Rokda Ne Udhaar Kaale” (“Cash Today and Loan Tomorrow”) while the thriller film “Gulaam Chor” (“A Slave Thief”) aired on a popular Indian streaming service and the daily sitcom he’s in approached its 700th episode. He’s currently shooting a Hindi web series on Mahatma Gandhi in which he plays Gandhi’s older brother.

Still, Rawal makes time for the Indian teenagers and master’s students embarking on what can be a daunting adventure. Since 2005, he has been a panel moderator for pre-departure orientations hosted by EducationUSA, a U.S. State Department network of student advising centers. He and other USF alumni in India also volunteer at sessions specifically for students admitted to USF.

“Ojas has been a wonderful ambassador for USF. Students look up to him and trust him. Now, he’s a popular celebrity, but 20 years ago, he was just like them — a young adult leaving behind everything familiar to live and learn in a completely different world. Ojas understands their concerns. And he did exceptionally well at USF,” says Kiki Caruson, vice president of USF World.

More than 1,500 students from India are currently

enrolled at USF. They constitute the university’s largest group of graduate students from overseas, and the third largest group of undergraduates. They also make up more than 25% of all foreign students studying in the United States.

Rawal encourages seeking a college education in a different culture because, he says, it is unmatched in providing a global perspective.

“It equips a person with a plethora of opportunities for self-discovery, especially at an age that is most conducive to grasping and learning,” he says.

With his gift for captivating audiences and full faith in the benefits of choosing this path, he connects with students.

“This could hardly be called a Q&A session because Ojas is so thorough and gives you such a 360-degree view of USF that there are hardly any questions left to ask!” one student commented after an orientation in Mumbai.

He tells them to get involved. A 2008 biomedical sciences graduate who planned to become a physician, he took up teaching assistantships at USF, joined interest clubs, became editor-in-chief of the student-run newspaper, *The Oracle*, dabbled in theater and became a Student Government senator, among other pursuits.

He warns the students they may get distracted by money woes. Don’t, he advises. Look for ways to save and earn instead of “moping about how expensive everything is as you keep mentally converting the dollar cost of every item into rupees!”

He could talk for hours about his role as Resident Assistant for Beta Hall on the Tampa campus.

“Not only did that experience teach me volumes about leadership but also gifted me friendships for life. I would bring in speakers, organize picnics, plan movie nights, host tutoring sessions ... Fifteen years later I’m still in touch with most of my student residents and I’ve even



Rawal takes in the Los Angeles skyline during a pause in filming “Minus One Dollar” last May. Opposite page: Rawal and his sister and fellow alum, Khushali, are Horns Up for USF.



Photos: Provided by OJAS RAWAL

## Indian Students by the numbers

1,500 currently enrolled at USF

Largest number of USF graduate students from overseas

Third largest number of USF undergrads from overseas

More than 25% of all foreign students studying in the U.S.



Launched in 2021, USF Network India connects USF community members and partners with ties to India. It includes more than 3,100 alumni and more than 100 faculty members.

Visit [usf.to/NetworkIndia](https://usf.to/NetworkIndia)



**Ojas has been a wonderful ambassador for USF. Students look up to him and trust him. Now, he's a popular celebrity, but 20 years ago, he was just like them — a young adult leaving behind everything familiar to live and learn in a completely different world.”**

— Kiki Caruson

attended the weddings of many. One look at the shining Best Resident Assistant trophy on my desk, and a flood of nostalgia engulfs me.”

His experiences still inspire many of his stand-up comedy routines.

Rawal first attended a small private U.S. university, but transferred to USF because it offered more opportunities for undergraduate research and on-campus involvement, had a sizeable population of international students and a diverse array of student organizations. Those features, he reasoned, would allow him to grow in a more comprehensive way.

Inspired by her brother, his sister Khushali, '15, followed.

“Having my brother's name etched forever on the walls of the University of South Florida as the Distinguished Student of Spring 2008 made the institution even more special for me,” she says.

While Rawal planned to become a physician, his involvement in campus life and a lucky break led to his career in show business and entertainment. It started with events he took part in as a member of USF's Students of India Association, which hosts Bollywood parties and other cultural get-togethers. An offer to assist the legendary Bollywood film director Kundan Shah snowballed into a mini avalanche. Soon he was performing

at The Comedy Factory, which pioneered stand-up comedy in Gujarati; became part of a local theater group; and started writing episodes for an Indian television channel.

“Before I could join a hospital or a research team or shadow a doctor, I was taken away into the field of performing arts,” he says.

Still, he sometimes misses the world of academics and science.

“The nostalgia for it only increases with either a trip to USF or interactions with young U.S.-bound students or reading about a new biomedical intervention or even a passing look at all the USF paraphernalia that adorns my room,” he says.



Rawal travels to the United States every year, and never fails to visit USF.

“I love to walk around the campus, sit near the MLK Plaza fountain where I used to grade papers, visit my professors, talk with the new Student Government senators at the Marshall Center, meet the young writers at The Oracle,” he says.

Seeing the Yuengling Center revives memories of graduation, and he loves seeing what’s new on campus.

“I was very excited to see the new Judy Genshaft Honors College building because that college holds a very precious place in my heart,” he says.

He continues to look for new ways to help USF change students’ lives — “just like it did mine,” he says.

“I will always look for opportunities wherein I can divide my time, and my enthusiasm and my energy between the academic Ojas and the artiste Ojas.” ■



**Opposite page:** Rawal poses with a pennant from his beloved alma mater during an EducationUSA predeparture orientation.

**Above:** A behind-the-scenes glimpse of Rawal on the Los Angeles set of “Minus One Dollar,” a biopic based on the rags-to-riches life of Ramesh Bhagat.

**Inset:** Rawal plays Harshad Parekh in the 2023 thriller film, “Ghulaam Chor” (“A Slave Thief”).

# ‘SMILE. The rest will come easily.’

## 56 Questions with Cihan Cobanoglu

By JOHN TIPTON / USF Advancement

**M**EET CIHAN COBANOGLU, the gregarious dean of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, part of the Muma College of Business at USF Sarasota-Manatee.

A renowned expert on technology in the industry, this native of Turkey combines old-fashioned hospitality with academic expertise and cutting-edge tools. Get his service-with-a-smile insights on Florida as a “living laboratory,” the quirkiest hotel concept he’s ever encountered and how to be a successful host.

As for the latter: “Smile. ... Be yourself.”

Here’s an edited excerpt of our 56 Questions video.

Watch the full, fun interview by scanning the QR code or visiting [usf.to/56QCobanoglu](https://usf.to/56QCobanoglu).

**Q: Dining in or carrying out?**

**Cobanoglu:** Carrying out.

**Q: Casual or formal?**

**Cobanoglu:** I love formal.

**Q: Local cuisine tasting tour or a cooking class experience?**

**Cobanoglu:** Cooking class.

**Q: First thing that comes to mind. Your favorite Turkish custom?**

**Cobanoglu:** We kiss each other all the time. A lot of hugs and kisses.

**Q: Your favorite savory treat?**

**Cobanoglu:** Börek. A [Turkish] pastry.

**Q: Your favorite smell?**

**Cobanoglu:** French fries.

**Q: What is the No. 1 most essential cooking ingredient?**

**Cobanoglu:** I love oregano. The smell of it, the taste of it.

**Q: And how about the No. 1 necessity for successful hosting?**

**Cobanoglu:** Smile. That’s it. The rest will come easily.

**Q: What inspired you to pursue a career in hospitality and tourism management?**

**Cobanoglu:** I always wanted to be a doctor like my brother. He convinced me to switch to hospitality and tourism. I said, ‘How is that similar?’ And he told me, ‘It’s exactly the same. I’m helping sick people. You are going to help people not to get sick.’ And here I am today.

**Q: What do you wish you learned sooner?**

**Cobanoglu:** I wish I had learned five more languages when I was younger, because learning a different language when you’re younger is much easier. I ended up with one, which is English. My mother tongue is Turkish.

**Q: How is technology shaping the future of tourism?**

**Cobanoglu:** Virtual reality, augmented reality, artificial intelligence are actually making the hospitality industry more efficient and creating better experiences for our guests.

**Q: How have you seen the hospitality industry change in the last 15 years?**

**Cobanoglu:** One of the most influential factors is reviews people post about their experiences. That’s here to stay.

**Q: How has USF’s hospitality management program grown over the last few years?**

**Cobanoglu:** The school is now expanded to the Tampa and St. Pete campuses, in addition to our home campus here at Sarasota-Manatee, so our enrollment is going up all the time.

**Q: How do corporate partnerships contribute to student success here?**

**Cobanoglu:** We are so lucky to be in Florida. It’s a living laboratory. We have right in our backyard McKibbin Hospitality, which is a hotel management company with more than 100 hotels. We have a very deep and strategic partnership with them. In addition, we have Mainsail hotel company and also Aramark, which we know as USF Dining. Our students have wonderful hands-on experiences in the restaurant and hotel sites.

**Q: Are internships especially important in this field?**

**Cobanoglu:** It’s not important, it’s required. It’s compulsory.

**Q: What is one piece of advice that has stuck with you your whole life?**

**Cobanoglu:** Be yourself. When I was going to an interview one day, Dr. Pat Moreo, who was my PhD chair, I was asking him, ‘What should I say? How should I behave?’ And he said, ‘Cihan, be yourself.’ And that’s always my advice to my students as well, too. Be yourself.” [Pat Moreo, dean of the school of hospitality from 2016-2021, died in 2023.]

**Q: What’s your favorite place you’ve ever traveled to?**

**Cobanoglu:** There are quite a few, but my pick is Thailand.

**Q: What's the most bizarre or amusing hotel amenity that you've come across?**

**Cobanoglu:** At Kimpton Hotels [located around the world], you can actually rent a goldfish.

**Q: What's the most unique or quirkiest hotel concept that you've encountered?**

**Cobanoglu:** In Dubai there is a hotel underwater.

**Q: Front desk robots, robot butlers, delivery robotics. Are robots going to take over hotels?**

**Cobanoglu:** No, it's going to allow the hotel staff to do their jobs better and focus on the guests even more.

**Q: What's the strangest or most surprising food you've ever tried?**

**Cobanoglu:** When I was in China, they took me to a restaurant that featured snakes. I tried it, but I wouldn't say I'm a big fan.

**Q: What is your hidden talent?**

**Cobanoglu:** Well I wouldn't say cooking, because I'm really not good at it! But I've never met a stranger, so any part of the world that I go to, I always make friends.

**Q: What is one item or service worth spending your money on?**

**Cobanoglu:** Food. It doesn't have to be at an expensive restaurant, it can be street food.

**Q: If you had a superpower, what would be in it?**

**Cobanoglu:** I would love to bring peace to the world.

**Q: If you could create a signature cocktail representing USF, what would you call it and what would it be?**

**Cobanoglu:** It would probably be called Bulls Breeze. It would have rum, coconut juice, lime juice, so it would be a little bit green, and I would put in any kind of fruit juice to make it refreshing, just like our state.





## My fellow Bulls,

WINNING FEELS GOOD! And as our cover suggests, spring 2024 is all about it.

From incredible faculty and alumni crushing it at the highest levels to our amazing student-athletes and coaches setting one record after another, our university family is a shining example of what dedication to excellence can achieve.

The story of team Salty Science's treacherous row across the Atlantic Ocean (pg. 28) stands out as a testament to the passion Bulls bring to our work and the rich friendships forged within our colleges. Our national champion cheerleaders and history-making men's basketball team are featured on pages 18-21, but they're not the only stars shining in Athletics. The men's track and field team won USF's first Indoor Conference Championships title, while the women claimed a brag-worthy third place. The women's golf team is setting program records, and our stellar softball team has racked up 1,500 wins, most of which have been under Head Coach and USF Distinguished Alumnus Ken Eriksen, '84, Life Member.

Your enthusiastic support plays a major role in all of USF's successes. You cheer on our students and each other with gusto. You give generously of your time, talent and treasure to provide faculty and students with cutting-edge tools and financial assistance. Your commitment to USF provides the broader community — the world! — with solutions and services that make lives healthier, happier and safer.

Most recently, you demonstrated your commitment to USF and higher education in your usual over-the-top

fashion at the sixth annual Alumni Association Green & Gold Gala. Not only did you sell out the event, you were among more than 40 business and individual sponsors, including many alumni. The money raised supports a plethora of association programs and activities, from the magazine you now hold in your hands to prestigious awards and events, and alumni and student groups that strengthen our USF bonds.

Those include a new Alumni Association student group, our fourth, the Student Philanthropy Council. No, we're not asking students to give money! This organization cultivates an awareness of philanthropy's impacts and the importance of giving back later in life. While we hope to encourage future philanthropy — to any worthy organization — we've discovered our students are already givers. Case in point: the Muma College of Business Student Investment Club (pg. 24).

We're working to make it easier for you to connect with and support USF. We're growing our alumni groups, around the country and around the world, so that wherever you live and whatever your interests, you can find fellow Bulls. We recently upgraded our website, [usfalumni.org](http://usfalumni.org), and hope the changes will make it faster than ever for you to find the information you need and want.

Together, we can continue to elevate our spectacular university. Winning feels good. Let's keep the streak going!

**BILL McCAUSLAND, MBA '96**

VICE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
USF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
LIFE MEMBER No. 2331



# Meet Your 2023-24 USF Alumni Association Student Group Leaders

Members of the USF Alumni Association support four organizations that provide special opportunities for students to develop leadership skills, connect with alumni, and build social and professional networks.

The **Ambassadors** host dignitaries and officials throughout USF, assist during special events, and otherwise represent the student body. Members exemplify what it means to be a Bull and serve as a bridge between students and alumni.

**Order of the Golden Brahman (OGB)** includes top student and alumni leaders who are committed to public service, working together to lead the USF community, and promoting and protecting USF throughout their lives.

The **Student Alumni Association (SAA)** is USF's largest student organization. It provides opportunities to interact with peers and alumni, helps individuals grow skills and networks, and helps forge lifelong bonds with USF.

The **Student Philanthropy Council (SPC)**, the association's newest organization, is composed of students dedicated to increasing the university's prestige, expanding connections with the community and honing their leadership skills at the highest level. Students leverage their talents, passion and school spirit to infuse the importance of philanthropy into the USF experience for their fellow students.



Pictured here are the student officers leading each of these groups.

**a) Ambassadors — Tampa campus**  
Left to right: Amanda Trimbovetchi-Manrakhan, Stephanie England, Rachel Bryan, Madison Farrens, Jordan Thomas

**b) Ambassadors — St. Petersburg campus**  
Left to right: Taylor Herman, Sean Schrader, Paola Arnaldes, Aidan Cawley

**c) Ambassadors — Sarasota-Manatee campus**  
Left to right: Freeman Talla, Jazlynn Hirschhorn, Paolo Dicanoio, Lauren Karg, Malik Staton

**d) Order of the Golden Brahman**  
Left to right: Stephanie England, Bethany Jowers, Audra Nikolajski, Rachel Kline, Rachel Bryan

**e) Student Alumni Association**  
Left to right: Lela Massey, Jasmine Haroun, Sanjana Komarina, Lauren Dolan, Alessandra Martin

**f) Student Philanthropy Council**  
Left to right: Madison Farrens, Katelyn Pike, Lauren Dolan

# LIFE MEMBER CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE

# HONOR ROLL



**T**hank you to all who support USF as Alumni Association U Club and 2023 Circle of Excellence donors.

The Circle of Excellence recognizes Life Members who made additional unrestricted annual gifts in 2023, as well as all 28 donors in the prestigious University Club. Better known as U Club, this Alumni Association philanthropic society recognizes alumni and friends who have made a significant impact on USF through endowments of \$25,000 or more.

Your generosity provides essential support for Alumni Association programs and services that benefit both students and alumni.

We gratefully acknowledge all of our Circle of Excellence donors and Life Members with a tribute page at [usf.to/HonorRoll](https://usf.to/HonorRoll).

## 2023 Life Member Circle of Excellence Donors

### University Club — U Club Endowment of \$25,000+

The following Life Members are part of a unique and prestigious group of alumni and friends who have made a significant impact on USF through a generous endowment of \$25,000 or more.

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## Bulls helping Bulls

Rich Heruska, '99, Life Member, and Laura Heruska, '03, Life Member, and their children pose with Vance Sommers, right, recipient of the Heruska Family Scholarship, during the annual Alumni Association Scholarship Luncheon in September 2023. The event celebrates the students being awarded scholarships and the donors who make them possible. The association has distributed more than \$7.7 million in scholarship funds, thanks to support from USF alumni and friends.



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### Gold Level

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William Gibbs, #159  
Carl Gingola, #838  
Jeffrey Greenberg, #264  
Monique Hayes, #3536  
David Hollis, #3869  
Maria Houmis, #2440  
Nicholas Houmis, #2439  
Kenneth Jacquin, #6775  
Ram Kancharla, #5234  
Tahlman Krumm Jr., #1678  
Elizabeth Krystyn, #802  
Cece Lane, #4434  
Kenneth Lane, #2894  
William Lear, #5125  
Robert Lee, #2834  
Carla Marshall, #5750

James Marshall, #5749  
Alexandra Mendoza, #5478  
Raymond Murray, #144  
Alexander Myers Jr., #3893  
Mark Nash, #1211  
Willard Neel, #3865  
David Norman, #7495  
Katrina Osborn, #6998  
William Osborn III, #6997  
Peter Panos, #2736  
William Perez III, #7700  
Harry Pfister, #2505  
Winifred Pfister, #2504  
Mary Lou Powell, #1825  
Luz Randolph, #4345  
Chris Reyes, #5578  
Pedro Rivera, #1092  
Verlon Salley, #4299  
Beverly Sapp, #2316  
Kevin Sapp, #2317  
Dawn Schocken, #2496  
George Self, #7138  
Ada Seltzer, #1268  
Jon Smith, #1858  
Susan Smith, #2029  
Patricia Spychala, #1010  
Derick Tabertshofer, #4080  
Bruce Talcott, #2778  
Marilyn Talcott, #2779  
Carlton Terrell, #4437

Kemel Thompson, #3771  
Tracie Thompson, #4479  
Selinda Walden, #1126  
Evelyn Watkins, #1947  
Stephen Weihman, #2300  
Timothy Wiley, #2742  
Amelia Wood, #2973  
Marion Yongue, #270  
Sandra Zurita, #6864

### Silver Level

#### Donors \$50-\$249

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Anthony Adams, #2629  
Melanie Adams, #518  
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John Allison, #5944  
Diana Almeida, #7619  
Robert Alwood, #4161  
Walter Amaden, #2623  
Alexander Ambrioso, #9173  
Karen Amidei, #2233  
Steven Amidei, #2232  
Kimberly Amtmann-Buettner, #8024  
Jill Ancion, #4661  
Susan Anderson, #8189  
Robert Andrew Jr., #895

# CIRCLE OF *Excellence*

Gloria Andrews, #7925  
Martin Andrews IV, #9127  
Steve Andrews, #4682  
Margaret Andronaco, #990  
James Arias, #6514  
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Richard Astor, #2833  
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Everett Barber, #6362  
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Thomas Barthel, #7454  
Jamil Bates, #4254  
Betty Beaty, #3247  
Carla Bechard, #3021  
Peter Bechard, #3022  
Suzanne Becker, #2264  
William Becker Jr., #2265  
Ralph Behmoiras, #6446  
Marie Bell, #6422  
Robert Bell II, #6423  
Jeffrey Belvo, #1124  
Cavelle Benjamin-Arias, #6513  
Mark Best, #7030

Robert Billington, #3272  
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Shelly Blair, #3775  
Steven Blair, #3774  
Joel Borowicz, #7543  
Teresa Bowen, #7404  
Eric Bowers, #6033  
Victor Bowers, #2539  
Jimmy Bradley, #7438  
Donna Brickman, #1403  
Michael Brickman, #1404  
Gary Briggs, #1969  
Richard Brill, #6056  
Paula Britten, #4323  
Cheryl Brock, #6516  
Lewis Brock, #6515  
Deborah Bromley, #3301  
Christopher Brose, #5882  
Janet Brose, #5883  
Kendall Brown, #4887  
Maya Brown, #5753  
Victoria Bruzese, #286

Makiah Bryant, #8445  
Jeffrey Brzoska, #1829  
Steven Buchanan, #5554  
Amy Bumgardner, #7747  
Dahal Bumgardner Jr., #7746  
Scott Burkett, #109  
Zilpha Burkett, #5040  
Fern Burr, #627  
David Burton, #8758  
Melissa Burton, #8759  
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William Carlin, #2079  
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JoEllen Carlson, #1202

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Sheila Carpenter-van Dijk, #1272  
Joyce Carroll, #1227  
Nancy Carrow, #5978  
Milburne Cassady Jr., #6831  
Jenny Cater, #1965  
Catherine China, #2577  
Kimberly Choto, #1019  
Patrick Cimino, #7123  
Carla Codd, #1528  
Barry Cohen, #6633  
Heidi Colom, #5927  
Karen Colteryahn, #2591  
Jennifer Condon, #5645  
Gwen Cooper, #5925  
Catherine Cornett, #453  
Susan Crank, #6473  
Mary Cross, #6048  
Jason Cunningham, #4309  
Mercedia Cureton, #5305  
Douglas Currier II, #6683  
Frances Darrach, #1598

## Networking 101

Stevonia Allen, '06, with the Alumni Association's Black Alumni Society, speaks with a USF student during a February Networking 101 event. Society members reviewed students' resumé's, conducted mock interviews, played "networking bingo" and arranged for the students to have professional headshots taken. Circle of Excellence gifts support more than 40 alumni groups around the U.S.



THE HONOR ROLL REFLECTS EACH LIFE MEMBER'S CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE  
DONOR DESIGNATION AS WELL AS HIS OR HER INDIVIDUAL ORDINAL LIFE MEMBER  
NUMBER. THIS NUMBER SERVES AS A SOURCE OF PRIDE IN COMMEMORATING A  
LIFE MEMBER'S UNIQUE PLACE IN THIS PRESTIGIOUS GROUP.

- |                           |                               |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Carisa Davis, #5414       | Jay Gill, #6739               | Wallace Hill, #6897       | Terri Keever, #7999         |
| Coretha Davis, #7206      | Mark Gillen, #6426            | William Hill, #7569       | Rose Kellum Llauguet, #7884 |
| Denise Davis, #3894       | Frederick Glenn, #7508        | Kent Hinebaugh, #6777     | Edward Kelly, #7309         |
| Mack Davis III, #6418     | Sonya Golden, #9174           | Thomas Hochadel, #428     | Wayne Kerns, #6486          |
| Samuel Davis, #7205       | Gary Golub, #7437             | Winifred Holland, #6062   | Peter Kirby, #7055          |
| Brooke Dean, #4630        | David Gordon, #2724           | Otis Hollar, #8317        | Lynn Kirpa, #7020           |
| Elaine Depardieu, #6949   | Dorothy Gordon, #7306         | Simone Hollar, #8318      | Elizabeth Knapp, #7376      |
| James Depury, #7221       | Heather Gordon, #6718         | Gary Hoog, #1099          | Cheryl Kobres, #2275        |
| Susan Dillinger, #4286    | April Grajales, #1422         | Russell Hostetler, #3374  | Amber Kotowski, #4707       |
| Robyn Disney, #7449       | Braulio Grajales, #4440       | Eric Houghton, #2767      | John Kutch, #6281           |
| John Doll, #4158          | Suzie Gramby, #8418           | Celia Howe, #1865         | Diane Lamb, #6676           |
| Richard Dorman, #6450     | Phyllis Greenstein, #5849     | Joseph Howe, #1864        | Michael Lantz, #6472        |
| Katherine Dotson, #2064   | Catherine Gregos, #4304       | Frankel Howell, #6363     | David LaRussa, #6668        |
| Randall Dotson, #2347     | John Gregos Jr., #4303        | James Hull, #6729         | Thomas Latto III, #1613     |
| Vicki Dotson, #2348       | Richard Grove, #7258          | Shaughn Hurt, #5347       | Eric Ledermann, #5786       |
| Debbie Doyle, #3238       | Robert Guay Jr., #3391        | Jennifer Isenbeck, #3052  | Julie Ledermann, #5787      |
| Carol Duley, #6267        | Susan Guay, #3392             | Jacki Jackson, #4611      | Heather Leon, #9071         |
| Victor Duncan, #6895      | Carissa Gudenkauf, #1000      | Jeffrey Jackson, #6979    | Jean Marie Leon, #9070      |
| Ernestine Dunn, #1301     | Robert Gutierrez, #1048       | Rosemary Jackson, #7069   | Charles Leps Jr., #6649     |
| Neal Dwyer, #2982         | Rita Gynan, #6853             | Willie Jackson, #7401     | Lauren Leslie-Hynan, #1036  |
| Linda Dye, #6791          | Jeannette Haag, #8677         | Steven Janssen, #6877     | William Levy, #2242         |
| Brenda Edmonds, #531      | Larry Haag, #8678             | Glen Jenkins, #8016       | Frank Lewis Jr., #2627      |
| Lynette Edwards, #1319    | Michael Haase, #6431          | Elizabeth Jennings, #6543 | Kim Lewis, #6779            |
| Claudius Effiom, #4154    | Celia Hall, #5881             | John Jennings, #6544      | Barbara Little, #8351       |
| David Estabrook, #3116    | George Hall Jr., #7923        | Alan Johnson, #7694       | William Little, #8350       |
| Lori Estabrook, #3117     | Kathleen Hall, #6767          | Byron Johnson, #7611      | Patricia Littler, #7051     |
| Gary Fain, #7213          | Robert Hall Sr., #6322        | Cindy Johnson, #7296      | Xiaoping Liu, #3810         |
| Robin Fenley, #6860       | Susan Hamm, #7403             | Daniel Johnson, #7297     | Monica Llamas, #8379        |
| Mary Figg, #33            | Jay Hardwick, #7858           | James B. Johnson, #6531   | Ronald Llauguet, #7885      |
| Aleta Fisher, #3602       | Cynthia Harper, #588          | Nancy Johnson, #7695      | Roni Love, #5001            |
| John Flynn Jr., #644      | John Harper, #587             | Gerald Johnston, #6706    | Lori Lucas, #8446           |
| Christopher Forest, #6658 | Gail Hattaway, #7344          | Andrew Jones, #3953       | Todd Lucas, #8447           |
| Melanie Forget, #6576     | Nathan Hattaway, #6580        | Cynthia Jones, #7406      | Richard Lupi, #7639         |
| Phillip Forget, #6575     | Jean Hebert-Martin, #6114     | Elaine Jones, #6686       | Yvonne Lyons, #6011         |
| Thomas Forrest, #8000     | David Helsing, #5917          | Melissa Jones, #3954      | Jeanette Macaluso, #6116    |
| Randall Fraser, #7167     | Diana Helsing, #5918          | Moniesha Jones, #8630     | Michael Macaluso Sr., #6115 |
| Teresa Fries-Maloy, #6883 | Steven Hendrix, #6060         | Thaddeus Jones Jr., #7405 | Allison Madden, #9388       |
| Robert Fuller, #2569      | Stacy Hendry, #6873           | Thomas Jones Jr., #4552   | Frank Maggio, #395          |
| Kevin Gaffney, #2638      | Dorothy Henning, #6682        | James W. Jordan, #1170    | Lora Maggio, #396           |
| Ryan Gaffney, #2633       | Ben Heugel, #1421             | Nancy Jordan, #4400       | Deann Marasco, #3223        |
| Roy Galewski, #7070       | Lisa Provenzano Heugel, #1420 | Bryan Juan, #7447         | Patrick Marasco, #3222      |
| Steven Gallo, #2557       | Cynthia Hevner, #2677         | Nicole Juan, #7448        | George Marks, #3745         |
| Doreen Gauthier, #6349    | Yuri Higgins, #1863           | Judy Kane, #2768          | David Martin, #6113         |
| Lisa Gear-Smith, #1415    | Betty Hill, #3393             | Michelle Kastner, #7339   | Randall Mason, #676         |
| William Geddes, #4142     | Christine Hill, #7568         | James Kauchak, #7824      | Robert Mawhinney, #9145     |
| Rebecca Gerberding, #2303 | Jena Hill, #4200              | Owen Keenan, #6839        | Sally Maylor, #3181         |
| Thomas Gerberding, #2302  | R. Patrick Hill, #148         | Kevin Keever, #7998       | Agnes McCarthy, #6068       |

# CIRCLE OF *Excellence*

Blair McCausland, #4800  
Patricia McConnell, #373  
Richard McConnell, #372  
Amabel McCormick, #5270  
Carol McCoy, #44  
Carol McGlaughlin, #2546  
Virginia Meador, #5880  
Wilda Meier, #266  
Jenny Meirose, #2271  
Paul Melvin, #5067  
Michael Merrill, #7394  
Lauriann Messier-Jones, #8326  
Penni Meyer, #2715  
Stephen Meyer, #2939  
Thomas Meyer, #2714  
Barbara Miller, #6914  
Cynthia Miller, #153  
John Miller, #7681  
Erika Milligan, #6361  
Leila Mills, #3618  
Bruce Moffatt, #6537  
Donna Moffatt, #6538  
Damon Moorer, #5144  
William Moskowitz, #6067  
Connie Mosley, #4685  
Sidney Moss, #6242  
Linda Mossey, #4160  
Phillip Muldowney, #4924  
Dennis Mullis, #2511  
Linda Murray, #6794  
Barbara Murtha, #7898  
Merrie Beth Neely, #1197  
John Nelson, #6750  
Ellen Newell, #6960  
Carolyn Newland, #6920  
Eric Newman, #400  
Lyris Newman, #399  
Barbara Newton, #7610  
Glen Nickerson, #1795  
Leif Norenberg, #3808  
Thomas Norman, #6481  
Charlotte Olson, #6653  
Betty Otter-Nickerson, #1796  
Philip Pace, #5985  
Amy Padgett, #3135  
Duane Padgett, #3134  
Jeffrey Pafunda, #6387  
Cynthia Palmisano, #6528  
William Palmisano Jr., #6527  
Amy Parry, #407  
L. Diane Parsons, #3166  
Joseph Paskowski, #3550

Stacey Manley Paskowski, #3549  
Patricia Patitz, #7256  
Philip Pawlowski Sr., #4282  
Thomas Pease, #6482  
Nancy Pelsler-Borowicz, #7542  
Nathan Pendleton IV, #904  
John Pennington III, #7935  
Albert Perotti Jr., #6926  
Cheryl Perotti, #6927  
Karen Peters, #604  
Christopher Peterson, #6659  
Edward Phinney, #2610  
Theda Phinney, #2611  
Christopher Pille, #3725  
Nancy Popick, #2097  
Scott Popick, #2096  
Sue Porter, #2045  
Neil Post, #3102  
Sherrill Powell, #6467  
Melissa Power, #6821  
Marc Powers, #6419  
Judith Prier, #6992  
Conrad Ramos, #8706  
Nicole Randazzo, #5428  
Abigail Raven, #6491  
Vincent Raven, #6492  
Dennis Reaves, #7537  
Milverine Reaves, #7538  
Mark Reed, #9321  
Richard Reichle Jr., #105  
Sue Ann Reisdorph, #7357  
Thomas Reisdorph, #7358  
Mark Reithmaier, #2604  
Jeffrey Reynolds, #810  
Frank Rief III, #3777  
Hildy Riegelhaupt, #2711  
Frank Ripa, #4719  
Margaret Rita, #3373  
Nicole Rivard, #8707  
Caroline Robinson, #6643  
Michael Roe, #6827  
Eliot Rosen, #7762  
Mary Ross, #2702  
Marcella Rua, #1375  
Ralph Ruso, #7593  
Kevin Sacco, #7238  
Barbara Sanderson, #3384  
John Sarao, #4250  
Eileen Sarris, #2145  
Anthony Satchel, #8743  
Deborah Saunders, #4449  
Paula Schelling, #5983

Deborah Schenck, #8807  
Jay Schenck, #8806  
David Schmidt, #1020  
Mariana Schmidt, #7247  
Wolfgang Scholl, #2093  
Henry Schubert Jr., #6720  
Todd Scofield, #6891  
Christopher Seavey, #2516  
Terri Selz, #7647  
Stephen Sharrock, #5928  
Stephen Shepherd, #8593  
Denise Siegrist, #2847  
Catlin Skufca, #5470  
Kelly W. Smith, #6772  
Robert J. Smith, #1414  
Cheryl Snyder, #5218  
James Snyder, #6598  
Shirley Snyder, #6597  
Shannon Solano, #6464  
Kathleen Spaulding, #6230  
Curtis Sprague, #7493  
Ralph Stagner, #2719  
Thomas Stanwix-Hay, #7182  
Richard Stephens, #7063  
Elliott Stern, #901  
Deborah Streeter, #7915  
Jason Strickland, #3511  
Louis Struikman, #3303  
Charles Stuart, #6190  
Judy Stuart, #6191  
David Suarez, #2959  
James Suarez, #7580  
Lorraine Suarez, #2958  
Leslie Sugarman, #7330  
Ted Sugarman, #7329  
Barry Sullivan, #7109  
Jennifer Swanson, #2706  
John Swanson Jr., #2705  
Robert Sweeney, #5217  
Leroy Sykes, #8716  
Edwin Taylor, #6948  
Kathleen Taylor, #5030  
Nicholas Termine, #7655  
Donald Thompson, #991  
Kevin Thompson, #6408  
Henry Thorpe Jr., #6994  
Kathleen Thorpe, #6995  
Edward Timmons, #2965  
Lynn Timmons, #2966  
Mary Titano, #3938  
Mary Trimble, #52  
Richard Tron, #1435

Susan Tron, #1436  
Sudsy Tschiderer, #4498  
Michael Vaadi, #5420  
Jos van Dijk, #4370  
Philip Van Dusen, #3165  
Deborah Vincent, #2282  
Albert Waksman, #2123  
Jeffrey Walter, #1767  
David Wandel Jr., #2272  
Diane Wandel, #2273  
Suzanne Ward, #1516  
David Weber, #5910  
Stacey Werczynski, #6872  
Cheryl Whiteman, #1845  
Thomas Whiteman Jr., #1844  
Sheri Whiten, #7451  
Keri Wickham, #6232  
LaToya Wider, #4934  
Warren Wider, #9577  
George Wilkinson, #6367  
Andrea P. Williams, #6624  
Latonya Williams, #4152  
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Frederick Wilson, #7382  
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*Circle of Excellence donations are placed in the Executive Director's Fund for Excellence. Recognition is based on giving to the Executive Director's Fund for Excellence and the Alumni Endowment. While only gifts of \$50 and more are included in the magazine, all Circle of Excellence gifts are recognized at USF.*

*We have made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of our honor roll. Please accept our sincere apologies for any omissions or errors.*



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# WHERE'S Rocky?

With more than 378,000 alumni around the world, Rocky finds plenty of friends and willing travel companions. If he jumps in your suitcase or pops up where you least expect him, snap a pic!

**a)** There's nothing grander than rocking a 65th birthday celebration at the Grand Canyon! Rocky helps make the milestone memorable for **Jacki Jackson**, '80, Life Member.

**b)** Joining **Steven Stacy**, '97, and **Julie Stacy**, '94, Life Members, and their daughter **Sophia**, Rocky enjoys a scenic stroll across an Icelandic glacier.

**c)** Rocky gets a peek under the hood of the 1969 Dodge Daytona owned by Life Members **Darlene** and **Mike Charles**, '17, at the annual Mopars with Big Daddy Garlits car and truck show. The car took Best in Class and Best in Show!

**d)** As USF achieves new heights, so do our remarkable alumni. Rocky and **James "Mike" Ciccarello**, '77, Life Member, take in the rarefied air of Pikes Peak in Colorado.

**e)** Rocky advises leaning into your travels — especially when they take you to the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Italy. He and Life Members **Lily Kinmonth** and **Stan Kinmonth**, '78, chose to go with the flow.

Email high-resolution photos (300 ppi) and details to [alumni@usf.edu](mailto:alumni@usf.edu) with Where's Rocky in the subject line. Or mail via USPS to USF Alumni Association — Where's Rocky?, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., ALC100, Tampa, FL 33620-5455.





b

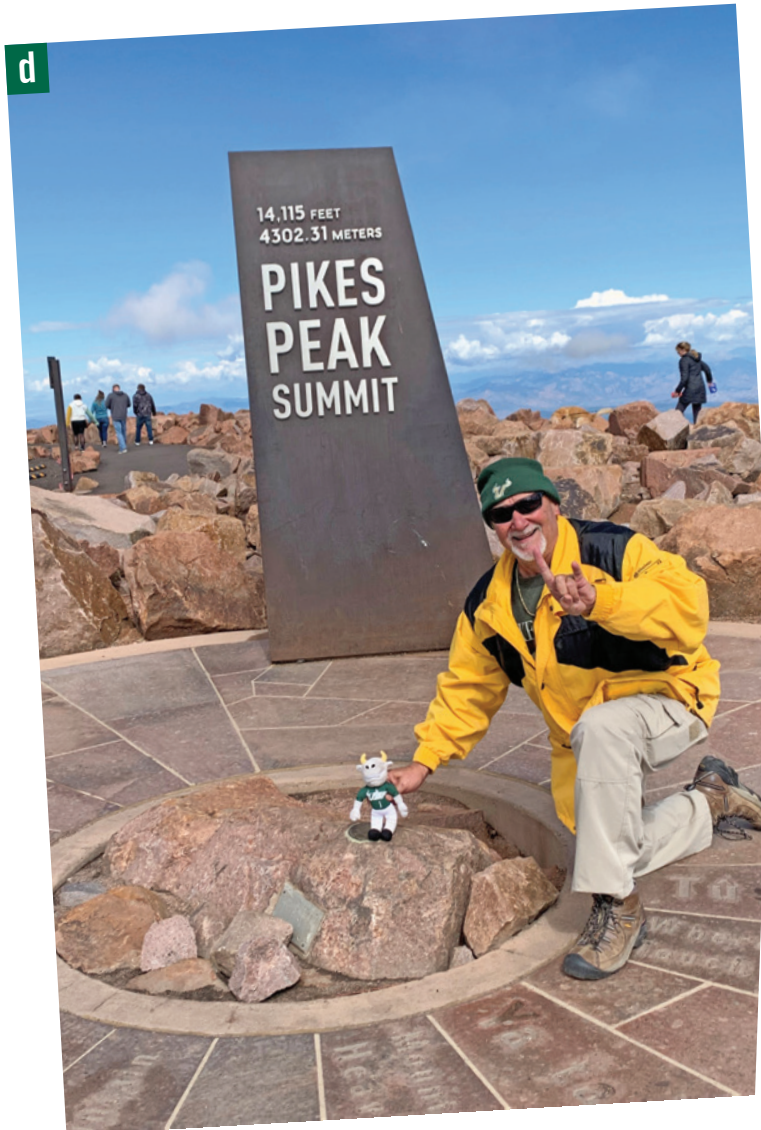


# FOREVER BULLS

c



d



e



# Class Notes

## 1970s



**MICHAEL G. FLAHERTY**, Political Science '75 and MA Sociology '77, Life Member, has published "Cage of Days: Time and Temporal Experience in Prison" (Columbia University Press).

He is a professor of sociology at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg.



**STEVE FLUHARTY**, Electrical Engineering '79 and MBA '84, was inducted into the Junior Achievement of Tampa Bay Hall of Fame as a National Silver Award honoree. The Bank of Tampa senior vice president

was recognized for exceptional leadership and support. Steve passed away Aug. 11, 2022.



**HARRY GLEICH**, Civil Engineering '76, received the PCI Medal of Honor from the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Industry. The award recognizes a person who has made extraordinary

contributions to PCI and the industry. He is president of Gleich Engineering & Associates, LLC in Greenville, South Carolina.



**LESLEY "LES" MILLER**, Political Science '78, Life Member, received the REACHUP Inc. 2024 Community Advocacy Award, recognizing people who have made a significant impact

on the health and well-being of Hillsborough County residents. Les is a former member of the Florida House and Senate, Tampa City Council and Hillsborough County Commission. He is a 1983 USF Distinguished Alumnus and a past chair of the USF Alumni Association board.

**EDWARD J. PAGE**, Criminology '78, Life Member, has been recertified by The Florida Bar and National Board of Trial Advocacy as a criminal trial law specialist. He is a Carlton Fields, P.A., shareholder and former federal and state prosecutor.

**ALEX J. SABO**, Business Economics '75, received the Florida Securities Dealers Association's Lifetime Legacy Award. He is a principal at Bressler, Amery & Ross, P.C.

## 1980s



**KELLY BUNTING**, Mass Communications '82, was elected to the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers in recognition of demonstrating high ethical and professional standards as a

longtime labor and employment lawyer. She is a shareholder with Greenberg Traurig, LLP, in Philadelphia.



**CALVIN HAGINS**, Finance '86, Life Member, was promoted to principal deputy assistant director for the Office of Supervision Examinations at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau,

Washington, D.C. He previously worked at

the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, where he served in several leadership roles.

**MANLEY JAQUISS**, Criminology '86 and MA '15, Life Member, received the Florida Department of Corrections' Regional Director's Excellence Award in recognition of his role in implementing electronic transmission of legal documents in the 13th Judicial Circuit. An adjunct professor at USF, Manley is a former correctional probation senior supervisor and USF Criminology Wall of Fame inductee.

## 1990s

**JEFF JACKSON**, Marketing '95, Life Member, was appointed president of Penske Logistics in Reading, Pennsylvania, part of Penske Transportation Solutions. He was previously executive vice president of operations for Penske Logistics.

**DR. MARC G. KAPROW**, Chemistry '92, Life Member, was named Physician of the Year by the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association. He is the chief medical officer for Simply Healthcare, a health maintenance organization for Floridians enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid and Florida Healthy Kids.

**GIL PERI**, Biology '95, MPH '98 and MBA '03, has joined the board of directors at the Children's Hospitals' Solutions for Patient Safety. He is president of Riley Children's Health at Indiana University Health in Indianapolis.

## 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 Advancement Communications and Marketing, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., ALC100, Tampa, FL 33620-5455

**LUIGI SCALABRONI**, Computer Science '95





**CHERYL RODRIGUEZ**, PhD Anthropology '93, received the Dr. Ira E. Harrison Legacy Award from the Association of Black Anthropologists for significant contributions to research,

scholarship and service to communities of African descent. She is a professor and anthropologist in the USF College of Arts and Sciences School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies.

**VERLON SALLEY**, Health Services Management 1994-97, Life Member, received the 2023 Department of Health Administration Virginia Commonwealth University Alumnus of the Year Award. Verlon is vice president of community health equity for the UAB (University of Alabama at Birmingham) Health System and a USF Alumni Association board member.

**LUIGI SCALABRONI**, Computer Science '95, Life Member, has retired after nearly 30 years with Honeywell International. Luigi joined the Honeywell Aerospace division soon after his graduation from USF.



**HONGGANG YANG**, PhD Applied Anthropology '91, has published "The Rise of Chinese American Leaders in U.S. Higher Education: Stories and Roadmaps" (Springer; 2023). He was a co-editor of

the book, which details the stories of Chinese American leaders' experiences in U.S. higher education. Honggang retired as a dean from Nova Southeastern University.

**TODD YONTECK**, Accounting '91, MAcc '95 and MD '00, Life Member, was credited as producer on the recently released Hallmark Channel movie, "A Taste of Love," filmed in Clearwater and Dunedin, Florida. He is the CEO/Founder of Digital Caviar, an independent film production company in Tampa.

// Snapshots //



**Bulls over the rainbow!**

We know what's at the end of the rainbow — a pot of gold! Late last year, Manley Jaquiss, '86 and MA '15, Life Member, captured a rainbow landing squarely in USF's Athletics District. Was it foretelling USF's record-setting spring in basketball, track and field, golf, baseball and softball?

### Green and gold Galapagos

Bull Explorers “plant” the USF flag in the Galapagos Islands during a sold-out February cruise. The Alumni Association’s Bull Explorers travel program offers several bucket-list trips each year for alumni and USF friends.



## 2000s

**MIKE BISHOP**, Finance '06, was promoted to senior vice president of the Pasco Economic Development Council. He was previously director of stakeholder engagement for the council.

**ALLEN CLARY**, MBA '03, was appointed executive director of USF’s Nault Center for Entrepreneurship at the Muma College of Business. He is also an adjunct professor at USF, teaching entrepreneurship, and chair of TIGER 21-Tampa Bay, part of an international learning network for entrepreneurs and investors.

**IRIS A. ELIJAH**, Africana Studies and Economics '08, Life Member, was named deputy general counsel at Florida A&M University. She was previously an associate general counsel at Florida International University. Iris is a 2017 USF Outstanding Young Alumna.

**BREANDA GORALSKI**, Management Information Systems '02, was appointed the vice president of applications for BayCare Health System. She was previously director of applications.



**TAYLOR HARROUN**, Finance '07, Life Member, was named partner at Creative Planning, LLC. He is a wealth manager who has worked with the firm since 2017.

**COLBY S. HEARN**, Criminology '06, is celebrating the two-year anniversary of his Tampa law firm, Hearn Law, PLLC, and the recent addition of his wife, Trina S. Hearn, to the practice. The firm specializes in criminal and civil litigation.



**STEPHEN LYTLE**, Political Science '04, Life Member, has joined Evara Health in Tampa as assistant vice president of people and culture. He is a member of the USF Alumni Association’s Order of the Golden Brahman.



**ELLEN M. MCCREEDY**, MPH '08, has joined the board of PACE-RI, a Rhode Island nonprofit health plan that helps chronically ill people aged 55 and older remain in their homes. Ellen is an assistant professor at the Brown University School of Public Health.

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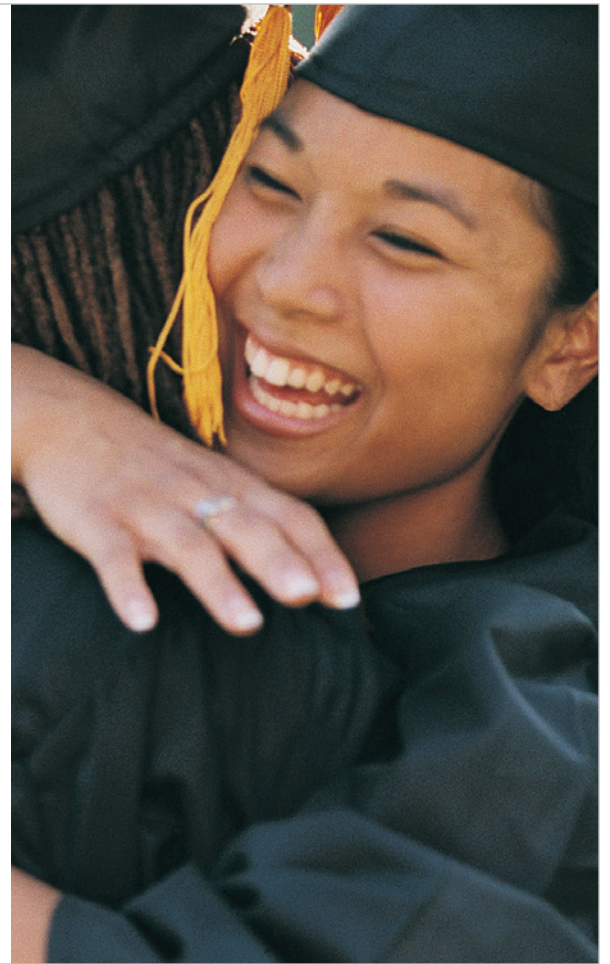
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# Class Notes

**DARA (GREEN) MATHIS**, English and French '05, received the Heising-Simons Foundation's \$100,000 American Mosaic Journalism Prize in recognition of her coverage of Black freedom movements, including her 2023 article "A Blueprint for Black Liberation," published in The Atlantic. Dara is a freelance journalist.

**SAPNA PATEL**, Biomedical Sciences '04 and MD '08, was named assistant medical director of the BayCare Medical Group Hospitalist Program at St. Joseph's Hospital-Main in Tampa. She was previously a hospitalist for BayCare Health System.



**AMY K. (WHITE) RECLA**, MA English '08, was promoted to office litigation manager at the Tampa office of Jackson Lewis P.C. She joined the firm in 2022.

**HALEY (COLE) ROBINSON**, Management '08, was promoted to advanced customer support senior manager at the Gainesville, Florida, office of James Moore & Co., a business consulting company. She has worked with the firm since 2020.



**JESSICA SAMANIEGO**, Mass Communications '06 and MPA '20, Life Member, has earned the Project Management Professional certification from the Project Management Institute. She is a project manager for USF Communications & Marketing.

## 2010s

**EVAN BARNISKIS**, MBA '18, was appointed a trustee to the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum and Aquarium in Sanibel, Florida. He is assistant vice president for the aquarium at Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium in Sarasota.

**RAHUL BHATTACHARYA**, MS Medical Sciences '14, has published "Coaching Agile: A guide for Agile Coaches and Scrum Masters to build and scale their coach approach," (Amazon; 2023), a book for business mentors. He is a product and organization development coach, author, speaker and trainer.

**ALICIA BILLINGTON**, MD '14 and PhD Biomedical Engineering '14, was named a Rising Star and Top Doctor in plastic surgery by Castle Connolly, a leading research and information resource for patients. She is a plastic surgeon at Alicia Billington Plastic Surgery in St. Petersburg.

**TAYLOR CARAGAN**, Public Health '12 and MPH '15, has joined First 5 FUNdamentals in Tacoma, Washington, as a health integration manager. She was previously a health promotion coordinator at Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

**ELIOT DILL**, MS Entrepreneurship in Applied Technologies '11, has been promoted to vice president of client engagement solutions at ProfitSolv. He is the co-founder of TitleTap and Net Sheet Calc, which provide title insurance tools.

**LINSEY GROVE**, MPH '13 and DPH '18, received the College of Public Health's 2024 Outstanding Alumni Award. She is the co-owner and CEO of The Hypatia Collaborative, which provides nonprofit capacity-building services and professional development to organizations in St. Petersburg.



**DANIELLE HALLMAN**, Nursing '14, was selected as a 2024 MIT Catalyst Fellow, part of a Veterans Health Administration program. She is the assistant chief nurse for mental health at Bay Pines Veterans

Affairs Healthcare System in St. Petersburg.

**TAHER HAMID**, MHA '18, launched MSP Camp a business that provides marketing support for managed service providers. He is the vice president for business development at Alltek Service computer network support in Lakeland, Florida.

**RALPH HERZ**, Finance '16, was promoted to vice president of corporate development and strategy at WhistlePig Whisky. He was previously director of corporate development for the beverage company.

**BLAKE MAIHACK**, MPH '19, has joined Community Bridges integrated health-care provider in Mesa, Arizona, as a population health administrator. He was previously an epidemiologist with the Arizona Department of Health Services.

**MARISSA MCCARTHY**, MA Education '12, received the \$25,000 National Milken Educator Award, "the Oscars of Teaching," for 2023-24. She is a math teacher at Olentangy Shanahan Middle School in Ohio.

Angie Brewer is proud  
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complete the circle!



**HUNTER PATRICK**, Environmental Science Policy '18, has joined GrayRobinson as an associate in labor and employment. He was previously a judicial intern at the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

**TREVOR RIGBY**, MM Music '11, released his first feature film, "Morgan's Mask," about a cosplayer's mental health struggles during the COVID-19 pandemic. He's a former USF Herd of Thunder graduate assistant. **CHRISTOPHER SGAMMATO**, Music Studies '13, composed the film's music. "Morgan's Mask" is available on Amazon Prime Video.

**KRITHIKA VENUGOPAL**, Accounting '18, has joined the business litigation team in the Naples, Florida, office of Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. She was previously an associate attorney with Chartwell Law in Miami.

**CODY WALDROP**, Public Health '11, Life Member, has passed the SHRM-CP exam, giving him the designation of a Certified Human Resource Professional under the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM). He is the practice management officer at Associated Veterinary Partners and a Veterinary Hospital Managers Association board member.

## 2020s

**YESEUL KIM**, PhD, Marketing '23, received an honorable mention in the 2023 John A. Howard/American Marketing Association Doctoral Dissertation Award. She is an assistant professor in the department of strategy and marketing at the University of Sussex.



**ETHAN PEEBLES**, Integrated Public Relations and Advertising '23, joined USF Advancement Communications and Marketing as a communications and marketing officer.

Ethan previously worked with Advancement Communications and Marketing as a student multimedia intern.

**KARAH WATERS**, MPH '23, has joined Florida Health as a registered nurse consultant supporting the Florida Refugee Health Program. She also works for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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## In Memoriam

**GLORIA ADAMS ANDREWS**, Elementary Education '70, Life Member, Feb. 14, 2024  
**OSCAR BARBERY JR.**, Geology '77, Oct. 30, 2023  
**CAROL BURKHART BECHT**, MA Library and Information Science '83, Jan. 22, 2024  
**NANCY ANN BOUGHTON**, Elementary Education '71 and MEd '76, Nov. 19, 2023  
**MARSHA BRASWELL**, Early Childhood Education '69, Nov. 6, 2023  
**LOWELL HARRY CARLSON**, MBA '70, Jan. 31, 2024  
**CHERYL JEAN GANSTER**, Art '91 and MFA '94, Dec. 13, 2023  
**KENNETH ROBERT GAULT SR.**, Management '74, Life Member, Jan. 19, 2024  
**BARBARA HALL**, Elementary Education '69, Life Member, Oct. 17, 2023  
**VALERIE JOHNSON HAMPERS**, Liberal Arts Studies '72, Jan. 10, 2024  
**LYNN (HOLLIS) HARRILL**, Industrial Arts-Technical Education '80, Dec. 29, 2023  
**MICHAEL JOSEPH HARRIS**, Management/Marketing '76, Feb. 6, 2024  
**THOMAS J. HENNESSY II**, Criminology '89 and MPA '00, Life Member, Nov. 17, 2023  
**KAREN LYNN KENNEDY**, Exceptional Education '99, Dec. 30, 2023  
**DAVID A. LOEBENBERG**, Finance '80, Oct. 30, 2023  
**RICHARD B. MATHEWS**, MA Library and Information Science '85, Jan. 3, 2024  
**KAREN MOBLEY**, Finance '13, Feb. 19, 2024  
**LINDA ELSBETH MORTON**, Foreign Language Education '72 and MA '75, Nov. 27, 2023  
**ANN CRAWFORD PORTER**, Political Science '85, Feb. 27, 2024  
**BETTY L. RAHN**, Anthropology '05; Retired, USF College of Marine Science, Sept. 3, 2023  
**JOAN VERKEMP SCHOENLING**, MA Adult Education '13, Nov. 9, 2023  
**RAYMOND BRIAN SHAW**, Accounting '86, Jan. 14, 2024

**PAULETTE M. SKIPPER**, General Business Administration '99, Feb. 23, 2024  
**EMMA JEAN SMITH**, Elementary Education '73, Jan. 22, 2024  
**HOWARD ANDREW SMITH**, History '05, MAT '08 and MEd '14, Dec. 12, 2023  
**TIMOTHY STAMBAUGH**, Elementary Education '71 and MEd '77, Nov. 10, 2023  
**MARGARET AHEARN TYSKA**, Library and Information Science '79, Nov. 10, 2023  
**SHADETRA WILLIAMS**, Computer Science '23, Dec. 16, 2023  
**MARY OCTA MYERS WINN**, MA Science Education '74, Jan. 18, 2024  
**CAROL ZAFFARI**, MA Education '91, Nov. 19, 2023  
**HANS WILLIAM ZARBOCK**, MSE Engineering '88, June 8, 2022

## Faculty and Staff

**DR. CLAUDIA BEGME BALDUCCI**, Section Chief, Geriatrics, Morsani College of Medicine, Oct. 18, 2023  
**DR. DAVID A. CIMINO**, Affiliate Professor, Pediatrics, Morsani College of Medicine, Dec. 29, 2023  
**MICHELLE S. JURISTO**, Curator, USF Contemporary Art Museum, Jan. 5, 2024  
**DR. MICHAEL VERMESS**, Professor Emeritus, Radiology, Morsani College of Medicine, Dec. 17, 2023

## Friends

**DORIS HALLGREN**, Benefactor, Dec. 8, 2023  
**OLGA KUEHL-WHITE**, Benefactor, Nov. 19, 2023  
**DR. JAMES C. ROSS**, Benefactor, Dec. 10, 2023





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**Timothy Fanning**

Assistant Director of Student Publications at USF

Timothy graduated from the University of South Florida St. Petersburg with a degree in mass communications in 2019. He began his journalism career as a reporter and managing editor of *The Crow's Nest*, the campus' student newspaper. Timothy worked as an intern for WUSF in spring 2018 and went on to an award-winning career as a local government reporter for the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*. Timothy was most recently a nostalgia reporter for the *San Antonio Express-News*.

He returned to USF in late 2023 to mentor students as the adviser to the *Oracle*, the long-established student newspaper on the Tampa campus.



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# Chapters & Societies

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

The USF Alumni Association's chapters and societies connect Bulls with one another — across the country and around the world. Through social events, professional networking, fundraising and community service, among other activities, alumni groups help USF grads and friends support one another, our university and current students. They play an important part in the Alumni Association's mission to provide meaningful ways for Bulls to make an impact; protect USF through advocacy; share pride in our great university; and stick together.

It's easy to get involved! Just email the contact person of the group you'd like to visit. For alumni group events, visit [usfalumni.org/events](http://usfalumni.org/events).

## Interest-Based Groups

### Black Alumni

*Tina James*

*LaShante Keys*

[blackalumnisociety@usfalumnigroup.org](mailto:blackalumnisociety@usfalumnigroup.org)

### Bulls of the Last Decade

*William Dailey*

[wdailey@usf.edu](mailto:wdailey@usf.edu)

### Dance Alumni Society

*Sadie Lehmker*

[slehmker@usf.edu](mailto:slehmker@usf.edu)

### DBA Alumni Network

*Andy Hafer*

[USFDBAAlumni@gmail.com](mailto:USFDBAAlumni@gmail.com)

### Education Alumni

*David Scanga*

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### Engineering Alumni

*Carissa Gudenkauf*

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### Entrepreneur Alumni

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### Geology Alumni

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### Latino Alumni

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### LGBTQ+ Alumni

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*Dr. Ron Kennedy*

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### Medicine Alumni

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### Music Alumni

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*Tanya Bruce*

[usfmusicalumni@gmail.com](mailto:usfmusicalumni@gmail.com)



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**Public Health Alumni**  
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**Rugby Alumni**  
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*Sean Masse*  
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**Veteran Alumni**  
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Members of the Engineering Alumni and the Black Alumni societies volunteer in the kitchen at Tampa's Metropolitan Ministries.

**Philadelphia**  
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*Mike Waterhouse*  
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**Tallahassee**  
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**Tampa (Greater Tampa)**  
*Lauren Pickel*  
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## Global Networks

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