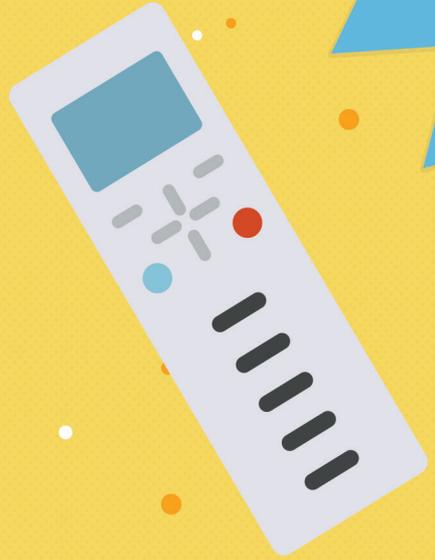


THE ORACLE

WELCOME BACK

FALL 2019



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Provost introduces USF president, shares plans about student success



Provost Ralph Wilcox shares plans to improve USF's notability and accommodate the needs of the 45,000 registered students. ORACLE FILE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM



Alyssa Stewart

EDITOR IN CHIEF

With the summer season coming to an end, Provost Ralph Wilcox delivered his 13th annual fall address Aug. 23 to welcome USF President Steven Currall and address initiatives for the academic year.

Wilcox introduced Currall to the mostly full, 700-seat Oval Theater consisting of faculty, advisors and staff.

Currall opened by thanking the faculty for welcoming him and expressed gratitude to Wilcox for helping with his transition these past two months.

"During my transition, [Wilcox]

has been absolutely wonderful in welcoming me and being a great colleague and partner. I am delighted to see what he has in store this year as our chief academic officer," Currall said.

In an effort to share details from his personal life, Currall played a video that showcased photos of him growing up and how he met his wife, Cheyenne Currall, as a Ph.D. student. He then joked that his wife is "way more interesting" than he is.

During the 2018-19 school year, Wilcox introduced his initiatives to improve the success of faculty, graduate and professional student success as well as building a digital ecosystem. On Friday afternoon, Wilcox provided updates as to how these programs have succeeded.

Wilcox spent most of his speech marveling at USF's achievements this year including exceeding benchmark 12 for the preeminent state research metrics. USF was

missing the metric for the \$500 million endowment, however, there is now \$515 million in the fund.

In order to maintain preeminence status, a university must meet or exceed 11 of the 12 benchmarks. USF meets all 12 of the benchmarks as of June 10.

The audience gave a resounding applause after Wilcox shared that the four-year student net cost for a baccalaureate degree in 2017-18 was \$7,130. This was compared to the previous year in which the cost was \$5,830 more.

"Many of our students are first in their family and come from limited economic backgrounds," Wilcox said. "We have to keep a watchful eye in providing affordable pathways to graduation."

As a part of his initiative to improve faculty success, Wilcox said the administration was able to maintain the same level of faculty

■ See FORUM on PAGE 10

Elections in SIA raise red flags



Leda Alvim

MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The Students of India Association (SIA) is holding re-elections following accusations of unfair elections and violations of Student Government's (SG) statutes.

An investigation request form (IRF) was filed by Nandini Argawal, a junior majoring in accounting and finance, after SIA organized closed-door elections of its president and vice president in late April.

Under the SG statute 801.4.1., any current USF students are allowed to run for office of A&S funded organizations. After the IRF was filed, the Senate voted to freeze SIA's funds July 23 for a period of four weeks until a new executive board was elected.

During the election process, SIA advisor Adhokshaja Achar alerted the organization's former president, Sachin Rao, about infractions in the SG statutes for holding internal elections. However, it did not prevent the violations from happening.

"He was aware that elections needed to be fair and that we could receive a complaint about it," Achar said. "It's not about

finding out how it's unfair, but it's about securing everyone's money that comes from tuition."

With the beginning of the new school year, Argawal decided to apply, but then found out that the elections were being restricted. She was previously involved with the organization as the events coordinator during the 2017-18 school year, however, due to increasing opposition, she left the position before the term was over.

"When I found out that the elections were being held internally, I felt like the board was personally attacking me," Argawal said. "I wanted to raise this issue that was pertinent and felt unfair to me."

As a way to unfreeze its funds, SIA held re-elections through google forms, where any student could vote by using their personal email address. After the results were announced, other violations were exposed.

According to SG Ethics Chair Noor Kantar, the google form used to conduct the re-elections allowed people to make several entries by using different email accounts. When SG started investigating the authenticity of the emails, it showed people's emails being used without their formal consent.

In addition, current officers were not made aware of re-election.

Manushi Shah, SIA vice-president, was not informed about

■ See ISA on PAGE 11

A USF president's first two months in office

Q&A

By Alyssa Stewart
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Oracle asked USF President Steven Currall questions about his first summer on campus and expectations for the fall semester.

1. How would you describe your first summer at USF?

I continue to be inspired by the audacious aspirations of this university. USF has emerged as the most promising public institution in the nation. I'm honored to lead the university into the next chapter in its evolution and to build on our momentum.

My wife, Cheyenne, and I are very grateful to the community for such a warm welcome to the Tampa Bay region. We have received many wonderful recommendations of fun things to do from USF students, faculty, staff and alumni – many of which can be found in the summer issue of USF Magazine. Tampa Bay, and USF, are fantastic and we are looking forward to getting to know the community even more closely in the year to come.

2. How are you liking the Lifsey House thus far?

Cheyenne and I are thrilled to be living in the Lifsey House. We are grateful to be able to be so immersed in campus life. For me, the presidency is more than just a job. It is an all-encompassing, personal life mission that requires devoting all of my time and energy to this university. I want to be engaged in the campus in every way possible.

3. Can students approach you on campus and take pictures?

Of course, I look forward to engaging with students often. I want our students to know that their success will always be a top priority for USF, and decisions are made with their interests in mind. I am also active on social media, which I hope will provide additional opportunities to engage with students on a day-to-day basis.

4. What were some challenges in your new role that you've overcome?

The reunification of our three campuses into a single accredited university is a very significant task to tackle right away. But to me, it's something that presents far more opportunities than challenges. Reunification gives us the chance to reimagine what USF can be and the impact we can make on the broader Tampa Bay region. We're making important progress as we move forward in the process.

5. What are you excited for in the fall?

I am eager to get to know more members of our community and hear everyone's ideas, especially from our students.

I'm also excited about the many student activities I have the privilege of participating in as president, including our homecoming celebration, athletic events, arts performances, service activities and so many others. At USF, there are so many ways to engage with our community.

6. How has it been working with students on all of the campuses?

My first interactions with our students have been wonderful. I have been deeply impressed by the levels of intelligence, engagement, enthusiasm and excitement our students have for this university.

On my first day, I visited with the student governments on each of our campuses.

7. Are there any memorable moments that stand out this summer?

In early August, I had the honor of leading our summer commencement ceremonies in Tampa and St. Petersburg. We conferred more than 3,000 degrees, including graduates from 48 states and 79 nations. Earning a degree is a goal shared by all of our students, and our graduation ceremonies can serve as a joyous reminder of how our university community is comprised of a fascinating and diverse fabric of individuals who inspire each other to reach even greater heights.

I also had a unique opportunity recently to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at a Tampa Bay Rays baseball game. It was a memorable experience shared with our passionate alumni who were in attendance to celebrate USF Day at the Rays. It took me back to my days playing baseball as a young person, something that instilled in me the values of teamwork, commitment and self-discipline. See my Twitter page for the video recap of the first pitch.

8. What can students look forward to this school year?

Since 2013, USF is the fastest rising university in the country on U.S. News and World Report's rankings of best colleges. We could not have achieved this distinction without the dedication of our students and our world-class faculty. We are only just beginning.

I encourage every student to take advantage of all the activities, programs and resources offered across the university. Whether it's by living on campus, joining a student organization, or attending USF athletic events, students are more likely to be successful if they are engaged and experience a sense of community. Helping you succeed is the reason why faculty, staff, and administrators work so hard every day. I wish to thank each of you for everything you do to contribute to USF's mission. Have a terrific year.





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If you can help it, skip e-textbooks this semester

By Nathaniel Sweet
CORRESPONDENT

The United States faces a college affordability crisis, and nowhere is this problem more visible than in the cost of textbooks. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the price of college textbooks has increased 88 percent since 2006, adding up to roughly \$1,200 per year on average.

High costs like these can have serious implications. A 2018 survey by research company Morning Consult and textbook company Cengage found that nearly half of college students had skipped meals to pay for course materials.

In response to these affordability problems, companies like Cengage have argued for e-textbooks as a low-cost alternative. In the abstract, the benefits of e-textbooks are obvious: no costs for printing or distribution, accessibility anywhere through the cloud, and less weight to lug around in between classes.

In practice, however, these benefits are far outweighed by the underlying motives of for-profit publishers. For these companies, including Cengage as well as Pearson and McGraw-Hill, e-textbook adoption has little to do with cost savings and a lot to do with power and control.

Most e-textbooks, for instance, come with an access key, purchased at the bookstore and unique to one user. Unlike a traditional paper textbook, it is rather difficult (if not impossible)



for a student to share, copy, donate, or resell a licensed e-textbook from one year to the next.

For-profit publishers used to get around sharing and reselling by regularly releasing new editions, making older second-hand textbooks seem obsolete. With e-textbooks, all they need to do is limit access to one product key per person.

More importantly, e-textbooks allow publishers to get around their biggest source of competition: second-hand sales. Whereas students can currently go to a third-party seller like Bookholders for used textbooks on the cheap, an e-textbook is impossible to re-sell after its license key has been used.

Publishers claim that the lower price of digital textbooks makes them competitive with used paper textbooks, but this claim is highly suspect in the long run. After all, if big publishers can snuff out competition on the used market and force everyone to buy e-textbooks, they'll have monopoly power to jack up prices all over again, like they've already been doing for the past four decades.

The real problem plaguing textbook affordability is not physical versus digital, it's the big for-profit publishers versus the rest of us. University

administrators and state lawmakers share some of the blame as well: in most states (including Florida), per-student higher education funding is lower today than it was in 2008, pushing state universities to sell off more and more university functions to private companies.

If we want to take textbook affordability seriously, we'll need to take these companies to task. That can only happen if our administrators and legislators have the guts to stand up to them.

In the meantime, professors have a range of alternatives to for-profit publications and course materials. Per USF's Textbook Affordability Project (TAP), these include open-access textbooks, online course reserves, and a wide variety of resources available through the USF Library.

Professors may also consider using open educational resources (OERs), which provide free teaching and learning materials with flexible licensing. These materials take more time to research and compile than a traditional textbook, but if faculty have time to invest, they can save their students money and fight corporate influence in education.

Nathaniel Sweet is a senior studying Political Science with a minor in Education.

Life, liberty and the pursuit of firearms



Jared Sellick

COLUMNIST

On Aug. 16 a National Rifle Association lobbyist addressed Florida economists and defended gun manufacturers from a proposed assault weapons ban ballot measure.

Former president of the NRA and current NRA lobbyist, Marion Hammer, argued that gun manufacturers are job creators and we would be driving economic progress out of the state simply by putting this on the ballot for voters to give their opinion. This speech took place just ten days from the weekend in which we saw two devastating mass shootings involving assault weapons in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio.

The speech, made to the state economists weighing this decision, revealed that much of our economy does in fact rely on the sale of weaponry. Not only that, but it has been incentivized by the government of Florida itself. If we are to curb the spread of gun violence, we must stop actively supporting the gun industry through the government.

Hammer pointed out that, "Gov. Rick Scott (FL-R) and Enterprise Florida solicited and offered significant financial incentives to gun manufacturers to come to Florida to bring more

jobs."

According to CNBC, in the 2016 election alone, the NRA spent a combined total of \$41,600 giving to Republicans in Florida congressional races.

It turns out that NRA donations do more than disincentivize gun-control legislation, but actually promote gun manufacturing subsidies in a number of states, including our own.

Similarly, the state of Alabama has subsidized groups such as Kimber Manufacturing, an estimated \$24 million.

Subsidies are an important aspect of state and local governments that help keep many industries active that citizens need.

Gun manufacturers should not be counted among those industries.

If a gun manufacturer cannot remain profitable inside the free market it should not be able to bribe politicians to keep their business in Florida. It allows the number of dangerous weapons on our streets to continue to rise.

State economists that are in charge of assessing whether to bring this ballot measure to the people should not incorporate the profits of arms dealers into their decision making. They should consider the public health of Floridians first and foremost and allow Florida to vote on this all-important issue in 2020.

Jared Sellick is a junior majoring in political science.

New dining options across campus

Photos taken by Multimedia Editor Leda Alvim



Bento Sushi and Panera Bread will be joining the other six dining options — Chick-Fil-A, Jamba Juice, Papa Johns, Panda Express, Moe's and Subway — in the Marshall Student Center (MSC) food court



LEFT: The Starbucks in the library will be getting a new look as well. The upgrade will consist of a larger mobile ordering area and more seating accommodations.

BELOW: Bull Pen currently houses a Chick Fil-a and Bento Sushi. The area also include a space for students to play pool and other activities.



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Continued from PAGE 5

awards, fellows and memberships as the previous year.

The audience of faculty and staff was once again pleased to hear that USF is the top school in the nation for Fullbright Scholars.

Even after sharing this year's accomplishments, Wilcox recognized that USF still has room to improve.

In order to be recognized in the U.S. News & World Report as a top 25 university, USF would need to improve metrics such as its six-year graduation rate, average faculty salary, student-to-faculty ratio and the average spending per student.

"To be clear, we are not chasing rankings for the sake of it," Wilcox said. "You can see there is a strong alignment between U.S. News and World Report rankings and management in the Association of American Universities."

Two of the goals Wilcox set for this upcoming year is to provide "academic quality assurance" and "eliminate barriers to progress."

In doing so, Wilcox plans to use the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) to retain student success.

APLU is a "research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing

the work of public universities," according to their website. Wilcox said using this program will help eliminate the achievement gap and "provide hundreds of thousands more degrees by 2025."

Wilcox told the faculty to encourage students to use the program Handshake. Handshake is a program USF uses so current students and recent grads are able to find jobs in their fields. However, it doesn't seem like many students are using this platform.

Only 35 percent of students have created a profile and 48 percent of students are logging into Handshake.

"We can and do better with Handshake," Wilcox said. "In order to achieve our goal of 100 percent adoption rate, we need your help as faculty members and advisors to encourage our students to activate their accounts and advance their way into the workforce."

As of this school year, 45,000 students will be attending USF. Wilcox said it will be a priority to make sure each student's needs are met.

"We have learned that 'Gen Z-ers' expect something quite different from their university experience than many of us can identify with. We must be responsive in their time and needs while working to strengthen the intellectual radar associated with USF education."

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Continued from PAGE 5

the ballot and highlighted the lack of communication between the president, Sonam Khoja, and the officers. Achar created the form, but it was Khoja who was in charge of communicating it with the e-board.

“I was completely unaware of any decisions regarding SIA’s re-elections,” Shah said. “The lack of communication is predominant and it’s unfair to all of those that wanted to run. The election process should not be this hard and it should be fair so that anyone can run, regardless of their previous involvement with SIA. With such a big decision that could shape SIA’s future, suggestions should have been taken from the e-board.”

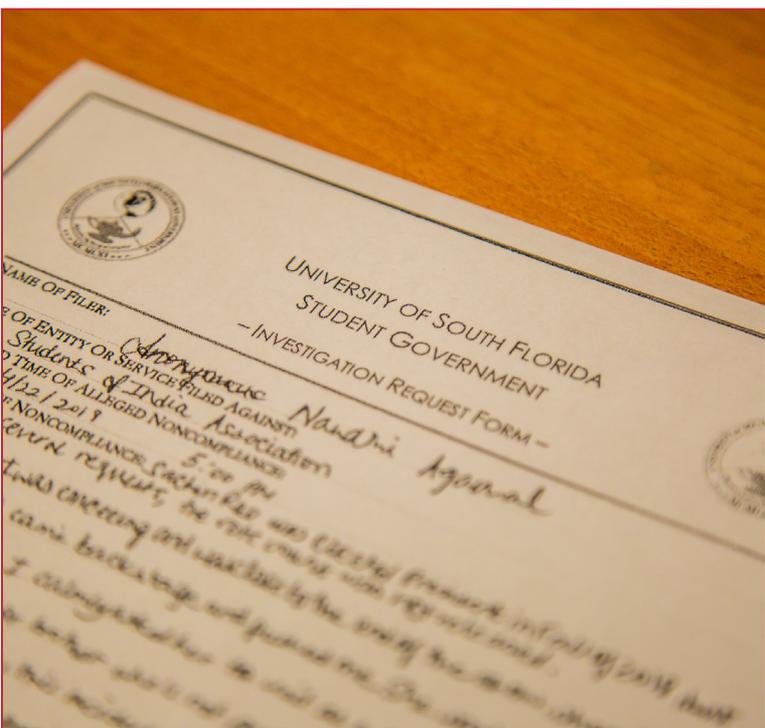
Khoja and Rao were not available for comment.

After the second attempt of re-election being considered as invalid and fraudulent, SG decided to intervene. According to Kantar, SIA re-elections will be held during the first week of classes with an in-person polling station in the Marshall Student Center (MSC).

Besides checking IDs and using paper-ballots, SG staff will be present in the polling station overseeing the re-elections.

According to Argawal, she wants to have a fair election that respects the rights of all students to run and vote for the next SIA’s officers.

“Whoever wins the election should know that their actions matter and if they are not ready for them to be held in the public’s eyes, then are they actually doing the right thing?” Argawal said. “SIA should be more accountable for their actions.



SIA re-elections will be held during the first week of classes with an in-person polling station in the Marshall Student Center.

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Changing course: A Bull's inspirational experience oversees



Amelio Nazarko

FOCAL POINT
EDITOR

Juan Moreno, a third-year student who entered as a biomedical science major and eventually switched to integrated public relations and advertising, is no stranger to change. In fact, after three major changes, he welcomes it.

"I realized my passion was more important than what I assumed was practical," said Moreno.

And what is that passion? Stemmed from a love of styling, Moreno realized early on that he wants to work in fashion.

"I'm usually the first person someone calls whenever they need advice about dressing themselves. Come to think of it, I'm surprised at how often I'm styling someone."

But, in what ways have his studies at USF morphed him into one of the future fashion elites the university isn't exactly known for churning out?

"USF is a bridge that continuously helps me get to where I need to go," said Moreno.

His recent trip to Cannes and Paris with USF's study abroad program evoked an interest in European culture, so much so that he is prepared to pursue postgraduate studies at Central

Saint Martins in London.

Ever since Moreno discovered what he was meant to do and

His time at Bull2Bull has only bolstered the sense of gratitude he carries with him through life

“**I realized my passion was more important than what I assumed was practical.**”

Juan Moreno, a third-year student

how USF can aid him in that journey, he's met his academic career with a sense of gratitude and excitement.

"I'm extremely grateful that I get to explore myself academically and personally. Just being on campus motivates me."

This radical shift in perspective did not come without a period of emotional turmoil.

"I felt unhappy and felt like I had no purpose," said Moreno about his life prior to his final decision about what track to stay on.

He's a polymath at heart, which is evident by the internal pluralism that governs his desire to do many things at once, regardless of the contrast between those pursuits.

Aside from being an integrated public relations and advertising student, Moreno is a peer financial educator at Bull2Bull, USF's financial hub.

Through financial coaching sessions about money management, credit card responsibility, student loan advice, and other money-related concepts, he feels that he has made a lasting impact on the student community at USF.

as Feed-a-Bull. It's people like this that he says inspire him to be the best version of himself.

Moreno has never been the type to stay still. After several character realizations and a dramatic academic repositioning, he feels fulfilled by the future he is carving out for himself. He urges current and incoming students to use the resources provided by USF.

"They are put there to enrich your life," Moreno said.



Juan Moreno

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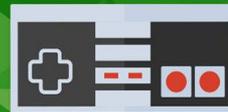
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Checking in with USF's athletic director after his first year



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

When USF Athletics was in search of a new leader during the summer of 2018, by the search committee's own admission, it needed someone who could raise funds. The department at the time was exploring both an on-campus stadium and an indoor practice facility for its football team, but hadn't made much progress toward either.

Fast forward to the present, and USF has focused its wishlist solely on the indoor practice facility, which would be part of a larger football complex that would house offices, weight rooms and other football operations that presently reside in the Selmon Center.

That focus has paid off. Since Kelly has been in charge, USF has raised \$14 million toward the football center, the largest amount the department has raised in a year.

But there's still a long way to go. The \$20 million total that has been raised is only half the original estimated cost of the facility, and as USF football practices continue to be affected by the unpredictable Florida weather, it's easy to want it all now.

"Our fans want it now, our coaches want it now, Michael Kelly wants it now," Kelly said. "But then you have to take a step back and say, not to make excuses, but we are a relatively young university, there's only so many donors that have the capacity to do certain things. And it takes time to cultivate that.

"We're making strides that are frankly unprecedented, and you've got to take pride in that, but then use that as an impetus to keep on going."

There's no set dollar amount or date for groundbreaking, according to Kelly. In an ideal

weight room itself. So it's meant to be a symbiotic building. So that's why it's hard to do it in phases. I guess if we get to a point where we'll evaluate what we have to do for the betterment of the program, but it's completely our intent, and I've only looked



In just over a year on the job, Michael Kelly has left his mark on USF Athletics. ORACLE PHOTO/BRIAN HATTAB

situation, the department would have most of, if not all, the funds raised and build the entire facility at once. While Kelly wouldn't rule out ever considering building it in stages if it became necessary, it may be tough to do from a logistical standpoint.

"If there ever becomes a reason to look at it, we will," Kelly said, "but I keep trying to stress it — the facilities, they're so intermingled that the indoor center is connected to the football center, it blends into the

either debuted or been revived after being dormant, such as BullsFest, which benefited the Selmon Mentoring Institute, and the newly announced Horns Up Rallies, which will take place the night before home football games in various locations around the Tampa Bay area.

"No longer do I think that anyone could ever say that we're not making the effort to be increasingly relevant, to be increasingly present and engaged throughout the Tampa Bay community," Kelly said. "It's just a step in the right direction and we'll continue to grow it as we go forward."

A new home

Relevancy in Tampa Bay is something Kelly alluded to in his introductory press conference in June 2018, telling the community that, no matter where they actually went to school, USF is Tampa Bay's hometown college team.

But it's no secret the number of Gators and Seminoles that reside in Tampa. Even the relatively green-and-gold Temple Terrace sees splashes of orange and blue on license plates from time to time.

But Kelly and USF took a large step toward becoming the hometown collegiate team this summer after signing a three-year deal with iHeartMedia to air USF football games on legacy sports-talker WDAE-AM 620,

at it, as a one-project building."

Regardless of when and how it's built, when the football center gets fully funded, donations, both big and small — including a fan-run website which is tracking pledges proportional to how the football team does in 2019 (touchdowns, wins — even made extra points) — will have been a huge factor in the process.

But it takes an engaged community to raise that kind of money. In the past year, a number of community events in the Tampa Bay area have

Earlier this month, Michael Kelly celebrated a milestone.

Aug. 6 officially marked his one-year anniversary as USF vice president of athletics — and Kelly was nowhere to be found in the Lee Roy Selmon Athletics Center.

That's because he was in Quebec with the men's basketball team on its Canadian tour. Kelly didn't let the anniversary go by without marking the occasion, tweeting a video thanking Bulls fans for their support throughout his first year on the job.

And what a year it's been. Since Kelly has taken over, USF Athletics has seen record donations, revived fan-engaging events and bumped the Gators from the dominant sports radio station in Tampa Bay — all while its athletic director was learning names and faces.

The Oracle had the opportunity to sit down with the head of USF Athletics recently to talk about his first year on the job, the department's scheduling philosophy and becoming a force in the Tampa Bay area.

A record year

KELLY

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which also has FM translators at 95.3 FM in Tampa and 96.7 FM in Pasco County. Prior to affiliating with USF, WDAE had been the Tampa Bay affiliate of the Gators since around the turn of the century.

“I think it just shows kind of the momentum we’ve got going on around here that we were able to garner that kind of attention,” Kelly said, “and to be on the strongest sports-talk radio here in Tampa — that’s got an AM and an FM component — is huge. Not just for the listening of the game itself, which is great, but the promotion opportunities — we had a relationship, but now to be the home of the Bulls gives us a lot more presence on there with our coaches with personalities and the ability to promote.”

Part of the deal also includes a second Bulls Unlimited streaming station on the iHeartRadio app, which will be the radio home for all non-football broadcasts. Launched in 2017, Bulls Unlimited made USF one of only a few collegiate departments with its own dedicated radio stream.

“You can hear that loud and clear worldwide,” Kelly said. “And I’m proud of being a leader in that area, and having that kind of 24/7 audio station for us is big.”

A Powerful Schedule

If there’s anybody who knows what the College Football Playoff (CFP) committee is looking for when it comes to strength of schedule, it’s the former COO of the CFP. By Kelly’s own admission, until the 2018 season, he had been in every single committee meeting since the CFP’s inception.

USF football made national waves after scheduling a two-for-one series with Alabama

earlier this summer, adding onto a future nonconference schedule that includes Florida, Miami and Texas.

But it’s not just football that’s packed a Power Five punch into its non-AAC slate. Women’s basketball will play two of the four Women’s Final Four teams — including an away game against national champion Baylor — during nonconference play alone, men’s soccer will open its season on the road against national champion Maryland and women’s soccer has already played Auburn and Florida to open up its regular season.

“We are aggressive in our nonconference scheduling,” Kelly said. “It helps us get into NCAA postseason play if we don’t win the conference and get the automatic bid. It’s something that our players — if you’re going to play the game, you want to play amongst the best and prove yourself to be the best. So they like to play it. And it’s good for our fans. They obviously want to see teams against opponents that they consider amongst the nation’s best as well.

“It’s fun for us to measure ourselves against the best. And the great thing is we’ve been showing quite well.”

Representation unlike any other

A year into his second tenure at USF — he served as an associate athletic director in the early 2000s — Kelly is no longer the newest executive on campus.

Following the retirement of Judy Genshaft on July 1, Steven Currall was appointed USF’s seventh president.

While Currall is going through the same “drinking water out of a firehose” stage of learning everybody’s name that Kelly went through last year, he’s still making time to listen to USF Athletics.

“He’s very open minded, he wants to be very well educated on athletic matters and issues,” Kelly said. “We’ve been able to see him every week at his leadership council meetings, which I appreciate, and we have kind of regular scheduled 1-on-1 meetings. He’s asked great questions, he’s very knowledgeable. He was a high school athlete, likes sports. So that’s a great step in the right direction.

“I can tell he’s very, very receptive and very interested in helping us reach our goal.”

The communication between Kelly and university leadership didn’t start with Currall’s appointment though. Unlike previous athletic directors, Genshaft had Kelly on her executive team — as does Currall presently.

“I think it’s essential that all athletic directors be represented at that level,” Kelly said. “It’s an important part of the university. I appreciate being recognized as such, because there’s things that are important to the rest of the university that we should know to be able to explain. And I think there’s needs and opportunities that we present and provide that the university should know about as well.”

Genshaft even brought Kelly to Tallahassee earlier this year as part of USF Day at the Capitol, marking USF Athletics’ first representation on such a trip.

“It was great for me to go up there and be a part of the team, and it’s great to meet our different legislators and kind of see what happens,” Kelly said. “There’s not a lot of direct dialogue that can necessarily ever be used on athletics, and I understand it. But that doesn’t mean we don’t build an overall relationship.

“It’s engagement. And that kind of helps spread the Bulls’ brand across the state. And that’s a good thing for us.”

Women’s Soccer**Great expectations for Bulls in 2019**

Evelyne Viens was the joint top goalscorer in the NCAA in 2018 and is expected to have another great year in 2019. ORACLE PHOTO/BRIAN HATTAB

**Nolan Brown**

STAFF WRITER

A lot is expected of USF this season, especially coming off a season where the Bulls won the AAC regular-season title and progressed to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Evelyne Viens, Aubrey Megrath, Sydney Nasello and Andrea Hauksdottir were USF’s top players last season. Together, they combined for 39 goals and 22 assists.

Viens, who scored 20 goals and was the joint top goalscorer in the NCAA last season, and Hauksdottir were added to the MAC Hermann Preseason Watch List, the highest honor for any individual in collegiate

soccer.

The addition of Viens and Hauksdottir to the watch list is an indicator of the quality of the players on the team, according to coach Denise Schilte-Brown.

“It’s a compliment for the team,” Schilte-Brown said. “I think the committee did a great job in their choice. I think [Viens and Hauksdottir] are pros. They step on the field, they play like pros, they train like pros ... to have that accolade is a really big deal, but one that is earned.”

The noticeable chemistry between Viens, Hauksdottir and Megrath has upgraded the quality of the forward line.

“The three of them ... they really love each other, they really played together for four years, they just know each other without thinking,” Schilte-Brown said. “The more time they’re on the field together, I think we’re going to enjoy that

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SOCCER

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connection even more.”

The team as a whole is full of talent and, more importantly, experience. The cast of seniors — Megrath, Hauksdottir, Viens, Rebekah Anderson and Bri Blethen — has played a crucial role in the squad.

“I’m blessed with a senior class that’s very talented,” Schilte-Brown said. “Maybe [Viens and Hauksdottir] have separated themselves, but if it is, it’s by a fraction ... because this group is good.”

Aside from their technical ability, the seniors bring experience to the team, but Hauksdottir has been impressed by the amount of talent that the underclassmen bring to the team.

“We talked a lot about seniors being the leaders, but on this team, I’d say we all lead in a different way,” Hauksdottir said. “And all of us, from freshman to senior, we bring different values to the table and I think we all have something to give.”

A few freshmen have made statements in the team, especially English defender Lucy Roberts, who played the full 90 minutes against Auburn in the regular season opener Thursday.

Roberts previously played in the highest tier of English women’s soccer with Liverpool and made her debut at age 16, making her the youngest debutant in Liverpool history. Roberts also has experience on the international stage, playing for England U-17 in the UEFA Women’s U-17 Championship.

“She’s played a bunch of other countries and ... after you wear your country’s jersey in some big games ... it’s business,” Schilte-Brown said. “You step on the field and you perform and you perform your best and you do your job, and you do it well. I think she’s a real pro that way.”

Schilte-Brown expects great



Sydney Nasello is expected to be a rising star for USF this season. ORACLE PHOTO/BRIAN HATTAB

things from sophomore Sydney Nasello, who showed signs of midfield creativity last season, recording eight assists. Nasello also found the winner against Auburn on Thursday night with just 20 seconds left on the clock.

When given the chance to roam and create chances, Nasello’s impact is felt across the team.

“For me to move around it creates space for everyone else,” Nasello said. “Even if I don’t get the ball, it’s going to allow other players to get the ball and everyone is going to be so focused on me. That’s going to create space for them behind for them to go into the attack ... I’m going to get the ball a lot more. A lot more attacking opportunities.”

Despite all the positive points heading into the season, Schilte-Brown wants to see more effective attempts on goal, as the team’s shot accuracy was just .479 last season.

“The girls have to understand that the goal is bigger than the defender,” Schilte-Brown said. “They don’t need to go around the defender to shoot. The defender is a great screen. So we need to use them as screens a little bit more.”

Nevertheless, Schilte-Brown is confident her team has the quality to make it far in the NCAA Tournament.

“We have a national championship-caliber team,” Schilte-Brown said on WHBO-AM 1040 on Aug. 20.

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