

SUMMER 2023

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION



W



THE ORACLE

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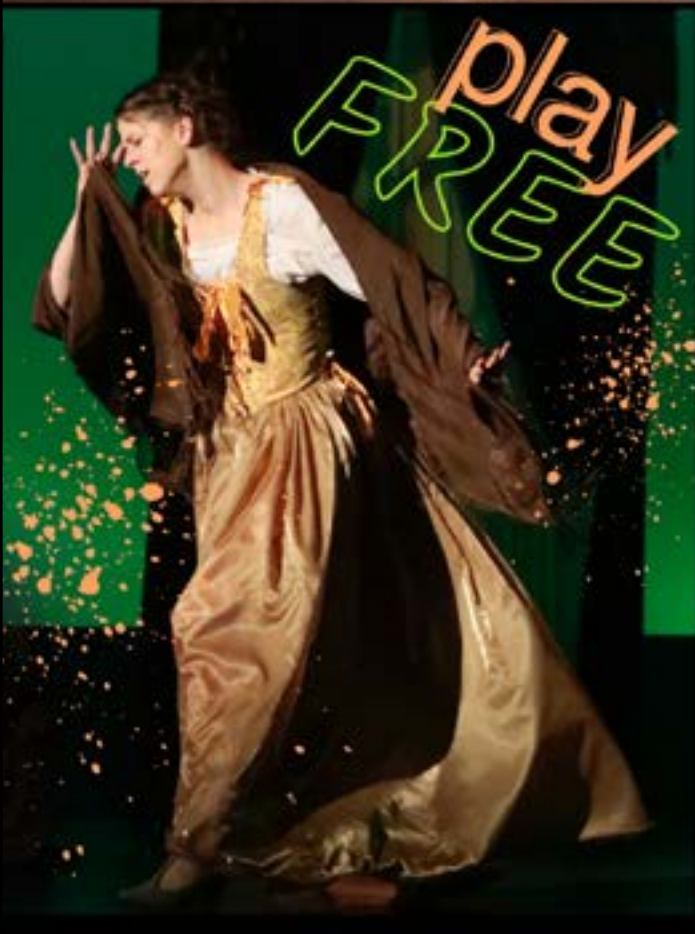
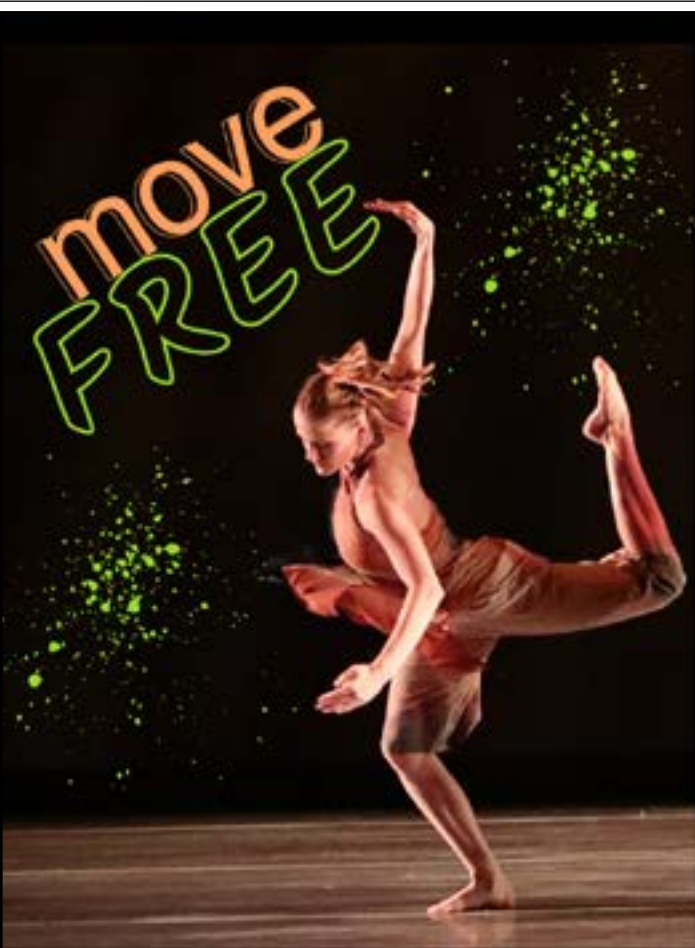
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Letter from the president

To our newest class of USF Bulls,

It is my sincere pleasure to welcome you to the University of South Florida! As a proud USF alumna, I am delighted that your path has led you to this great university, especially at such an exciting time in our history. Across our three campuses, USF offers enormous opportunities for educational enrichment, personal growth, career preparation, and memorable experiences as you build friendships and discover new interests in our vibrant community.

Over the years, USF has transformed from a small commuter school into a dynamic global research university. As a student, you can select from more than 200 majors and concentrations on our campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee. Whether it's the arts, cell and molecular biology, mechanical engineering, or any other discipline, I urge you to explore your interests and find a field of study that puts you on the path toward a rewarding career.

Learning opportunities abound at USF, and here you can pursue your academic interests in a community that is committed to excellence – and continually recognized for achieving it. In recent years USF has continued to rapidly climb in U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges rankings. USF now ranks No. 42 among public universities – the highest we've ever been ranked in our history — and our sights are set on reaching the top 25. I am certain that through the dedication of talented students like you, we will get there! Rest assured that the degree you eventually obtain from USF



President Rhea Law was selected by the USF Board of Trustees to permanently serve as the university's president in March 2022 after holding the position interimly. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/USF

will have tremendous value and respect because it was earned at an institution that is making a major impact on the state, the nation and the world.

It's certainly an exciting time of growth at USF, and that's clear everywhere you look. Already this year we've opened the Porter Family Indoor Performance Facility for USF Athletics, a world-class new building for the Judy Genshaft Honors College and a new Student Health and Wellness Center — a project that reaffirms our university's commitment to the well-being of every student.

And of course, we are very excited about our plans for an

on-campus stadium, which is set for completion in the fall of 2026. Soon, you'll be able to cheer on our Bulls Football team right here on campus and enjoy a wide array of events in this state-of-the-art athletic facility. USF Athletics sponsors 19 varsity men's and women's teams, which compete in 11 different sports, providing a wide variety of opportunities to support our Bulls throughout the year. I encourage you to share your Bull Pride at the various athletics events hosted throughout the year.

In addition to cultivating new knowledge, at USF you'll find vast opportunities for

personal fulfillment outside the classroom. I encourage you to get involved in whatever activities you're passionate about and help you feel an even deeper sense of community. USF offers approximately 800 student organizations on our three campuses, and I am confident there's at least one that aligns with your interests. While we are a very large university, you can find a smaller group of peers who share common interests during your time at USF.

Our university is committed to fostering a welcoming environment and to ensuring that individuals of all background feel a sense of belonging. The success

of our students is a vital part of our mission as we continue making a global impact. Please don't hesitate to ask for help as you explore your options – our talented faculty and staff are here to support you.

I wish you all the best as you begin this next chapter of your academic journey, and I look forward to seeing you around campus. Welcome home, and as you will find yourself saying often from now on, Go Bulls!

In Bull Pride,

Rhea Law
USF President



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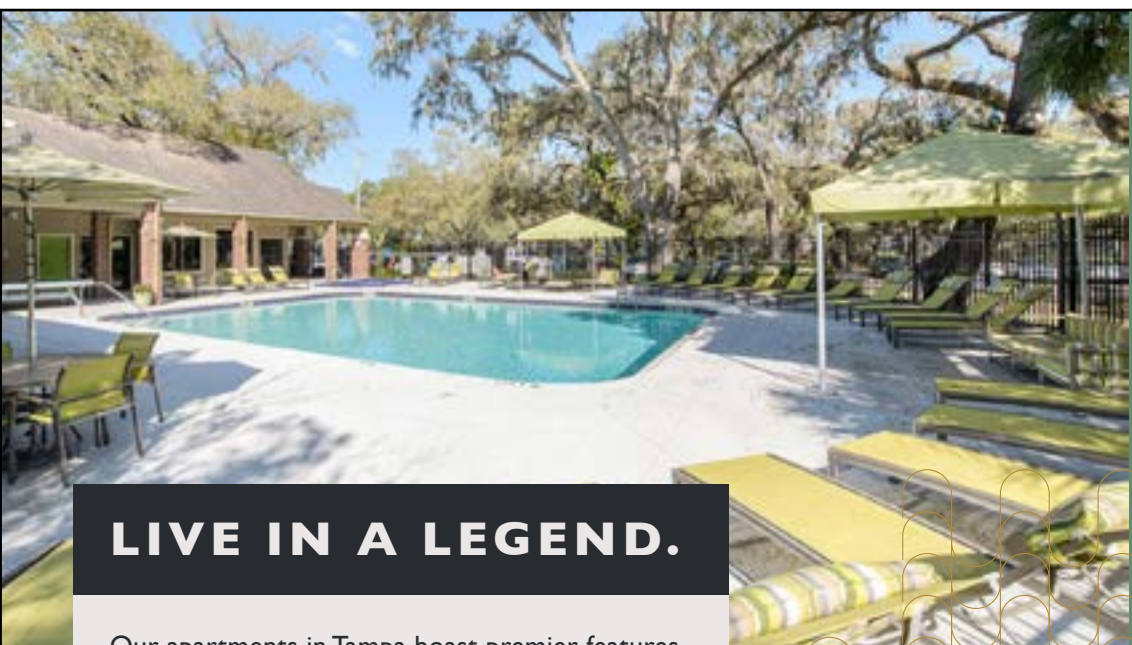
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The Oracle

Best on-campus study spots

News correspondent Julia Habchi asked USF students what their favorite on-campus study spot was, and how it helped them to easily focus on their coursework.



A great place to study would have to be the John and Grace Allen building. I think I like it because there's a lot of fountains and greenery, it just makes everything feel really tranquil. The pattern of the water is very soothing to me. There's a little area inside that makes you feel like you're away from college for a bit. I used to be very fifth floor library-esque so it's nice to get a refreshing breath of fresh air near some water and plants. It makes me feel like I'm more productive. ORACLE PHOTO/JUSTIN SEECHARAN

Andrianna Chin, biomedical sciences major



My favorite place to study is the library because it's the most quiet place on campus for you to do work. Also, I like how they have different levels. So if you want to study in groups, you could go to the first or second floor. And then if you want to be by yourself, you could go to the fourth or fifth floor. They have rooms you could rent out and you could just study there by yourself. They also let you borrow books and computers which is always a plus. ORACLE PHOTO/JUSTIN SEECHARAN

Edlande Joseph, public health major



My favorite study spot on campus is definitely Castor Beach. I enjoy studying there because it's a really peaceful environment that helps me focus. The trees, ducks, and squirrels help me get in touch with nature and de-stress. There's also a calm and gentle breeze that helps me cool down in the hot weather. It's all really close to most of my classes so I can always squeeze in a quick study session in between my classes. My friends and I love to get together at the benches and hammocks and review material together. ORACLE PHOTO/JUSTIN SEECHARAN

Tarek Yahia, industrial engineering major



I think my favorite place to study is in the Interdisciplinary Sciences building. It's just very quiet and beautiful and there aren't a lot of people, it's not really popular. And it's just so comfortable. It's right near the library, you just have to cross the road and that's it. I think I just have lots of memories there. It's a special place. ORACLE PHOTO/JUSTIN SEECHARAN

Marina Plottseva, international relations major



One of the best spots to study on campus would be the bookstore. I like it mainly because they have a Starbucks right there. So if I want to get a cup of coffee, a refill or just some water or food, everything's in there. I also love the vibe when you go to the third floor. It's a bit more of a quiet space so you can really focus when studying. ORACLE PHOTO/JUSTIN SEECHARAN

Sarah Chang, mass communications and advertising major



My favorite place to study on campus would be the Magnolia pool. I like it because when the weather gets really nice and it's not too sunny or hot, you get to sit under an umbrella and study. It's a really open area which is refreshing, it doesn't feel confined. My favorite memory is when my friends and I would all hang out there. Everyone would bring their own laptop and we would study, then take a break sometimes and goof around. ORACLE PHOTO/JUSTIN SEECHARAN

Uyen Co, computer science major



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Freshman survival guide

By Ananya Siragavarapu
Correspondent

College can be a daunting experience. Leaving the comfort of home for the unknown is no easy feat.

Whether you are attending college from your hometown or out of the country, the college transition is the unavoidable departure from years of a sheltered childhood into a swirling enterprise of novel faces and experiences.

As every new student trudges from the overflowing, dorm-essentials-stocked car into their first dorm, there are a few imperatives to keep in mind from social life to academics.

To stay afloat as head into the unknown, the first step is a lifeboat. A life boat is nothing without the proper resources. Not a nubbin of a pencil and a starved tiger, like in 'Life of Pi,' but a well-nourished ecosystem of support for you, the noble navigator.

Dorm Needs

Decorating your dorm can go a long way to make it seem like home and a place you look forward to spending your time in – rather than avoiding it. If the cinema light box, green vines and multicolored LEDs which you often see in Pinterest dorms are not your thing, try bringing an assortment of pictures and tape. Stick them to your wall and see as it grows throughout the year as you make new memories.

A microwave and a fridge are also dorm essentials which will save you money in the long run. Even if students already have a meal plan, keeping a small fridge in your dorm will allow you to keep drinks and snacks cool and will save you a trip to the dining hall from time to time.

Though some dorms already

have a microwave in the kitchen or common area, it can be a bit of a hassle to leave your room every time you wish to heat something up. By buying their own microwave, students can stay in the comfort of their own room. Invest in these amenities early on to save yourself from an eternity of stale pizza.

Dorms' small closets do not



Follow these tips and tricks to ensure freshman year is as riveting as it is hyped up to be. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/UNSPLASH

necessarily entail a limited wardrobe if you make use of extra storage space. Use storage cubbies to store smaller articles of clothing that you may need easy access too. A shoe rack will also help to make use of all the space in your dorm appropriately.

Other recommendations are to buy snacks, command strips, multipurpose towel racks, trolleys to keep near the bed, loose change, plenty of socks and tote bags, among others.

Studying Tips

So the life boat is ready for voyage, but then there's the reason why you're even embarking on this journey – the academics. Whether you're in school for ceramics or Spanish, you are in school nonetheless. And to reach the destination –

make your days productive and weeks sail by, maintain a daily schedule. It will enhance the consistency every student needs to stay above water each semester.

Making Friends

A well-established dorm and top of the line test scores

Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter – these will be your friends for socializing. Don't be afraid to shoot a private message to someone in hopes to strike up a conversation – it is more than likely that person is in your same shoes.

Students should also attend the first week welcome events. An effective way to make friends as a student living on campus is to grace every first week welcome event with your presence. Last year's Summer Week of Welcome events included movie nights, cookouts and information sessions to answer all your questions about USF and Canvas. This summer's events begin June 24. Even if you stand in the quad with an awkward smile plastered on your face while twiddling your thumbs in self-doubt, someone will come find you and make you their person.

To all of the introverts out there, it is time to bust out those witty-one liners you stowed away, DM that person you saw on the accepted students page and sit next to the stranger in class. Initiating can be hard, but in college one smile can go a mile.

Make sure to use subtle charms to build friendships. Escalating a friendship from in class friends to casual friends can be a tricky one. The easiest way is to study outside of class. You can also try forming study groups for class, it is a possibility it will expand into a friendship outside the classroom as well. Sometimes all it will take is asking someone how they are doing or what they are doing after class, so make sure to shoot your shot.

that illustrious career of yours – you have to earn your degree.

Use a to-do list or calendar to keep track of important deadlines and assignments. Whether it's on paper, Google Calendar, the Notes app or Notion – an app which allows you to organize to-do lists, assign tasks and track projects – keep a list of all your responsibilities and commitments.

Build a routine to give your college life more stability. To

aren't going to be the pinnacle of your college experience. Your friends – your lifeline – will be what elevates the progression from a wide-eyed freshman to a weathered senior.

No matter what you need, your friends will be there to egg you on or hold you back. And to make the best of your four years, a quality crew will make it about the journey, not the destination.

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PROVOST

Continued from PAGE 12

up the trajectory of our growth. So in terms of the university, that was my main attraction.

I haven't explored much of Florida but Tampa is a nice place and I think in my opinion [it] is the nicest place in Florida. So I'm looking forward to enjoying more of it.

How do you plan to support students, staff and faculty at the university throughout your tenure?

We want to provide the best learning experience for our students. When I say learning experience that goes both inside the classroom as well as outside the classroom. We want to provide opportunities for our students to explore their potential to maximum and to tie it up with that... so I personally don't separate out faculty success

and student success, these two kind of go together.

So we will work with our faculty and as our faculty – existing faculty and the new faculty that will recruit – in order to build an environment, build an ecosystem where the learning experience the students get is good and the experience that the faculty provide. [These] will be kind of blended together in a way that it will add excitement to both the students as well as the faculty.

So, my goal would be to facilitate that and provide an environment in order to promote those activities through various new initiatives, maybe reward structures and renovating facilities and similar kinds of activities.

What advice would you give to incoming freshmen this year to deal with the stresses of everyday life?

I have two children. I have gone through a similar level of ends [and] I've seen similar levels of anxiety when they went and they have both graduated but it's a very stressful situation. One way that I advised them – which they acknowledged worked quite a bit – is that they could take special care of mental health.

Yes, they have to take care of their physical health and their academic needs, but they should not ignore mental health and my advice for dealing with mental health, [though] there is no one single knob that you can turn but among many other knobs, what I have advised to some people, [similar to how] everybody creates their 'Things to do list,' I would advise to create a list of

things not to worry about. So, if you can exclude a lot of things that you don't need to worry about, that makes you focus on things that you should sort of have your focus on.

Looking back upon when you were in college, what is one thing you wish you could have done differently?

There's one thing and this is one thing that is my favorite thing now, and I have done that for the last years... is travel. And I travel all over the world, most of it international travel.

During my college days if I were to go back, I would like to explore that more. I had zero travel during my college days. I didn't explore anything rather than the life inside the campus, but after graduating and after having a job and all, I really started traveling and that's one

thing that I have really enjoyed. I've traveled to more than 60 different countries all over the world and that's the most favorite kind of hobby that I have. And, if I were to undo something, I should've started up that hobby much earlier than what I did.

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Provost Mohapatra gives insight on his experience at USF

News editor Camila Gomez interviewed Provost Prasant Mohapatra about how he has settled into his new role and what advice he has for incoming freshmen and returning students.



Board of Trustees [and] all the kind of the information that they need to have. I also am very much engaged in the budget for the next year. So, it is an interesting time. It was a bit challenging, but now I'm getting a feel of deeper things and that's what makes me feel more stable.

Because of your career, you've lived in many different states including California, Michigan and Iowa. As you settle in Florida, what is one thing about the state you're excited to explore?

I have traveled quite a bit in so many different countries. [But] in Florida, beyond Orlando with the kids, I have not explored any other place. I've never been to Tampa before coming over here. So, one of my priority goals now is to explore all the natural beauties the state of Florida has to offer and that activity will start this summer itself.

As you prepared to transition into this role, what were you the most excited about?

I was quite impressed at the trajectory of growth of USF. And that was one of the tracks and features that kind of attracted me to this position. So that's something that I wanted to take a deeper dive into – to identify how we can leverage the campus, the intellectual capital as well as all the facilities in order to keep

■ See PROVOST on PAGE 11

Provost Prasant Mohapatra said all incoming and returning students should focus on their mental health by creating lists of things they don't have to worry about – a twist on the typical 'To-do list.' SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/UNSPLASH

This has been your first semester as provost. How are you settling into the role?

Actually, I joined in the middle of the semester, so I got only half of the semester, but it was a crucial time for me to pick up a few things quite fast, which will help me to get over the initial learning phase as soon as possible.

Beyond that, I think this is the first week when I feel a bit more settled because settling in requires work to be done on both

sides – the personal side housing, family and all and then in the office side. But I think I'm settled on both sides pretty well now and ready to take a deeper dive into all aspects of my role.

So, it was a challenging two months. But now I feel quite stable in terms of addressing these issues.

What has helped you come to a feeling of being settled both in your personal life and in your role as provost?

On the personal side, we have the house and the family has moved in, the boxes have been opened and also in that aspect, we achieved a target of having kind of a home to go to. My first month was living out of boxes in a hotel which was not fun.

So that's on the homefront and the office side, I spent the first couple months meeting various

constituents, groups – groups of faculty, groups of administrators – students, people at the other two campuses, community members and all so that that gave me some quick introduction to the culture and the current status of all these places.

During the second month, I was more busy meeting the requirements and needs at the campus in terms of our annual commitments, in terms of providing all the information and performance and accountability to the state, reaching out to the

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We hope to see you soon!

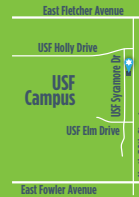
QR CODE TO LINKTREE
<https://linktr.ee/usfhsu>



Shabbat Dinners
Birthright Israel Trips
Holiday Celebrations
Education
Community Ice Cream Parlor
Advocacy
Jewish Pride Alliance

[instagram.com/usf_hillel](https://www.instagram.com/usf_hillel)
 813 899-2788

Sylvie Feinsmith
sylvie@usfhillel.org
 13101 USF Sycamore Drive
 one block off 50th Street,
 between USF Elm and USF Holly



Judaism...
Because it's not just
Matzah Ball Soup!
Don't Worry... We've got that too.



Hillels Morris & Bertha Escoll Center for Jewish Campus Life
of the Florida Suncoast suncoasthillels.org

GET INVOLVED! STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS GET INVOLVED!

INTERESTED IN AREAS RELATED TO NETWORKING,
 BUSINESS, FINANCE, ECONOMICS?

WE ARE THE
LARGEST ORGANIZATION AT USF

ESTEEMED HISTORY OF ALUMNI PLACEMENTS IN GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED
 FIRMS, ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNPARALLELED NETWORKING RESOURCES WITH
 HIGHLY RENOWNED PROFESSIONALS



MEETINGS EVERY MONDAY
 AT 7PM



FOLLOW US ON
 INSTAGRAM AND LINKEDIN!
 JOIN US ON BULLSCONNECT!
 @INVESTMENTCLUBATUSF

italian Club of USF

JOIN US!



LOOKING TO JOIN A
 FUN CLUB ON CAMPUS
 & LEARN MORE ABOUT
 THE ITALIAN CULTURE?
 THEN COME JOIN OUR CLUB!!



ARE YOU JAMAICAN ?
DO YOU LIKE JAMAICAN CULTURE?


JOIN THE JAM FAM ON CAMPUS

FOR MORE INFO AND TO KEEP UP WITH OUR LATEST EVENTS AND GBMS FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

@JAMATUSF



JOIN THE JOHN QUINCY ADAMS SOCIETY




LEARN AND DISCUSS FOREIGN POLICY
 Participate in discussions with your peers, attend exclusive lectures from special guests, and more!

CONNECT WITH US!

- Meetings Weekly: Wed 5:30-8:30
- **BULLSCONNECT:** John Quincy Adam Society

GROUPME



GET INVOLVED!

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

GET INVOLVED!



LIFELONG LEARNERS
 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA



WHO ARE WE?

- Students returning from the workforce
- Graduate students
- Veterans
- Senior scholars
- Younger students



Join our vibrant and growing student organization!

ARE YOU PRE-MED? NURSING? PRE-PA? ETC

MIM
 MINORITIES IN MEDICINE




Join MIM @ USF!

We serve to unify any and all USF minority students pursuing careers in the medical field.

Opportunities will be offered related to shadowing, clinical, volunteering, networking, and research experiences + more.



USF MINORITIES IN PRE-LAW

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF LEADERSHIP AND SUCCESS

Building leaders who make a better world

ENTER THE NOMINATION CODE **18199-350-12837** AT NSLS.ORG, PAY A ONE-TIME MEMBERSHIP FEE, AND COMPLETE OUR LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM TO BECOME A FULLY INDUCTED MEMBER AND ACCESS YOUR LIFETIME BENEFITS!

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN FROM **KNOWN LEADERS**, GAIN MEANINGFUL **LEADERSHIP SKILLS**, AND HAVE ACCESS TO BENEFITS LIKE **SCHOLARSHIPS AND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION?**

JOIN THE **NSLS** AT USF!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW OUR EVENTS ON BULLSCONNECT!

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NSLSUSFEBOARD@GMAIL.COM

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panhellenic association
at the University of South Florida

register now OPENS JUNE 1

VISIT WWW.USFPANHELLENIC.COM OR EMAIL USFPANHELLENIC.VPNMR@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION!

PRE-MED?

LOOKING FOR A TIGHT-KNIT, SUPPORTIVE MEDICAL COMMUNITY?

RUSH FALL 2023

Φ
Δ
Ε

usphiderecruitment@gmail.com | [@usphideltaepsilon](https://www.instagram.com/usphideltaepsilon)

Nonprofit Board Expansion

Philanthropy Accurately Construing Experience (PACE)
International Rural Education Project (IREP)

PACE

- Optimize distribution of humanitarian aid in developing nations
- In communication with UNHCR and UNAI, working to publish UN Report
- Meeting with organizations like WOCON and IMC to gather information

IREP

- Bridge gaps between necessary resources and underserved communities
- Identified projects to alleviate major humanitarian issues in growing countries: Zambia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and Burundi




If you are interested, please access the form below:
<https://forms.gle/pAnwVVC9KOTLz2j6A7>



PRE-HEALTH TRAINING SOCIETY



We offer workshops with medical professionals on specific skills and common situations for pre-health students at the USF.

SEMINARS



Chest Pain with Dr. John Dormois



Shortness of Breath with Dr. Allan Goldman



World Tuberculosis Day

WORKSHOPS



Ultrasound with PA Larry Collins



Small Atrial Septal Defect

DISCOVER WITH US

- ◊ Day-to-day life of a healthcare professional
- ◊ Practical skills and knowledge
- ◊ Case studies

Join us at
<https://linktr.ee/ptsusf>
 Follow us @PTSUSF

GET INVOLVED!

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS



SERVICE ABOVE SELF



JOIN TODAY!



Rotaract  **IMAGINE ROTARY** 

@usf_rotaract
 @RotaractUSF



@RUGBYCLUBUSF



RUGBY

PRACTICE @ SYCAMORE FIELDS - TUES/WED/THURS ON CAMPUS
 FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM FOR FALL PRACTICE SCHEDULE

ALL STUDENT ATHLETES WELCOME



USF SOCIETY OF AERONAUTICS AND ROCKETRY
THE SKY IS NOT THE LIMIT.

*Join SOAR and be a part of
the collegiate space race!*

Gain experience in:

- International rocketry competitions
- Liquid engine design and prototyping
- Design, manufacturing, and testing
- Outreach and professional development
- Leadership skills and collaboration



social media
websites, and local
news features



CONNECT WITH

sparks

MAGAZINE

Sparks Magazine is a student-led publication established to represent and empower the AAPI community.

[usf_sparks_mag](https://www.instagram.com/usf_sparks_mag)

Or email amyp3@usf.edu

GET INVOLVED!

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

GET INVOLVED!

DO YOU LIKE TO
SING OR BEATBOX?
JOIN USF'S CO-ED
ACAPELLA GROUP!

tones of gold

<https://linktree/tonesofgold>
IG: @tonesofgold
usf.tonesofgold@gmail.com

Abroad Veterinary Internship with USF VAW Chapter

This program is open to ALL majors and there are leadership positions available!

For more info:
Email: usf.vet@vawgha.org
Phone: (813) 399-3438
Instagram: @usfvaw

VAW
Global Health Alliances

Committed to cultivating sustainable partnerships with local communities and professionals to work together to improve access to essential resources.

Veterinary Outreach

VAW interns work closely with local veterinary professionals and partners to provide animal health support across LMICs.