

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

2015 – 2016

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MEET THE SSS STAFF

- Reba Garth, *Director*
- Eirleene Bristow, *Administrative Specialist*
- LaTosha Thomas, *Counselor / Newsletter Creator*
- Roshanda Pinson, *Counselor*
- Brian Williams, *Counselor*
- Deidra Rogers, *Retention Advocacy Coach*
- Stephy Oge, *Summer Program Coordinator*
- Peer Coaches:
Shadari Crawford
Bennie Pierce
Juan Pulido
Deidra Rogers



GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our staff is ecstatic! For the first time in the Student Support Services Program (SSS) history, which expands over thirty years, our SSS program participants attained a six year graduation rate of (70%), fall 2015. The Student Support Services Program has definitely experienced another successful year. We are pleased to present you with our newsletter which highlights our many student successes throughout the 2015-2016 academic year. The University of South Florida (USF) is committed to joining the ranks of America's most preeminent universities through an unwavering focus on student success ([Path to preeminence prompts office integration](#)). For many years the Student Support Services Program (SSS) has aligned and will continue to align with the university's student success initiatives. SSS has performance accountability measures in order to receive continued funding from the Federal Department of Education. The program is designed utilizing evidenced based research from the What Works Clearinghouse for the target population. Our goal is to help program participants persist and graduate. The program's success continues to yield an average of 99%-100% of its students in good academic standing at the end of the first semester, our Summer Bridge Program, and an average of 90% annually. The SSS staff strongly encourages our students to become global citizens, to participate in the Honors College, campus organizations, shadowing and internship opportunities and acquire leadership training and roles as exemplified throughout the newsletter. These items are incorporated in our mandatory SSS coaching and advising sessions and workshops. A new initiative for this year is to implement student travel in order to expose our program participants to various graduate school opportunities and cultural events. Our first cultural event is on Saturday, July 16, 2016. Our new SSS Summer Program students will be exposed to a Broadway show, "The Wizard of Oz" at the Straz Center in downtown Tampa. I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and share our successes.



SSS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: DEIDRA ROGERS

Deidra Rogers of Miami, Florida is an outstanding young woman who was selected as the SSS Spotlight student due to her academic excellence and her extracurricular involvement. Deidra is a Pre-Law student majoring in Criminology with a minor in English. She is interested in pursuing her law degree because she enjoys helping others and making positive contributions to our society.

Deidra has maintained a high GPA at USF while actively engaged in student life. She is the newly elected President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is also an Executive Board member of the National Council of Negro Women at USF. In addition, she works as an Intern with the USF Football team where she helps with the player recruitment process. All of these activities demonstrate Deidra's commitment to enhancing USF through leadership and service. In addition, Deidra has completed the Legislative Internship Program (LIP) where she worked with Tampa City Councilman Frank Reddick of District 5. Deidra also served as an Intern with the Stokes Law Group in Tampa, where she was able to witness the daily workings of a law firm in preparation for her future career in law.

Deidra is also a determined college student who works to help pay her way through USF. She has held positions with the USF Career Services office and with the Student Support Services program (SSS). In her Peer Coach role with SSS, Deidra has served as a role model and mentor for new freshmen students in SSS. In her position as a Retention Advocacy Coach, Deidra contacted SSS students who had withdrawn from USF in an effort to identify and eliminate any barriers they face in completing their degree. Deidra feels especially grateful for the opportunity to give back to SSS: *"Student Support Services gave me the confidence that I needed to dive head first into every new journey that I have been on while at the University of South Florida. I am forever grateful for the foundation that this program laid for me in 2014. Without the help, support and guidance of this program, and more specifically my counselor Dr. LaTosha Thomas, I cannot imagine what my experience at this University would have been like. Thank you all for everything that you have done for me!"*

The varied activities that Deidra has engaged in since attending USF has helped solidify her choice of Law as a profession. This hardworking and dedicated student is particularly interested in the social justice aspect of law where she can advocate for marginalized members of our society.

Congratulations to Deidra Rogers for accomplishing all of this in her first 2 years at USF — while maintaining a high GPA of 3.68!



SSS student Deidra Rogers represents Bull excellence

CAMPUS QUOTES: HOW HAS SSS HELPED YOU SUCCEED AT USF?

Ayshah Zaman, Sophomore, Public Health: "SSS has provided me with the necessary information in order to become successful at USF."

Melody Villar, Sophomore, Communication: "SSS helped me meet new people and gave me counselors that I could go to when I felt homesick or if there was a problem with my financial aid."

Alexa Coates, Freshman, Health Sciences: "The SSS program has assisted me in success by helping me remain on track with grades, guiding me with choosing the right courses for my path and giving me the extra confidence boost and encouragement that every college student always needs."

Daileen Ramize, Sophomore, Pre-Elementary Education: "Being a part of SSS has helped me to succeed at USF by introducing me to many things. It has helped me make great lifetime friends and connections with many people. It has taught me valuable lessons and has put me ahead of the game by knowing things about campus and about ways to be successful!"

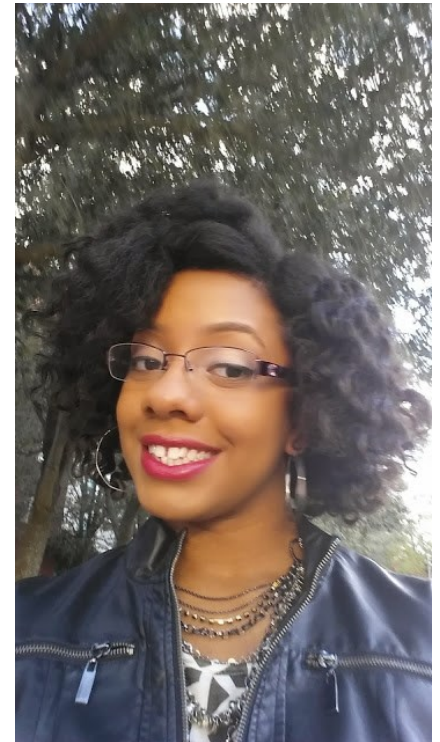
Chavelk Collado, Sophomore, Public Health: "SSS helped me get acclimated to the university the summer before the freshmen fall chaos. They also made me feel like a part of their family and my counselor made me feel like there is actually someone that cares about me here, which means a lot to me because my actual family is 4 hours away. You guys are awesome, thank you so much!!"

Merceadez Marion, Sophomore, Communication & Science Disorders: "SSS has given me a chance to go to college and establish myself as a student. The stress is taken away and I can focus on my work and getting involved."

Joshua Lopez, Sophomore, Health Sciences: "SSS has provided me with an opportunity to be a part of something bigger than myself. SSS allowed me to quickly be immersed in the USF community while showing me the importance of my education along the way."

Colby McCroy, Freshman, Criminology: "The SSS program at USF has helped me very much. From the very beginning they have helped make the idea of college go from an overwhelming and impossible challenge, to a very achievable challenge. Additionally, the SSS counselors have always been available to help whenever students need it."

Shadari Crawford, Senior, International Studies: "SSS has given me the tools to be successful in college. Whether it's the motivation from my counselors to strive for the best or having friends who understand the struggles as a first generation college student and can relate to me. I've always felt at home with SSS, which made college that much easier — and now I'm set to graduate soon!"



Shadari Crawford



BULL PRIDE!



SSS STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL AT USF!

Congratulations to the following SSS students with a USF GPA of 3.0 or above

Donald Aird	Veronica Easler	Zeerak Khan	Eitan Quitarano
Cortney Alleyne	Joseph Ellis	Virgina Khavin	Stephanie Ramirez
Antonio Alsaleh	Jacob Feldstein	Maya Knight	Margie Ramirez
Dakota Balzer	Angela Ferguson	Jessica Lehmann	Bailey Reed
Chloe Bear	Amanda Fernandez	Gerald Major	Steven Riley
Winesha Blair	Ashley Fyffe	Mercedeaz Marion	Deidra Rogers
Alaina Branford	Jessica Gamble	Nychel Marshall	Lynecee Romelus
Marcellus Brookes	Peyton Geftman	Nicholas McChargue	Mary Rudolph
Javonte Brown	Malik Harris	Colby McCroy	Phanudej Saengchote
Elene Bruno	Nicholas Haspel	Aliviana McKenzie	Elvin Salcedo
Paola Calderon	Oscar Hernandez	Martin Mena	Waleska Santiago-Datil
Sarah Carlin	Anika Hightower	Roger Mendez	Brianna Santos
Melissa Chirino	Amanda Hill	Rada McKinnon	Jesanya Seda
David Cidel	Sruthi Issac	Samantha McQueen	Veda Singh
Nastassia Clarke	Rithchell Jean-Baptiste	Patrycja Monforton	Maryah Sullivan
Nayana Clayton	Lindsey Johnson	Camila Moraes	Vanessa Torres
Chavelk Collado	Simone Johnson-Riley	Hikari Nitta	Melody Villar
Carlos Cruz	Kayla Jones	Stephy Oge	Claudia Young
Abigail Destin	Kyrach Joseph	Noel Pagan	Lauren Webb
Roger Dominguez	Maria Jozic	Rennicka Peart	Janessa Toledo
Alicia Drayton	Quenten Kadlec	Alexandra Pellot	Corey Walker
Melissa Durkin	Emilia Kalogiannis	Kimberly Pusey	Valoria Thomas

"Student Support Services taught me how to effectively navigate through college, it also provided very useful support services whenever I needed it."

~Martin Mena, Freshman, Political Science

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SSS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Dakota Balzer	Arnay Marshall
Elene Bruno	Roger Mendez
Nayana Clayton	Hikari Nitta
Abigail Destin	Rennicka Peart
Joseph Ellis	Glauco Rodriguez
Erica Exalien	Justin Soriano
Angela Ferguson	Ayshah Zaman
Ritchell Jean-Baptiste	

SSS STUDENTS ARE GLOBAL CITIZENS



Stephy Oge travelled to Peru as part of a class in the USF Honors College

Stephy Oge is an SSS student in the USF Honors College, majoring in English with a concentration in Professional Writing, Rhetoric, and Technology. During the Spring 2016 semester Stephy completed an Honors College course on Geographical Perspectives, which focused on the people of the Andes. The course discussed the history of the people, the Spanish conquest of the Inca Empire, and cultural norms such as the importance of reciprocity. The course culminated in a 2-week trip to the country of Peru. During the trip, Stephy participated in service activities such as helping to construct a museum, helping to harvest potatoes in the mountains, and learning about local customs such as textile production. According to Stephy, *“Going abroad to a South American country — and not just as a tourist, but as a service learner — allowed me to better understand the local perspective and develop more empathy for a uniquely different way of life than American culture.”* Stephy clearly benefitted from the class and the trip by exposing her to new cultures.

We are proud of Stephy for being a global citizen!



SSS STUDENTS ARE GLOBAL CITIZENS



Lindsey Johnson studied abroad in South Korea

SSS student Lindsey Johnson studied abroad in Seoul, South Korea during the 2015-16 school year. During her stay, she enjoyed activities such as skiing, exploring beaches, and elephant riding. One of the exciting jobs she performed while in South Korea was working with a band while they traveled on tour. Lindsey has also traveled to the neighboring countries of Thailand and Japan, where she visited Tokyo Disney Land.

We are proud of Lindsey for representing USF as a global citizen!



Bull Pride Represented in the Capitol



SSS students ***Waleska Santiago-Datil (l) and Deidra Rogers (r)*** participated in the Legislative Internship Program (LIP) and took a trip to the Florida state capital building in Tallahassee.

Representing Bull Pride!

SPECIAL THANKS FROM SSS GRADUATE

Dear Dr. Thomas,

As my college days are coming to an end, I have reflected on the individuals who have helped me throughout my four years at USF. Your name immediately came to mind. Although, you were not my designated counselor, I felt as though that did not matter. You were always available to help assist me with any issues I had, and offered sincere words of advice and encouragement. And on the days that my counselor was unavailable, I knew I did not have to stress out because I could always count you for assistance with anything!

In regards to our seminar sessions during SSS, I am extremely appreciative for all the hard work you put into them. I know some students would complain about having to go the seminars, but I can honestly say that I looked forward to them. The topics ranging from social life to academics greatly opened my eyes to what USF had to offer. You would always speak to us with such care in your voice which is how I knew that you deeply cared for all your SSS students. Your words of advice and encouragement have greatly impacted my life in such a great way that I am deeply thankful for you and the entire SSS department. SSS has allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and get involved on and off campus. I truly feel it was with the help of my SSS family that allowed me to step up and become president over WFWP (*Women's Federation/or World Peace*) and also join the co-ed service fraternity APO (*Alpha Phi Omega*). And in just a few days I will be walking across the stage to receive my Bachelor's Degree in Public Health. :) You and SSS will forever stay close to my heart and I hope that you continue to bless and impact the lives of all your future students.

Thanks again for everything! And I hope you and your family are doing well. I will stay in touch.

Sincerely,
Alessandra Haynes



Recent graduate Alessandra Haynes (r) served as President of the USF Women's Federation for World Peace. Also pictured are SSS alumna Sabrina Frederique (l) and SSS student Shantell Moses (c).



SSS students attended the USF Intercultural Student Leadership Conference



SSS students Janessa Toledo (r) and Kensley Hilaire (l) attended the Black Brown College Bound Conference with SSS Director Reba Garth. They enjoyed the keynote speaker, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, who discussed the challenges of being a first-generation college student.



Student Support Services and Upward Bound personnel attended the Florida Association of Education Opportunity Program Personnel (FAEOPP) professional development conference in Savannah, Georgia... **TRIO Works!**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECENT SSS GRADUATES OF USF!

Amanda Anglada, Women & Gender Studies
Esther Auzirus, Health Sciences
Maritza Bernard, Biomedical Sciences
Patrice Black, Public Health
Phalashia Browning, Public Health
Kelley Caldwell, General Business Admin.
Corey Chiang, Health Sciences
Christopher Chin, Marketing
Brittaney Collazo Larsen, Elementary Educ.
Chelsea De Jesus, Interdisc. Social Studies
Krystal Deleon, Criminology
Sagar Dhila, Management Information Systems
Tyler Ding, Management
Keishla Dones, International Studies
Jose Estevez, Psychology
Kimiya Fakhar, Health Sciences
Lovia Feliscar, English
Satchel Fils Aime, Marketing
Courtney Frazier, Health Sciences
Sabrina Frederique, Marketing
Taylor Frye, Psychology
Valene Gifford, Psychology
Kevin Gillespie, Marketing
Onterio Graham, Finance
Quantina Hogan, Public Health

Ian July, Public Health
Padmini Kumar, Health Sciences
Terrence Lakeman, Health Sciences
Bo Young Lee, Biomedical Sciences
Crystal Martinez, Criminology
Camile McFarlane, Mass Communications
Jeremy McLymont, Criminology
U'Tica Melendez, Criminology
John Mullings, Management
Kelvin Nguyen, Biomedical Sciences
Frank Nguyen, Biomedical Sciences
Matthew Ogla, Health Sciences
Jalisha Oracius, Health Sciences
Yara Perez Del Castillo, Psychology
Raven Quartermann, Health Sciences
Tonia Randall, Criminology
Nakaissia Reed, Psychology
Mariel Sullivan, Mathematics Education
Fatima Tareen, Health Science
Jasmine Taylor, Psychology
Michelle Taylor, Criminology
Melissa Torres, Marketing
Gregory Tufts, Health Sciences
Yamily Vargas, Exceptional Student Education
Leonela Vides, Geology
Shao-Hua Wang, Finance



SSS alumna Aneika Stephenson (r) earned her Master of Science degree in Cybersecurity with a concentration in Cyber Intelligence. Pictured here with SSS Counselor LaTosha Thomas (l) who earned her Ph.D. in Counselor Education.

SSS STAFF UPDATE: NEW BULLS ON CAMPUS!



Roshanda Pinson has been a Counselor/Advisor for Student Support Services for 1.5 years. She hails from the blistering Midwest, but has lived in Florida for 4 years. Ms. Pinson is an alumna of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where she earned her Bachelors of Arts in Journalism and Media Communication with a concentration in Public Relations, and a Master of Science in Administrative Leadership with a concentration in Higher Education Administration. Ms. Pinson has experience working with TRiO programs, having previously worked with students in Upward Bound: Math & Science, GEAR UP, and SSS at the community college level. She has a passion for working with first generation college students; especially in the areas of leadership development and civic engagement. Ms. Pinson enjoys getting students plugged into the university and helping them create a dynamic college experience. Outside of her profession Ms. Pinson enjoys doing yoga and reading. She also is actively involved in her church, and serves on various committees as a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Brian Williams is from St. Petersburg, Florida and began working with SSS in January 2016. He earned his B.A. in Psychology from Florida State University and a minor in African-American Studies with an emphasis in Child Development. He also has a Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Nova Southeastern University. Mr. Williams is a proud member of Progressive Black Men, Inc. and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. He enjoys writing music, poetry, and being an event promoter. Mr. Williams considers working with SSS at USF a blessing because he was in Upward Bound at USF while in high school, and the program did so much for him that he is grateful to be able to give back through a similar program that works with students after college admission.



Eirleene Bristow is an Administrative Specialist who joined SSS in October 2015. She has been providing administrative support to executives for over 20 years. Prior to arriving at the University of South Florida, she was employed with Hillsborough Community College for many years and enjoyed the opportunities to serve on committees and mentor students. Originally from Brooksville, Florida, Mrs. Bristow has been a resident of Hillsborough County since 1985. She received her B.A. degree in Business Administration from Saint Leo University. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, volunteering with shelters, Special Olympics, and other organizations. Mrs. Bristow is excited to be a part of the Student Support Services family and looks forward to continued growth with her fellow colleagues and students.

SEMINARS FOR SUCCESS!

SSS workshops are designed to give students important information and announcements to help them be successful at USF and in life beyond. These workshops cover topics such as:

- How to register for classes using OASIS
- College major exploration and career decision
- Embracing diverse perspectives in a global world
 - The benefits of undergraduate research
- The benefits of living on-campus and joining campus organizations
 - How to read a DegreeWorks report and calculate a college GPA
- Tips for college success, including non-cognitive factors (i.e. time and stress management, study and test-taking skills)
- Financial aid and scholarship information, (i.e. how and when to complete a FAFSA, Bright Futures renewal criteria)
 - Preparing for graduate or professional school



Thank you to the USF departments who contribute to the success of SSS students in a variety of ways...

Career Services
Wellness Education
Campus Recreation
USF Dining Services
USF Federal Credit Union
Office of Multicultural Affairs
The USF Counseling Center
Office of Graduate Studies
Academic Success Center
Center for Student Involvement

Student Health Services
Housing & Residential Education
Office of Undergraduate Research
Students with Disabilities Services
Financial Education & Outreach Program
Center for Leadership & Civic Engagement
Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities
University Scholarships & Financial Aid Services
Center for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention
Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity

We greatly appreciate our many collaborative partners on campus!



STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

University of South Florida
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Office of New Student Persistence
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Website: <http://www.usf.edu/undergrad/sssf/>

SSS Award: 5yr. Federal \$1,448,690 (72%); State \$563,269 (28%).

