

# STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

2014-2015

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## GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Student Support Services Program (SSS) has experienced another successful year. We are pleased to present you with our 2014-2015 newsletter. In this edition we highlight our student success at the University of South Florida and beyond. Our students have leadership roles in national associations and received internships, research, USF Education Abroad, and scholarship opportunities including the President Genshaft Scholarship. Check out the video on page 2 with a SSS student receiving national recognition in one of her television appearances. The program's success yields an average 99%-100% in good academic standing at the end of the first semester, our Summer Bridge Program, and an average of 90% annually. Student Support Services provides effective academic and personal support for a diverse population. The program is intended for students who have been identified as having an academic need and either first generation college student, as having low-income family status, or both. SSS is designed to significantly increase the retention and graduation rates of the 220 participants it is funded to serve. We are committed to providing proactive, intrusive, comprehensive and innovative services to enhance our students' success at USF. SSS provides a plethora of services including academic advising, coaching, computerized tutorial assistance program, financial aid assistance, SSS scholarships, social and cultural enrichment programs, employment and workshops that broaden career perspectives, improve academic skills, promote self-confidence and address various non-cognitive factors. The SSS staff also serve as instructors for the Academic Foundations course in which our students are enrolled. In order to meet the University of South Florida's goal of program sustainability I have acquired over approximately 7 million dollars in federal grants to maintain the program at the university. Recently another SSS grant proposal to acquire continued 5 year funding for September 1, 2015- August 31, 2020 was submitted to the Federal Department of Education as the current grant expires on August 31, 2015. Our goal is to continue such a successful program at USF. We are waiting for results...stay tuned. I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. *We are "BULLISH" about student success!*



Reba Garth, SSS Director

## MEET THE SSS STAFF

- Reba Garth, *Director*
- Megan Cott, *Administrative Specialist*
- Marcus Glover, *Counselor*
- Roshanda Pinson, *Counselor*
- LaTosha Thomas, *Counselor / Newsletter Creator*
- Irie Dennis, *GA Counselor*
- Crystal Martinez, *Summer Program Coordinator*
- Stephy Oge, *Asst. Summer Coordinator*
- *Peer Counselors:*  
Keanu Coupet  
Shadari Crawford  
Nicholas Cullen  
Deidra Rogers

**SSS STUDENT RECEIVES NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT: MARYAH SULLIVAN**

Maryah Sullivan, of Orlando, Florida, is an exceptional young woman who was selected as Youth of the Year for The Boys & Girls Club of America (BGCA). The award is an honor given to one outstanding youth each year from the national organization. The award represents the highest recognition one can receive within the BGCA organization. Being selected as The Youth of the Year for BGCA is a premier achievement that is earned by promoting service to the Club, community, and family; academic success, strong moral character, life goals, and poise and public-speaking ability. Maryah earned this prestigious award because she has effectively balanced school, sports, and service for more than a decade. A dedicated public servant, Maryah has volunteered with the Ronald McDonald House where she works with families who have children with medical problems. She has also volunteered at a Florida nursing home.

Since 1860, BGCA has made a difference in the lives of children all over the country, especially Maryah. Maryah is part of the Joe R. Lee branch of BGCA in Eatonville, Florida. Her neighborhood has a disturbingly high poverty and crime rate, which can have negative effects on children. "My mother is a single mother. She worked really hard for my siblings and I. She did the best she could to provide for us," said Maryah. "The neighborhood that I grew up in had a lot of crime. It was not a good neighborhood, especially for kids," according to Maryah. "I remember when I would get off from school and would go to the Boys and Girls Club." This was the community in which Sullivan attended the Boys and Girls Club, and it was the community she loved. It is clear to see that Maryah's future aspirations reflect her dedication, her hard work, and her compassion for the community. Presently, Maryah is part of a new community — she is a participant in SSS and just completed her first year at USF. Maryah is majoring in Biomedical Sciences and is a Pre-Med student.

Maryah aspires to be a neurosurgeon so that she can help save lives. Her first year in college was quite challenging, as she has had to balance her Youth of the Year for BGCA duties with her academic studies. In the past few months, Maryah has flown all over the country to make appearances on behalf of BCGA. For instance, she has visited the White House in Washington, D.C. twice; she has been to Los Angeles to film an episode of The Queen Latifah Show, where she also met actor Denzel Washington (see [video\\*](#)); she has been to New York City where she participated in an NBA All-Star Weekend event with LeBron James; she has appeared on the Today morning television show; and she threw out the first pitch at an MLB game during the World Series.



*SSS student Maryah Sullivan was selected to be the national Boys & Girls Club of America Youth of the Year.*

With this level of devotion Maryah has proven that she can accomplish whatever she dreams. "My SSS counselor has given me excellent assistance and support as I stepped into a challenging situation as a first generation student at USF. SSS has helped me to succeed by helping me with not only academics, but lifestyle decisions as well", reports Maryah. SSS is happy to offer support for Maryah as she balances her studies with her BGCA Youth of the Year duties.

***We are proud to have such an accomplished BULL in our midst!***

*\*Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=14&v=uifFMSqSkPM>*



“TOGETHER W ACHIEVE THE EXTRAORDINARY!”

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

**Camila Moraes, Freshman, BMS/PreMed:** “SSS has helped me succeed when there were times in the semester where I did not believe I could achieve something and SSS helped me achieve it and believe in myself!”

**Daniel Blasco, Sophomore, Mechanical Engineering:** “When I first came to USF I was a little nervous. Thanks to everyone at SSS I was quickly made to feel at home.”

**Patrycja Monforton, Freshman, Pre-English Education:** “SSS has helped me become acclimated to USF and become more involved (than I would otherwise) and I have met some of my forever friends here.”

**Maya Forbes, Sophomore, Integrative Animal Biology:** “SSS has helped me to succeed at USF by providing me with the opportunity to have strong starting GPA, get familiar with Tampa and the campus prior to fall and make lasting friendships. Overall, the most beneficial was the support system of people that cared and continue to care about your success.”

**Antonio Alsaleh, Sophomore, Psychology:** “SSS has helped me succeed by making me much more familiar with USF, including the programs and facilities. Most of all, it gave me an adviser who would watch over my academics, and even check to see how I was doing mentally, which is critical when dealing with all the stress college delivers all at once.”

**Charity Ward, Freshman, Pre-Social Work:** “During my first summer, SSS students were enrolled in a class taught by our SSS advisors. From that class, I gained more skills (i.e. organization/study/communication than I did in all 12 years in school! SSS has been a support group as well, which was very beneficial.”

**Shawn Ramrup, Freshman, International Studies:** “SSS has made the transition to university life a lot easier for me. It helped me create a connection with other students who are in the same situations as I. I was able to create a second family away from home. The SSS Counselors are always accessible for me and whenever I need help I can always go to them.”

**Rada McKinnon, Freshman, Psychology:** “SSS has definitely helped me succeed at USF. SSS helped me become acclimated with USF's campus before the fall semester, as well as help me become a successful college student. Having an SSS Counselor throughout college keeps me on track and focused.”

**Steven Riley, Freshman, Pre-Medical Sciences:** “SSS has helped me succeed at USF because the program gave me great Counselors who I can talk to about anything and who keep me on the right track. The program also gave me good friends who I probably would not have met if not for SSS.”









# SSS STUDENTS WORK HARD TO FIND SUCCESS!

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

Cortney Alleyne  
 Antonio Alsaleh  
 Danyelle Amara  
 Chloe Bear  
 Turaindranauth Bhairo  
 Daniel Blasco  
 Javonte Brown  
 Maria Buckle  
 Martina Carter  
 Katreina Cezair  
 Lyne Charles  
 Chavelk Collado  
 Carlos Cruz  
 Aaron Diaz  
 Alicia Drayton  
 Veronica Easler  
 Joshua Echavarria  
 Maya Forbes  
 Mikessa Fribley  
 Ashley Fyffe  
 Jessica Gamble  
 Peyton Geftman

Dana-Marie Gould  
 Catherine Guevara  
 Marla Hernandez  
 Lidice Hernandez  
 Sruthi Issac  
 Jam'S Jean-Louis  
 Lindsey Johnson  
 Quenten Kadlec  
 Emilia Kalogiannis  
 Zeerak Khan  
 Mayah Knight  
 Alexia Knight  
 Sabrina Lauredan  
 Joshua Lopez  
 Rada Mckinnon  
 Benjamin Mclaughlin  
 Samanth Mcqueen  
 Patrycja Monforton  
 Camila Moraes  
 Kendyl Muehlenbein  
 Stephy Oge  
 Rachael Pierre-Louis

Lenae Proctor  
 Juan Pulido  
 Nakaysha Pullen  
 Kimberly Pusey  
 Kendyl Muehlenbein  
 Stephy Oge  
 Rachael Pierre-Louis  
 Lenae Proctor  
 Juan Pulido  
 Nakaysha Pullen  
 Kimberly Pusey  
 Eitan Quitoriano  
 Margie Ramirez  
 Justin Riley  
 Steven Riley  
 Karina Rios  
 Deidra Rogers  
 Sarrah Rouas  
 Phanudej Saengchote  
 Waleska Santiago-Datil  
 Alexis Smith  
 Jayde Stansell

April Stevens  
 Joseph Stokes  
 Maryah Sullivan  
 Christian Sumalpong  
 Lauren Swertfeger  
 Nikeya Tarver  
 Vanessa Torres  
 Althea Tyrell  
 Melody Villar  
 Adrien Voigt  
 Charity Ward  
 Lauren Webb  
 Austin White  
 James Wiley  
 Ayshah Zaman  
 Aiyng Zhen  
 Kayla Zonni

*“Student Support Services has exposed me to resources that I did not realize were available here at USF.”*

*~Javonte Brown, Freshman, Psychology*



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SSS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Cortney Alleyne  
 Turaindranauth  
 Bhairo  
 Nicholas Burton  
 Wilby Destine

Tatyannah George  
 Ryan Haft  
 Nicholas Haspel  
 Jackeline Henry  
 Marla Hernandez  
 Alexia Knight

Laterian Latimer  
 Merceadez Marion  
 Arnay Marshall  
 Julian Mesa  
 Lakisha Monroe  
 Daileen Ramize

Mariella Rivera  
 Jori Rodriguez  
 Maxwell Schmidt  
 Malcolm Speights  
 Steven Totten

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## SSS STUDENTS EXPERIENCE SUCCESS AT USF

◆ **Stephy Oge** is honored to receive the Dr. Israel "Ike" Tribble Jr Endowed Scholarship for 2014-15. Named for Dr. Ike Tribble, a champion of African-American history and scholarship and the first black chairman of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce. This scholarship has been established to assist outstanding disadvantaged and/or minority students who have proven themselves academically but lack financial resources to attend the University of South Florida. Stephy just concluded her first year at USF and she is majoring in Communication. Stephy hopes to use her degree to pursue social justice issues to help improve our society. Stephy is also the Public Relations Chairperson of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and a member of the Black Student Union, where she participates in the mentoring program helping high school students reach their academic and personal goals. Stephy was also nominated for the Bullitzer Prize, which recognizes outstanding student writers at USF. ***Congratulations to Stephy for this wonderful achievement!***



*Stephy Oge with USF System President Dr. Judy Genshaft*

◆ Congratulations to the SSS students who presented research at the **Undergraduate Research and Arts Colloquium** in April 2015:

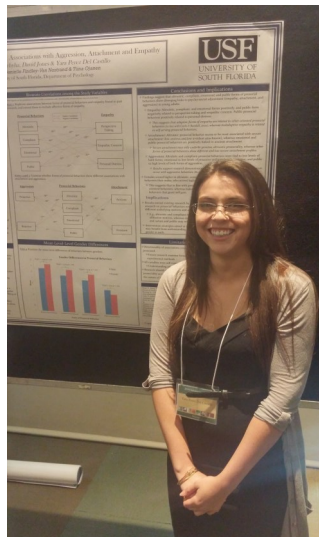
*Samantha McQueen*

*Yara Perez del Castillo*

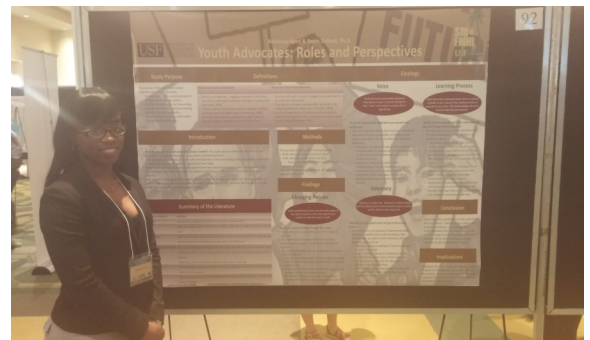
*Nakaissia Reed*



*Samantha McQueen*



*Yara Perez del Castillo*

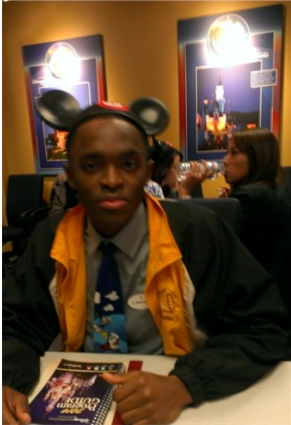


*Nakaissia Reed*



## PROUD OF SSS STUDENT SUCCESS

- ◆ **Imani Lee** is senior SSS student majoring in Mass Communication, with a concentration in Broadcast — Program and Production, and minor in Entrepreneurship. Imani was honored to be selected for the Disney College Program internship. According to their website, "As a part of the Disney College Program, participants have the incredible opportunity to advance their strengths and interests, meet guests and cast members from around the country and take part in educational opportunities students can't get anywhere else. This truly unique program allows participants to network with leaders, take part in personal and career development classes, and build transferable skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, guest service and effective communication" (<http://cp.disneycareers.com/en/about-disney-college-program/overview/>).



Imani found this experience very beneficial and says he also learned a lot. According to Imani, "I had the opportunity of learning from my coordinators, managers, and leaders how to properly interact with guest during transactions. This eye opening experience has exposed me to so many races, religions, and cultures around the world. I have a deeper appreciation for people. All day I talked to hundreds of people learning tad bits here and there about numerous cultures. I have learned that every customer at Disney wants one thing in common no matter the race, gender, or culture. Everyone wants to be happy. The evolution of communication enables companies like Disney to perform faster and more efficiently while increasing profit, guest retention and satisfaction. I take these concepts and apply them to my life and pursuit of a future career. I have learned to always be courteous and respectful. At Disney, you really do not know whom you are meeting. I treat everyone the same and put my full effort into every interaction. I will continue to hold all the things I have learned, close to my heart." **Sounds like Imani made the most of this opportunity, and we are proud of him for representing SSS and USF so well!**

- ◆ SSS partnered with the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity to send **Julian Mesa**, an SSS sophomore majoring in Mechanical Engineering, to the Black, Brown & College Bound annual conference held at Hillsborough Community College. The theme of the 2015 conference was: "Turning the Page: Transforming the African American and Latino Male experiences in Higher Education". The conference was held at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel in February and Comedian/Actor/Talk Show Host Steve Harvey was the keynote speaker. Julian was honored to participate in this conference on behalf of USF and he believes he benefitted greatly from the networking opportunities and from the information shared. **Way to go Julian!**
- ◆ SSS rising sophomores **Camila Moraes** and **Waleska Santiago-Datil** were selected to attend Pre-Health Scholars Program (PSP) sponsored by The University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, Office of Student Diversity and Enrichment (OSDE), and the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program. PSP is a multi-year academic enrichment and career exploration program for pre-health students. The program components include academic and clinical experiences that highlight exciting components of healthcare. PSP is a multi-year program, with this initial 6-week summer experience serving as a starting point and a gateway for students' journey toward a health career. The program will provide support and services to students throughout their undergraduate experience. Just two weeks into the summer program, and Camila reported to her SSS Counselor, "I would first like to thank you a million times for helping me with the letter of recommendation and application process for the USF Morsani PSP Program. It's been only two weeks and the most amazing experience I've had since coming to USF. Waleska from SSS is in it too and loves it just as much as I do. Thank you again." **Keep up the good work Camila and Waleska!**
- ◆ SSS is excited to announce rising sophomore **Deidra Rogers** has been selected to participate in the USF Legislative Internship Program (LIP) during the fall 2015 semester. LIP allows students to work in the offices of federal, state and local legislators, public policy think-tanks and policy boards. Each student is paired with an official who is actively involved in Tampa Bay's economic development, transportation, environmental protection, education, health, social welfare and/or public finance issues. A USF liaison and faculty members maintain regular contact with the student and official to ensure each party's goals are being met. Students earn class credit for the successful completion of this internship. **We are excited for Deidra and will keep you posted on her progress!**

## SSS STUDENTS ARE GLOBAL CITIZENS OF THE WORLD!



Waleska Santiago-Datil (*l*) and Samantha McQueen (*r*) both just completed their first year at USF and ended the year in spectacular fashion — they participated in the **USF Education Abroad** program in London and Paris! Waleska was also fortunate enough to win the President Genshaft Scholarship to help finance her trip. *Bull pride is global!*



Hillary Rogers just completed her second year at USF and she spent the fall 2014 semester studying abroad in Florence, Italy. Hillary had an amazing experience in which she was able to travel to several European countries, including Sicily, France, and Germany. *The radiant happiness on her face is enough evidence that Hillary had a wonderful experience abroad!*



Kimberly Pusey just finished her first year at USF and she is studying in Italy during the summer 2015 semester. *What a great way to celebrate completing freshmen year!*



## 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 such as time management, stress management, study and test-taking skills
- Financial aid and scholarship information, including how and when to complete a FAFSA and Bright Futures renewal criteria
  - Preparing for graduate or professional school



**Thank you to the many USF departments who contribute to the success of SSS seminars via presentations and handouts for students...**

Career Services  
 Wellness Education  
 Campus Recreation  
 USF Federal Credit Union  
 The USF Counseling Center  
 Academic Success Center  
 Office of Multicultural Affairs  
 Office of Graduate Studies  
 Office of Undergraduate Research  
 Students with Disabilities Services  
 Financial Education & Outreach Program  
 University Scholarships & Financial Aid Services  
 Center for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention  
 Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity

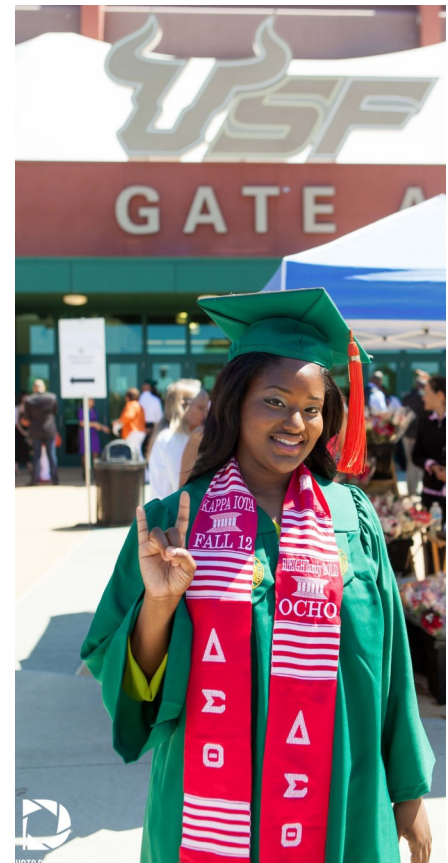
***We greatly appreciate our many collaborative partners on campus!***

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2014 AND 2015 SSS GRADUATES OF USF!

Alysha Alston, Public Health  
 Thelisha Aluc, Public Health  
 Marjorie Arias, Health Sciences  
 Paul Baldwin, History  
 Knakeera Bason, Business Advertising  
 Bridgitte Batista, Anthropology  
 Stephanie Bayly, Criminology  
 Windell Blair II, Criminology  
 Bailee Booser, Theatre  
 Nadia Boyd, Psychology  
 Stephen Bravo-Brown, Psychology  
 Judy Brown, Criminology  
 Kaleena Burns, Marketing  
 Euan Burton, Geography  
 Chelsea Carini, Behavioral Healthcare  
 Shilah Carroll, Elementary Education  
 Anthony Carson, Public Health  
 Yahir Casanova, Communication  
 Cameron Chambers, Public Health  
 Beau Cherry, English  
 Caitlin Clarke, Public Health  
 Andrew Coet, Criminology  
 Manuel Colorado, Finance  
 Clinton Coutain, Social Work  
 Devane Daley, Health Sciences  
 Andrew Davis, Management  
 Nrec Dedaj, Biology  
 Daphne Dieudonne, Women's Studies  
 Christina Dong, Public Health  
 Lentz Dorcely, Public Health  
 Zachary Dugowson, Psychology  
 Ego Ekenta, Psychology  
 Steven Fan, Industrial Engineering  
 Jerilys Fernandez, Public Health  
 Alyssa Gagne, Health Sciences  
 Julian Gines, Communication  
 Harvey Gladden, English  
 Yuri Godinez, Management  
 Mayra Gomez, Elementary Education  
 Amanda Gonzalez, Behavioral Healthcare  
 Deborah Grana, Elementary Education  
 Coralys Guzman, Science Education  
 Amanda Hall, Criminology  
 Ryan Hatchett, Hospitality Management  
 Alessandra Haynes, Public Health  
 Warren Henry, Public Health

Shaneese Hernandez, Management  
 Tyechia Hobbs, Public Health  
 Racquel Hylton, Political Science  
 Cindy Innocent, Criminology  
 Vonika Jack, Health Sciences  
 Radim Jacob, Biomedical Sciences  
 Cintli Jauregui, Nursing  
 Herby Jean, Civil Engineering  
 Aarian Johnson, Mass Communications  
 Christelle Joseph, Information Tech.  
 Robert Kazanowski, Interdisciplinary  
 Social Sciences  
 Rosa Leath, Psychology  
 Jomar Lopez, Chemistry  
 Gina Lopez, Mass Communications  
 Diana Louis, Psychology  
 Francia Luke, Public Health  
 Anthony Macedo, Public Health  
 Wendy Malagon, Psychology  
 Peyton Mccoy, Athletic Training  
 Janeesha Mcfadden, Psychology  
 Alicia Mclean, Health Sciences  
 Jeremy Mclymont, Criminology  
 Shakeem Mills, Criminology  
 Kadijah Moore, Public Health  
 Antonio Morales, Criminology  
 Anthony Morales, Civil Engineering  
 Gladys Munoz, Public Health  
 Dylan Myers, Psychology  
 Henna Patel, Public Health  
 Armanda Paul, Sociology  
 Vanessa Pelaez, Public Health  
 Olivia Pierre, Psychology  
 Eric Pillock, Mechanical Engineering  
 Destinee Pinkney, Business Advertising  
 Wilbur Powell, Public Health  
 Tiffany Rivers, Gerontology  
 Chantell Robinson, Public Health  
 Micheal Roxton, Accounting  
 Dalis Ruane, General Business Admin.  
 Sandy Saintfleur, Criminology  
 Kymoye Samuel, Psychology  
 Leiakasheba Scott, Criminology  
 Elizabeth Sigler, Public Health  
 Jerry Silva, Criminology  
 Brian Speller, Health Sciences

Mandy Spielvogel, Public Health  
 Shantay Stagger, Interdisciplinary  
 Social Sciences  
 Harley Stanley, Health Sciences  
 Aneika Stephenson, Electrical  
 Engineering  
 Cherie Sterling, Health Sciences  
 Marlena Szczesniewicz, Marketing  
 Tanisha Thermidor, Health Sciences  
 Fiyori Tsegaye, Psychology  
 Travis Tyson, Economics  
 Elianna Valcimond, Public Health  
 Alexandria Westcarr, Communication  
 Sciences & Disorders  
 Amber Young, Public Health



**Aneika Stephenson,**  
*Electrical Engineering,*  
*USF Graduate*



## SSS ALUMNI UPDATE: BULLS WORK HARD!

Hello Ms. Thomas,

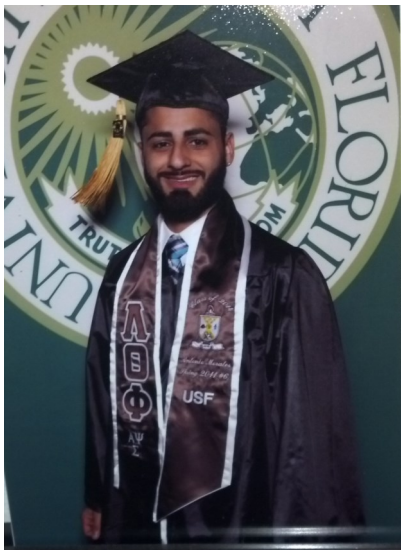
I'm officially a USF graduate! Go Class of 2014! Undergraduate was a great experience, and I will always appreciate the support provided by SSS. Acquiring an education paid off!

I am working in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis. I learned about this profession through class-related field experience while at USF! I was an intern and then got hired!

I implement individual behavior programs written by the Certified Behavior Therapist. For example, I teach daily living skills and social skills to children with developmental disabilities, such as autism. I am a Behavior Tutor also known as a Behavior Technician. I work one on one with a very special student! The first week of work was challenging, but thankfully I am a fast learner. I am happy because I am representing USF as an alumni! I am pretty sure they will hire more USF grads at this academy because BULLS work really hard!

Sincerely,

Wendy Malagon





**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

University of South Florida  
Division of Undergraduate Studies  
First Generation Access Programs  
4202 E. Fowler Avenue, SVC 2011 Tampa, FL 33620

Phone: 813-974-4301 Fax: 813-974-8208

Website: <http://www.us.usf.edu/sss/sss.htm>

SSS Award: 5yr. Federal \$1,442,806 (61%); State \$563,269 (39%).

