

Student Support Services



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA
TAMPA BAY



Annual Newsletter Spring 2019 Edition

Inside This Issue

- Student Spotlight 2
- SSS Living Learning Community... 3
- An Exemplary Student..... 4
- Student Success: Internships..... 5
- What Does SSS Mean to You? 6
- Cultivating Leaders Who Serve 7
- Scholarship Recipients..... 8
- Remark-A-Bull Recognitions 9
- SSS Students are
Global Citizens..... 10-11
- Successful Students at USF..... 12
- 2018 SSS Graduates 13
- Alumni Spotlights..... 14
- Alumni Success Stories..... 15
- College Success Workshops..... 16
- Meet the SSS Staff 17
- Professional Development..... 17
- SSS Partnerships..... 18



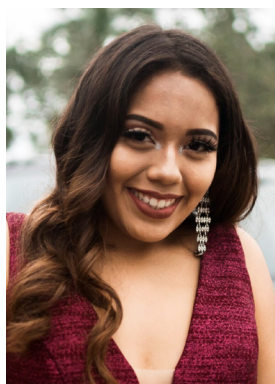
GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am elated to report the Student Support Services Program (SSS) continues to contribute to the University of South Florida's preeminence. Most recently, SSS has a 97% one year persistence rate for its 2017 cohort, and 96% are in good academic standing. Our students include first-generation and limited income students who

face unique challenges to college completion. Yet, our students return to USF one year later at a higher rate than students who are from more traditional backgrounds. The SSS staff influences student experiences with specialized techniques and practices, including the SSS Living Learning Community, which provides a supportive environment, a sense of belonging, faculty in residence, and affordable living for our students. This department partners with various university entities and encourages our students to take advantage of all the resources USF has to offer, we also appreciate our community partnerships. Our students' academic performance and campus involvement is remarkable as demonstrated in this newsletter. SSS renders extraordinary student success stories, and we encourage you to celebrate these success stories with us.

Reba Garth
Director

Student Spotlight: Alexa Gonzalez



Alexa Gonzalez is an exceptional SSS student from Coral Springs, Florida. She is a freshman studying Cell and Molecular Biology. Alexa was chosen to this year's student spotlight because she is a community-minded student that goes above and beyond.

Alexa is passionate about becoming a Pediatric Oncologist. She currently shadows Dr. Fernandez at Tampa General Hospital, who specializes in advanced heart failure (See photo below). She is a Committee Member of the Mini Dance Marathon Committee for the annual Bulls For Kids Dance Marathon at USF. This dance marathon raises thousands of dollars for the Shriners Hospital located on the USF campus. **Alexa dedicates herself** to Bulls For Kids because she has always been inclined to look after the young and for those who do not have the means to help themselves.

With the help of networking, doctors, and directors, Alexa started the first Dance Marathon at Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Broward County, which raises funds for children with terminal illnesses. After visiting Nicklaus Children's Hospital in the heart of Miami for the first time, Alexa was inspired to see children with IVs still smiling, playing, and dancing despite going through their process of chemotherapy. It was an impactful experience, and **she found an opportunity to help** by providing local schools the opportunity to host their individual Dance Marathons. Alexa says, "Within our first year we were able to raise over \$10k. This was the first act of service that made me truly want to serve children in my community by one day becoming a doctor. I have continued with this passion of serving children with illnesses with the largest student-run philanthropy, Bulls for Kids at the University of South Florida." Alexa is a **firm believer of giving back to her community**.

Currently, Alexa volunteers at the Moffitt Cancer Center. She views it as another act of service that has truly made an impact in her life and reinforces her commitment to her goals. This volunteering experience has made her understand why she needs to **work even harder to one day serve** as a Pediatric Oncologist. She explains, "When I look back and ask myself who has shaped and influenced me to pursue my dream career of becoming a Pediatric Oncologist, I can say with no hesitation that it is all the patients at Nicklaus Children's Hospital, Shriners Hospital for Children, and the Moffitt Cancer Center."

Alexa chose to come to USF because it was always one of her top schools of choice because of networking opportunities, and she believed **USF would give her the best foundation for her career in medicine**. With an abundance of medical facilities in the USF area, and faculty that truly want you to be successful, Alexa knew she would forever be a BULL! Alexa also shares her love for SSS. She explains, "**SSS has become a family** away from home. SSS made my transition into college smoother and has allowed me to truly find my niche here at the University of South Florida. The ultimate reason I have been successful here at USF is due SSS and my SSS Counselor/Advisor. They have constantly been my support system in helping me grow as an individual through academics and organizations. I will forever be grateful for such an amazing program."



Congratulations to Alexa for being an outstanding USF Bull!

SSS Living Learning Community



SSS collaborated with Housing and Residential Education to create a new Living Learning Community in Beta Hall for the 2018-19 year. **For the first time ever**, all SSS freshmen students resided in Beta Hall (a traditional style residence hall in the Argos Complex). Beta was chosen for the SSS LLC because of its affordability, **comfortable accommodations**, and central location on campus. The purpose of the SSS LLC is to facilitate SSS programming that helps **increase student persistence and student success**. LLC programming included SSS workshops, SSS Counselor Office Hours in Beta, a Welcome Back ice cream social, and a healthy cooking demonstration with cost-effective ingredients. **Upper class SSS students served** as the LLC Residential Assistants (RAs), and they were outstanding students who were instrumental to the success of the LLC – **Jose Andres Ardaya, Shamease Cooper, and Kelly Korpela**. Overall, the first year of the SSS LLC was a huge success and we look forward to continuing this new tradition into the future. Special thanks to Neudy Nunez, Brandi Crews, and Zachary Hyder for their contributions to the success of the SSS LLC.



Please visit bit.ly/2Eyf9Tm to hear SSS students discuss the newly formed SSS LLC!

An Exemplary Student: Garrett Ferguson

Garrett Ferguson is a junior studying Business Analytics in the MUMA College of Business and minoring in Leadership Studies. He was chosen as the SSS exemplary student of the year because of his commitment to SSS and leadership across the USF community. Originally from Lithia, Florida, Garrett demonstrated his leadership potential as a child in Eagle Scouts. He excelled through the ranks of Boy Scouts of America to achieve the highest rank in scouting. He focused on helping others be leaders and served as a **role model to younger scouts** of his troop and children in the community.

Garrett's desire to lead extended into his college ambitions. He served as a **Peer Leader for the Academic Foundations Seminar**, a USF class that guides first-year students through the maze of college life. He is also the Vice president for the S Club, an SSS-related student organization. Garrett also serves as Vice President for the Men's Lacrosse Club, part of the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association (MCLA) Division 1. SSS continues to be proud of all that Garrett has accomplished and we know he will keep being successful after he graduates this December.



Garrett's leadership and service is inspiring to all students across the USF community!



Student Success: Internships

SSS is making a concerted effort to increase the number of students who complete internships that relate to their major and future career. The Enhanced General Education curriculum also includes High Impact Practices (HIPs), such as internships, as a way to improve career readiness among USF students. Hence, SSS is working with students and collaborative partners to support internship engagement. Below are just three of the SSS students who are engaged with exciting internship opportunities, and we look forward to sharing more internship success stories in the future!

Tampa Bay Arts and Education

Daileen Ramize interned at Tampa Bay Arts and Education (TBAE) Network in downtown Tampa. They are a local TV station focused on arts and culture. In the picture shown, Daileen had the opportunity to talk to Hillsborough County School Board Member, **Susan Valdes**, after meeting her 8 years prior. Daileen's mom was seeking help to get her brother to graduate high school years ago. Daileen explains, "I remember Ms. Valdes told me and my brother and sister to keep pushing to graduate high school and go on to college; I never thought I would be speaking to her on TV!" *Great job representing USF at your internship, Daileen!*



AmeriCorps

Angeline Duroseau interned at the AmeriCorps Youth Employment and Financial Empowerment Program. The experience this past summer was a unique adventure for Angeline. She worked as a Financial Ambassador, travelling to different locations in Miami to educate teens about **financial literacy**. Angeline enjoyed mentoring young people as part of her role, stating, "I can honestly say that I was grateful to have been apart of this wonderful project that granted me the opportunity to be able to give back to my community." *Thanks for making us proud, Angie!*



Step UP! Program at the University of Arizona

Adefemi (Femi) Obisanya interned at The Student Transformative Experiences to Progress Under-represented Professionals (STEP-UP) at the University of Arizona Cancer Center. Step Up is designed to diversify the cancer prevention workforce. Femi gained awareness and expertise in the realm of cancer research from top leading researchers in their respective fields. He participated in research initiatives and learned how studies should be conducted and thoroughly assessed for dissemination to the masses, ensuring validity and reliability. Femi explains more about his experience, "I did all of this while braving the scorching triple-digit climate of Tucson! All in all, it was a fabulous and coming of age kind of experience that I won't soon forget!" *We appreciate your hard work, Femi!*



What Does SSS Mean to You?

"SSS gave me a reason. A reason to succeed in college, a reason to keep going, and a reason to stay focused on academics. The feeling I get when I'm in the office is that I have **someone counting on me**. People who genuinely want to see me **succeed in life**. SSS has given me encouragement and the gift of endless opportunity."

- **Brandon Marshall**, Freshman,
Integrated Public Relations and Advertising

"SSS helped me succeed at USF because it gave me a smooth transition into college life. SSS also assisted me with **tutors, mentors, and many services** to ensure I reach my **maximum potential**."

- **Brianca Taylor**, Sophomore,
Mass Communication

"SSS has allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and grow in many ways as a young adult starting college. SSS is a constant reminder that I am loved and that someone out there truly believes in me. I am extremely grateful for the people and memories this program has brought into my life."

- **Kendra Galarza Rivera**, Freshman,
Integrated Animal Biology

"Entering USF in the summer semester of 2018 was daunting, but with the help of the SSS program, I was able to make **a smooth and seamless transition** into the fall semester, a new and diverse atmosphere full of new responsibilities. The SSS program has helped to **strengthen me** and has allowed me to be **capable of achieving my desired goals**. With the help of SSS, I have created better time management skills, study habits, and problem solving abilities."

- **Khadir Muhammad**, Freshman,
Business Marketing

"SSS has allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and grow in many ways as a young adult starting college. SSS is a constant reminder that I am loved and that someone out there truly believes in me. I am extremely grateful for the people and memories this program has brought into my life."

- **Paige Hodapp**, Freshman,
Integrated Public Relations & Advertising

"Student Support Services (SSS) has helped me in such a large number of ways that I don't know where to begin. **I cherish being apart of SSS** especially because it betters me as an individual. I generally felt as if I could figure out college on my own, but **luckily SSS showed me** how to use my resources and also how to network, specifically, by joining different organizations and attending most of the SSS workshops. Lastly, SSS helped me get through so many of my financial, academic, and personal struggles, **I always had an opportunity** to talk to any counselor about anything and that truly is what makes SSS feel like home to me!"

- **Jennah Ware**, Freshman, Mass Communication

"I've always been concerned about whether I would be successful in college or even know how to navigate USF as a whole. The SSS program gave me the chance to tap into my potential and has provided me resources and an amazing counselor who's guided me every step of the way with endless support and encouragement."

- **Orlando Huertas**, Freshman, Business Analytics

Cultivating Leaders Who Serve



SSS actively encourages students to engage in **campus and community service**, while also helping to **develop leadership skills** among students. SSS students participate in a range of service activities and leadership positions, including: Stampede of Service, USF Day at the Capitol, Orientation Leader, Resident Assistant, REACH Peer Educator, CHARGE, Greek Life, Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI), and Intercultural Student Leadership Conference (ISLC). The pictures on this page are a small sampling of leadership and service activities in which **SSS students engage throughout the year!**



Scholarship Recipients

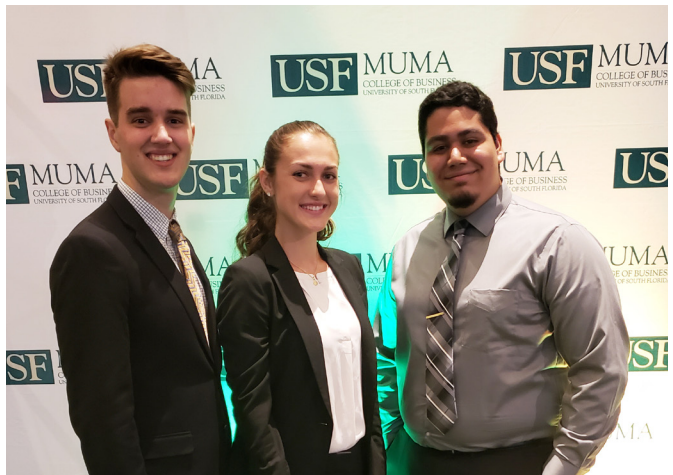


Freshmen students **Kendra Galarza Rivera** and **Joshua Williams** were selected for the **USF Latino Scholarship Program** this year. The USF Latino Scholarship Program is an elite group of scholars who are recognized for their academic merits and who demonstrate financial need.

Congratulations on your hard work!

Ellis Rodriguez, Caroline Jeczalik, and Garrett Ferguson (L-R) attended the **Barron Collier Scholarship** luncheon for first generation students in the **Corporate Mentoring Program (CMP)** within the MUMA College of Business. CMP is a program to help first-generation college students explore career opportunities and develop strategies for success in their academic, career, and personal lives.

Thank you, Scholars!



Freshmen students **Alexa Gonzalez** (L) and **Kedrine Gayle** (R) were selected for the **MLK Scholarship** from the USF Alumni Association. This scholarship was established to recognize and assist USF students who best represent the ideals and philosophies of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Alexa and Kedrine were honored at the luncheon held at the USF Commemorative Week.

Congratulations!

Remark-A-Bull Recognitions

The reigning Homecoming Queen, **Abigail Destin**, is an SSS student who recently graduated. The Homecoming King, **Alex Vancol**, is a close friend of the program. Voted on by the student body, the USF Homecoming Queen and King must meet academic requirements and also demonstrate USF community involvement and leadership skills.

We salute our Queen and King!



Daniela Vergaray, a sophomore, uses art as an outlet to help cope with her Type 1 Diabetes. Daniela created an art portfolio based on her experience dealing with the **hardships and triumphs** that followed her diagnosis of Type 1 Diabetes. Diagnosed at 10 years old, Daniela said she had to **mature quickly** in order to cope with the restricted lifestyle of a diabetic. She realized that dealing with diabetes is a matter of maintaining a heightened sense of precaution that can be emotionally draining. "Knowing that I transferred a part of me into my art is such a wholesome feeling," Daniela said. Daniela was also featured in USF's student newspaper, The Oracle and you can read the article at bit.ly/2CqBPfM.

We admire your strength and creativity, Daniela!





SSS Students are Global Citizens

Shamara Ebanks visited London, England to study Biodiversity and Legal Ethics in Behavioral Healthcare. The USF in London program included opportunities to explore London by providing an unlimited oyster card, a Dinner Cruise on the Thames River, and the London pass where she was able to visit Windsor Castle, Westminster Abbey, Tower of London and the Shard. Shamara explains, "Studying abroad has taught me that it is okay to be adventurous and learn about other cultures and customs other than your own and how it can be both different and alike." Shamara made life-long friendships on this trip and is grateful for the experience.



We are proud of your adventurous spirit!

Sophomore **Matthew Reyes** has been very busy backpacking through Thailand last summer, studying abroad in Florence, Italy, and participating in a marine science research trip. The goal of the research trip with Dr. Herbert (Geosciences) was to research population changes in biodiversity within specific species. The experience taught Matthew that there is a great amount of depth to combining various disciplines into one cohesive theoretical framework, such as considering how humans might impact changes in biodiversity. Matthew's time abroad also helped expand his global perspective and gave him a deeper appreciation of cultural differences.



We are proud of your bold approach to life!

SSS Students are Global Citizens

Junior Khalil Wilson is making significant and positive contributions to the USF community. He has served as an SSS Peer Coach for 2 years, helping freshmen students transition into college and acting as a mentor through their first year. Khalil also serves as the first President of the newly revamped S-Club (SSS related student organization), as Co-Chair of the Intercultural Student Leadership Conference, and as Vice President of the USF Pride Alliance.

Khalil also studied abroad in Italy last summer. He states, "My time in Italy was filled with new experiences from beginning to end. I had many fears, but it was constantly replaced with **wonder and admiration**. I visited the Boboli Gardens in the Palazzo Porto, the Palazzo Vecchio, and I saw the famed statue of David. The food was amazing and I constantly tried new dishes everyday. I had some basic dishes such as pizza and pasta everyday, but I tried some regional dishes like the Papa al pomodoro and Ribollita. What I enjoyed most, would have definitely been the night life. There were always musicians that would be playing their music throughout the different piazzas and performing for tourists. The friends that I made on this trip were also a highlight because they **made this experience most memorable.**"



Khalil is an outstanding BULL!



SSS Students are Successful at USF!

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

FRESHMEN

Breunna Alexander
Mariajose Arreola
Kayla Aska
Nathan Badillo
Laylah Baptiste
Kimberly Beckford
Lih Bitton
Dezmond Booker
Adriana Borrero
Bianca Carson
Christie Castillo Guzman
Louna Clerge
Jaqueena Cousin
Michkayla Dandreaano
Jordan Davis
Skyya Edwards
Eden Faison
Bobbi Flournoy
Jonae Fludd
Zachary Foley
Khadir Freeney
Dannavan Fulton
Kendra Galarza Rivera
Kedrine Gayle
Victoria Gonzalez
Alexa Gonzalez

Jalesia Griffin
Kylie Henderson
Jennifer Hesselbirg
Paige Hodapp
Orlando Huertas
Sarah Ingram
Jasmin Johnson
Kyla Kijanka
Isabella Liotine
Martika Major
Jessica Marc
Brandon Marshall
Kamia Martin
Leslie Molina
Elijah Murphy
Darius Nephilim
Kevonna Perkins
Taniya Perry
William Persaud
Catherine Rami
Kamilah Rennie
Kendra Saint-Elus
Chloe Sartorio
Alexa Simpson
Shani Stinson
Brenda Suarez
Jean Toro

Elizabeth Vital
Jacquelyn Ward
Joshua Williams
Victoria Yang
Weiqian Zhang

SOPHOMORES

Mousa Ahmad
Jose Ardaya
Martha Balleza
Andrene Baxter
Morgan Becwar
Alyssa Bernstein
Skylar Cantone
Giselle Castro
Zavier Clark
Fabian Clarke
Astrid Cruz
Frea'Drika Curry
Mostafa Faituri
Drake Ferry
Jose Garcia
Juan Garcia
Annalieth Garzon
John Guirguis
Alexys Gurreri
Caroline Haidinger

Beachy Horace
Bayleigh Howe
Shayla Konosky
Brendon Latortue
Donvante Lavalis
Romy Lisse
Dervens Marseille
Matthew Medalie
Sarah Mohamed
Eddy Monzon
Romel Morales
Juan Moreno
Matthew Reyes
Joel Ringrose
Haley Rivera
Cassidy Rux
Anthony Soto
Aleena Tharayil
Tina Tring
Julissa Valdez
Alex Verdelus
Daniela Vergaray
Anthony Vixayo
Danaizha Walker
Demi Zeper

Congratulations to the following SSS Scholarship Recipients

Jude Cineas
Frea'Drika Curry
Angeline Duroseau
Khadir Muhammad
Alexa Gonzalez
Logan Green
Jeremiah Kinsey
Brandon Marshall

Darius Nephilim
William Persaud
Jaelin Reeves
Brenda Suarez
Nia Thomas
Demi Zeper
Weiqian Zhang

Congratulations to the winners of the Black Leadership Network Scholarship:

Chanita Belcher
Frea'Drika Curry
Jalesia Griffin

Onika Griffiths
Elijah Murphy

“SSS has helped me tremendously, both academically and socially. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything in the world.”

~ Jai Brown, Sophomore, Information Studies

Congratulations to the 2017 SSS Grads!

Serdric Aceus, *Interdisciplinary Social Sciences*
Cortney Alleyne, *Public Health*
Danyelle Amara, *Health Sciences*
James Baker, *International Studies*
Chloe Bear, *Mass Communications*
Marlene Bell, *Medical Technology*
Winesha Blair, *Public Health*
Daniel Blasco, *Mechanical Engineering*
Javonte Brown, *Psychology*
Nicholas Burton, *Psychology*
Martina Carter, *Computer Science*
Nastassia Clarke, *English*
Danielle Dalberry, *Communication*
Abigail Destin, *Criminology*
Aaron Diaz, *Mechanical Engineering*
Alicia Drayton, *Finance*
Veronica Easler, *Public Health*
Jessica Gamble, *Psychology*
Austin Gross, *General Studies*
Diamond Hall, *General Studies*
Oscar Hernandez, *Finance*
Jorgeandres Herrera, *Finance*
Sruthi Issac, *Biomedical Sciences*
Mayah Knight, *Nursing*
Alexia Knight, *Health Sciences*
Markayla Leggett, *Public Health*
Jessica Lehmann, *Psychology*
Tameka Maitland, *Health Sciences*
Merceedez Marion, *Communication Sciences & Disorders*
Arnay Marshall, *Health Sciences*
Desiree Massiah, *Health Sciences*
Benjamin McLaughlin, *Finance*
Patrycja Monforton, *English Education*
Alexandra Pellot, *Criminology*
Kimberly Pusey, *Psychology*
Eitan Quitariano, *Biomedical Sciences*
Margie Ramirez, *International Studies*
Daileen Ramize, *Communication*
Bailey Reed, *Elementary Education*
Mariella Rivera, *Health Sciences*
Deidra Rogers, *Criminology*
Hillary Rogers, *Public Health*

Nicolas Rosario, *Political Science*
Jesenia Seda, *Public Health*
James Seidel, *History*
Ashley Stahl, *Criminology*
Jayda Stephens, *Health Sciences*
April Stevens, *Psychology*
Maryah Sullivan, *Information Science & Technology*
Christian Sumalpong, *Electrical Engineering*
Jacob Tesvich, *Interdisciplinary Social Sciences*
Charlene Theogene, *Mass Communications*
Valoria Thomas, *Public Health*
Vanessa Torres, *Nursing*
Mackenzie Velez, *Communication Sciences & Disorders*
Melody Villar, *Communication*
Adrien Voigt, *Communication*
Ja'Quavia Walker, *Health Sciences*
Lamonica Walkin, *Psychology*
Charity Ward, *Criminology*
Lauren Webb, *Political Science*
Claudia Young, *History*



Alumni Spotlight:

SSS Director Reba Garth was one of the panelists for “College and Career Conversations.” This panel was held as part of the Tampa Bay Black Heritage festival. **Dr. Teresa Lewis** (event coordinator), **Phyllis Thompson Walters**, **Otis Coling**, and **Gia Roberts** are all former SSS students who attended the event. Also pictured are retired USF Student Ombudsman, **Dr. Samuel Wright Sr.**, and current Academic Advisor, **Urvick St. Jean**. **Mrs.** Garth’s talk offered advice for enhancing student success in high school and college. She also highlighted how USF has closed the achievement gap between Black, Latino, and White students.

Thanks for sharing your insights with the Tampa Bay community!



Kim Pusey graduated from USF in spring 2018 with a degree in Psychology and a minor in English: Creative Writing. After being accepted to multiple graduate schools, Kim chose to attend the University of South Alabama’s Combined Clinical and Counseling Psychology Ph.D. Program. The program is fully funded, and includes a generous stipend. Currently, Kim is involved in several projects, including: piloting the violence prevention program, Facing Forward; working with the police department to evaluate a jail diversion program, the Second Chance Or Else

(SCORE) program; and working on observational coding for a project aimed at understanding parents roles on children’s beliefs on externalizing behavior. Kim shares that she is “so grateful to SSS, as I was set up with the tools to be successful, not only in my undergrad, or graduate school, but also in life. Specifically, it was vital to have an SSS Counselor who was invested in my success. I cannot thank SSS enough! I would not be here today if it weren’t for all of you!”

We are so proud of your accomplishments, Kim!

Alumni Success Stories

Rowina Petion, the SSS Director at Palm Beach State College, is also an SSS alumna! She has earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Political Science from the University of South Florida and a Master of Science in College Student Affairs from Nova Southeastern University. She has over 10 years in TRiO serving in roles, such as Post-Secondary Advisor. She has a **passion to develop inner city youth** with education, empowerment, and engagement. She also serves as the Chair for the Florida TRiO Scholarship Committee and is an Alumna of the Emerging Leader Institute of Florida Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (FAEOPP).

Continue to inspire students, Rowina!

Deborah Graña graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, and began to teach in the K-12 system. After three years, Deborah knew she wanted to do more than stay within the walls of the classroom, so she decided to pursue a Master's degree in the College of Student Affairs here at USF. She says, "The **Student Support Services program truly empowered me as a student** and as a person from beginning to end by providing me with the resources and tools that I needed to enhance my student success at the University of South Florida." Currently, Deborah works in the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE) as a Graduate Assistant. Specifically, she oversees and advises the Bulls Service Break Board. She will graduate May 2019.

We are so proud of you, Deborah!

Maryah Sullivan is officially a USF alumna! Maryah earned a Bachelor of Science in Information Studies with a concentration in Information Science and Technology. A year before graduating, she began an internship with Tupperware Brands Corporation in the Information Technology department. Upon graduation, she was offered a full-time position, and she decided to remain at Tupperware to pursue a career in the field of IT.

We are so proud of all you have accomplished, Maryah!



Rowina Petion



Deborah Graña

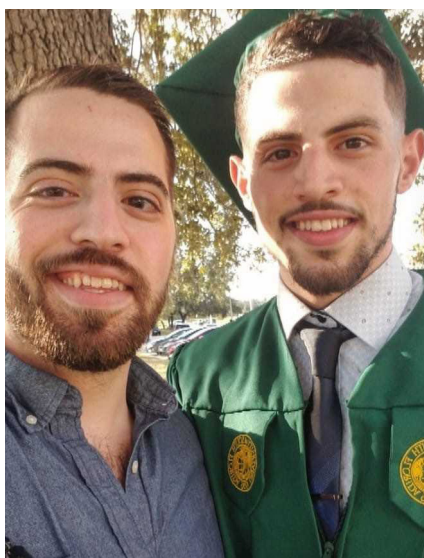


Maryah Sullivan

College Success Workshops

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

- Welcome Back: Getting Off to A Good Start by Getting Involved with Campus Life
 - Strategies for Success: Building Skills Through Coaching
 - Mental Health: The Importance of Self-Care in College
 - Learning Beyond the Classroom: Conquer the World
 - Healthy Relationships Part I: I Love Me, Even if You Don't
 - Campus Resources: Starting the Semester off Right
 - Healthy Relationships: Love Should Not Hurt
- Mental Health: The Importance of Stress Management in College
- Financial Literacy: Funding Your Education & Identity Theft Protection
- Graduate School: What You Need to Do NOW for Your Admissions LATER



*Matthew and Joseph Ogla,
USF and SSS Alumni*



*Erica Exalien,
SSS Peer Coach*

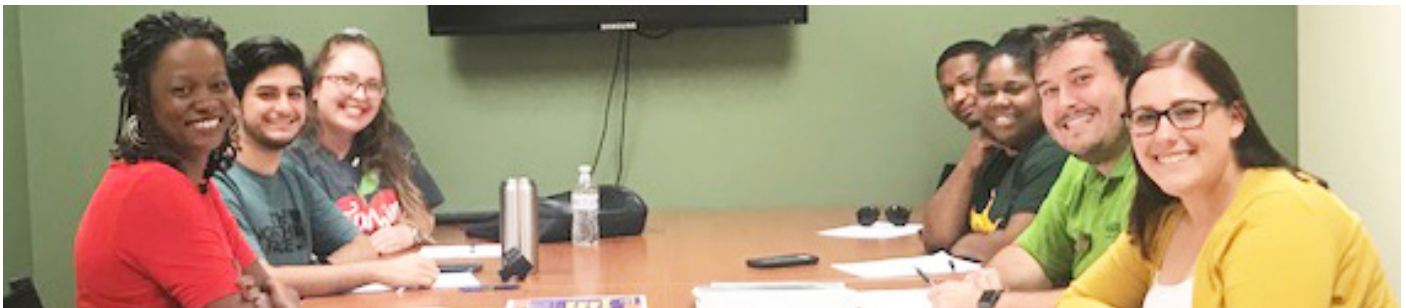


*Catherine Kelly, President of Alpha
Omicron Pi Sorority*

Meet the Student Support Services Staff

- **Reba Garth**, Director
- **Dr. LaTosha Thomas**, Assistant Director
- **Roshanda Pinson**, Counselor/Advisor
- **Brian Williams**, Counselor/Advisor
- **Eirleene Bristow**, Administrative Specialist
- **Stephy Opatola**, Graduate Assistant
- **Ashley Giron**, Summer Program Coordinator
- **Nicholas Irby**, Office Assistant
- **Brandon Marshall**, Office Assistant
- **Shamease Cooper**, Peer Coach
- **Jonae Fludd**, Peer Coach
- **Max Joseph**, Peer Coach
- **Bryson Thompson**, Peer Coach

Professional Development and Service



In April, **Reba Garth** and **LaTosha Thomas** attended the Council for Opportunity in Education's (COE) **Grant Proposal Writing Workshop** in San Diego, CA. The Forum, led by seasoned Directors and COE staff, focused on enhancing program design by learning about different strategies and emphasizing how to incorporate required services. Participants weighed the strengths and limitations of various program approaches with colleagues from across the country.

LaTosha Thomas served on the planning committee for **The National Student Success Conference (NSSC)**, led by Dr. Paul Dosai, Vice President of Student Success. Dr. Thomas also served on the USF committee for **Student Loan Debt Reduction**, led by Dr. Robert Bishop, Dean of the College of Engineering.

Roshanda Pinson attended the **Council for Opportunity in Education (COE)** professional development training on Legislation and Regulations in Kansas City, MO in April. The training is designed to assist TRIO personnel in learning the legislation and regulations that guide their programs. COE discussed the Legislation, specific TRIO regulations, and the Education Department Guidelines (EDGAR) OMB Uniform Cost Circulars. Reporting, evaluation, and budgeting were also discussed.

In April, **Brian Williams** attended the **TRIO Tri-State Conference in Atlanta, GA**. The theme of the conference was "The Winning BET: D.I.C.E." The conference emphasized the themes of Diversity, Innovation, Creativity, and Engagement. Mr. Williams was also selected to participate in the Emerging Leaders Institute, where he received training on leadership within TRIO programs.

In the photo above, the **SSS LLC Advisory Board** met regularly to help manage the LLC and plan student activities. The Advisory Board includes staff from SSS, Housing & Residential Education, and the LLC RAs.

Thank you to the USF departments who contribute to the success of SSS students in various ways!

- Academic Success Center
- Advancement Via Individual Determination
- Black Faculty & Staff Association
- Bull2Bull
- Campus Recreation
- Career Services
- Center for Leadership & Civic Engagement
- Center for Student Involvement
- Center for Student Well-Being
- Center for Victim Advocacy
- College Assistance Migrant Program
- College Reach Out Program
- Corporate Mentor Program, USF Muma College of Business
- Financial Education & Outreach Program
- Housing & Residential Education
- New Student Connections
- Office of Academic Advocacy
- Office of Admissions
- Office of Community Engagements and Partnerships
- Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity
- Office of Graduate Studies
- Office of Multicultural Affairs
- Office of Orientation
- Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities
- Office of Undergraduate Research
- Student Health Services
- Students with Disabilities Services
- Take Stock in Children
- The Students of Concern Assistance Team
- University Scholarships & Financial Aid Services
- Upward Bound Program
- USF Athletics
- USF Counseling Center
- USF Dining Services



**Student Support Services
Office of Undergraduate Studies**

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