

.1, .1 2023

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UNIVERSITY OF

**SOUTH FLORIDA**

College of Art & Design



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Dr. Alon Friedman was awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, serving as Principal Investigator for the study "Using Behavioral Nudges in Peer Review to Improve Critical Analysis in STEM Courses." This project aims to serve the national interest by increasing the quality of peer reviews given by students. Peer reviews, in which students have the opportunity to analyze and evaluate projects made by their classroom peers, are a widely acknowledged pedagogical method for engaging students and have become a standard practice in undergraduate education. Peer reviews are most often used in classes with large number of students to provide timely feedback on student assignments. However, peer review has benefits far beyond scalability. Peer review gathers diverse feedback, raises students' comfort level with having their work evaluated in a professional setting, and most importantly, the action of giving a peer review is often more valuable than receiving a peer review. The software platforms in current use that support peer review have seen limited innovation in recent decades, and potential improvements to enhance student outcomes have not been thoroughly evaluated. This project plans to develop and study an innovative peer review system that uses behavioral nudges, a method of subtly reinforcing positive habits, to improve the evaluation skills of students and the quality of the feedback they provide in peer reviews. This project proposes to 1) create a software system supporting peer review that includes behavioral nudges for guiding the peer review process to hone students' evaluation and critical analysis skills and 2) study how the use of behavioral nudges improves student engagement.



Associate Professor  
USF School of Information

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Welcome to the USF School of Information's NEW newsletter. We have an amazing crew dedicated to keeping you up-to-date on

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Dr. "Scuba" Steve Gary, Associate Professor of Instruction, attended DEFCON 30, the largest hacking and security conference with presentations, workshops, contests, villages, and the premier Capture the Flag Contest. Dr. Gary attends every year to keep abreast of the latest innovations in the hacker community. The conference was hosted August 11-14, 2022, at Caesars Forum in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Dr. Vanessa Reyes, Assistant Professor of Instruction, was appointed to Editor-in-Chief of the official journal of the Florida Library Association (FLA). Dr. Reyes hopes to document the important work that information professionals are doing through the journal. She comes to the position with experience in archives, legislative, university, and public libraries.



The USF SI sponsored four students to attend the 4th National Joint Council of Librarians of Color (JCLC) Conference held in St. Pete Beach, Florida. Aparna Ghosh, Kyairla Davis, Emily Hannum, and Sara Hack were students selected to attend the 2022 JCLC Conference rescheduled to February 8-12, 2023.





*Joined the USF iSchool in August 2022 as an Assistant Professor*



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## Taiwo Ajani, D.Sc.

*Joined the USF iSchool in August 2022 as an Assistant Professor of Instruction with a focus on IT domains including database theory, data analytics, health informatics, networking, and cybersecurity.*



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## Can you tell us a little about yourself?

M a ei Chale A ia h Nich la , a d a h ' a ei C.A. Nich la . la a A ia -A e ica elle i ha l ic l al he i age, e la al a i a e ab e e ie ci g he ' ie , he he he a e ld h gh b k , ie , ele i i e ie , e c. The 7 li cal 7 7 al ha la a i a e ab a ea U ie al Ba ic l c e (UBI) beca e feed f e i a h a igh (i h ld ha e beea ed), a d a ie al 7 blic heal hca e e , i ce e e ial heal hca e c e age h ld beli ed i di id al h ca aff di . A UBI a d ie al 7 blic heal hca e e h ld be 7 blic g d , a 7 blic lib a ie a e. l ha e a B.A. i C ica i S die ( hich i cl ded a d i 7 7 aga da) a d a M.S. i Leade hi 7.



## Can you talk about your recently published book and what inspired you to write it?

**Odes of the Phoenix** a lige e ai ala d 7 e ic aga f h ie , 7 e , le e , a d ci 7 ha c ld a d ge e ( hile bl ig ge eb da ie ). S ec ai ie - i hi - ie , hile eae ie b a h ha l ce a ed, a d all a e g ad all e ealed bec ec ed e le el.

M i 7 i a i f ce a ig he b k a a ea ig acc a el c ica e he ice, da ce, a d 7 h f l h gh alleg ie , a ella e a 7 h . l e ic l l i hed hi eed f 7 a i , e al ece i i cel ha e a INFP 7 e ali , a a e 7 e ali hich ea ha lc ica e diffe e l ha i di id al . l i diffic l f e c ica e ih ig e a 7 h , ab ac h gh , a d ie c e 7 la e. F he e , h e i he ga e kee 7 e eech a d he c 7 e f e 7 lie e j flee i gi a ca e he e e l 7 eaki -7 e .

M i a i lae e led i a 7 a i f e 7 l i ga iad fi di id al e 7 e ie ce ha a ife f c a de 7 e i , hich acc 7 a ied de ie 7 ide fie ce i 7 i a i h ga c a ig he h l lie i hi he e all afflic ed b i. The 7 ge i f i hi g 7 a hi fl i hed i a ed le f ellig, al g ide ih al e 7 e e he a a f he h a e 7 h icall a a led (e e b 7 7 e h each f hf adi a 7 a ) i hi age g a 7 hical c 7 e hich a ge f 7 e alagge i a ihila i h gh a fa e. Fi all , a d 7 e ha 7 i 7 a l , he e face e c 7 a ed a de ie 7 i i all h a ie a de 7 a hicall gl if 7 e 7 le h a e e icall deh a ied.

## Do you currently have plans or are you currently working on a new book?

I ha e a idea, b 7 hil 7 h i l ce a iel ie he l ha e a e hel igh ge f dig .

## What is your schedule like when you're writing?

I d ' ha e a fficial i ig ched le, h gh led i e i he la e a fe a d la e i he igh .

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I ead **The Poppy War** R. F. K a gab a h ag . l ' a 7 he e al hi ical fa a h e he e icl de he h f a f all ide , e hical g a a ea , he i 7 lifica i f a ced hi ie , a ella c e e e , a d deh a i a i i 7 7 aga da.

### What advice would you have for anyone who is looking to write a book?

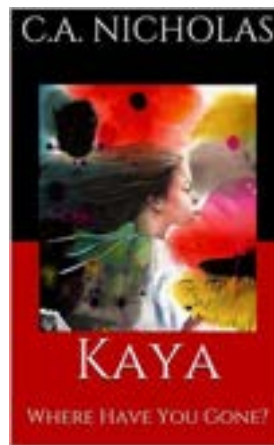
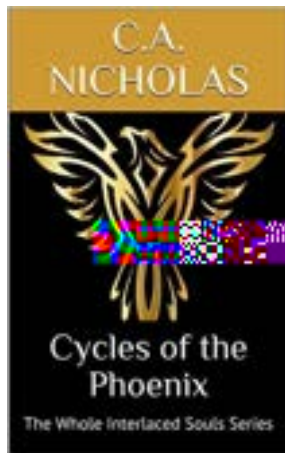
Check the ebie Reed .The ha e ea able 7 ice f elf-7 bli hed a h e ice .Th gh hi i e, l hi ed Will T le 7 fe i all edi b k. l e d be b e i e he l ce a i el i e, he f ll i g ad ice i f elf a ell: c i a bala ce be ee i i g, he k e 7 ibili e , 7 e di g i e i h he 7 e 7 le, a d ge e al lei e ac i i e .

### How did you get interested in library and information science?

I did c ide bec i galib a ia ill ka MBTI 7 e ali a d ca ee 7 lace e e i M.S. i Leade hi, 7 ga .Whe he e l e ealed ha bei galib a ia l d be a ge a fi f e, l d eed h l did eali e hi e. l a a i e h l e elli g. l a 7 a i a e ab bei ga e be fa e lie a ec i , l e j eg l al lea i g ab a a i e f 7 ic, a d l ha ef bei gi led i h c i -led ga i a i ( cha i e i h Fl ida A la ic U i e i ' A ia S de U i i de g ad a e ea ).

### What do you hope to do with your MLIS once you graduate?

M g ali be a 7 blic lib a ia ( h gh l a 7 e bei ga he 7 e f lib a ia ). l de i e be a e be f alib a ia ea ha ake e ha c i e be a e i led i h l callib a i , hich e ice a d g d ( be d b k ) e ca 7 ide, a d e e hel, ga i e lib a ela ed c i i 7 .



# DEN AR ICLE



