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SOUTH FLORIDA
MAGAZINE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the
USF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
SUMMER 2020

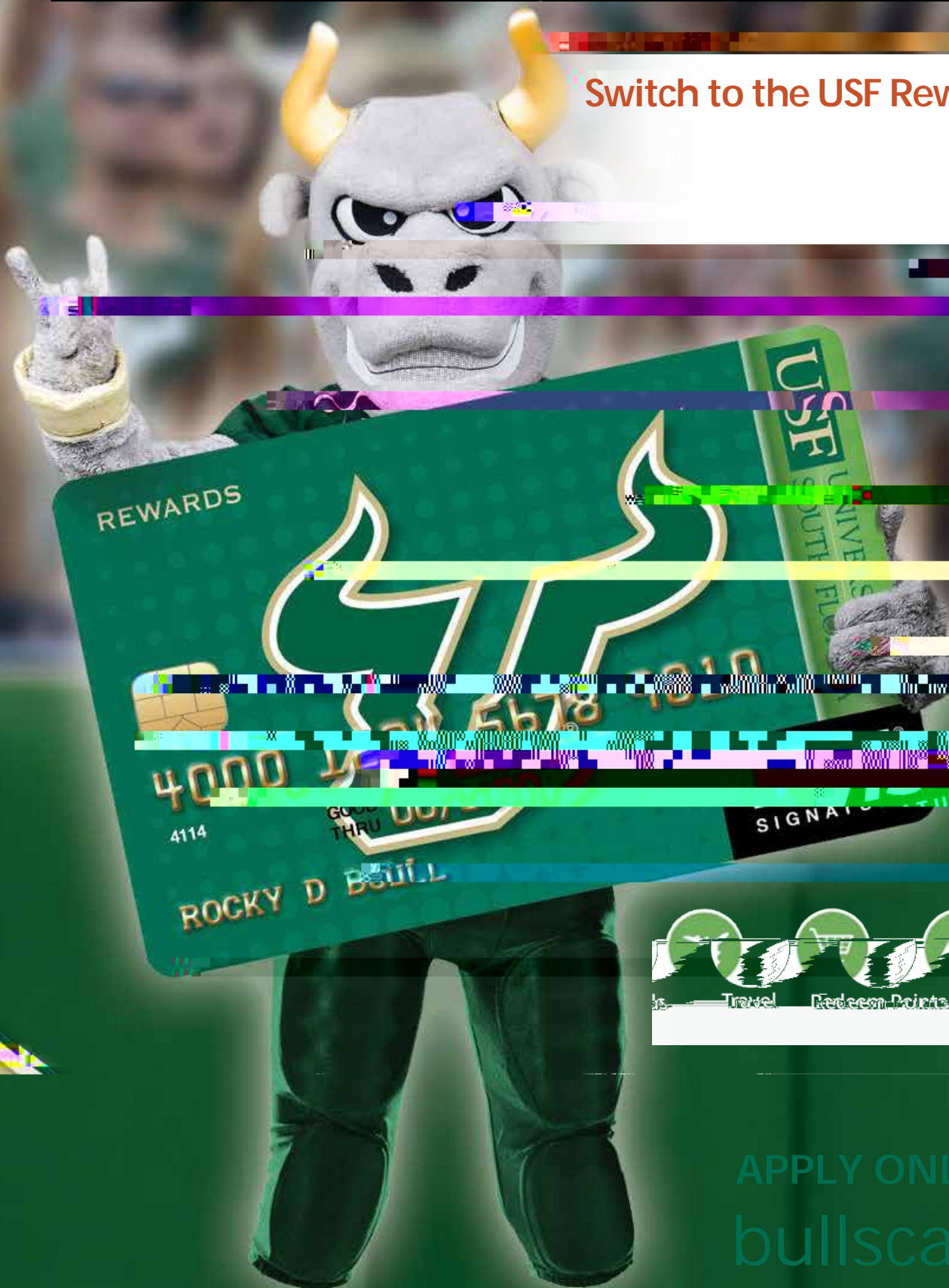
USF responds: COVID-19

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COVER FEATURE

The following stories detail just a few of USF's many responses to the pandemic.

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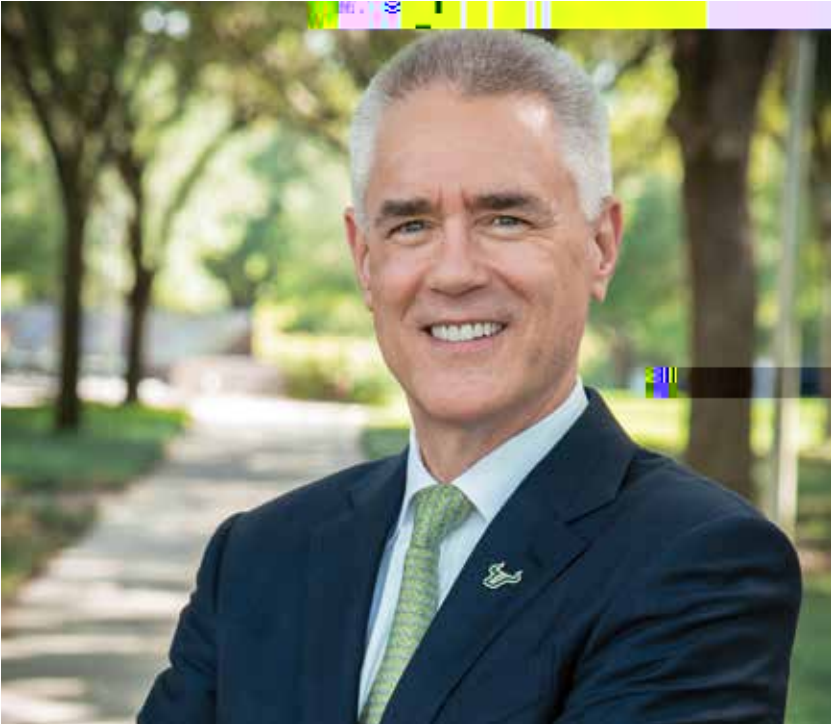
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From the President

Dear alumni, friends and supporters of USF:

I HOPE YOU AND YOUR families are well.
As has been true throughout the Tampa Bay region and the nation, “normal” took on unexpected new mean-





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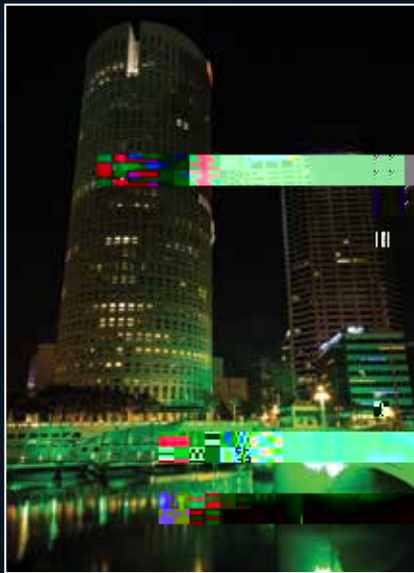
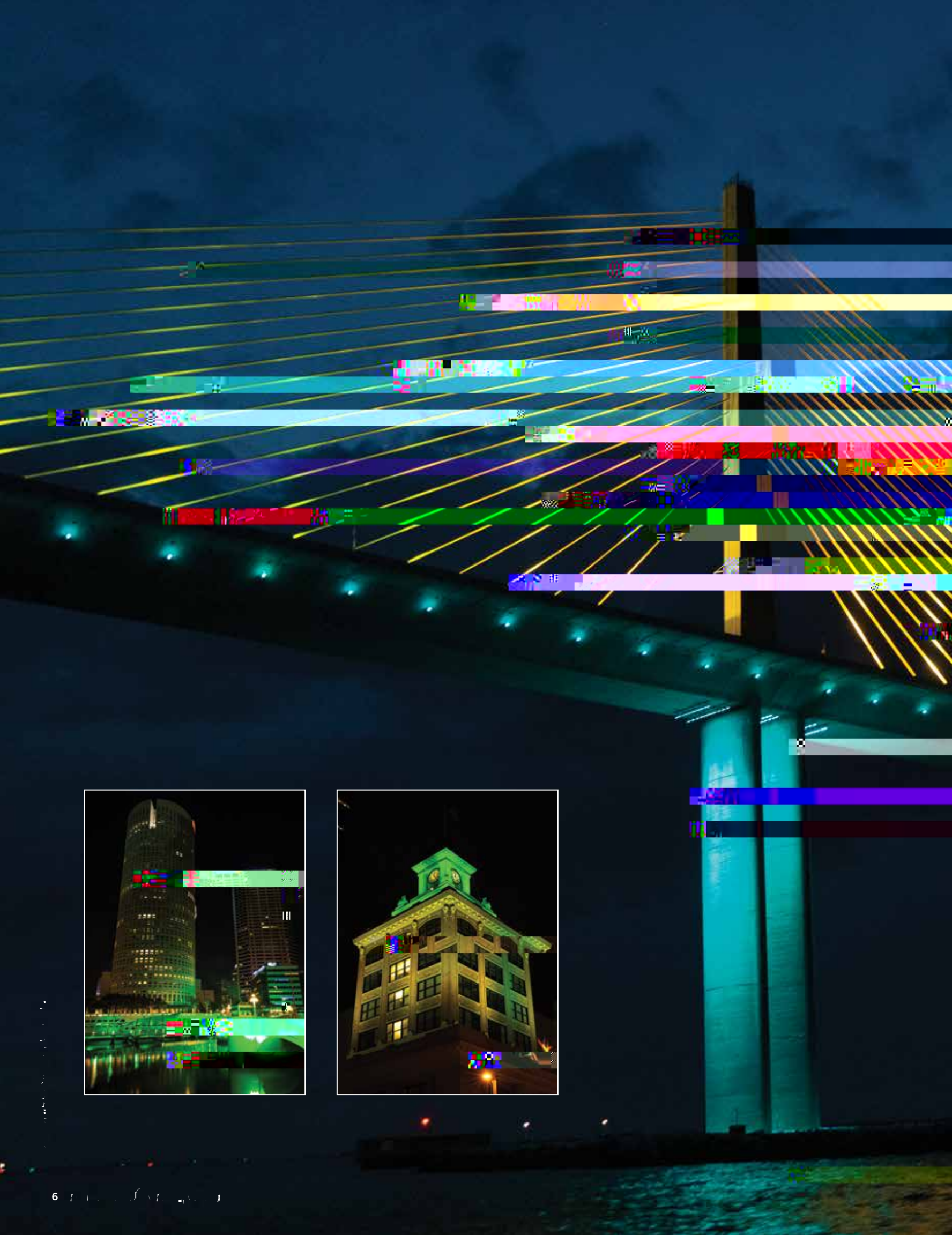
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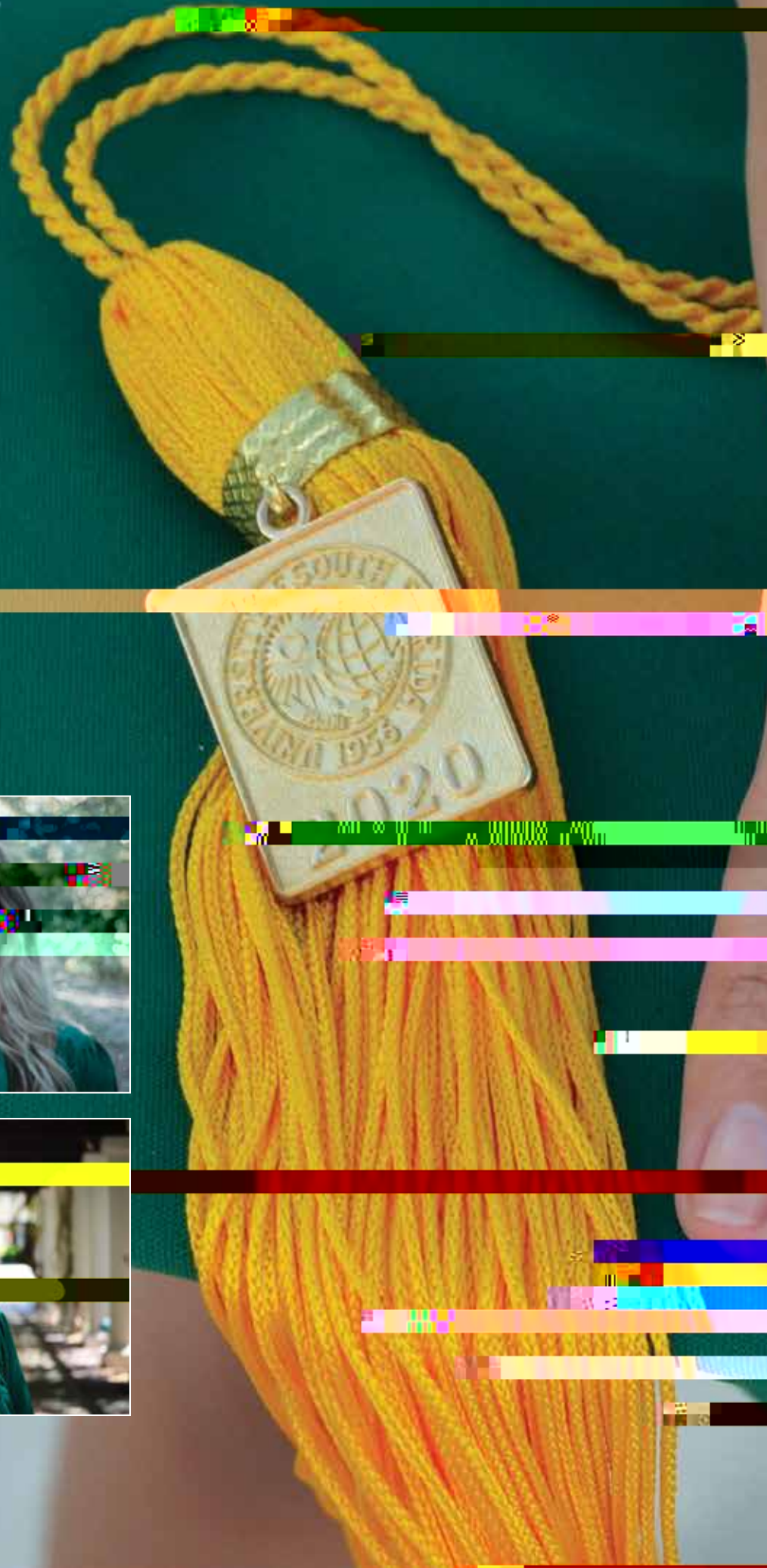
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First Look



Ring in the PRIDE

RECEIVING AN OFFICIAL USF CLASS RING is a rite of passage for USF students. They're not eligible for one simply by enrolling at USF, or even completing their freshman year.

"Only students who've successfully completed at least 75 hours of course work – 62 percent of their journey to a bachelor's degree – can order one," says Alumni Association Executive Director Bill McCausland, MBA '96, Life Member.

"We recognize this point in their journey because getting there is a major achievement, and one that should make them and their families proud."

Hundreds of students had signed up to receive their rings at the association's Spring Class Ring Ceremony but – like other prized USF traditions – the event was canceled in deference to the global coronavirus pandemic. Instead, their rings arrived in the mail with a special note and gift from the Alumni Association.

Despite the change in plans, the resilient members of the Classes of 2020 and 2021 focused on their prize – a striking symbol of their accomplishments and lifelong connection to USF. Many captured their pride in photos, including, at left, Hannah Driscoll and Ekaterina Koptenko, and below, Alliyah Edwards.

USF alumni are also eligible to order class rings and participate in the association's Class Ring Ceremonies. The next will be in the fall; visit www.usfalumni.org/classring for updates.

- PENNY CARNATHAN, '82, Life Member | USFAA



University



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Scientists conduct first census of viruses and bacteria living in Florida springs

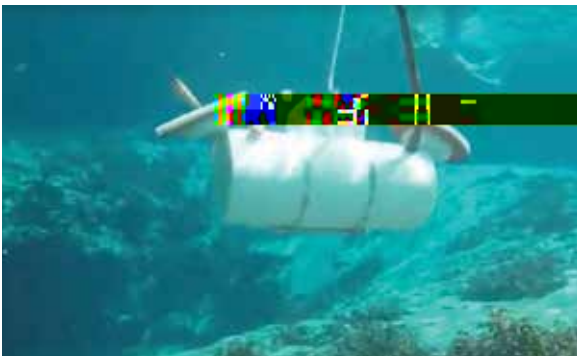
LIKE OXYGEN, YOUR BRAIN STEM AND LOVE (for the romantics out there), the Floridan Aquifer falls into the category of things we can't see but also cannot live without.

One of the largest and most productive aquifers in the nation, it provides drinking water for 10 million people in Florida, Georgia and Alabama. It also feeds hundreds of crystal-clear springs, several that are home for beloved manatees in Florida's chilly months and provide endless recreational fun for humans year-round – adding plenty of zeros behind the state's revenue budget. It's also no surprise to informed Floridians that this precious ecosystem sitting at least 1,000 feet beneath their flip-flops faces a slew of threats, from sea level rise to nutrient pollution from agriculture, urban development and more. The degradation in the health of the aquifer is no stranger to the headlines.

It is surprising, however, that a study reported in the science journal *mBio* is the first to characterize the viruses and prokaryotes (bacteria and archaea) that live in the Floridan Aquifer. By comparison, scientists know volumes more about viruses and bacteria that live in the ocean.

"It really shocked us that this hasn't been done before," says Mya Breitbart, senior study author and professor in USF's College of Marine Science.

The team, whose field and lab work was led by doctoral student Kema Malki, used an inflatable raft to retrieve samples in (e)7.7 (e)3bs (e)4.4 7.3 (S(S(S(S(S(S(S(S(S(26.5 (



“The concentrations of phosphate and nitrate we found in certain springs were very high compared to the

In total they sequenced nearly 60 novel viral genomes, including both single- and double-stranded DNA viruses (ssDNA and dsDNA viruses) that infect bacteria and eukaryotes.

Drilling down into the results held many surprises.

“Our original hypothesis going in was that the communities living in each spring would look similar because the springs are fed by the same aquifer,” Malki says, “but they don’t look similar at all.”

The unique community signature characterizing each spring suggests that groundwater microbial communities are influenced by land usage around the spring sites, Malki says.

Another surprise was the fact that Ichetucknee Spring was dominated by single-stranded DNA viruses whereas most aquatic ecosystems are dominated by larger, double-stranded DNA viruses.

“We know so little about these single-stranded DNA viruses,” Breitbart says, “and we have a lot more to learn about the roles they play in aquatic ecosystems.” The team used a relatively new technique to prep the DNA samples that allowed them to amplify both ssDNA and dsDNA viruses whereas previous methods only detected the dsDNA viruses.

That wasn’t all.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience receives \$50,000 grant

USF ST. PETERSBURG was one of just five universities in the southeastern U.S. to be awarded an AT&T Climate Resiliency Community Challenge grant. The university's Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (iCAR) is receiving \$50,000 for a project that will leverage citizen engagement and crowd-sourced data to identify climate vulnerabilities in local communities.

The Community Resiliency Information System (CRIS) is designed to "make smart cities smarter" by allowing residents from diverse communities to collect data and communicate directly with elected officials through their smartphones, says Barnali Dixon, executive director of iCAR and professor of geographic information systems and remote sensing.

"Our goal with CRIS is to gather information and intelligence from the people," Dixon says. "Residents know more about their own neighborhood than anyone else. Using CRIS, we can harvest that information to build a system that offers two-way communication between community members and policymakers. That way, policymakers are not just handing out policies – they're able to cultivate information and resources from the community they intend to benefit."

AT&T's Climate Resiliency Community Challenge was launched to address resilience in the face of extreme weather and climate change. The proposals were selected through an application process that included a review by a panel of climate and resilience experts from

such groups as the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions and World Wildlife Fund.

"Last year, we shared with the public the rich climate datasets that we're using in our own risk analysis so that others can assess their vulnerability," says Andrea Brands, director of corporate social responsibility at AT&T. "We're now making funding available to the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and four other universities so they can launch innovative research on climate impacts and community responses. The universities will work with local governments to conduct climate risk analysis and help boost community resilience.

"The Community Resiliency Information System is unique in that it features community-driven data, with a strong emphasis on equity so that a range of socioeconomic levels are included," she adds. "This is at the heart of what we are hoping to accomplish, helping prepare communities for future changes and address a variety of needs."

For Dixon, the Climate Resiliency Community Challenge fits neatly into her mission at iCAR, which seeks to foster resilience for coastal communities.

"CRIS will create an information system that can be used outside St. Petersburg, promoting resilience in other communities as well," she says.

Grateful for having been selected for AT&T's Climate Resiliency Community Challenge, Dixon looks forward to continuing her mission of creating resiliency solutions that have real-world impacts.

"This is not just an academic exercise," she says. "We can do something here that's going to help everybody."

"e1.

I knew this was my chance to restart a whole different chapter in my

UNIVERSITY NEWS

USF photography workshop giving valuable exposure to local veteran

WHEN MICHAEL CONGDON MEDICALLY RETIRED from the U.S. Army, a future in photography was not something he had in mind. But, thanks to an out-of-the-box suggestion from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and support from USF staff and faculty, the former soldier found a passion for the art form and is already earning national exposure for his work.

Congdon joined the military in 1998, serving in field artillery and recruiting before injuries to his legs and back forced him to retire. After 15 years as a soldier, he planned to pursue business and marketing, first at Hillsborough Community College (HCC), then at USF. But something was missing. He says a chance conversation with a VA vocational rehab counselor first introduced the idea of photography to him – and after taking his first class, he was hooked.

“I knew I had the background to work in business and marketing in my civilian life, but it really wasn’t something that I wanted to do, and

Engineers) Journal. Withers claims his work with Merkle has led him to consider interdisciplinary research in the fields of physics and biochemistry and was influential in his pursuit of undergraduate research at USF.

In addition to this research, Withers also) Mt USF Vder vkimchai ()TJ Fothers, were

HONORS AND AWARDS

Jack Edwards, Zach Withers named Goldwater Scholars

TWO JUDY GENSHAFT HONORS College students, Jack Edwards and Zach Withers, were named 2020 Goldwater Scholars, chosen out of nearly 1,300 students nationally who were nominated through a highly selective process. The scholarship is the most prestigious undergraduate award in the country for science research and provides \$7,500 for educational expenses and research support.

Edwards, a junior majoring in physics and minoring in mathematics, has been researching in associate professor David Basanta's lab at Moffitt Cancer Center for the past three years. There, he uses physics and computer science to model tumor growth in a way that includes space limitations and considers ecological effects. "If we can use ecology and mathematics to model how tumors evolve, it can lead to the development of more successful treatment strategies," says Edwards, who credits Basanta as his mentor. "He is a fantastic teacher and showed me how beautiful evolutionary theory can be."

Together with Basanta as the supervising primary investigator (PI), and colleague Andriy Marusyk as second author, Edwards has submitted his work to I-Cell for publication, and it is currently in pre-print for a special edition.

Also a junior and physics major (with a mathematics minor), Withers has worked for the past three years in the labs of Dmitri Voronine, assistant professor of physics and medical engineering, and chemistry Professor David Merkle. Withers' work with Voronine has focused on the energy transfers and quantum effects in nano-cavities. "Our investigations can lead to the engineering of advanced new technology and devices," Withers says. "The energy transfer, and our ability to control its intensity, has implications for the improvement of semi-conductors and transistor-like devices."

Withers and Voronine (as PI) have had their work published in the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics

Athletics



Bulls stay #USF during spring at home



JUST ONE PRACTICE INTO HIS FIRST SEASON as a head coach, the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically altered Jeff Scott and the USF football team's plans, but Scott quickly refocused the Bulls and plugged into the mission of "Taking a Challenge to a Championship."

With in-person interaction out of play for most

of the spring, USF utilized technology and a strategic plan well in continuing the effort of building a culture of excellence and remaining "United from Start to Finish."

Microsoft Teams and Zoom were valuable avenues Scott and the team utilized to remain connected and carry on with important program tasks during social distancing.

"Really, my message to our players is everybody around the country is facing the same challenge that we have – being at home and not being able to have practice, and meetings, and all those things," Scott says. "But the way we respond to this challenge, the way that we attack it every day, the consistency that we have, the attitude that we bring could be a competitive advantage for us during this time."

Scott learned a lot about his players' dedication during meetings that took place numerous times each week through the spring. Depending on the day, Bulls gathered online as a team, by position groups, or with coordinators to keep making progress in the new offense, defense and special teams playbooks.

"I've been really pleased with the way our guys have engaged, the

way they've responded and been involved with our meetings," Scott says. "I feel like our coaches have done a great job of really holding our guys to a schedule each day, whenever we have been allowed to have those meetings."

Strengthening a sense of community in the Bay area and beyond also remained essential business.

Scott's home webcam was operating often as he interacted with nine different constituent groups, including fellow USF coaches and senior leadership. From late March to mid-May, he met with more than 300 donor/alumni participants on six video calls set up by the Bulls Club, the USF Alumni Association and USF Athletics' ticket department.

In April, Scott joined USF President Steven Currall, Life Member, and Vice President of Athletics Michael Kelly, Life Member, for the university's virtual town hall that saw about 3,500 participants sign in live from all across the Tampa Bay region.

Scott also checked in with a large USF football alumni group and was a special guest during a Vinik Sports & Entertainment Management MBA class. By then, Scott already had spoken with USF's Greek leadership on campus while members of his coaching staff attended more virtual meetings with Bulls Club members.

"It's just been in a different way than maybe we all envisioned, but the response has been really good," says Scott, who also spent an evening virtually with many corporate partners and sponsors.

Meanwhile, Scott helped keep the media buzz surrounding the program's new era constant. By mid-May, he had done more than 35 interviews with national and local media outlets.

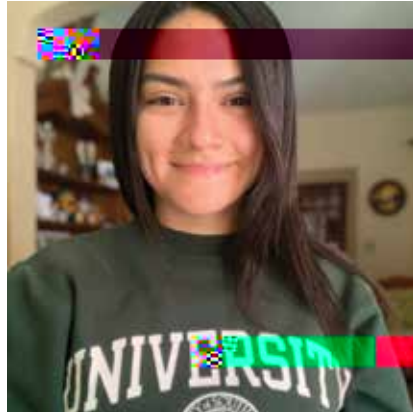
USF's 2020 season schedule – ranked as the second-strongest in the nation on ESPN.com by Phil Steele – remained a popular topic. Another was recruiting success, even from home, that's leading to potentially the Bulls' strongest class in recent years.

"I think the response that we've gotten from the high school coaches and from the recruits and their families has been very strong," Scott says. "I think they can feel the energy and excitement that surrounds our program right now and that there's a lot of really good things ahead of us as a program."

for students in need

By

Philanthropy





B TOM WOOLF

T HE SPRING SEMESTER

“As we seek to provide educational access to students outside the classroom, as may become necessary, we are developing instructional resources, support and technological alternatives to face-to-face course delivery, utilizing our learning management tool, ‘Canvas,’” he wrote.

Behind the scenes, Innovative Education and Information Technology mobilized to transition more than 5,200 courses to remote instruction following spring break in

Lessons LEARNED

B SARAH WORTH '86

THE SEVERE ADULT RESPIRATORY SYNDROME coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2), the agent that causes COVID-19, is a novel and deadly strain of a relatively common benign class of viruses. In fact, coronaviruses cause a quarter of common colds. Just a few months ago this new virus was unknown. Now, the world's most brilliant medical minds are focused on every detail, and knowledge about COVID-19 is expanding exponentially on how to diagnose, to treat and to prevent this pandemic.

It's a valiant effort and an incredible example of the power of academic medicine and its unity on a global scale. But it's still early. We are still in the midst of this pandemic.

Leading experts at USF Health offer perspective on the past few months, what they've experienced and what they've discovered about society, our institutions and themselves.

While most hindsight concerning existential events has the vantage point of years of reflection, we have only months. Still, reflections are important. So, what are the lessons learned thus far? What valuable experiences will be remembered and which will prove useful in this and further epidemics?

BE RESOURCEFUL, AND REACT EARLY AND QUICKLY. Those are some of the key lessons of the past six months learned by Dr. Charles J. Lockwood, senior vice president for USF Health and dean of the Morsani College of Medicine.

Resourcefulness has been displayed on many fronts, he says, but one of its earliest manifestations came when we realized that there was an acute national shortage of viral collection kits for COVID-19.

As cases began popping up in Florida and complete testing kits were not available, Lockwood turned to the resourcefulness of USF Health faculty to create nasal swabs and viral transport media that are included in the kits.

"We recognized almost immediately at USF Health that we must be able to test for this virus to track it and contain it," Lockwood says. "USF Health began producing its own transport media using a World Health Organization 'recipe.' And for the swabs, I approached Dr. Summer Decker, who directs our USF Health Morsani College of Medicine Department of Radiology 3D printing facility, and asked if she could develop a nasopharyngeal flocked swab prototype and mass produce it. And she did. Within a couple of days, she, the 3D printer company FormLabs and Northwell Health in New York were able to design, perfect and produce this really outstanding swab that had outstanding viral collecting capacity."

The result: Faculty ingenuity and resourcefulness led USF Health to manufacture more than 50,000 nasal swabs and 10,000 viral transport media specimens, and build and supply thousands of testing kits to local hospitals and for Hillsborough County. Moreover, the 3D flocked swab formula has been disseminated across the nation and globe.

Another example of resourcefulness was exemplified in resolving another testing bottleneck: Ensuring there were adequate assays for COVID-19 in the lab. An assay is a procedure for measuring



the biochemical or immunological activity of a sample. The plethora of different manufacturers making the COVID-19 assays, and the incredible demand for testing capacity, resulted in a critical shortage of the reagents necessary in the assay process.

“Working with our infectious disease faculty, the Esoteric Testing Lab team at Tampa General Hospital stood up six different platforms so they always had reagents to run assays from different manufacturers,” Lockwood says. “Initially it was 50 assays a week, now it’s close to 1,000, and they continue to ramp that up.”

Reacting early and quickly was another key lesson learned, he says, which played out on many fronts, including launching a mature telehealth platform, converting the entire USF Health educational program to remote learning, and standing up multiple clinical trials within several weeks.

Over a matter of days, USF Health shifted hundreds of in-person appointments into virtual telehealth appointments, an effort that helped patients stay connected with USF Health specialists for much-needed care.

“We literally stood up telehealth in a week and went from zero to 1,000 telehealth visits a day in just a few weeks, and had very high patient satisfaction,” Lockwood says.

By early May, USF Health had conducted more than 22,000 telehealth appointments.

For remote learning, medical students over just a few days connected to nearly every part of their curriculum.

“We completely ‘virtualized’ our curriculum for the medical school and other USF Health schools in one week,” Lockwood says. “We use Microsoft Teams for small-group learning, patient simulation, standardized patients, and lectures. You name it, it’s all online now. That is going to be a vast treasure trove of additional learning material even if we go back to small-group learning.”

And for clinical trials, USF Health was quick to start an array of clinical research, opening several dozen trials examining potential treatments for COVID-19, including participation in several national studies. The typical start-up timeframe for new clinical trials in an academic medical center is 90 days or more. USF Health has been able to start up COVID-19 trials in five days or less. Communication, collaboration and prioritization from many areas enabled the success, including budget and contract analysts, onsite legal counsel, USF Institutional Review Board (IRB), central IRBs, investigators, study teams and regulatory manager.

COVID-19 WILL UNDOUBTEDLY linger in our immediate future, Lockwood says.

In this “new normal,” from a scientific perspective, he says, a lot will depend on having novel medications that prevent death, developing an effective vaccine while avoiding a phenomenon called antibody-dependent enhancement, where giving the vaccine

makes you even sicker than if you get COVID-19.

From a public health perspective, this new normal will depend on us.

“For most of us, the ‘new normal’ will look very much like the main Tokyo train station did last time I was there about five years ago,” he says. “Most people wore masks then, and many wore gloves, and they don’t shake hands. It’s perhaps what we need to do. We have to get used to wearing face masks, we have to get used to washing our hands a lot and using hand sanitizers and washing and cleaning all public surfaces.”

This new normal may also depend on our behavior as a species, he says, noting that the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic reflects another manifestation of the impact of over-population and over-development and disruption of natural habitats. In the case of and disruFNDUUCM5 (mufci0 -1263 and]TJ-1.516 -1.263 TMaybeTJO ufc16 -, M then -1.263 eneech1.26nd disrears ago,



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a a . Although COVID-19 is far from over, I've met
and worked with a huge number of amazing people who

USF-designed 3D nasal swab is being used the world over to facilitate testing of patients

THE USF-DESIGNED 3D PRINTED NASAL SWAB that broke into national news in late March is now being used by several hundred hospitals and academic medical centers around the country, many state governments, including Ohio, Massachusetts and Virginia, and international agencies and health care facilities.

Widespread use of the nasal swab was one of many goals when it was announced March 28 that USF Health; Formlabs, a leading 3D printing company; Northwell Health, New York's largest health care provider; and Tampa General Hospital had successfully designed, tested and begun producing a 3D printed nasal swab to address emergency shortages that hospitals and health care teams were facing as testing for COVID-19 increased.

The worldwide interest in the swabs kicked in quickly after the announcement and hasn't let up since, says Dr. Summer Decker, MA '07, MS '08, PhD '10, associate professor in the Department of Radiology in the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine and director of 3D Clinical Applications.

"We are grateful that we were able to work as a team to get this solution out so quickly in order to hopefully help many people. The response has been overwhelming," Decker says. "It's been very rewarding to speak to

so many hospitals across the world to hear their experiences and see how we can help. This situation has stripped away many of the barriers between us so we can work together for the common goal of saving lives."

The nasal swab design came about when, after identifying in mid-March that nasal swabs for testing COVID-19 were in high demand and extremely limited in supply, a team from USF Health's 3D Clinical Applications Division created an initial design, working with Northwell Health and collaborating with Formlabs to develop prototypes and secure materials for a 3D printed alternative.

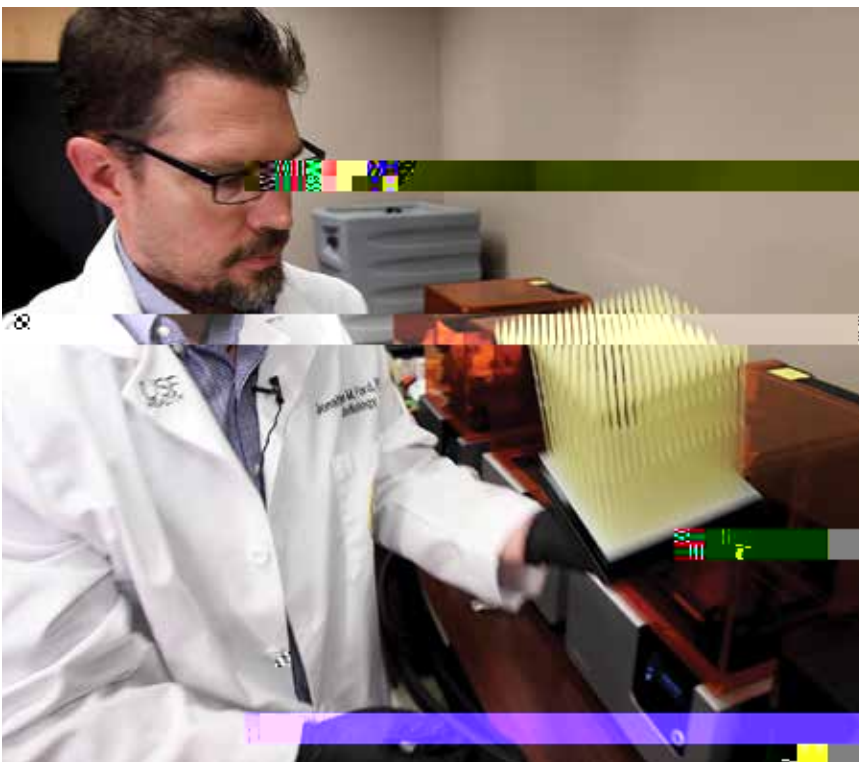
Over the span of one week, the teams worked together to develop a nasal swab prototype and test it in the USF Health and Northwell Health labs. In two days, USF Health and Northwell Health, using Formlabs' 3D printers and biocompatible, autoclavable resins, developed prototypes.

Key milestones in testing the swabs were conducted by USF Health faculty researchers in the departments of Radiology and Infectious Diseases in collaboration with Northwell Health, including validation testing (24-hour, three-day, and leeching), and rapid clinical testing at Northwell Health and Tampa General Hospital. All testing showed that the 3D printed nasal swabs perform equally to standard swabs used for testing for COVID-19.

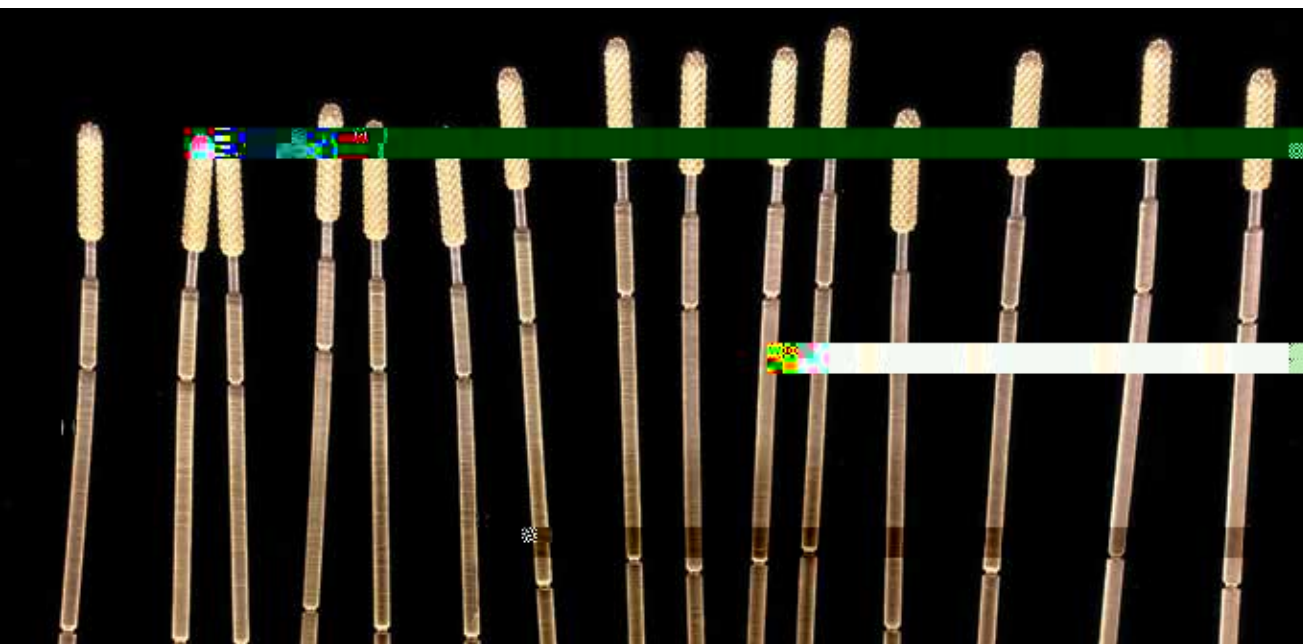
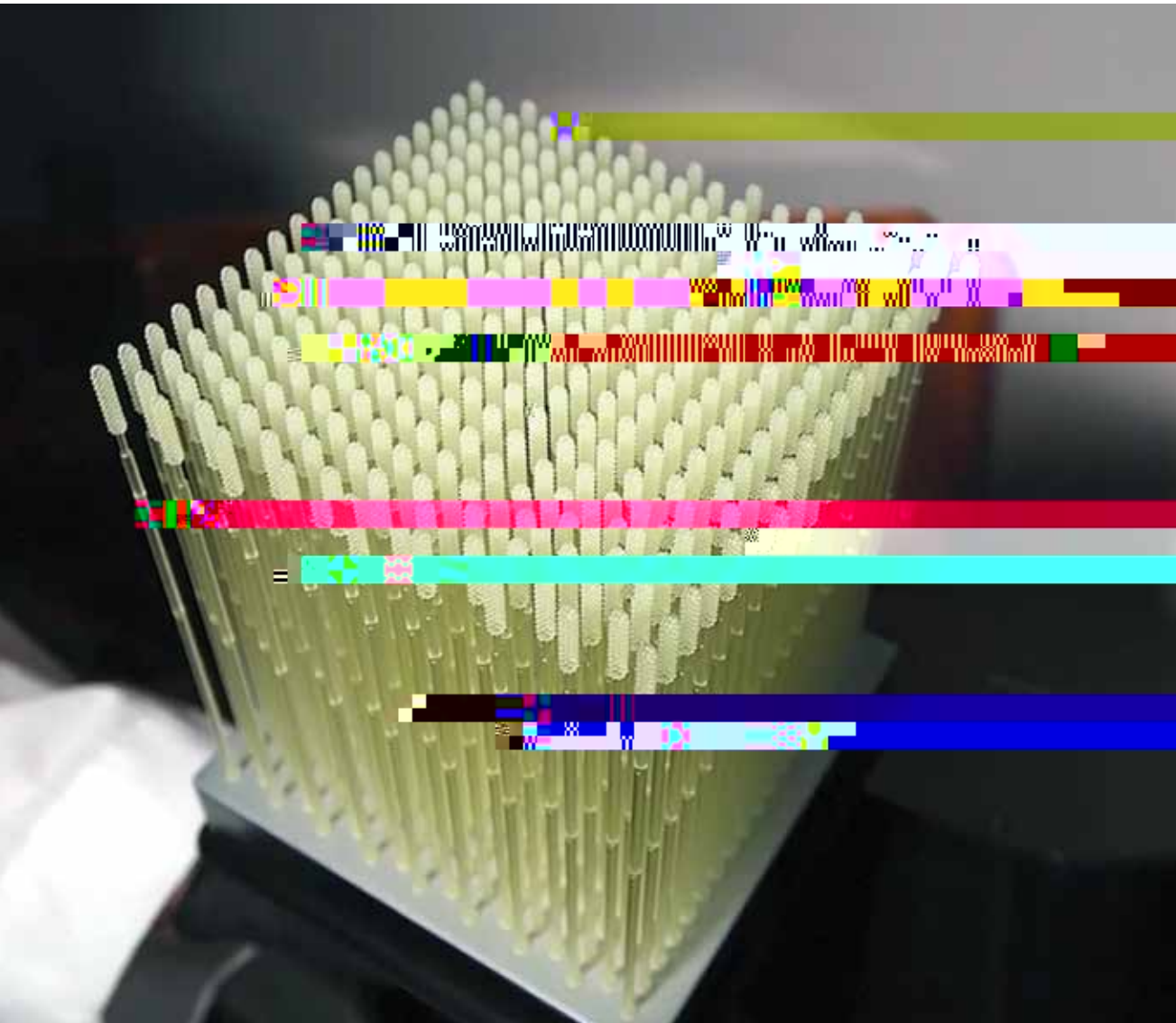
Once that clinical validation was complete, 3D printers at USF Health and Northwell Health began producing the swabs and providing them to their patients – USF Health has produced swabs for its patients and that of some of its affiliates, including Tampa General Hospital, Moffitt Cancer Center and the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital.

"To see the widespread adoption of USF Health's nasal swab test has been particularly gratifying, and I cannot speak highly enough about Dr. Summer Decker and her team for taking the initiative to meet this pressing need. Health care providers all across the nation are now better equipped to diagnose and prevent the spread of COVID-19," says Dr. Charles J. Lockwood, senior vice president for USF Health and dean of the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine.

In addition to Lockwood and Decker, faculty from across USF joined in the design and creation of the 3D printed nasal swabs, including: Jonathan Ford, MS '09, MS '10, PhD '13; Dr. Todd Hazelton, '87, MD '93; Gilberto Jaimes, '13, MS '14, Howard Kaplan, MEd '14; Dr. Kami Kim, Dr. John Sinnott, MA '74; Michael Teng and Dr. Jason Wilson, '00, MD '08.



- SARAH WORTH '86 | USF Health



Opposite page: Jonathan Ford, a biomedical engineer in the Morsani College of Medicine's Department of Radiology, holding nasal swabs.

Left: As of late May, 50,000 nasopharyngeal swabs had been produced for USF Health and its affiliates, including Tampa General, Moffitt Cancer Center and the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital.

MICHAEL CELESTIN DESCRIBES the USF College of Engineering's Mini-Circuits Design for X Laboratory as "a maker-space/hacker-space."

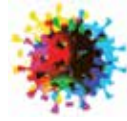
"It is a safe environment for students from all over USF to come, learn, collaborate and share projects and skills," says Celestin, '06, MChE '08, PhD '13, senior research engineer.

The lab's high-tech tools, particularly the laser cutters and 3D printers, attract engineering majors and students from other disciplines – in normal times. However, since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, Celestin and his team have turned the lab into a manufacturing space to assist frontline health care workers.

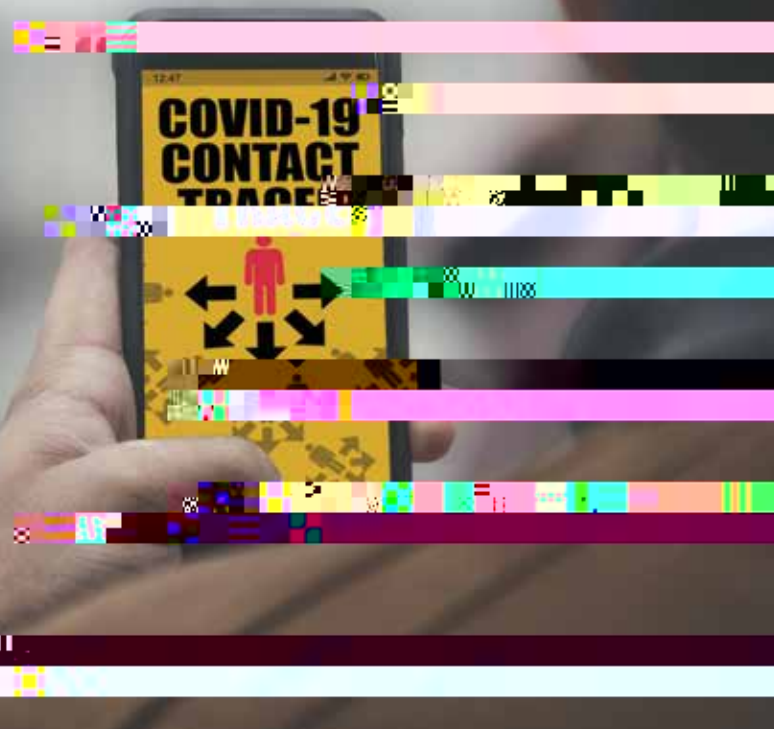
"There were many minds that independently and simultaneously began thinking about leveraging existing resources around the time that the pandemic started to become big news in the U.S.," Celestin explains. "At that point, it was no longer a piece of news from another country or something that was distant – it was here and something needed to be done."

Engineering Dean Robert Bishop reached out to Celestin to ask how they could assist USF Health and Tampa General Hospital, USF's teaching hospital, as COVID-19 cases began to surge.

"We worked closely with our local medical community



Rapid Response Grants program explores treatment, technologies from multiple angles



USF has invested nearly \$340,000 in a new Rap-

COVID-19, including whether ethnic differences in infection rates and cardiovascular complications are solely due to socioeconomic disparities, or if there are cellular-level or other medical explanations. Principal investigator: Dr. Thomas McDonald, Morsani College of Medicine, USF Health Heart Institute.

Cryptographic Research: Researchers are developing a new approach to contact-tracing via the Bluetooth-LE signal of smartphones that would advance contact tracing for communicable diseases. The first phase of the research would develop a secure system for critical organizations, allowing their members to report their condition and to isolate/test members who have been in contact with confirmed cases. A second phase of the project would allow for volunteer participants to report their condition and learn if they have been in close contact with confirmed cases without revealing their identity. Principal investigator: Jean-Francois Biasse, College of Arts & Sciences and director of the Center for Cryptographic Research.

Healthcare Research: This research will outline key considerations for sheltering and evacuation in the era of COVID-19. The potential risk of COVID-19 infections spreading among shelter residents and between shelter residents and staff increases with proximity. The researchers plan to address these complex concerns by conducting a gap analysis of current shelter plans and available resources that meet national guidelines and best practices. Principal investigator: Jennifer Marshall, College of Public Health.

A full list of the 14 interdisciplinary projects, selected from a field of more than 125 proposals submitted by USF researchers, is available online at USF Research News, at usf.edu/research-innovation.

USF Health leads
clinical trials,
seeking medication
treatment protocols,
treatments, cure



Public Health FACULTY work across the state to monitor, fight spread of disease

B DONNA CAMPISANO

IN MID-MARCH, College of Public Health Dean Donna Peterson sent an email to the college's faculty with the subject line "an unprecedented opportunity."

The email was sent just as USF and the country were bracing for the coming onslaught of COVID-19 cases. It asked faculty to work with the Florida Department of Health and emergency operations management in various counties and capacities across the state to monitor and fight the spread of the disease. This, in addition to teaching their online courses and continuing with their research.

All in all, roughly a dozen faculty members responded to the call, doing everything from contact tracing to compiling medical profiles on those who had died from the virus to procuring personal protective equipment (PPE) for hospitals and health-care centers.

What were their experiences like? What will they remember weeks, months and years from now? Five of the faculty members shared their stories.

Q a r e u (a)

Marie Bourgeois, '91, MPH '06 and PHD '10, assistant research professor, was deployed to hard-hit Miami-Dade County where she worked to put together medical history profiles on those who died from COVID-19, many of whom, she said, had COPD, diabetes and/or chronic kidney disease.

"We were sending people into nursing homes and assisted living facilities where patients had been identified as having the virus, instructing the staff on vulnerabilities they might have. In one home a nurse told us that (COVID) patients who were smokers would still insist on sneaking outside for cigarettes. They had the masks with them because the facility required them all to follow safety protocols, but they would scrunch them down under their chins to smoke. She was afraid they would catch on fire. But there is such a thing as free will. You're not necessarily going to convince an 85-year-old who has survived the Great Depression and World War II that you have a significant amount of control over him/her. She couldn't get them to see the risk of a virus that could kill them when they had already lived through such tumultuous times."

Q a r e u (a)

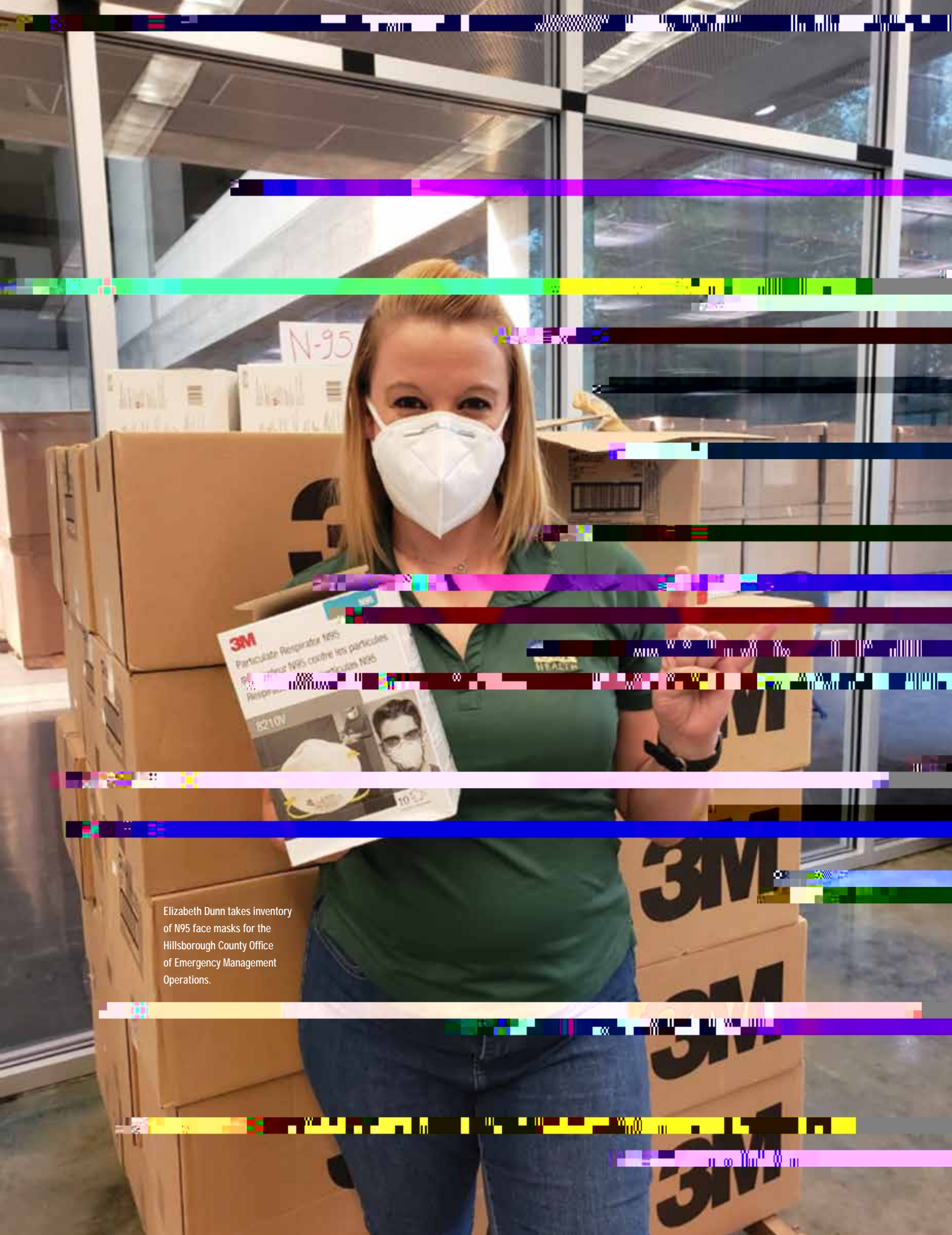
Elizabeth Dunn, '07, '08 and MPH '11, instructor, current doctoral candidate and recipient of the college's 2020 Excellence in Teaching Award, is working with the Hillsborough County Office of Emergency Management securing PPE for health care professionals. She's also placed 16 students in positions around Hillsborough County, assisting with COVID-19 support, logistics and coordination efforts.

"The lack of PPE available has been most unexpected – and a surprise to me personally. I believe planning prior to this large-scale event – on a national level – regarding supply chain disruptions should have been anticipated and taken into account. It would have helped us understand what sort of medical equipment, supplies or medications would be in short supply due to an interruption (in manufacturing or distribution). That being said, however, this whole experience has shown how progressive our county and the city of Tampa are in taking a whole-community approach to tackling these challenges regarding COVID-19 as they arise. Our emergency management officials are responding and coordinating along with health department experts and USF Health. Instead of each of us working in silos, we're working together. One good example: We're launching a research project to look at COVID-19 considerations as we prepare evacuation shelters for the upcoming hurricane season."

Q a r e u

Matawal Makut, MPH '12 and MBA '15, faculty instructor and medical doctor trained in Nigeria, was deployed to rural Madison County where he traced contacts of COVID-19 patients.

"Honestly, I am really excited at this opportunity to experience public health in action. We constantly teach our students about epidemiological concepts, but being able to personally apply such concepts in the middle of a pandemic has been a great experience so far. Yes, fear of the virus is real, and I have told myself the only way to stay safe is to observe the basic precautions of social distancing, washing my hands regularly and using hand sanitizer. I also wear an N95 mask since I am with the health department and they sometimes swab patients. We've signed up to do this job and it will be great to contribute my quota and flatten the curve while also staying safe."



Elizabeth Dunn takes inventory of N95 face masks for the Hillsborough County Office of Emergency Management Operations.

Q

Stephanie Marhefka, professor and assistant dean for research, worked remotely for Monroe County, tracing con-

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Ideally you want to anticipate and prevent these things. But when that doesn't happen, for whatever reason, you have to be able to respond. I'm incredibly proud of our alumni, students, faculty and staff all over the world working on the front lines. And if they're not on the front lines, they're trying to keep other public health efforts going in the wake of COVID-19, because [things like housing and food insecurity] don't stop because there's a pandemic. When the Florida Department of Health asked our faculty, students and staff to step up, they did. One hundred-fifty have been deployed, many doing contact tracing. And that's a valuable part of the toolkit. This is what we train people to do and it's marvelous to see them in action. It's exciting on one level, but we wish we weren't doing it. We would much prefer to capture this early and prevent the spread.

W a a b a ?

Making sure people have easy access to health care is tops on the list. I also hope we recognize the power of paid sick leave. When people have symptoms of any kind of illness, they need to not go to work and still get

paid, and they need to be able to get to a health-care provider. We still don't know how many people have not sought care for COVID-19. We're relying on people who feel sick or who may have been e:t stop relyinydef-lyinynd o.781sd thej0 Tco may h



Above: Chris Scott, center, co-owner of Belleair Market, poses with Tony Hernandez of RCS Food Bank, left, and Vince Eady, right, and Scott Boing of Sysco Foods, on the ground.

Right: Anddrikk Frazier has been helping small business owners weather the pandemic.



In January, Frazier had heard from a fellow Bull, an infectious diseases physician, about a “nasty” virus that had just showed up in the Seattle area. Frazier’s friend warned him repeatedly that it could spread like wildfire, so Frazier began modifying his business in late February.

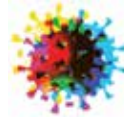
“Our company is still being hurt, but without the precautions, it could have been catastrophic,” he says.

“This is a different crisis than the (financial) crisis we experienced in 2008 and 2009. This is a bottom-up situation, a completely different kind of paralysis. People are already struggling and now they’re not working. However we can, we want to help with solutions.”

Integral Energy has partnered with an electric-cart company to facilitate delivery transportation for his small-restaurant clients. The restaurants can manage their deliveries without incurring delivery service fees.

His company is also connecting small businesses to communications networks, such as the Tampa Chamber of Commerce. And it gathered attorneys and accountants for a small-business seminar.

“When small businesses fail, it’s bad for all of us,” he says. “So we’re focusing on doing all we can to help these



because of decreased demand from restaurants, the Belleair Market bought pallets of the food, which it donated to the RCS Food Bank.

All told, the partners gave 2,150 pounds of food — enough to feed 17 families of four for a week.

“The Sysco truck delivered the food to us, then the RCS truck picked it up,” Scott says. “And that wasn’t the end of it. That RCS truck driver kept in touch with Sysco and got more food donations. So it was truckload after truckload of food that might have gone to waste and

Food pantries respond to growing demand

AS THEY DID THROUGHOUT THE SPRING SEMESTER, food pantries on USF's three campuses are continuing to help meet the needs of students.

All three pantries have experienced high demand, indicating how the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on many sectors of the economy has directly affected students, from lost jobs to reduced family support due to changing financial situations.

Here's a look at the three pantries:

Talk to a

Stacey Struhar, MPH '18, a registered dietitian with Student Health Services, says the Feed-A-Bull food pantry served nearly double the number of individuals who normally visit it during the spring semes

IN NORMAL TIMES, shoppers browse the aisles of the grocery store, pick what they want or need, toss it into the cart and move on their way. They never consider the process it takes to get that product onto the shelf. But since the COVID-19 outbreak and spread, greater importance and awareness have been



The demand shock origin and consequence
in broad terms:

- The Chinese Lunar New Year in January drove factory workers back to interior hometowns at the same time COVID-19 began to emerge, forcing residents to stay at home.
- Chinese factories closed and all downstream supply activity was halted or delayed.
- As supply was restored to Western countries, the virus arrived in the U.S. and "stay at home orders" followed.
- The demand for health-related products and grocery staples doubled and tripled due to the mass purchase and hoarding behavior.
- Restaurant/wholesale food surpluses increased even as retail demand created shortages.
- The virus migrated from urban concentrations to rural manufacturing communities affecting meat, poultry and dairy processing/packaging plants.
- At the same time, change management tactics were slow to implement relative to the shift from business/wholesale packaging to consumer packaging.

Q. What are the key points to consider?

A. Here are some key points to consider: (1) Crisis planning must include multi-tier supply chains to implement alternative ways to meet "demand shock" scenarios. As an example, alternative outlets, such as restaurants (versus grocery stores), are experiencing the opposite effect with an overabundance of supply and the need to deal with surplus. Many have quickly pivoted to the e-commerce channel as a method to stay in business and relieve overstock. (2) Product distribution channels must include planning models that consider temporary "demand shock" and include methods of procurement and distribution that are multi-tiered.



Even as we cope with today's challenges, your Alumni Association – like all of you – is planning for when we can be togeth-



My fellow Bulls,

Finally, USF feels *almo* normal again!

No, students haven't returned to campus. Neither have most staff, faculty and visitors. But this unnatural quiet is, at least, typical for June. Summers always mean fewer people and cars on campus, so pulling into a nearly empty Gibbons Alumni Center parking lot feels a lot more natural today than it did in April!

The solitude, I know, has been the least of worries for some of you. COVID-19 has been devastating on too many levels. But it has also revealed Bulls' remarkable strength of character and resourcefulness. I'm even more proud to call USF "my school" when I read about people like the USF College of Nursing grads who ran straight into the fire when they took their skills to New York City. And the many problem-solvers at the College of Engineering who so ingeniously and quickly developed ways to alleviate shortages of crucial medical supplies.

Those are just two of thousands of examples of USF faculty, staff, alumni and students who've stepped up during this pandemic. They demonstrate our ideals and values put to the test – and passing with flying colors. Need a smile? Read about the creative and generous ways some of our Bull business leaders have extended helping hands (page 37).

Your Alumni Association Board

The USF Alumni Association's board of directors includes Bulls who've demonstrated a firm commitment to USF's success and are association Life Members and Circle of Excellence donors. It also includes a USF presidential designee; a USF Board of Trustees representative; and two students – the student government vice president and the USF Tampa Ambassadors president. Non-voting, ex-officio directors are the senior vice president for USF Advancement, and the association's executive director.

The board sets policy and guides the direction of the association as it builds mutually beneficial relationships between USF and USF alumni.



T b a ... 30, 2020.

Clock i e f o m o l e f :
Chai : Ra N ... '79
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and MPA '06
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A B a J., '74 and MBA '82
J C ...
T D., '00
Ma F., '93
Ma b Ga., MA '95
Ra G., '69
Fa a H., '13 and MAcc '15

A J., '11
A K., '10 and MPA '12
Ka a S Ma a., '03
R b. Ma., MPH '92
B M., a., '97
D. Va R., '84 and MD '89
La S a., '10 and MA '14
C T., '97

B Va F., '73
T. a W a., MA '96
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FOREVER BULLS



“Dr. Puglisi’s impact on the College of Education is immeasurable,” says Dean Robert Knoeppel. “He has served as a faculty member and as an assistant dean but he’s best known for his leadership as chair and director of the Gus A. Stavros Center for Free Enterprise and Economic Education. Under Puglisi’s leadership, the Stavros Center at USF is recognized as the premier center for economic education in the state of Florida.”

The Stavros Center provides teacher training programs, curricula development and other strategies to ensure that free enterprise and consumer economics concepts reach students in today’s classrooms.

Considered the model free enterprise center for Florida, the Stavros Center hosts more than 100 workshops and programs each year, providing training for more than 2,500 teachers – more than the other four centers in the state combined.

When Puglisi took over as director in 1980 at what was then called the Center for Economic Education, he determined the best way to help teachers was to create partnerships within the community. He cold-called local business leaders like Frank Morsani – for whom USF’s Morsani College of Medicine is now named – and asked them to teach Tampa Bay area teachers about business and how the economic system works.

“It wasn’t a hard sell,” says Puglisi. “Mr. Morsani said, ‘Of course, I’ll do that for you.’ He thought it was so important, he brought the general managers from all five of his dealerships to hear the message he delivered to the teachers.”

By the end of the ‘80s, Puglisi had dozens of CEOs teaching at the center. That’s how he got to know Gus Stavros, a successful entrepreneur and ardent proponent for education, who believed so strongly in the center’s mission that he donated more than \$2 million to support it. The brick-and-glass building on the USF Tampa campus and endowed chair are now named in his honor.

Under Puglisi’s leadership, the 40-year-old Stavros Center has been recognized for excellence in economic education at the local, state and national levels. It has received numerous awards from the Florida Council on Economic Education for best programming in statewide competition. It has also received three national Leavey Excellence in Private Enterprise Awards.

But they had another surprise for him.

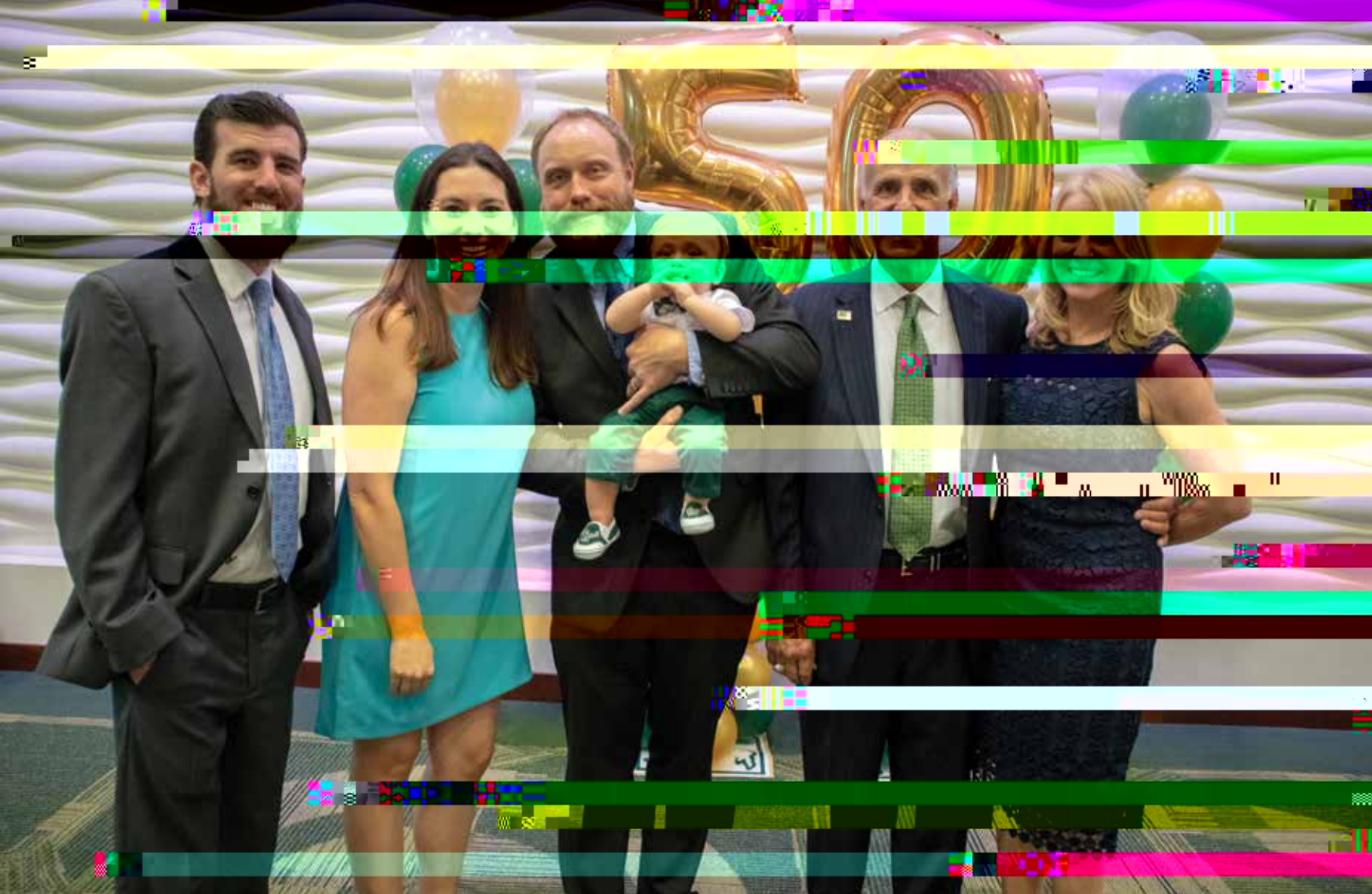
In recognition of his five decades of service, the group raised \$54,000 to endow the Dominic “Dick” and Janet Puglisi Endowed Stavros Center Fund, to support the center’s education, research and service mission.

To the man who dedicated his life to advancing the university and enriching O () DomimmBuhe Medici donand Janet tefricu



alking into the USF Gibbons Alumni Center last year, Puglisi was shocked to find 100 of his closest friends, family and colleagues gathered to honor him.

They traveled from all over the country, coming together on Sept. 12, 2019 to celebrate an extraordinary milestone for an exceptional man — Puglisi’s 50th year as an educator at USF.

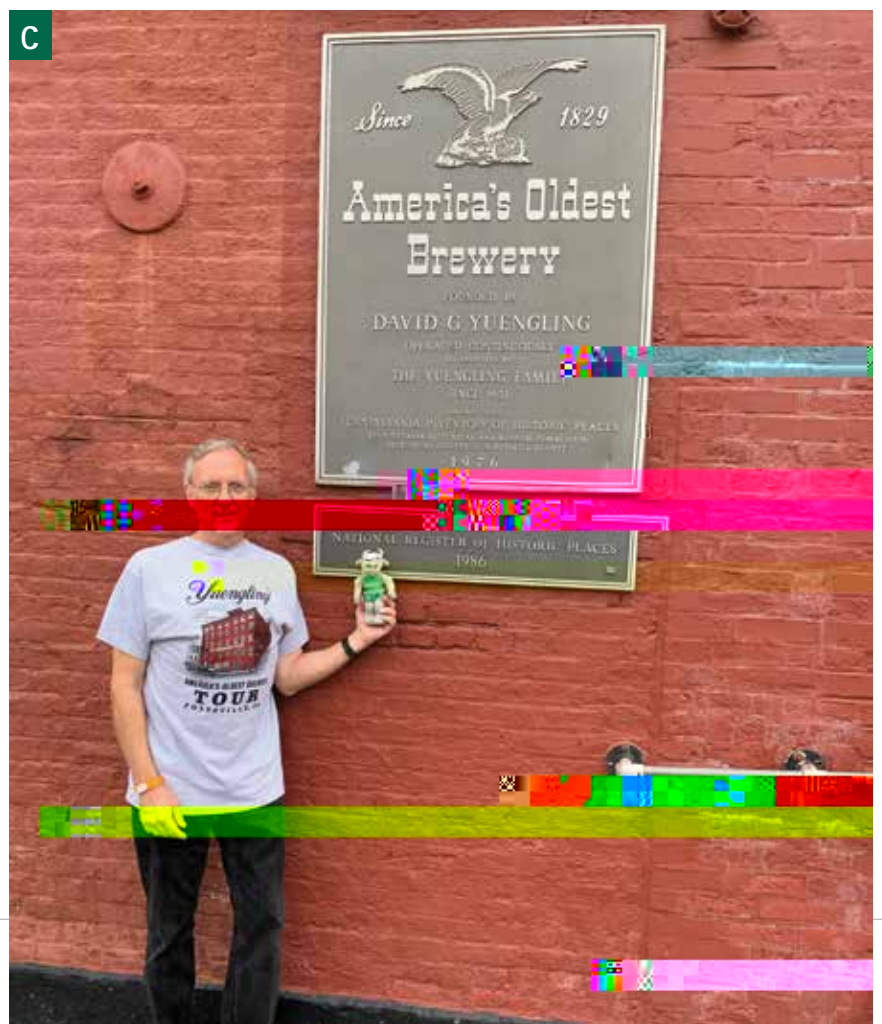


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College of Business "25 Under 25" honoree and formerly worked as an acquisitions analyst at Landeavor, a real estate development company in Tampa.

SHAUNA-KAY CAMPBELL, Management and Marketing '13, Life Member, has joined Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati as an assistant brand manager. She previously was the

Health Services Advisory Group in Tampa as a project manager on Medicare contracts.

JENNIFER MORGAN,

Marketing '16, is the new assistant director of development for the USF College of Arts and Sciences. She previously worked at the USF Judy Genshaft

Honors College.

ROCHELLE A. NIGRI, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences '13, has been named to the Morgan Stanley Pacesetter's Club, a global recognition program for financial advisors who have demon-

strated the highest professional standards and first-class service early in their careers. She's a financial advisor with the Bellwether Group in Morgan Stanley's wealth management office in Sarasota.

NANCY ROMERO, General Business Administration '17, was named Manatee County Tax Col-



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