

6th Annual UNDERGRADUATE HUMANITIES CONFERENCE



January 23-24, 2025

MARSHALL STUDENT CENTER 3707



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA
Humanities Institute

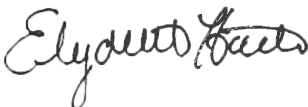
Welcome from the USF Humanities Institute

Welcome to the 6th Annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference, hosted by the Humanities Institute at the University of South Florida. It's my privilege to welcome this large group of student scholars to this year's conference and look forward to the next two days of learning about your incredible work. There are students from a huge variety of majors—history, literature, microbiology, education, religious studies, business, and more, demonstrating that the humanities play a vital role in the education of all students at USF.

Special thanks to the team of people who come together to make this conference happen: Jade von Werder and Jennifer Knight in particular. Thanks to the faculty who encouraged their students to participate, and a sincere thanks to the small army of volunteer graduate students and faculty who came forward to serve as panel moderators.

Students, enjoy the next two days. Talk to new people, make connections, and attend the amazing keynote address with Sarah Kavanagh on Thursday afternoon. You're prepared, professional, and you'll do an amazing job this week.

Enjoy the conference and go Bulls!



Elizabeth Kicak, M.F.A.
Director, USF Humanities Institute

Schedule Overview

Thursday, January 23:

8:00am – 8:45am	Presenter Check-In and Breakfast	MSC 3707
8:45am – 9:00am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	MSC 3707
9:00am – 10:00am	Poster Session I	MSC 3705
10:00am – 11:00am	PANEL SESSION I	<i>see detailed schedule</i>
11:15am – 12:15pm	PANEL SESSION II	<i>see detailed schedule</i>
12:15pm – 1:15pm	Lunch <small>(provided for presenters and moderators)</small>	MSC 3707
1:15pm – 2:15pm	PANEL SESSION III	<i>see detailed schedule</i>
2:30pm – 3:30pm	PANEL SESSION IV	<i>see detailed schedule</i>
3:45pm – 4:45pm	Keynote Speaker: Sarah Kavanagh	MSC 3707

Friday, January 24:

8:30am – 9:00am	Breakfast	MSC 3707
9:00am – 10:00am	Poster Session II	MSC 3705
10:00am – 11:00am	PANEL SESSION V	<i>see detailed schedule</i>
11:15am – 12:15pm	PANEL SESSION VI	<i>see detailed schedule</i>
12:15pm – 1:15pm	Lunch <small>(provided for presenters and moderators)</small>	MSC 3707
1:15pm – 2:30pm	PANEL SESSION VII	<i>see detailed schedule</i>

USF Humanities Institute

Liz Kicak
Director

Jennifer Knight
Assistant Director

Jade von Werder
*Academic Services
Administrator*

Lulu Downing
*Spring '25 Student
Assistant*

Meredith Johnson
*Edward DeBartolo
Endowed Chair*

Diana León-Boys
Faculty Fellow

José Ángel Maldonado
Faculty Fellow

Alejandro Márquez
Faculty Fellow

Keynote Address

Thursday, January 23
3:45 PM | MSC 3707



Sarah Kavanagh
Consul General of Ireland in Miami

Sarah Kavanagh took up her post as Consul General of Ireland in Miami in October 2022 and is leading the establishment of Ireland's first Consulate General in Florida. The consular area also includes Mississippi, Alabama, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Prior to entering the diplomatic service, Kavanagh served in a senior capacity as a Government Adviser during the period 2014-2020 including in the Department of Justice and Equality and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She also worked for several years in policy and communication roles in the Irish Parliament.

A barrister by training, she holds master's degrees in political communication and politics and a BA in history and politics.

Thursday, January 23

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.		<i>PANEL SESSION I</i>
3704	North American Identities	Jacob Edwards “Loyalism in British East Florida During the American Revolution” Kaycee Martin “An Exploration of Acadian French” Gabrielle Whyte “Knife Fights, Gunslingers, and Social Warfare: the American Western as Political Ideology”
3708	19th Century America	Spencer Manchesi “Museum a Place for the Muses: Relationship Between Showmen and Scientific Community and the Emergence of Cultural Hierarchies in 19th Century America” Michelle Plyam “The Garden of Goblins: Forbidden Fruit will Never be as Sweet as Your Sister” Morgan Rand “‘Keseberg, the Man-Eater:’ Nativist Perspectives on the Cannibal Myth in 19th Century California”

GRADUATE **2025** **Humanities** SYMPOSIUM

Friday, February 21, 2025

Marshall Student Center (MSC 3705)

Support our graduate students!

Attend one or more of the 15 panels scheduled for our first-ever Graduate Humanities Symposium in February. Many students will present work that is part of their ongoing thesis or dissertation and having a venue to field questions and discuss the future of their research is an important part of the graduate experience. Learn more: usf.edu/humanities-institute

3704	Colonialism and it's Legacy on Indigenous Peoples	<p>Anna Alieva “Indigenous Environmental Rights in the U.S. and Canadian Arctic: The Role of Domestic and International Institutions in Their Implementation”</p> <p>Robert Bernhardt “John Dickinson’s <i>God’s Protecting Providence: Piracy, Colonialism, and Indigenous Peoples in Spanish Colonial Florida</i>”</p> <p>Mizhgan Malik “Sovereignty in Tension: Resolving Legal Conflicts Between Tribal Governance and U.S. Citizenship”</p>
3708	Imagine the Alternative: Rethinking Gender Identities	<p>Steph Akin “Forming a Masculine Working Class: A New Theory of Pacification and the Embodiment of the Male Worker”</p> <p>Danny Bartolo “The Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival: The History of a Film Festival and a Community”</p> <p>Antonia Sepulveda Vorpal “The Girls and the Gays: Comparative Analysis of Queer Relationships in <i>Our Flag Means Death</i>”</p>
3711	Exploring Aging and Mortality	<p>Matthew Deeb “Tough Love, Tender Hearts”</p> <p>Jumaanah Gibbs “Delusional or Enlightened? ‘We Are Seven’ and the Battle of Enlightenment and Romanticism”</p> <p>Aaisha Jamal “Echos of the Fallen”</p> <p>Dana Smith “What it Means to be a Grandparent: A Reflexive Thematic Analysis on the Cognitive, Emotional, and Social Impacts of Grandparenthood”</p>

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

PANEL SESSION III

3704	Wives and Mothers	<p>Quinn Cornett “Feminine Rebellion: Analyzing Gender Roles and Motherhood in <i>Lady Bird</i>.”</p> <p>Isabel Escobar “The Brutal and Foreign Nature of Motherhood in <i>Salvage the Bones</i>: An Examination of Jesmyn Ward’s Usage of Visual, Tactile, and Kinesthetic Imagery to Redefine What it Means to be a Mother”</p> <p>Julia Iburguren “Jo’s Character Arc: A Mirror Into The 21 Century Resurgence of The Marriage Plot”</p>
3708	Are They Villains or Just Misunderstood: Popular Culture and the Taboo	<p>Alexandra Damiano and Kayla Esenberg “The Pirate Invasion: How the Golden Age of Piracy Influenced Pirates in Popular Culture”</p> <p>Chloe Rustemaj “Villains Wear ROSSO: A Marketing Strategy Inspired by Taylor Swift”</p> <p>Liam Mahony “The Case for Outright Drug Legalization in the US”</p>

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

PANEL SESSION IV

3704	Monsters and Social Commentary	<p>Asha-Mizan Cope-Edwards “Capitalism Bites: Is the Resurgence of Dystopian Media a Response to Late-stage Capitalism?”</p> <p>Michelle Plyam “Heterosexuality Haunts This House: The Queer Harrowing of <i>The Haunting of Hill House</i>”</p> <p>Autumn Smith “Abject Desire in <i>Murderous Intent</i>”</p>
3708	Past, Present, and Future in Women’s Health	<p>Emelia Brzakala “Silent Practitioners: Exploring Women’s Role in Antique Medicine”</p> <p>Brandon Lopez “Maternal Health in Crisis: Addressing the Impact of Conflict on Pregnancy and Childbirth Outcomes”</p> <p>Ginamarie Second “Red Cloaks and Reproductive Rights: Feminist Battles from Gilead to Today”</p>

Friday, January 24

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.		<i>PANEL SESSION V</i>
3704	How Government Policies Impact Local Communities	<p>Celeste Jasmine Cash “Belonging and Interdependence: Negotiating Citizenship for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”</p> <p>Hannah Rice “Unconventional Eats: Feeding Britain on Rations and Ingenuity, 1939-1945”</p> <p>Gray Zeisse “Food Deserts in Tampa Bay: Historical Communities and Current Issues”</p>
3708	Dystopian Futures? Or Reasons for Hope	<p>Niya Burke “Caricature in the Digital Age”</p> <p>Nick Geller “Florida’s Crusade Against Education: A Review of Recent Discriminatory Legislation and the Effects on Florida College Students”</p> <p>Bianca Sarandy Machado Camaratta “Lessons from <i>Dead Poets Society</i>: How to Free Students from the Prison of Conformity”</p> <p>Quyen Tran “The Future of Journalism”</p>
11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.		<i>PANEL SESSION VI</i>
3704	A Feminin-omenon from the Ancient to the Contemporary	<p>Madison Fidler “Bewitched by Rome: Witches in Classical Narratives”</p> <p>Olivia Nolan “Plastic, Porcelain, or Just Plain Pathetic?: Taylor Swift’s ‘My Boy Only Breaks His Favorite Toys’” (Olivia’s Version)</p> <p>Amy Yacoub “Unleashed: The Illustration of Female Rage in <i>The Haunting of Hill House</i>”</p>
3708	Florida’s Fight for Equality	<p>Joshua Valdez “How Tampa Took on the Military’s Ban on Homosexuals”</p> <p>Ella Wakelyn “SEX and the University: The Battle Against the Bush-Trask Amendment at the University of South Florida”</p> <p>Isabella Weisshaupt “Angels Don’t Sleep in the City”</p>

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

PANEL SESSION VII

3704	Revisiting the Romantics	Zainab Mohamed “Warrior’s Tale” Sofia Reed-Bermudez “‘For Anna’ an Interpretation of Keats” Kaileigh Schmitz “When Industrial Progress Stifles the Human Spirit: Ralph Waldo Emerson’s Vision of Balance and the Divine Right to Happiness”
3708	Religion’s Impacts on Healthcare	Serena Bhaskar “Ethical and Legal Implications of Medical Futility: Balancing Autonomy, Beneficence, and Resource Allocation” Veronica Alvarado Fernandez “Lost in Translation: The Impact of Barriers on Physician-Patient Communication and the Collaborative Role of Medical Interpreters” Mira Khalaf “Coptic Orthodox Perspectives on Faith, Care, and the Sacraments of Healing” Samantha McClean “An Investigation into Muslim Women’s Healthcare Experiences”
3711	Intersectionality and Identity	Scarlett-Rose Austin “The Cage Bars Are Broken” Kerri Bump “Black Male Studies and Feminism: An Intertwined History” Naomi Burton “How Modern Day Fetishization of Black Women’s Sexuality is Directly Linked to Slavery” Meghabwati Dey “Analyzing How the Predominant Religions in South Asia (Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam) Facilitate Misogyny”

Congratulations to the USF students accepted to present their research at the 2025 Richard Macksey National Undergraduate Humanities Research Symposium hosted by Johns Hopkins University. Travel and registration is made possible by the Clara Cooper Endowed Fund for the Humanities Institute.

Anna Alieva | Steph Akin | Hannah Rice | Emelia Brzakala | Nick Geller

POSTER SESSION (3705)

<u>Student Name(s)</u>	<u>Poster Title</u>
Layla Alvarado	The Endangered Manchu Language: How Languages are Dying in a Globalized World
Jordan Barringer	Exploring Sex Differences: A Cross-Sectional Analysis of Risk Factors and Substance Use Disorder in Sexually Abused Justice-Involved Adolescents
Taylor Bradwell	Eyes of Broken Blue: The Girls' Bildungsroman in "The Bluest Eye"
Jasmine Burkeen	The Bildungsroman and Parental Expectations
Nico Burnett	Where Do We Go When We Die?
Alaina Chacko	Beyond sound: Curating Playlists for a Dual-Sensory Music Therapy Experience
Rufei Chen	Chinese Folk Religion
Roy Chen Sriya Grandhi Julia Kwiatkowski Katelyn Morel	Parental Support with College and Career Guidance in Adolescence
Amanda Chinae Chirantana Dayanandaswamy Michael Shaw Aiden Sheehan	Computer-Vision Based Behavioral Coding for Music-Based Interventions: A Pilot Study
Rysun Chu	The Role of Citizenship in the Poor Living Conditions of the Chinese Xinjiang Uyghur Muslims
Hailey Citrenbaum	Marlise Muñoz: Trapped on Life Support
Aidan Cox	"He was just another body": A Non-Penetrative Approach to Understanding Gay Dating Apps
Alexandra Damiano	Girls and Their Toys: The Coquette Aesthetic and Its Historical and Modern Constraints on Women
Jazmeen De Gannes Samuel Kirschenmann Whitney Louis Amanda Weakley	Designing Inclusive Museum Tours: Fostering Engagement, Focus, and Memory for Neurodiverse Children

Kayla Esenberg	Changing Societal Meaning: How “Coquette” has Evolved into the Embracing of Femininity
Fabiana Gomez	Keep Moving
Jeanette Janvier	The Black Birthing Experience: Optimizing Research Participation for Black Women
Lily Johnson	Femininity as Propaganda During World War II: A Case Study of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL)
Gia Han Lam Ngan Mai Thi Xuan Phuc Phan Harrison Tsai	Investigation of Health Literacy as a Critical Determinant of Asian American Immigrant Health
Sudhiksha Maramraju Aditi Ragothaman	The Ethical Implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Surgical Robotics
Isha Modha	The Self-Satisfaction of Asian Women Through Pornography Consumption
Sophia Montejo	Beyond the Cover: Facilitating Literacy Development for Children of Immigrant Families
Mariana Mosli	Sonnet inspired by Wordsworth’s <i>The World Is Too Much with Us</i>
Minh Pham	Historic Barriers to Modern Solutions: “Dallas Buyers Club” and the Evolution of Drug Affordability Policies
Himani Ponnekanti	Rising Up to Speak Out: Analyzing the Girls’ Bildungsroman in <i>The Hate You Give</i>
Kadence Relente	Access and Barriers: An Investigation of the Underutilization of Mental Health Services in Japan
Sophia Robinson	Breaking Barriers: Addressing the Vulnerabilities of Hispanic Immigrant Youth to Sex Trafficking Through Education and Advocacy
Alvin Varghese	Faith vs. Science? The Medical and Ethical Legacy of Jahi McMath
Luke Vischio-Duffy	Let’s Get Analyzing! The Role of Supplemental Instruction on Literary Understanding

Scholar Biographies

Steph Akin

Steph is a National Merit Scholar studying English and Political Science. He is an RA and a Peer Mentor for the Judy Genshaft Honors College. Steph plans to attend graduate school after his graduation in the spring in order to pursue a PhD in English.

Anna Alieva

Anna is a third-year international student majoring in International Studies and minoring in Chinese Language and Culture. She speaks fluent Russian and Spanish and likes to write speculative fiction in her free time. Anna works for the Campus Activities Board and is on the executive board for the Honors College student council. In the future, she hopes to work in non-governmental organizations for human rights and international development, and to be a part-time author.

Layla Alvarado

Layla Alvarado is an Anthropology Major and a History Minor. Her interests include digital archaeology and methods, archaeology, and ancient history. She is a junior and plans to do her Honors Thesis on the Apalachicola valley next Fall.

Veronica Alvarado Fernandez

Veronica is a recent graduate from the University of South Florida; she majored in Biomedical Sciences with a minor in Children's Behavioral Healthcare. She's applying to medical school in the Spring and is passionate about quality healthcare for minority populations. Her research highlights the strengths of a collaborative approach between interpreters and physicians in addressing linguistic barriers present in medicine among patients with limited English proficiency. Her hope is to improve the quality of healthcare minority patients receive.

Scarlett-Rose Austin

Scarlett-Rose is a USF Junior and proud member of the Judy Genshaft Honors College. She previously attended an Arts Middle and High School where she cultivated her love for poetry and public speaking. Having already garnered several publications, she continues to explore her passion for English and Writing. She plans to earn her Criminology Bachelor's degree with USF and go on to work for Federal Organizations, namely the FBI.

Jordan Barringer

Jordan is a Junior studying Psychology and Children's Behavioral Healthcare. She is involved in her community, volunteering with a local harm reduction organization and working in the children's unit of an inpatient hospital. She plans to attend graduate school and get her research published.

Danny Bartolo

Danny is a history major currently in his third year at USF. He is currently the president of the Oushi Anime Club on campus. After graduation, he hopes to attend the University of Chicago Law School.

Robert Bernhardt

Robert is a student studying English with a concentration in Literary Studies. He is a Senior and plans to use his research for the benefit of his personal writing before attending graduate school.

Serena Bhaskar

Serena Bhaskar is a junior in the USF Honors College, pursuing a double major in Biomedical Sciences and Creative Writing. She is actively involved in several campus organizations, including The Capsule: A Health Humanities Journal, Sparks Magazine, and HerCampus. She is passionate about exploring the intersection of health and the humanities, using diverse forms of communication to bridge these fields and foster deeper understanding.

Taylor Bradwell

Taylor Bradwell is a sophomore studying Health Sciences while being a member of the Judy Genshaft Honors College. She plans on applying for the nursing program in the winter, and hopes to become a registered nurse after completing her undergraduate studies. In her free time, Taylor enjoys reading and crocheting.

Emelia Brzakala

Emelia is a student studying History while minoring in Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Classical Civilizations. With an interest in museums, she is one of the student curators of the "To See Ourselves Like Someone Else: Reflections on 60 Years of Anthropology at USF exhibit in the Waterman Gallery. After graduating in the Spring of 2025, Emelia hopes to extend her education in a master's program, with a focus on public history and archeology. She would like to eventually pursue a career in curation, with interests in history and improving accessibility for exhibitions in a museum setting.

Kerri Bump

Kerri is a USF undergraduate student in her senior studying Psychology. She is volunteering in the Bilingual Language and Literacy Lab and is an intern for the CREATE program at Metropolitan Ministries. Kerri plans to attend graduate school after she spends to years on a research fellowship.

Niya Burke

Niya is a recently graduated USF Alumni who received her bachelors degree in History & Africana Studies at USF. She is involved in the Pan-Afrikanist party at USF, and is dedicated to the advancement of the local and global black community.

Jasmine Burkeen

Jasmine is a Creative Writing concentration with thoughts of getting her MFA in the foreseeable future. She enjoys writing poetry and crocheting, yet refuses to go to the creative writing or crochet club meetings.

Nico Burnett

Nico is a junior in the USF Judy Genshaft Honors College majoring in biomedical sciences and minoring in creative writing. He likes studying Japanese and writing in his free time. Nico hopes to get published in USF's Thread Magazine at least once and attend pharmacy school after graduating.

Naomi Burton

Naomi is a National African-American Scholar studying Environmental Engineering. She is a residential assistant for the Stonewall Suites LLC, and the University Affairs Coordinator for the Student Environmental Association. Furthermore, she is extremely passionate about interdisciplinary research. She is a Junior and plans to attend graduate school for either ocean engineering or international relations.

Celeste Jasmine Cash

Celeste is a 4th year sociology and psychology student. They are the co-director of the Honors Peer Sex Education program and an intern at the Center for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention. Celeste plans on pursuing graduate school in Sociology and conducting research at the intersection of sexuality and disability.

Alaina Chacko

Alaina Chacko is an undergraduate student at the University of South Florida, majoring in Biomedical Sciences on the Pre-Med track and set to graduate in Spring 2025. With a deep passion for addressing healthcare disparities, she is committed to improving access and outcomes for underserved communities. Alaina aspires to further her education by completing a master's degree in women's health, where she aims to advocate for equity and innovation in the medical field.

Roy Chen

Roy Chen pursues both a Biomedical Sciences major and a Psychology minor. As a passionate believer in quality education, Chen tutored students as a Mathnasium instructor. Even after Chen left Mathnasium to attend university, he continues to tutor online in the Dr. ANV Rao Gurukula Program. This allows Chen to expand from teaching solely in math to supporting students in all subjects.

Rufei Chen

Rufei is studying Biomedical Sciences as a major and Chinese language as a minor. She is also a student in the Judy Genshaft Honors College. Rufei is an Undergraduate Research Assistant at the McCrae Sleep Research Lab. She plans to pursue careers in medicine in the future.

Amanda China

Amanda China is a biomedical sciences student at the University of South Florida, set to graduate in Fall 2024 with a Bachelor of Science degree. With a strong passion for advancing medical knowledge and improving patient care, Amanda aspires to attend medical school, where she plans to integrate clinical practice with innovative research. Her commitment to bridging the gap between scientific discovery and patient outcomes underscores her goal of contributing meaningfully to the medical field.

Rysun Chu

Rysun is a Pre-Med student studying History and Psychology. He is involved in the student-led spheres of the Asian American community, serving as the Co-Cultural Chair in the Asian Students in America organization, Co-Social Chair in the Chinese Culture and Language Club, and a writer for the USF Sparks Magazine. Rysun is a Sophomore hoping to attend Medical School to pursue Psychiatry, while working on his writing on the side to publish in the future.

Hailey Citrenbaum

Hailey is a sophomore in the Judy Genshaft Honors College. She is majoring in nursing and plans to attend graduate school to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

Asha-Mizan Cope-Edwards

Asha is a sophomore double majoring in Geography and GIS and Humanities, with the goal of becoming a U.S. foreign service officer specializing in environmentally friendly urban development. She is a member of the Advisory Council to the Vice-President of Student Success as well as a bibliophile and cat lover.

Quinn Cornett

Quinn is Florida Medallion Scholar student studying English Literature and Film/New Media. Quinn is a senior and plans to attend graduate school at USF for Library studies to become an archivist.

Aidan Cox

Aidan is a concurrent degree undergraduate in Linguistics and Anthropology. His work focuses on the intersection of language and power and attempts to uncover themes in language and identity. He hopes to continue his studies in linguistic anthropology and work with minority language groups to focus on language preservation and the importance of story-telling as a cultural resource.

Alexandra Damiano

Alexandra Damiano is a senior at USF majoring in English Literary Studies with a minor in Mass Communications. She has served as a student intern for Saw Palm, USF's literary magazine, where she gained valuable experience in editing and publishing. Alexandra is also a proud member of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. With aspirations to work in fashion editorial or publishing, she is passionate about combining her literary expertise with creative industries to shape compelling narratives.

Chirantana Dayanandaswamy

Chirantana Dayanandaswamy is a recent graduate from the University of South Florida with a degree in Biomedical sciences and a minor in Microbiology. Her academic goals include pursuing a PhD in Aging Sciences and doing advanced research in the fields of aging and healthcare, focusing on areas like dementia care. She is looking to investigate the biological impacts of non-pharmaceutical interventions for dementia, aiming to understand how these therapies influence the overall health of patients.

Jazmeen De Gannes

Jazmeen De Gannes is a Junior pursuing ISS at the St. Petersburg campus. She is passionate about fostering inclusive experiences, such as community initiatives centering on creating welcoming spaces for all. She aims to pursue a career as a therapist or counselor, helping others navigate life's challenges.

Matthew Deeb

Matthew is a sophomore majoring in Biomedical Sciences and World Languages and Cultures. As a member of the Honors College, he is passionate about social determinants of health and currently works as a medical assistant in an orthopedic clinic and a volunteer at a community health clinic. With aspirations to bridge gaps in medicine through language and media, he plans to conduct further public health research and attend medical school.

Meghabwati Dey

Megha is a freshman studying Mechanical Engineering. She attends the Judy Genshaft Honors College. Megha completed her high school education in Bangladesh. She wants to stay in academia and pursue research from an undergraduate level. Besides engineering, her topics of interest are environment, language, culture, literature, and religion.

Jacob Edwards

Jacob Thomas Edwards is a student studying History and Political Science at USF. He is a member of Phi Alpha Theta, National History Honor Society. Jacob is also a Senior.

Isabel Escobar

Isabel is a USF alumni who graduated fall 2024 with a major in English literature and a minor in mass communications. She is involved with the Book Club of Tampa Campus and USF Rotaract and loves reading, baking, and creating.

Kayla Esenberg

Kayla Esenberg is a Junior at USF, majoring in English with a concentration in Literary Studies. Kayla has plans to attend law school after obtaining her bachelor's degree. Kayla is a member of Phi Alpha Delta, a coed pre-law fraternity that focuses on the legal profession and law school. Within this fraternity, Kayla serves on the Professional Development Committee, aiding students with upcoming opportunities and financial aid. Kayla is also a member of USF's Future Attorneys of America, an organization that prepares members for law school.

Madison Fidler

Madison is currently studying History with a minor in Classics, specializing in Ancient Rome. She is involved in Phi Alpha Theta, History honors society. She is a Senior and plans to attend graduate school in Florida and work within Digital Humanities.

Nick Geller

Nick is a senior majoring in Women's and Gender Studies. They enjoy reading, building Lego, and playing with their dog Hubble. Nick plans to pursue a doctoral degree and a career in academia.

Jumaanah Gibbs

Jumaanah Gibbs is a Freshman and an English major concentrating in Creative Writing, involved in several clubs and activities across campus such as the Creative Writing Club. She plans to focus on her studies whilst submitting to literary magazines and working on her debut novel. She aspires to build a foundation for herself as she works towards becoming a self-published fantasy author.

Fabiana Gomez

Fabiana is an Honors student at USF, double majoring in Communication and International Studies. Known for her enthusiasm and approachability, she strives to create a supportive environment wherever she goes through curiosity, empathy, and perseverance. Her experiences as a Peer Mentor, holding leadership positions in Model United Nations, and participating in study abroad programs have furthered her desire to create positive change in others' lives.

Sriya Grandhi

Sriya is a Biomedical Sciences major at USF with a minor in public health. She founded an organization called "Helping Hearts Heal" (3HA) at her high school where she worked towards improving mental health and positivity within her campus. She was also a contributor in the organization "Wheels for All" where she helped collect donated bikes and raise money so that low-income areas can gain forms of transportation. Through her helping nature, she decided on her future career path of being a pediatrician where she can actively help communities with their health.

Julia Iburguren

Julia Iburguren is a third year student majoring in English, Literary Studies with a minor in Environmental Science and Policy. Julia is a published writer for the HerCampus organization on campus. She works part-time at the College of Behavioral and Community sciences as an administrative assistant. Julia plans on attending law school after completing her undergraduate degree and becoming an Environmental Lawyer.

Aaisha Jamal

Aaisha Jamal is a driven and accomplished senior at USF, pursuing dual degrees in Finance and Entrepreneurship, along with a minor in Nutrition. She is involved in the USF Student-Managed Investment Fund and has consistently demonstrated academic excellence, maintaining four scholarships and a 4.0 GPA throughout her studies. Anticipating her graduation in Spring 2025, Aaisha's passion for empowering others in their pursuits fuels her ambition to build a career in consulting, with a focus on helping businesses and individuals achieve their full potential.

Jeanette Janvier

Jeanette is a S.H.P.E.P. Scholar studying Biomedical Sciences. She is on the USF powerlifting team, a personal trainer at Moffitt Cancer Center and resident assistant. After undergrad, Jeanette plans to enroll in an M.D./Ph.D. program to advance the field of holistic medicine.

Lily Johnson

Lily Johnson is a senior at the University of South Florida, majoring in history with a minor in legal studies. With a goal of pursuing a legal career, Lily actively participates in pre-law organizations such as Future Attorneys of America and holds the position of social media chair for Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity. She also leads the fraternity's publicity committee. Beyond her academic and extracurricular commitments, she enjoys working at Busch Gardens and hobbies such as running and crochet.

Mira Khalaf

Mira is a transfer student majoring in Health Sciences with a concentration in Biological Health. She published three poetry books and was in the honors list in her previous university. Mira is a Junior and plans to pursue Physical Therapy after her graduation.

Samuel Kirschenmann

Samuel Kirschenmann is a 20-year-old junior at USF who is on track to graduate early in the Spring of 2025. He is pursuing two bachelor's degrees in Economics and Political Science. In the near future, he will begin pursuing a Master's degree in Economics.

Julia Kwiatkowski

Julia Kwiatkowski is a second-year undergraduate student at the University of South Florida, as well as a proud member of the Honors College. Determined to achieve her aspirations and reach her goals, she possesses an intense dedication to her studies as a pre-medical student. She is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology with a medical concentration. She plans to become a more well-rounded person while also cultivating a more comprehensive understanding of the world through a minor in religion and health.

Gia Han Lam

Gia Han Lam is a third-year Biomedical Science with a robust research background spanning three years. Specializing in the study of Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA), cardiovascular

diseases (CVD), and promoting sleep awareness among the young population, Gia Han has developed proficiency in conducting thorough literature reviews, data analysis, and delivering insightful discussions on their findings. Demonstrating their research acumen, Gia Han has presented at prestigious venues including USF Health and the University of Pennsylvania conference. In addition to their research contributions, Gia Han coordinates lab activities and serves as the secretary of their research team, managing communication and coordination within the group.

Brandon Lopez

Brandon is a 2nd-year undergraduate honors college student studying Microbiology and Linguistics. He is the Vice President of Recruitment of Phi Delta Epsilon Medical Fraternity and the Senior Finance Chair of Global Medical Brigades at USF. Brandon plans on attending medical school to become an infectious disease physician working abroad and domestically. As a result of his passion of foreign language study and being a volunteer medical Spanish interpreter at the Mo-Bull Nurse Medical Clinic, he aims to advocate for marginalized communities facing all kinds of barriers towards accessing healthcare.

Whitney Louis

Whitney Louis is a pre-medical Honors senior majoring in Biomedical Engineering who aspires to become a board-certified obstetrician/gynecologist. Her passions are in women's and children's health and serving underserved, minority communities to ensure maximal health equity. Her interest in global health was reinforced by a recent USF study abroad trip for which she was awarded the U.S. Department of State Gilman International Scholarship.

Liam Mahony

Liam Mahony is majoring in philosophy as a student of the Judy Genshaft Honors College. Liam transferred from the University of New Hampshire in the Fall of 2023, and has been on the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's list both semesters while at USF. He is a member of the USF Running club, USF Student Council on Exceptional Children, and studied abroad last semester through the Honor's Semester in Exeter exchange program. As a senior, Liam plans to start in a Master of Education program in Massachusetts during the summer of 2025.

Ngan Mai

Ngan Mai is a junior at the University of South Florida, majoring in Biomedical Sciences with a minor in Nutrition. She actively engages in research through the Chuanhai Cao Lab, focusing on biological studies, and the Justin Lopchuk Lab, where she explores chemical synthesis and drug development. Beyond academics, Ngan volunteers at AdventHealth and the Moffitt Cancer Center, gaining valuable patient care experience, and has participated in a medical mission trip to Honduras. As the Finance lead for Global Medical Brigades, she supports fundraising efforts to provide healthcare to underserved communities worldwide. Ngan's dedication to research, global health, and patient care underscores her aspirations to make meaningful contributions to medicine and science.

Mizhgan Malik

Mizhgan Malik is a senior double majoring in Political Science and International Studies with a Minor in Intelligence Studies. She serves on the executive boards of three prominent organizations, including Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity as Community Service Liaison, coordinating legal advocacy initiatives. Mizhgan is the Senior Advisor to the Guyanese Student Association, which she co-founded to uplift an underrepresented community, and President of DesiBullZ, a South Asian Fusion dance team she also co-founded to foster cross-cultural understanding through art. After graduation, she plans to pursue advanced studies and a career in foreign policy, committed to advancing global equity.

Spencer Manchesi

Spencer is a student in his junior year studying history and philosophy. He is a four-time Dean's List recipient, and hobbies include powerlifting and reading.

Sudhiksha Maramraju

Sudhiksha is a second year majoring in Biomedical Sciences as part of the Judy Genshaft Honors College. She wants to go on to medical school to become a surgeon. She's interested in the intersection of medicine and artificial intelligence.

Kaycee Martin

Kaycee is a senior majoring in World Languages and Cultures with concentrations in French and Applied Linguistics. She plays for the Women's Flag Football Club and teaches classes at the Dance Club. After graduation, Kaycee plans to attend graduate school in Canada, where she will study second language acquisition in a bilingual environment.

Samantha McClean

Samantha is a senior graduating this spring with her dual degree in biomedical sciences and religious studies. She has spent the past two years conducting alcohol addiction research in Dr. Walker's lab. In addition, Samantha is an active member in the community working as an operating room aid at HCA West Marion hospital and volunteering at the Humane Society of Tampa Bay. After graduation, she will be attending medical school in the fall to pursue her dream of being a physician.

Isha Modha

Isha Modha is a double major in Psychology and Women and Gender Studies at the University of South Florida. Her involvement in the Disordered Eating, Prevention, Treatment, and Health Lab, as well as the Addiction Research and Treatment Lab, has allowed her to hone her research skills through producing and presenting academic work. In addition to her academic pursuits, Modha works as a Health and Life Insurance Agent, specializing in Medicare. Following her graduation in the spring, she plans to pursue a Master's degree in Political Science.

Zainab Mohamed

Zainab is a Junior at USF studying English with a concentration in Literary Studies. She is currently enrolled in the English Honors Program. Zainab plans to graduate school in Florida and pursue a career in writing and publishing.

Sophia Montejo

Sophia is a National Merit Scholar student studying Psychology and English (Creative Writing). She plans on attending graduate school in social/developmental psychology to study peer influence.

Katelyn Morel

Katelyn is currently an honors student at the University of South Florida, majoring in chemistry and working toward a career in medicine. Her strong sense of environmental responsibility drove her to serve on the environmental committee of her city. Katelyn was a strong agent of change whose influence went beyond environmental projects. Raising almost \$10,000 in all, she planned and oversaw several fundraisers for organizations like “The Trevor Project,” the “NAACP,” and earthquake relief funding for Syria.

Mariana Mosli

Mariana Mosli, an award-winning creative and poet is a Senior at the University of South Florida, majoring in English-Literary Studies. Passionate about literature and writing, she aims to explore the intersection of affective science and theology. Her goal is to understand human behavior through literary perspectives. As a Cuban-American writer and English as a second-language speaker, her work combines her life experiences, artistic voice, and spiritual journey. She aspires to write a book focused on her literary explorations.

Olivia Nolan

Olivia is a senior pursuing a Biology B.S. and an English B.A. with a Literary Studies concentration and a minor in Spanish. Olivia is in the Judy Genshaft Honors College and she is a proud recipient of the USF Presidential Scholarship. She has been published several times in USF’s undergraduate Thread magazine for film photography. This spring, Olivia will be applying to medical school. She is excited for graduation in May and hopes to return to USF in the Morsani College of Medicine’s matriculating class of 2026.

Minh Pham

Minh Pham is a junior majoring in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics with a minor in Mathematics. Her research interests lie in health economics and outcomes research, focusing specifically on survey instruments for measuring health status and the effects of Medicaid and other health policies. Minh has presented her work at university, national, and international conferences, and she plans to pursue a PhD in Health Services Research after graduating. She also serves as a Senator in the USF Student Government, where she has made significant contributions to the university community.

Thi Xuan Phuc Phan

Thi Xuan Phuc Phan is a conscientious and honest third-year Biomedical Sciences undergraduate at USF, with a minor in Deaf Studies. With a strong foundation in Biomedical Sciences, she combines academic excellence with practical expertise in laboratory techniques, safety protocols, and data analysis, while supporting patient care and laboratory operations through volunteer work at Moffitt Cancer Institute. Her experience as a tutor has honed her communication and leadership skills, reflecting her passion for education, mentorship, and compassionate healthcare. Thi Xuan's dedication to combining research and hands-on service showcases her commitment to advancing chemistry's role in health and medicine.

Michelle Plyam

Michelle is a junior studying English literature and Criminology. She is the president of Minorities in Pre-Law, vice president of Sigma Tau Delta, an editor for a new literary magazine called the Scribe, and a writer for the Oracle. Michelle plans to attend graduate school and hopes to practice immigration law or pursue journalism in the future.

Himani Ponnekanti

Himani is a Biomedical Sciences major who conducts both humanities health informatics research. She is involved in Phi Delta Epsilon medical fraternity and plans to attend medical school.

Aditi Ragothaman

Aditi is a second year Honors student majoring in Biomedical Sciences with minors in Public Health and Biomedical Physics. She hopes to go on to medical school to become an anesthesiologist. She's interested in improving public health and understanding the global impact of healthcare systems.

Morgan Rand

Morgan is a first-year student in the Judy Genshaft Honors College. She is eager to be involved in humanities research at USF, and plans to attend law school in New England in 2028. She is excited to join USF clubs and honor societies later in her academic career like Phi Alpha Theta for history and Phi Alpha Delta for law.

Sofia Reed-Bermudez

Sofia is a USF student studying English with a concentration in English Literature. She is a senior and plans to graduate from USF in the summer and begin her career as an ESL teacher.

Kadence Relente

Kadence is a 3rd-year Honors student majoring in Biomedical Sciences and minoring in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies and Public Health with plans to pursue medical school in the future. She is heavily involved with student organizations at USF as the current Vice President Internal of Asian Students in America (ASiA) and in the Marketing Committee of Phi 22

Delta Epsilon Medical Fraternity. She is also a current head research assistant at the Music Research and Testing Laboratory in the USF School of Music studying the impact of piano training on the mood/memory/cognition of patients with a cancer diagnosis.

Hannah Rice

Hannah is a senior at the University of South Florida studying History and Anthropology. She is apart of Phi Alpha Theta (National History Honor Society). She plans to attend graduate school at the University of South Florida.

Sophia Robinson

Sophia Robinson is a Junior, double majoring in Philosophy & Criminology, originally from Carabobo, Venezuela. She is involved in various pre-law organizations, and intends to complete her Juris Doctor Degree at the University of Florida. Sophia is the President of Minorities in Pre-Law, the Vice President of the Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honors Society, the Academic Chair of Future Attorneys of America, and a prominent member of both the Publicity and Finance committees of the Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law fraternity. In her free time, Sophia hosts weekly LSAT tutoring for fellow pre-law students, and enjoys collecting Kewpie dolls.

Chloe Rustemaj

Chloe is a Finance student set to graduate in Fall 2024. Throughout her academic journey, she has been actively involved in the Corporate Mentor Program and the Accounting Club. Chloe has secured a position as an Analyst on the Futures team at Webull, a leading fintech company, where she will apply her expertise in finance and trading. She is excited to begin her professional career and contribute to the innovative field of fintech.

Bianca Sarandy Machado Camaratta

Bianca is a first year Emerging Media student who is interested in design, visual arts, languages, and literature. She is part of the executive board of the International Student Association at UCF and has served as president for the National Art Honor Society of her high school. Apart from dedicating time to writing and researching, her focus in the visual arts has warranted her scholarships and led her artworks to be exhibited at the Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival, the Maitland Rotary Art Festival, the Global Peace Film Festival, and more. She hopes to pursue a career in Graphic Design.

Kaileigh Schmitz

Kaileigh is a rising senior in the English Honors Program pursuing her bachelor's degree in English Literature. Her research primarily focuses on ecocriticism, feminism, and spirituality. She is an active member of the Accessibility Student Network organization. She plans to attend graduate school, possibly pursuing a career as a reading specialist working with children, while continuing to write nonfiction—both creatively and analytically—throughout her life.

Ginamarie Second

Ginamarie is a junior studying Secondary English Education and loves to write. She is a senior editor for HerCampus and has attended multiple humanities conferences. She currently has her previous research published in the Macksey Journal and hopes to be published again.

Antonia Sepulveda Vorpal

Antonia is a Pre-Law student studying English and Economics. She is involved in tennis club and economics research. Antonia is a Senior and plans to work in publishing or an NGO after graduation for a few years before going to law school.

Michael Shaw

Research Assistant in the Positive Aging Lab at the University of South Florida, where he has contributed to multiple projects exploring the intersection of aging, emotion, and music. A senior majoring in Healthcare Administration, Michael combines his academic expertise with a passion for advancing research in the field of positive aging. With aspirations to pursue a Ph.D. in Aging Studies, Michael envisions expanding the scope of research by delving deeper into how aging influences emotional responses to music. His work aims to uncover practical applications of these findings, particularly in therapeutic and memory care settings.

Aiden Sheehan

Aidan Sheehan is a passionate undergraduate student at USF, pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with a minor in Psychology. His academic journey is driven by a strong passion for the life sciences and a keen interest in the complexities of human behavior. With a clear vision for the future, he aspires to a career in medicine, where he can apply his scientific knowledge to directly improve the lives of others. To further his academic pursuits and research experience, he is actively involved in aging studies, delving into the fascinating field of gerontology.

Dana Smith

Dana Smith is a senior at USF St. Petersburg Psychology with minors in Spanish and Public Health. She is involved in USF Successful Aging Lab and USF Human Applied Cognition and Decision-making Lab. Dana is currently looking to pursue graduate studies in Neuropsychology.

Autumn Smith

Autumn Smith is a Junior at USF majoring in Secondary English Education and World Languages & Cultures with a dual concentration in Spanish and Linguistics.

Quyen Tran

Quyen Tran is a Senior majoring in Integrated Public Relations and Advertising. She is highly involved on-campus as the Editor-in-Chief of Sparks Magazine and a USF Ambassador. Quyen is passionate about leveraging media and communication to uplift minority communities. In her free time, you can find Quyen exploring new cuisines at different restaurants or whipping up new recipes in her kitchen.

Harrison Tsai

Harrison Tsai is a third-year Biology student at USF with a recent contribution to a systematic review examining the impact of S-palmitoylation on skin barrier function. Currently developing skills in systematic review and meta-analysis, he is passionate about exploring the gut microbiota's potential for preventative health management. Witnessing the health disparities in the Tampa community, Harrison is driven to explore the overlooked impact of nutrition in perpetuating chronic conditions like obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. He seeks to transform scientific understanding into tangible health interventions, with a particular emphasis on nutrition's potential to address multifaceted health challenges.

Joshua Valdez

Joshua is a senior pursuing a history degree and graduate in the spring. They are a member of the National Society of Leadership & Success. In 2026 they plan to apply to graduate school.

Alvin Varghese

Alvin Varghese is a Biomedical Sciences major at USF and Judy Genshaft Honors College. He is the president of Healthcare Students United and co-founder of The Medical Way Program, where he supports premedical students to gain a foundation for interest in medicine. Alvin is also a volunteer at James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, serving as an Emergency Department Transporter, and assists patients as a Bariatric Nurses' Aide at Memorial Hospital West. He is also interested in becoming a physician with a speciality in infectious disease and emergency medicine while also pursuing research in disease pathology.

Luke Vischio-Duffy

Luke is a second-year Honors student studying Secondary English Education. He is primarily interested in educational and English related research. Luke was selected to participate as a Research Scholar in the College of Education 2024 Summer Research Academy where he developed his research proposal. Luke enjoys being a member of The SunCoast Area Teacher Training Leadership Program and is proud to hold leadership positions in the College of Education Living Learning Community and the Climate Teach-In organizations. After graduation from USF, Luke plans to teach English and later pursue his master's and doctoral degrees.

Ella Wakelyn

Ella is a student in the Judy Genshaft Honors college. She is a senior majoring in history and religious studies with a minor in political science. After graduation, she plans to pursue a master's degree in public policy, with a focus on education policy.

Amanda Weakley

Amanda is a sophomore at the USFSP campus. She is interested in creating more accessible and inclusive spaces, which was a focus of our project. She hopes to graduate in the fall of 2025, and go on to law school to specialize in medical malpractice.

Isabella Weisshaupt

Isabella Weisshaupt is an English honors college student majoring in English and studio art. A passionate writer and artist, she has been actively involved in the Creative Writing Club and was recently featured in Thread Magazine: Occult Edition for her creative work. Currently a junior, Isabella plans to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree and to pursue opportunities that combine her talents in literature and visual arts.

Gabrielle Whyte

Gabrielle Whyte is a senior studying humanities and cultural studies, film and new media studies, and political science. She is the founder and president of the New Media Collective at USF and a regular contributor to its student media studies journal, The Close-up. She is dual-enrolled as a master's student in the cultural studies graduate program and hopes to pursue a career in entertainment law and making corporate entertainment more accessible to marginalized creatives.

Amy Yacoub

Amy is a second year student studying biomedical sciences with a minor in literary studies. She is a member of Orthodox Campus Christian Ministries, HerCampus as a writer, and is part of the founding team of Seam Magazine. She aspires to go to medical school for and conduct research on women's health and healthcare.

Gray Zeisse

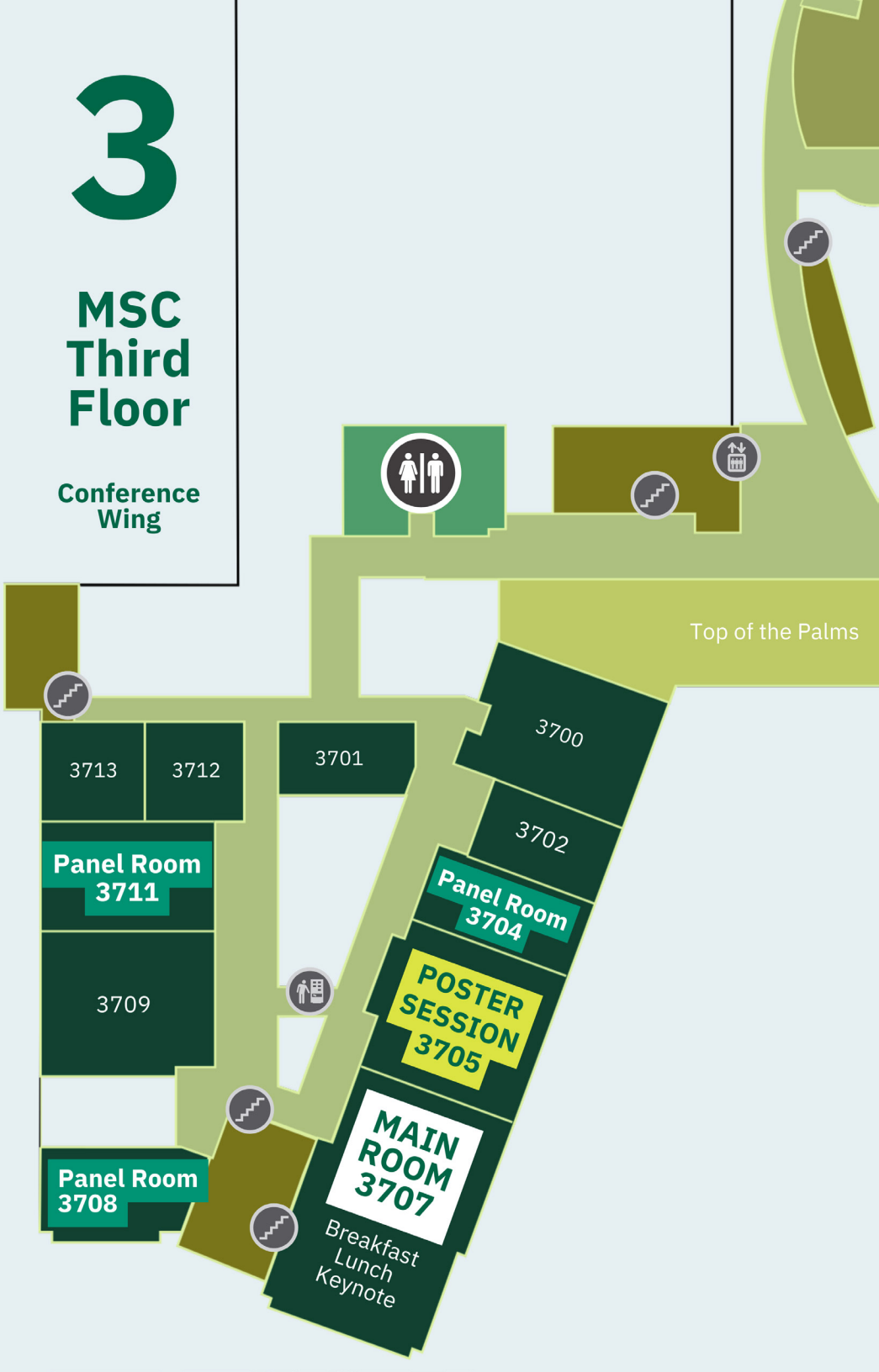
Gray is a sophomore Biomedical Sciences major, minoring in Aging Sciences. They are a USF Honors student and are a Peer Mentor for the Honors College where they independently lead the Honors Foundations class. They also have been volunteering for a free clinic for 3.5 years and have gained over 200+ community service hours. At this clinic they have completed research into social determinants of health. They are interested in health disparities and providing care for vulnerable communities. They have completed research into the development of food deserts in Tampa Bay as infrastructural and social justice issue which exacerbates public health conditions.

Notes and Doodles

3

MSC Third Floor

Conference
Wing



Top of the Palms

3713

3712

3701

3700

Panel Room
3711

3709



3702

Panel Room
3704

POSTER
SESSION
3705

Panel Room
3708

MAIN
ROOM
3707

Breakfast
Lunch
Keynote