



January 2025



## Update From the Vice President



Happy New Year! The year ahead for USF is sure to be eventful. USF World will be hosting a number of exciting events, and we look forward to opportunities for engagement with you. Continue reading to learn more about what's coming during the first quarter of 2025.

To kick off the new year, I will moderate a conversation on [Post-Election Diplomacy & Security: Opportunities and Challenges](#) with the Global and National Security Institute's General (Ret) Frank McKenzie and former Ambassador Dr. Barbara Stephenson, a Florida native who built a trailblazing career in the foreign service. This hour-long conversation will take place on January 16 at 6:30 p.m. at C.W. Bill Young Hall (CWY) on the USF Tampa Campus. Please [RSVP here](#). You will soon be able to access the event via podcast on our LinkedIn!

On January 24, we'll welcome British Consul General Rufus Drabble and Honorary Consul Justine Assal to the Tampa campus for the local launch of the British-American Business Council (BABC). This event will highlight the thriving collaboration between Florida and the U.K., recently bolstered by a [trade and economic agreement signed in 2024](#). USF President Rhea Law will make a special appearance, and City of Tampa Mayor Jane Castor will kick off the program, which will include an expert panel discussion on "Growing Business Between the U.K. and Tampa Bay." The event will conclude with a reception. Please [RSVP here](#).

On February 11, unlock the future! Join us for a dynamic discussion on how "global megatrends" are shaping the future of business with Florida Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary of Economic Development Jason Mahon and Government Analytica CEO Dr. John Pournoor. Our speakers will address how artificial intelligence, supply chains, and talent acquisition are affecting business development and fueling growth in our region. Please RSVP here.

USF World is also proud to sponsor the Keynote Address by [Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat](#) at the 2025 St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs, held February 11-13. Retired Ambassador Eizenstat is a distinguished diplomat and author of *The Art of Diplomacy: How American Negotiators Reached Historic Agreements that Changed the World* (2024). The full schedule of events for the conference, and registration link, can be [found here](#).

## *Update From the Vice President, Con't.*

Finally, momentum is building for one of our biggest events of the year, the [2025 USF International Business Forum](#)! After our very successful launch last spring, we're focusing this year's conversation on the application of artificial intelligence and global business practices. Please [join us on March 13](#) as we bring together the business community, international diplomats, and leading experts to examine the nexus between technology and business growth.

We are excited to host these upcoming events and to continue to engage with our international community throughout 2025. We look forward to connecting with you at home and abroad.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Kiki Caruson

## *World Class*



### **NATO Edge summit brings a historic global partnership and its digital future to Tampa Bay**

As global security increasingly becomes as much about technological know-how as it does military strength, the world's most enduring alliance is looking to partnerships with industry and academic innovators to speed cutting-edge technologies to both the frontlines and cyberspace battlefields. That's why hundreds of the world's most advanced defense tech firms and the University of South Florida were in NATO's sights the first week of December.

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## Destination USF



**USF's international students celebrate graduation with symbols of their home countries**

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**Turkish USF professor honored for work in hospitality and tourism management**

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**911 emergency personnel from Saudi Arabia boost skills at USF Sarasota-Manatee**

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**Venezuelan alum's College of Public Health journey defined by perseverance and purpose**

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**Dr. Loni Hagen's Fulbright Award will foster research and international academic relationships**

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**USF Student Explores Creativity, Activism Through Fulbright UK Summer Institute**

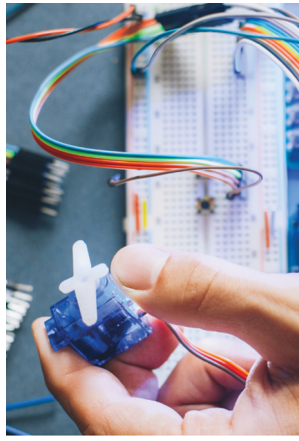
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**Former First Minister of Scotland inspires Judy Genshaft Honors College students**

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**Two USF faculty members with global backgrounds named National Academy of Inventors (NAI) fellows**

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**College of Education Associate Professor awarded grants to examine heritage**

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## *Destination World*



**On and off the court: USF graduate recognized as a global business law expert**

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**USF Network India alum hosts memorable dinner for fellow Delhi-based alumni**

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**USF professor's new book highlights indigenous peoples and languages of North Africa**

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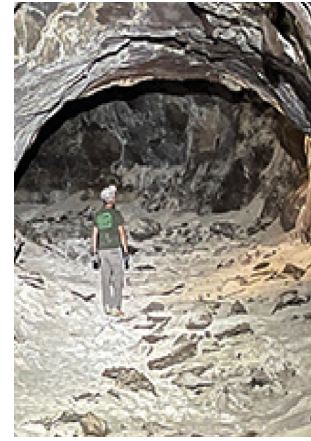
**Judy Genshaft Honors College student represents Jamaica at Chess Olympiad**

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**USF College of Education faculty make international impact participating in RISE Caribbean**

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**How a USF geology professor's research in Spain is advancing the search for life on Mars**

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## *Events*



Live event at USF



Live event abroad



Virtual event



**Post-U.S. Election Global Diplomacy & Security: Opportunities & Challenges**

**January 16**

**C.W. Bill Young Hall (CWY)**

[Register here](#)

**6:30 p.m.**



**USF Network the U.K. Welcome Reception**

**January 24**

**USF Patel Center for Global Solutions (CGS)**

[Register here](#)

**4:00 p.m.**

## Events, Con't.



Live event at USF



Live event abroad



Virtual event



### USF Networks 2025 Virtual Gatherings

February 4-7

Microsoft Teams

[Register here](#)



### 2025 St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs

February 11-13

USF St. Petersburg Student Center Building

[Conference schedule](#) | [Register here](#)



### Unlocking the Future: How Global Megatrends are Defining AI, Supply Chains, and Talent Acquisition

February 11

USF St. Petersburg Student Center Building

[Register here](#)

8:00 a.m.



### International Business Forum

March 13

USF Marshall Student Center (MSC) Ballroom

[Register here](#)

8:00 a.m.

For more information regarding events, contact us at [USFWorldEvents@usf.edu](mailto:USFWorldEvents@usf.edu).



# USF World