A day with powerful female leaders: A PSP student’s point of view

Leslie Gibson, Cohort ’13

The USF Women in Leadership and Philanthropy held the eighth annual symposium on Women in Global Leadership on October 24, 2013. USF Women in Leadership and Philanthropy (WLP) was founded by current President Judy Genshaft and by women active in the Tampa Bay community in 2005. The organization strives to support and encourage women in the University of South Florida system to grow and achieve and provides scholarships to driven and remarkable women at USF.

Dee Dee Myers, the keynote speaker, served as White House Press Secretary for President Clinton and now acts as a political commentator and analyst. Myers, in her speech, questioned what could happen if women ruled the world. Everything could be different—business, government, and communities would change because women bring new perspectives and leadership style to their professions. Her humorous and engaging style as well as her confidence inspired the women present at the symposium.

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PSP students gain insight from esteemed veteran

Zachary Lowie, Cohort ’13

At a recent dinner with the Provost, members of the Provost’s Scholar Program were treated to a special guest speaker during the week of Veteran’s Day. Lieutenant General Martin R. Steele, a retired Marine, told of his life and how living it to the fullest brought him places he never thought he would be able to go.

From an early age, Steele was without his birth father and considered his stepfather to be his “real dad.” He recalls being told of his stepfather’s time in the Armed Forces during World War II and said that when he heard his story of living through tragedy and being able to persevere Steele knew what he wanted to do with his life.

He entered the Marines in 1965 and served for several vehicle battalions over the course of his duty. Along with working his way up to a Three-Star General,

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Steele received the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit for his service. Retiring in 1999, Steele became the President and CEO of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, leading the organization until summer 2002. He continues to serve the museum as a trustee emeritus.

In his latest endeavor, Steele is currently the Associate Vice President for Veterans Research and Executive Director of Military Partnerships at the University of South Florida. Working on patients dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, he says that they are making improvements at dealing with the issues veterans are faced with on a day-to-day basis after their tour overseas.

Lieutenant General Steele serves as a great example of a man who lives to serve his country. He showed the importance of thanking a veteran every day for keeping Americans safe and ensuring we stay free. With so much hatred happening in the world today, it was refreshing for someone of such merit and character to share his story and help to inspire the Provost scholars to strive for greatness.

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Along with Myers, women with laudable and groundbreaking accomplishments both attended the symposium and held sessions.

Topics for the sessions included “Lessons in Leadership from Women in Global Business,” “Overcoming the Gender Gap: Women Leading the Way,” “World Wide Networks: Women in Media,” and several other memorable topics.

Distinguished women with remarkable back-grounds hosted the sessions with experiences ranging from serving on a U.S. Delegation to the United Nations to working as a private advisor at Goldman Sachs & Co.

The symposium gave a glimpse of the motivating power and potential of women in the world and especially in the Tampa Bay community. Students left the sessions with a renewed drive to achieve higher and succeed at USF and in their professional careers, motivated by the incredible women who have set new standards for all that women can achieve.

“...Women with laudable and groundbreaking accomplishments both attended the symposium and held sessions.”
Consult Cristina

Cristina Andersen, Cohort ’11

Cristina is a senior Provost Scholar. She is a Psychology major with two minors in Criminology and Applied Behavior Analysis. She enjoys giving advice to her friends and helping people who need it. She has been successful in taking full class loads every semester as well as working 10 or more hours per week and participating in events on or around campus. Feel free to ask her any questions you may have about the Provost Scholars Program or life in general. You may ask her questions by email: can-dersen@mail.usf.edu if you prefer for your name not to appear in the newsletter please let her know and your question will be asked and answered anonymously.

Hello everyone I am back again to answer your questions! Please remember to not be afraid of asking any question you might have!

“What should I do if finances are an issue for me? I possibly can’t continue to stay on campus due to the lack of money.”

I know that we really do want PSPs to live on campus for their first year. If you are having issues with finances I would encourage talking to Dr. Fogel to make sure it is appropriate for you to move off campus. Remember to apply for Financial Aid and Scholarships and continuing student scholarships through the Honors College. Also visit the Office of National Scholarships and they will be able to point you in the direction of some scholarships that you may qualify for.

“I get that we technically don’t have to pay for the 4th year but don’t we have to pay for all those summer classes? It is really cheaper then?”

I understand how the summer classes can seem as though you’re still paying for a fourth year however what makes you a Provost Scholar is the number of credits that you came in with from AP, dual enrollment etc. Since you already have credits, you won’t be taking as many college classes as most students. Even with a few summer classes it will not add up to the full amount of taking another full year. Remember, as a Provost Scholar, you receive your scholarship funds for the summer semesters. This is a great benefit to PSP students and should help with the cost of summer school. That being said, I urge you to not focus on the money you save from being a Provost Scholar, but think of all the other benefits you are receiving. You are gaining access to countless networking opportunities and connections; you are getting to travel the world, work with professionals in your field, and getting to be one step ahead of everyone else. Yes we save money by graduating in three years, however it’s not just about the money. The opportunities are much more valuable.

“What are the cons of not being in Juniper-Poplar Hall?”

I lived in JP for two years and now I live off campus in an apartment. Here (continued on page 4)
Breaking Stereotypes

Consult Cristina (continued from page 3)

is a list of things I miss from living in JP.

× The dining hall. Even though sometimes you get tired of it, it beats cooking for yourself when you’ve been in class all day and have to study all night

× Starbucks around the corner

× Always having people to hang out with. Sometimes being in an apartment can get lonely. I miss going out into the pod and being able to just hang out with other people

× Being walking distance from class. Parking on campus is really difficult. Sometimes I wish class wasn’t so far away

× Being aware of events happening on campus

× Free printing

Those are some things that I miss from living in JP. Some of these things you would still have access to even if you lived elsewhere on campus. However if you move off campus these might be some of the things you start to miss.

Engagement: a key to student success

Frank Cirillo, Cohort ’13

As new students come on campus for the first time, many of them start to learn the various reputations that USF has, the good and bad. One less than flattering reputation that USF has from rivals is that it stands for the acronym, “yoU Stay Forever.” It is clear that the university, as well as the PSP, is trying to combat this stereotype with it’s Take 15 Initiative, as well as recent changes to the excess hours surcharge policy of the university. As PSPs, we stand as a direct contrast to this stereotype because we are graduating ahead of time. However, one must ask, why are PSPs so successful when our slang university motto suggests the exact opposite of our goal?

Engagement! Engagement is the answer to that question! It is the key to the many doors USF has to offer and it makes students feel like they are a contributing part of the University, and not just another face in the crowd of our thousands of proud bulls. Besides the amazing PSP events and dinners, and our one-on-one access to none other than the incredibly helpful Dr. Fogel, we really aren’t that much different from other USF students. We just have a special attitude about and knowledge of what USF can do for us. Students must be willing to branch out, ask
questions, network, and learn that no matter how many doors they try, eventually they will find the one that their key unlocks.

Just last semester, I was getting very frustrated after I had for two months been emailing, filling out forms, networking, and talking to students and staff about ways to get into a student organization with no success. After trying everything I went to Dr. Fogel, who got me in contact with the Dr. Miller, the Vice President of Student Affairs. He and I had a long and very interesting discussion about why this was happening. He helped clear up my issues and he ended up being the right person to talk to in order for me to figure out my issues and get me involved at USF.

What I have learned is that USF has many administrators, staff, and other employee’s who are also happy to help students engage the university, especially when they show initiative, passion, and knowledge for what they want to do. By showing that extra drive to engage in USF, you can prove that you are not wasting anyone’s time and you have what it takes to keep pursuing new avenues if you first attempts don’t work out.

USF does an excellent job of providing students the tools, knowledge, experts and other resources to engage and connect while they are here. We need to break the habit of waiting for opportunities to just fall in our laps. My recommendations are to: Get out, start searching and don’t be afraid of failure because it’s only a matter of time before someone at USF sees your motivation and knows just how to help you help yourself and your school.

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Jennifer Stenback, Cohort ‘12

Taking a break from all their academics, seventeen Provost’s Scholars met at Riverfront Park for a morning of team building exercises on the low ropes course on November 17th. The event was organized as the first of many future socials by the newly established Provost’s Scholars Social Committee. Cristina Andersen, a third-year student who is currently in charge of the committee, worked with Riverfront Park and Dr. Sondra Fogel to make this first PSP student-organized social a success.

The ropes course group activities started with a round of field games to allow everyone to get to know each other’s name. Each of the three cohorts were represented at the event, and this provided a unique opportunity for first-year PSP students to get to know the second and third-year PSP’s outside of the annual formal dinners.

After the initial warm-up activities, students were split into two groups and led through the low ropes course elements. Some of the activities, like trust falls and blindfolded activities, required students to rely on their partner and team members for directions and support. Students were also able to improve their group communication skills through games which required full team participation to win.

The “Hands and Feet” game required students to cross a finish line as a team only using a specified number of “hands” and “feet” to do so. Amazingly, sixteen students were able to work together and cross the finish line with a combined total of six feet, nine hands, and a lot of sophisticated planning and piggy-backing.

At the end of the morning, all members of the team had successfully worked together and bonded as Provost’s Scholars and the ropes course instructors praised the group’s cohesiveness and communication skills. In fact, the event was so successful that the same group expressed interest in returning to do the high ropes course in the spring to put their newly developed teamwork to the test.

All other Provost’s Scholars are encouraged to participate in future socials like these, and information will be sent out through e-mail as event plans and dates are set for spring semester.

Breaking Stereotypes

Who said PSPs can’t have fun?

Jennifer Stenback, Cohort ‘12
Staying in control of a worry on every student’s mind

Kari Ann Piatt, Editor, Cohort ‘12

What comes up in every conversation about college, at some point or another? Money! Money, money, money. That green stuff may not make the world go round, but it certainly can drive college students up a wall.

We are some of the brightest students in the university. Our drive and motivation have brought us to the PSP, which is a key ingredient to success. But what happens when we don’t manage our money in school? Isn’t that something that could really quite hinder us down the road, once we enter the mythical “real world?”

Although it is a big concern, it doesn’t have to be a big worry. Keep in mind… I am not a math or accounting major, but I have grown to be quite the money conscious gal. As a frequent customer at the Dollar Tree, I would just like to pass along a few ideas of mine to help my fellow PSPs ease their minds about finances.

1. Apply to scholarships! They don’t take that much time to do, and when was the last time you passed up free money?

2. Be careful with credit cards—although it is important in this day and age to build good credit, bad credit is worse than no credit. Ask your bank about student credit cards.

3. Utilize everything free that USF offers! Why pay for a gym membership when you have a free one you can hit between classes?

4. Hunt for coupon books! Many student apartment complexes hand them out for free.

These may seem basic, but sometimes the basic rules are the most overlooked. Happy spending!