Welcome PSP Cohort 2016!

Jennifer Stenback

On August 23rd, The Provost’s Scholars Program welcomed its new cohort with the annual Provost Luncheon. This year’s new cohort is the largest yet with 39 new students joining the program which has just begun in its third year. In its short history, the Provost’s Scholars Program has supported students who are driven and prepared to graduate in three years. Besides graduating early, Provost’s Scholars are expected to study abroad, conduct research, complete a thesis, hold leadership positions, and contribute to their communities. Many of the students in their second and third years have already done just that. Some students have traveled around the world to places like Italy and Ghana for service and study while others are Resident Assistants on campus and still others are working with businesses in the community on innovative projects for research and internships.

With the inaugural group of Provost’s Scholars scheduled to graduate over the next two semesters, the program will see the first official recognition of its success as the University of South Florida’s first Provost’s Scholars cross the stage well-prepared and driven to achieve their future aspirations.

Before those students leave, however, they will join their second year cohorts in welcoming and supporting the Provost’s Scholars of 2013. The following students are members of the 2013 cohort who with hard work, determination, and perseverance will graduate in 2016: Matthew Alleyn, Angela Banks, Jean Beard, Caroline Browning, Brittnie Burns, Zane Butler, Kelly Cave, Jean Ching, Ashley Ciokajlo, Frank Cirillo, Dylan Dalrymple, Victoria (Continued on page 2)

3 or 4? A Provost Scholar’s view

Kari Ann Piatt

All of the students reading this article had a tough decision to make back in the day when we were still in high school. We all had to decide whether or not becoming a Provost Scholar would be the best decision for us. Some of us read an invitation letter and thought that it was the best program in the world and wondered why we were not already a part of it… how could we not?

Some of us, however, heard a voice in the back of our head that was backed up by the voice of our peers or parents. That voice asked the question, “Won’t you be missing out on your senior year of college?” (continued on page 6)
More money, more problems

Frank Cirillo

As the economy continues to recover across the nation, federal and state legislators have not easy up on budget cuts in federal, state, and local programs of which USF was no exception.

The effect of these cuts on USF was felt directly by students when earlier this year the library had its hours cut from 24/5, causing several ripple effects felt throughout the school. Thankfully due to the efforts of students and staff, the hours were restored but with little word yet as to where the funding would come from. As of the latest Student Government senate meeting in late September, the university and not Student Government will be funding the restored hours.

With the state of the economy no one should be surprised that funding at USF and throughout the economy is scarce… or is it?

According to a recent New York Times report, the top 10% of earners took more than half of the country’s total income in 2012. In addition, the income share of the top 1% of earners jumped to about 22.5% in 2012.

While politicians, economists, and the media argue about if or how the government should deal with this growing income disparity, USF should be thinking about how to tap into it.

Donors, philanthropists, and backers are the people who can help USF Provost Scholars. These key influential people could be the ticket to USF’s next new scholarship, building, program, or research grant. A Provost Scholar may want to take the time to share just a little bit about how the Provost’s Scholars Program has helped them succeed. This may spur a donation.

Now, not all Provost Scholars are going to be able to network with donors, but one might be surprised by how their impact can influence someone who does, whether at home, abroad, or in their community.
Consult Cristina

Cristina Andersen

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: candeisen@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! As we kick off this exciting school year I want to welcome all the new Provost Scholars to our program. This is the first year that we have all three classes present so I hope everyone takes this opportunity to learn from your peers and more importantly, connect with your peers. I am now going to take this time to answer some questions that the first year students have come up with. Please continue to send in questions that you have about anything and I will be happy to answer!

“I have some extra time in my schedule. Being a three year student, what clubs or groups would be good for me to look into?”

First of all I think it is great that you are so eager to join clubs and groups. Unfortunately, there is not one answer to this question. Some things to consider when choosing clubs:

→ Passion/Interest: I think it is important to join clubs and groups that you have an interest or passion in. It doesn’t have to be related to your major necessarily. Do something that you will enjoy, you will have better participation and you’ll be more likely to get a position that will be beneficial to your resume.
→ Academic performance: It is also important to consider what effect on your academic performance a club will have. Some students can sometimes be distracted by social clubs. As three year students, we do not have time to mess up one semester. Make sure if you join some sort of social club, you understand how to make time for studying.
→ Benefit of the club: You also need to consider whether that club will be beneficial listed on your resume. Some clubs, while they are fun and you may be able to get a leadership position easily, it may not necessarily be meaningful to a future employer, or graduate admissions. Make sure you keep in mind how your participation in that club will reflect how you spent your three years at USF.

I think overall a good place to start is by talking to your peers, find out what they are doing and do some research on the computer. Utilize social media; clubs often have Facebook pages and post meeting times. Take the time out of your schedule to go to some meetings that interest you and then decide which club you think is best. I think you’ll find that once you come across the right club for you, you’ll know it.

“What happens if you don’t get involved with a leadership position your first year?”

This is OKAY. Do not freak out if by the end of the semester you aren’t the president of the Engineering club. These stronger leadership positions will come with time. What you should focus on your first year is getting involved and being an active member of a

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Meet a graduating Provost: Katherine Hall

Katherine Hall will be the first Provost Scholar to graduate from the program at the end of this fall semester. Instead of three years, she’s finishing in two and a half with her Bachelor’s degree! Katherine is majoring in Social Work and minoring in Behavioral Healthcare. She came in to USF with 33 credits from high school and she will graduate this fall. The remainder of this article is a Q&A with this successful Provost Scholar.

What kind of hobbies do you have?
Well I don’t have too much time for hobbies, but when I do, I like traveling, reading, singing, and just hanging out with friends, which sounds totally lame and cliché, but it’s the truth.

What other groups or organizations are you involved in?
In addition to the PSP program, I am the Parliamentarian of Phi Sigma Pi National Co-Ed Honor Fraternity and the Vice President of the Social Work Society.

Have you studied abroad?
I did a spring break study abroad program in Florence, Italy last March. In addition, I traveled to London in summer 2012, and the Ukraine this past summer doing work with the Salvation Army during both trips.

What’s your favorite part of the Provost’s program?
My favorite part of the PSP program is definitely the unique and one-of-a-kind experiences we receive. Having dinners with the President and the Provost, receiving personalized lectures from influential and respected global leaders… these are things that not many other USF students will get to experience. I think that is so cool! They are definitely experiences that should be utilized by all PSP students. Remember to always network!

What advice do you have for rising Provost Scholars?
I would say to make the most of the time you have at USF! Even though you only have three years, that’s still plenty of time to have an impact. Utilize the awesome opportunities you’ve been given and the wonderful staff that is so excited to work with you! Also, again—network, network, network!

What’s your favorite memory that you’ve had at USF?
A while back ULS had the guys from The Buried Life come to USF. They came back [to USF after we won a competition] and broke a world record with us for the largest “speed mixer.” I think being able to be a part of breaking a world record was definitely a memory I’ll have for a while.

What do you plan to do in the future with your major?
That is a great question. I plan to pursue a career in international social work and community development. I’m still figuring out exactly what my next best step is in pursuing that.
Around the world in summer 2013
Leslie Gibson

Provost’s Scholars went global this past summer! From China to Ghana to Italy, USF was well represented on several continents. Studying and traveling abroad are both purely exciting activities, but it is important to remember that they also give students new perspectives and insight into other cultures and themselves.

Many Provost’s Scholars traveled this summer, but here are a few glimpses into some student’s summers abroad and their unique experiences.

James Jacobelli spent several weeks in Ghana through a USF program led by Dr. Doone of the College of Education volunteering in an orphanage and experiencing Ghanaian culture. From adjusting to the spicy sauce and soups to having a bus break down, the USF group of fifteen students quickly bonded and used the experiences to make unforgettable memories. One of the most profound things James learned is to be grateful for his life here. “I realized that I have so much more than all of the children I worked with, yet they were still rejoicing in their love of God, Ghana, and their friends,” he shared.

Through the Fulbright Summer Institute, Jennifer Stenback studied at the University of Exeter in England. Getting used to British English and the eight different coins proved to be some of the differences Jennifer adapted to during her stay. One of her favorite memories is paddling down the Exeter canal and stopping for cap-

Kari Piatt studied Italian and the Psychology of Intercultural Diversity in Florence, Italy. On a solo trip to Lucca, she discovered the beauty and serenity of Tuscany. Kari experienced first-hand suave Italian men when she was proposed to in a grocery store. She learned to navigate the complex Italian cities during her study abroad and the important lesson that “you don’t always have someone to catch you when you fall… figuratively or literally.”

In Slovakia, Anson Angail studied International Business and Challenges of Transitional Economics. He met the Slovakian Ambassador to the United States and roamed Austria during his stay, exploring places like the Schonbrunn Palace and admiring Austrian architecture. Anson learned how to make friends in any city in the world and found his passion for travel.

In yet another continent, Rachel Taylor spent time with the Honors College in China. She crossed an item off of her bucket list after reaching the top of the Great Wall. Rachel gained new insight into herself and the world around her. “I think travel brings a self-awareness of how small and limited your little view of the world is in your slice of life, but there is so much out there,” Rachel explained. “Despite the small places we occupy, we share the sky and stars. You realize how different life can be, but how similar people are.”
Although this is a question that anyone could certainly find valid, it is a concern that I know I eliminated after some logical thought. The drive I felt to join this prestigious program was not powered by my will to have fun. “YOLO” was not a term that flashed through my head when I considered this opportunity. I knew that being a member of the Provost’s Scholar Program would mean hard work, a reasonable time commitment, and a lot more discipline than my peers.

I also knew that I wanted to be a part of this program for many reasons that outweighed the social aspect of missing a fourth year of college. When meeting new people, I tell them that I am in PSP, because I am a proud member. Usually I have to explain to my new friends what PSP is, and when I do, I find that more often than not, people respond with concern for my college years. At this point in my career as an undergraduate, I have decided to respond by telling them that I am not missing out.

In my mind, I am not. With the psychology and sociology degrees I will obtain while at USF, I feel very prepared to attend graduate school. Why does this matter? Because this is where my fourth year falls in to play! This fourth year will be our first year in graduate school.

Instead of following the stigma that we are a bunch of students rushing through college, I encourage you to use a different perspective. We are not in a rush, but merely working toward a goal that entails our fourth year being a new experience as a graduate student in a fun, thrilling new environment, instead of a year filled with the stress of being a senior. And for those of you in PSP who won’t be attending graduate school, you’ll be working! It just means that you will be earning money in the “real world” before others.

I think the lesson to learn with this social stigma that we as members of PSP have to experience is how to make good decisions using cost benefit analysis. All of us experienced the situation of making a commitment to PSP or to walk away. And for some reason or another, all of us chose PSP. We knew the benefits would outweigh the costs. This skill of analyzing cost-benefit situations is critical to our further success. I encourage all of us in PSP to continue to make great decisions and look toward the future with great ambition!