On a balmy spring Saturday afternoon, Provost Ralph Wilcox joined other community members, USF students, and the Provost’s Scholars in support of a worthy cause. Wilcox, along with over 15 Provost’s Scholars Program cohorts, took part in USF’s annual Relay for Life event on April 18th, which is an overnight fundraising walk benefitting cancer research.

Touting a Relay for Life polo and khaki shorts, the provost approached the starting line with the scholars, filled with anticipation. Wilcox was soon marching around the track with his face aglow, happy to see all of the support from both students and faculty. He says that the group participation is what he wanted to see ever since he first had the idea for the program. “We’ve always catered to students who challenge themselves academically and now we can provide the opportunity for others to benefit from their efforts,” Wilcox said. “Events like Relay show that our students aren’t self-centered but instead realize the contributions they can make to society.”

Program sponsor Dr. Sondra Fogel says that being involved in Relay for Life helps show students just how crucial these charitable events are to the lives of people around the world.

(Continued on page 2)
Breaking Stereotypes

Provost walks with scholars at Relay for Life (cont. from page 1)

“Cancer touches everybody’s life,” Fogel said. “We either know somebody that has it or someone that’s affected by it in another way, shape or form. It’s really important for Provost’s Scholars to get involved in service activities because being in touch with major situations happening around the world helps to increase awareness and teamwork.”

With more than 70 groups participating in USF’s annual event, the Provost’s Scholars group was awarded the bronze distinction, acknowledging that their total donation totaled more than $2,500. The team walked over 100 miles in 14 hours to help bring awareness to a disease that continues to take the lives of innocent people every day.

Cohort and volunteer committee member Stephanie Raymond says Relay for Life is especially important to her because her grandmother passed away from pancreatic cancer and she’s also had other members of her family diagnosed. Raymond says that the support really shows that the cohorts are beginning to participate in causes outside of strictly academics.

“It shows that the program is so strong,” Raymond said. “It’s really cool to see everyone come together.”

After several laps around the track, Wilcox headed off to another event, thrilled to see the Provost’s Scholars Program’s involvement coming to successful fruition. He said he hopes to see continued support for events like this in the future with Relay for Life serving as an example of what the scholars can achieve.

“It’s exactly what we envisioned for this program,” Wilcox said. “I couldn’t be any happier for our provost’s scholars.”
Congratulations, cohort 2012!

By Brittnie Burns
Cohort 2013

The time has come to say goodbye to our second graduating class of Provost’s Scholars. They have worked hard and have ambitious plans on the horizon. Let’s take a moment to acknowledge their future endeavors as they prepare to take these next steps in life.

Elizabeth Armentrout- Working with Conservation Corps. in Arizona before attending graduate school.

Jenna Barlow- Attending nursing school.

Holly Donovan- Pursuing Master of Science in speech-language pathology at USF.

Caitlin Dumke- Working for a non-profit organization focused on helping women prepare for a PhD in women and gender studies.

Elizabeth Engasser- Seeking full-time employment in the communications field.

Marcos Gonzalez- Working as a consultant for two years before pursuing an M.B.A. at an Ivy League school.

James Jacobelli- Working in special education in Hillsborough County.

Haley Knapp- Attending Stetson Law School with a focus on international human rights.

John Lindsey- Working at Ernst & Young, and pursuing a Master of Accountancy in the USF Muma College of Business.

Alexandra Love- Pursuing a master’s in speech-language pathology at USF.

Emily Luc- Pursuing a master’s in criminology.

Igor Lukashevich- Pursuing a master’s in economics at FSU as a Kaul Fellow, serving as one of the top three members of the program’s incoming class.

Michael Malanga- Working as USF student body vice president for the 2015-2016 academic year. Also pursuing a graduate degree in accounting in the USF Muma College of Business.

Amanda Muench- Moving to Orlando to work for Sea World.

Emily Palumbo- Pursuing a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences at USF Morsani College of Medicine.

Rebecca Patrick- Completing research before applying to medical schools in the fall of 2016.

Kari Piatt- Working for Strong College Students before pursuing a Master of Social Work in graduate school.

Jennifer Rives- Attending graduate school to study student affairs.

Jennifer Stenbeck- Pursuing a master’s in public health in global health program management.

Good luck!
Provost’s Scholars and supervisors alike came together on April 1st for the spring dinner commemorating yet another successful term. This semester’s keynote was Dr. Liana Fernandez Fox.

Through hard work and perseverance Fox has become one of the most distinguished women in the Tampa area for her involvement with the community. Born and raised in a Sicilian-Cuban household in Tampa, she first attended USF in 1964, earned her master’s degree in 1980 in education and a PhD in 1998. Initially working as a mathematics professor, Fox has earned her place in the Tampa Bay archives for her leadership and participation in various organizations. Leadership Florida, the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County and the Financial Literacy council of Florida are just a few of her accreditations. Perhaps even more impressive is her extensive list of honors and awards for her volunteer work in Tampa and the rest of Florida. With an amazing career and various distinctions to prove it, Fox shared that while she has led a productive life, time quickly flew by in the midst of her further exploring her passions. She took it upon herself to take a step back and recall not only all that she had done in her life, but what her mother had done, and her grandmother before her, noting that her own legacy starts with those left by a family foundation. Everyone has an origin story, and Fox says that it is important to remember this when moving forward in life.

Dean Adams summed her speech up by saying “their stories are your stories.” It is with this starting point, picking up where those before us left off, where each scholar should strive to add to what has been started and leave their own legacy behind.

When asked what she has left with her own legacy, Fox responded, “I’m looking at things I can get more involved with. There are certain things we can do to offset the money factor in politics, and getting out to vote is one of them. This is where I’ll spend my energy.”

With such busy schedules it can be hard for college students to take a moment and reflect. Life moves quickly, especially with a Provost’s Scholars’ shortened college timeline. Fox noted it’s important for young people to consciously think about the legacy they are creating for themselves. “Write something down,” Fox said. “Look at it next year for the turning points. You might not know in that moment it is one, but maybe in six months you will realize it shook you, positively or negatively, and became a turning point.”

Scholars, if there’s one thing to take away from Fox’s inspiring speech, it’s to remember to write down these crucial life moments, whether good or bad. Over time, the turning points that help shape each person’s legacy will become increasingly evident and create a personal story to add to your family’s framework, which will help shape the future for generations to come.
As part of this year’s graduating cohort, I was among just the second group of students to join the Provost’s Scholars Program. The program’s pillars of leadership, research, and international experience represented everything I wanted to achieve during my time at USF.

With only three years to complete my bachelor’s degree, I made it my goal to have impactful semesters by taking advantage of the opportunities USF has to offer. I have had the chance to serve as volunteer committee co-chair for the Honors College Student Council, president of Bulls for Moffitt, and internal communications director of USF’s Leaders of the Herd.

Before coming to USF, I had never traveled outside of the continental United States. In the past three years, I have gone on service trips to Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, and studied abroad at the University of Exeter in England with a UK-US Fulbright Award for undergraduate students.

I have worked on research at Moffitt’s Tobacco Research and Intervention Program and the USF College of Public Health on a study of the perceptions of coronary artery disease in Bangladesh, which will hopefully be published this year.

At the end of the spring semester I will be graduating with my bachelor’s in Public Health and pursuing a master’s at George Washington University. After completing my master’s, I hope to work in public service or for an NGO, instituting new health concepts abroad.

My participation in the Provost’s Scholars Program provided a great foundation from which I crafted my USF experience. Most of all, I am thankful for the staff working every day with the program’s students. Their constant commitment to ensuring all of us are provided with the correct information and their willingness to meet and discuss our future plans proved to be instrumental in my success as both a student and a person.

To all of the current and incoming Provost’s Scholars, I encourage you to take advantage of the resources our program provides. Attend the events that committees offer and utilize the close-knit cohort network you have at USF. Driven by academics, it’s easy to forget the importance of building relationships and truly enjoying your college experience.

These three years will pass by quickly, and most of your best memories will be of the people you have met during your time here. My words of advice for a successful career as a Provost’s Scholar: study hard, be involved, and as always, GO BULLS!
Over spring break, I learned that Honors College Dean Charles Adams is willing to take “selfies” when prompted and that the associate dean, Dr. Shawn Bingham, is quite the “Heads-Up” enthusiast. Maybe I should explain. I had the opportunity to spend four days in Savannah, Georgia with Adams, Bingham and 14 students like myself on an Honors College trip. The trip focused on the culture and history of one of America’s oldest cities, which was originally founded in 1733 by James Oglethorpe. We spent our first full day touring the Savannah historic district and its 22 town squares. Later on we visited the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum where we were shown a demonstration of how African-American and white soda fountain customers were treated differently during that time period. The next day we stopped by Tybee Island, a local beach that served as the location for a number of Savannah’s civil rights protests. We had the chance to tour the Savannah College of Art and Design’s Museum of Contemporary Art on our third day. We each found exhibits that “spoke” to us, whether it was the tiger rug-shaped display of 60,000 cigarettes or the collection of Oscar de la Renta couture gowns, or any of the hundreds of other works on display. On our last day, we enjoyed a presentation on Savannah’s jazz history by local historian Dr. Julius “Boo” Hornstein. He discussed how musicians like Joe “King” Oliver, mentor to Louis Armstrong, affected the Savannah jazz scene, as well as the impact that Jackie Robinson’s participation in an exhibition baseball game had on integration. Aside from the educational activities, we had plenty of time to have some other fun as well. There were several afternoons spent shopping along River Street or at unique thrift stories in the outskirts of the city center. Some nights we even returned to the hostel and played games and entertaining conversation. According to Adams, more Honors trips are in the works, with cities like New Orleans and New York City serving as possible future definitions. Make sure to keep an eye out for more information on trips like these next year because it was such an incredible time. As an added benefit, Honors LLC residents receive substantial scholarships, making them an affordable alternative to going home or staying on campus for the entire break. This trip was a fantastic experience and yet another perk of being a Provost’s Scholar and Honors College student. I made long-lasting friendships and memories while getting to explore somewhere I had never been before. So consider taking part in one of these trips moving forward. I know I will!
Want to be a Green and Gold Guide?
Leslie Gibson
Cohort 2013

Eating lunch in JP dining probably makes you feel like a zoo animal when campus tours are walking through. Green and Gold Guides, also known as G3s, are one of USF’s most prominent leadership organizations. Rain or shine, G3s lead campus tours for prospective students and their parents while assisting the Office of Admissions with outreach events such as a Stampede to Success or Admitted Student Saturdays.

There were three Provost’s Scholars that served as G3s in the spring semester, including Mike Malanga, who will be USF’s vice president for the upcoming school year. Malanga says that the skills he learned during his time as a G3 will prove beneficial while he makes the transition to his new position.

“G3 has given me the skills to represent both myself and the university as well as granted me opportunities to be involved on campus,” Mike Malanga said.

Andrea Soto applied as a freshman, taking older PSP’s advice to get involved as a first-year student. Soto loves being a G3 because she has gotten acquainted with the campus and is able to be a big influence on why others choose USF.

The third G3 you ask? That’s where I come in. Every time I give tour, I know that I am contributing to USF’s future success by impacting a prospective student’s decision to come to our great university.

Green and Gold Guide recruitment starts in the fall semester and applications are typically due in October. There are several meet-and-greets where interested students can interact with current guides and learn more about what the organization had to offer. The application process consists of an initial application, a group interview and an individual interview for those that qualify. Feel free to contact any of the current G3s if you have any questions about getting involved!

Living in the Honors LLC
Erin Fowler
Cohort 2014

As my first year in college comes to a close, it’s great to reflect on all that I have already been able to do at USF. I truly believe that a huge part of this success comes from living in dorms this year as a resident of Juniper Hall in the Honors Living Learning Community (LLC).

The LLC provided me with indispensable friendships that I continue to cherish, all of which would not have been possible without the fun and creatively stimulating environment we all lived in. I was lucky because I was placed with a great roommate who is also in the Provost’s Scholars Program, so attending events and dinners together provided us with even more time to hang out and allow our bond to grow.

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Outside of this relationship I connected with other first-year students in the LLC thanks to our close proximity to one another. The community is comprised of students who value their education and take academics seriously. It’s an atmosphere that not only promotes success, but even encourages it through free activities. From group study sessions to exclusive events held just for Honors students, it has been incredibly helpful to live in the LLC in making my transition from high school to college. In the fall I will be moving into an apartment off-campus instead of living back in the LLC. While I feel this transition is an integral step into adulthood for me, I am sad to leave the comradery of on-campus housing behind. Before I started at USF, I remember thinking that there was no way I would enjoy living in dorms. The idea of sharing a room was quite stressful, but now I have grown to love the sense of community that we all cultivated and I would strongly suggest the LLC to anyone. I have grown tremendously as a person through this first year and know that the journey would have been very different without the guidance and support of the residents, staff and advisors who worked so hard in Juniper Hall every day. Whoever said the dorm life couldn’t be fun?

Consult Christy

My name is Christy Ibrahim and I’m an upcoming second year Provost’s scholar majoring in Criminology with a Psychology minor. I’ll be your new advice columnist! I was born and raised in upstate New York, and moved to Florida only a few years before starting at USF. I absolutely love the nature here, especially the trees and wildlife on campus. I enjoy writing poetry, modeling and recently I have taken up hooping, which I recommend because it’s a lot of fun and a great stress reliever. I’m excited to help my fellow Provost’s Scholars with any questions or concerns you may have regarding USF or life in general, but remember, it’s up to you. This can only be a helpful column if you continue to participate, so please feel free to email me any time at christyi@mail.usf.edu. If you prefer to remain nameless in the newsletter, please let me know and I will address your question anonymously. Hope to hear from you all soon!

Dear Christy,

I would like to start working on my research requirement, but I don't have any clue where to begin. Can you point me in the right direction?

Anonymous

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Dear Anonymous,

It's great that you're looking to get a head start on your research requirement.

There are plenty of options you could initially consider. One of the most useful resources at USF is the Office of Undergraduate Research, which hosts several “Getting Started” workshops during the start of each semester in their office on the second floor of the library. During these workshops they explain the importance of participating in research, including its role in helping you to become a well-rounded individual. They also provide advice and put you in contact with graduate students and professors with open research positions. This workshop would definitely serve as a great starting point.

The Office of Undergraduate Research has a second workshop that I recommend you attend as well called “Researching a Mentor and Marketing Yourself.” This will teach you the skills needed to contact professors at USF when inquiring about research positions. This is especially handy if you already have a professor in mind but aren’t sure how to bring the topic up in conversation.

The Office of Undergraduate Research isn’t the only resource available at USF. You could also talk to your advisor and see if you are eligible to enroll in a research methods, directed research or lab course to gain research experience and networking connections with professors and graduate students. They are often more than willing to provide you with information about either their own or their peers' research assistant opportunities for undergraduate students.

Just remember to stay positive, persistent, and informed. Good luck with completing your research requirement and remember that we are all right there with you!

Christy Ibrahim