



USF Engineering students in Costa Rica during a Spring Break academic experience.

April 2025



Update From the Vice President



As this edition of the USF World newsletter arrives, I will be in Japan with a delegation of university and community leaders led by USF President Rhea Law and Tampa Mayor Jane Castor visiting Tokyo, Gifu, and Osaka. As the Tampa Bay Region rises in the global economy, visits like this one are invaluable in solidifying relationships that create opportunities at the intersection of education, innovation and research, and economic development. Florida and Japan have deep economic ties. A 2023 Memorandum of Cooperation on Economic and Trade Relations signed between the governments of Japan and the State of Florida highlights the importance of our international alliance. The objective of the Memorandum is to strengthen the bilateral ties shared by Japan and Florida in the following areas: infrastructure and ground transportation; aerospace, aviation, and defense; logistics; clean energy; life sciences and biotechnology; academic cooperation; and sister cities, sister states, and sister port partnerships.

On this mission, we'll be connecting with institutions and organizations who have been valued partners to USF in student exchange programs, particularly in the health education and cultural and language studies. We'll also be establishing ties with several new institutions and organizations who are eager to discover all USF, and the wider Tampa Bay Region can offer. A key focus of this trip will be life sciences innovation driven by the ground-breaking work by our colleagues at USF Health and **partners at Tampa General Hospital** who have been driving the development of the **Tampa Medical and Research District** – a life sciences destination for innovation and discovery in downtown Tampa. We are particularly interested in collaborating with industry leaders in Japan to enhance access to cutting-edge research and education for patients and students.

Among the Japanese institutions our delegation will visit are:

Link-J: Life Science Innovation Network Japan

Members of the delegation will participate in a seminar devoted to exploring business and research opportunities across the Tampa Medical and Research District and Japan's Life Science Innovation Network. You can learn more about this event [here](#).

Kansai Gaidai University: One of two exchange programs in Japan open to USF students across all majors, Kansai Gaidai's strategic importance centers on the breadth of coursework available in business, social sciences, and humanities. USF's relationship with Kansai dates to 1993, and its location between Kyoto and Osaka places students in an urban center important for Japanese commerce, history, culture, and politics. USF's other exchange partner, **Akita International University**, is an English-taught program focusing on business and international studies.

Update From the Vice President Cont.

Gifu University: Since 2015, USF's College of Public Health exchange program with the Gifu, located in central Japan, has allowed 76 USF students to study in one of the healthiest countries in the world. Medical students from Gifu also have traveled to Tampa as part of clinical clerkship exchange agreement.

Tokyo Women's Medical University: While our partnership with Tokyo Women's Medical University is relatively recent (2024), it is already making an impact. Three USF Health students have traveled to TWMU, and this summer, we look forward to welcoming our first two students from Tokyo Women's Medical University to USF.

We have much to learn from each other, and these exchanges accrue benefits not just for our students and faculty but for the long-term health and prosperity of our wider community. And I am thrilled so many in our business community are eager to expand their own insights into our shared global future.

USF Annual Giving Week, April 7-11, is upon us, and I'd like to invite you to join me in supporting **#USFGives** by making a gift to the International Student Support Fund. International students comprise 10 percent of our student body and contribute to key performance metrics, such as graduation rates and degrees in STEM. We want to be there for them when a natural disaster, economic turmoil, or armed conflict occurs in their home country and interrupts the financial support they receive from their families. By donating to the fund, you'll play an important role in helping international students navigate through financial hardships so they can graduate and go on to pursue successful careers. Highly skilled international students are key to American economic prosperity – **you can support these future professionals here!**

Our feature story focuses on the **2nd Annual USF International Business Forum and how artificial intelligence is shaping the present and future of global business.** We were thrilled to have USF alumna and international technology expert Gayle Sheppard deliver an insightful keynote presentation and lead a thought-provoking panel discussion. The Forum explored the transformative benefits of AI for business, while emphasizing the critical need for collaboration in preventing its misuse and ensuring responsible use of this game-changing technology. And we are deeply grateful for the participation of our diplomatic community, including Consul General of Brazil in Florida João Lucas Quental Novaes de Almeida who joined a panel discussion focused on how AI is transforming the diplomatic landscape. This forum could not have been possible without the support of **generous sponsors and community partners.**

As the spring semester draws to a close, we will have a new class of USF graduates ready to begin their careers. The end of the semester also means scores of USF students will be packing for the summer study abroad experiences and adventures. As educators, there's nothing more rewarding than sharing in our students' sense of accomplishment and excitement as they embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in the world.

Sincerely,
Dr. Kiki Caruson

Support International Student Success



Help International Students in Need During USF Giving Week

USF World created the International Student Support Fund to support international students during their times of need. This fund provides emergency assistance to international students impacted by crises in their home countries, helping them stay on track with their education and continue to contribute to our campus community.

This Giving Week, we invite you to stand with USF's international students during their most challenging moments. Your generosity will ensure they have the resources they need to succeed.

[Give Now](#)

World Class



USF International Business Forum explores the promise and peril of AI

Artificial intelligence helps doctors detect deadly infections and respond quicker in saving lives. AI-powered tools provide banking services to those with none in developing countries, helping local artisans sell their crafts and support their families. And in international shipping, AI programs optimize supply chains and help tankers

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Building connections: USF Network India event bringing local alumni and current students together

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Global experts convene at USF to explore the cutting-edge science of microbiomes

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International Student Success' culture exchange event intrigues and fascinates students, encouraging world travel

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USF Health virologist Dr. Christian Bréchet elected a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology

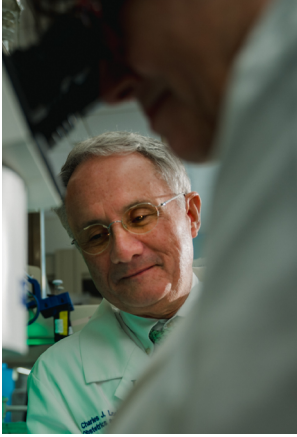
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Events



Live event at USF



Live event abroad



Virtual event



Vietnam USF Recruitment & Alumni Events

April 10-11

Hanoi & Ho Chi Minh City

[Register Here](#)



Taipei Evening Gathering for USF Alumni

April 17

Daan District Taipei

[Register Here](#)



Spring International Sash Ceremony

May 6 & 8

USF Marshall Student Center (MSC) Ballroom

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

For more information regarding events, contact us at USFWorldEvents@usf.edu.

