

== 2026 ==  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA®  
OUTSTANDING YOUNG  
**★ALUMNI**  
== A W A R D S ==

**Thursday, April 9**  
**USF Sam and Martha Gibbons**  
**Alumni Center**

*PRESENTED BY*



**USF Alumni Association**

# 2026 USF OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS



**Maya Brown**

*Sociology and Africana Studies '15*



**Raechel Canipe**

*Psychology '13*



**Dr. Nicole Dinescu-Munoz**

*Biomedical Sciences '13 and  
MS Medical Sciences '15*



**Zita Ballinger Fletcher**

*Interdisciplinary Social Sciences '13*



**LCDR Paul W Johannes**

*Business Economics '16*



**Dr. Ahmed-Zayn Mohamed**

*Biomedical Sciences and Political Science '16  
and MD '22*

The USF Outstanding Young Alumni Awards were established in 2004 to annually recognize alumni aged 35 or younger who have demonstrated emerging and unique innovation, creativity and success in their careers.

# TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

## Student Speaker

**Aria Douglas**, Class of 2026  
President, USF St. Petersburg Ambassadors

## Welcome

**Bill McCausland, MBA '96**  
Vice President and Executive Director, USF Alumni Association

**Phil Amuso, '73, MA '75 and PhD '00, and Jean Amuso**  
Presenting Sponsors

## University Remarks

**Moez Limayem**  
President, University of South Florida

## Presentation of Awards

**Moez Limayem**  
**Sally Dee, '94 and MBA '11**  
Chair, USF Alumni Association Board of Directors

**Amy Martz, '04**  
2017 USF Outstanding Young Alumna

**Jonathan Davila, '11**  
2024 USF Outstanding Young Alumnus

## Recipient Panel Discussion

**Eric Eisenberg, Moderator**  
Senior Vice President, USF University  
Community Partnerships

## Singing of USF Alma Mater

## Post-Event Reception

*The views and opinions expressed at this event are those of the speakers and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the University of South Florida.*



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2026 USF Outstanding Young Alumna

## Maya Brown

*Sociology and Africana Studies '15*

Maya Brown is an educator, political consultant and lobbyist dedicated to boosting civic engagement nationwide. The founder of MB Strategies LLC, a political and public affairs consulting firm, Brown manages multimillion-dollar communications and advocacy campaigns, and advises partners across government, corporate and community organizations. Brown was named to Florida Politics' "150 Most Influential People in Florida Politics" in 2022 and INFLUENCE Magazine's "30 Under 30" in 2020. A former member of the USF Alumni Association Board of Directors, she is an adjunct professor and guest lecturer, mentoring emerging civic and community leaders and serving with several nonprofit agencies.



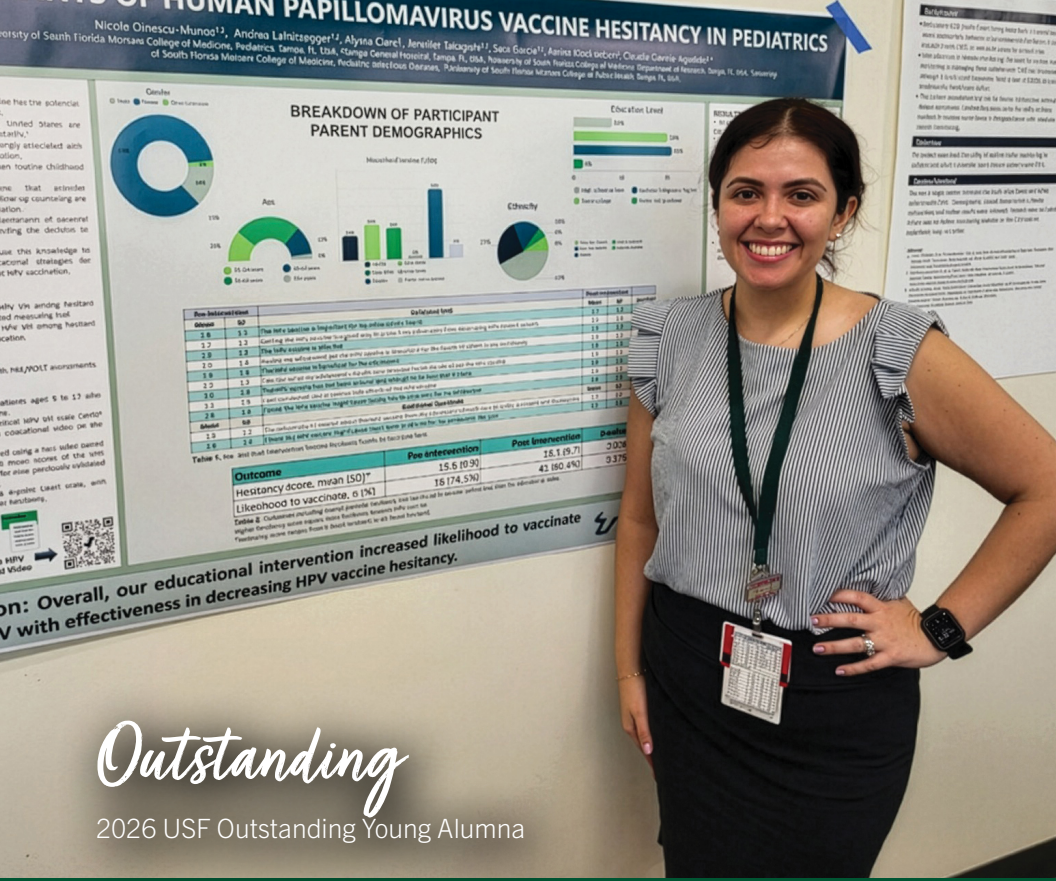
## *Outstanding*

2026 USF Outstanding Young Alumna

### **Raechel Canipe**

*Psychology '13*

Raechel Canipe is the founder and CEO of Women in Tech & Entrepreneurship, which provides free educational programs, mentorship and networking for more than 5,000 women across Florida. She also serves as chief operating officer for RevStar, a digital transformation agency that delivers AI solutions, and as a venture capitalist helping companies grow into industry-leading businesses. Canipe supported evacuations in Afghanistan during the fall of Kabul as an officer of Project Afghan Relief Fund. A former chair of Emerging Leaders of Tampa Bay, she earned recognition as a Tampa Bay Business Journal 2024 Innovation Award winner and a Business Observer 2024 Changemaker.



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2026 USF Outstanding Young Alumna

## Dr. Nicole Dinescu-Munoz

*Biomedical Sciences '13 and MS Medical Sciences '15*

Dr. Nicole Dinescu-Munoz is a physician and medical director at Tampa General Medical Group, where she leads clinical care and strategic initiatives. Double board-certified in internal medicine and pediatrics, she completed her residency at USF in 2023 and is passionate about improving access to care and health education, especially in communities where many residents are uninsured or have limited English proficiency. Dinescu-Munoz has lectured extensively, presented her research on HPV vaccination hesitancy internationally and has mentored medical students and other medical learners. She has received multiple national and institutional awards, including Campus Leader of the Year at her medical school and the American Medical Association Foundation Minority Scholars Award.



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## Zita Ballinger Fletcher

*Interdisciplinary Social Sciences '13*

Zita Ballinger Fletcher is a military historian; Forbes contributor covering drones, aerospace and defense; and journalist for Military Times and Defense News. She has reported on the Pentagon, U.S. Congress, the global defense industry and all branches of the U.S. military. Fletcher was the first female editor of two national magazines and writes articles voluntarily on behalf of the German War Graves Commission. An award-winning author, she has written more than 10 books and more than 100 articles on military history, earning honors from the Military Writers Society of America, the National Federation of Press Women and the Daughters of the American Revolution.



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## LCDR Paul W Johannes

*Business Economics '16*

LCDR Paul W Johannes is a submarine warfare officer in the U.S. Navy. As engineer officer aboard the USS Columbia, a Los Angeles class nuclear-powered submarine, Johannes leads a department of 75 highly trained officers and sailors in the safe operation and maintenance of a naval nuclear propulsion plant. Known for his technical proficiency, he has led watch teams through two extended deployments to the USCENTCOM and USINDOPACOM areas of responsibility. Johannes has served as a liaison to Canada, NATO and other allied partners, training more than 500 allied service members and strengthening the tactical readiness of the Royal Canadian Air Force and Navy.

A portrait of Dr. Ahmed-Zayn Mohamed, a man with dark hair and a goatee, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is standing in front of a large window with a view of a city and water. The word "Outstanding" is written in a white, cursive font over the bottom left of the image.

Outstanding

2026 USF Outstanding Young Alumnus

## Dr. Ahmed-Zayn Mohamed

*Biomedical Sciences and Political Science '16 and MD '22*

Dr. Ahmed-Zayn Mohamed was the first MD/JD dual-degree candidate at the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine and Stetson University College of Law. Valedictorian of his law school class and named Intern of Distinction during first year surgical training at Stamford Hospital/Columbia University, he is now an interventional radiology resident and intellectual property lawyer passionate about innovation in health care. Mohamed is a member of the USF Foundation Board of Directors and the prestigious Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society. He enjoys volunteering in legal and medical settings and is committed to giving back to his community through teaching and mentoring students.

# PAST RECIPIENTS

Tamsen Fadal, Broadcast News '92 .....	2004
Frank Dagostino, Management '92 .....	2005
Dr. Stephanie Todd, Chemistry '96 .....	2006
Michael Griffin, Marketing '03 .....	2007
Brian Lamb, Accounting '98 and MBA '17 .....	2008
Shaun Robinson, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences '05.....	2009
Alison Jimenez, MA Business Economics '02.....	2010
Daniel Ravicher, Civil Engineering '97.....	2011
Nikole Collins-Puri, Political Science '01.....	2012
Jeffrey B. Hackman, Accounting '00 and MAcc '06.....	2013
Monique D. Hayes, Political Science '01 .....	2014
David Mincborg, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences '03.....	2015
Eric J. Biel, Criminology '13 and MBA '16.....	2017
Florida Sen. Daniel Wright Burgess Jr., Political Science '08.....	2017
Stephenie Davis, Marketing '15 .....	2017
Iris A. Elijah, Africana Studies and Economics '08 .....	2017
Amanda Evora, General Business Administration '12 .....	2017
Ryan Gilliam, 2005-07 .....	2017
Brad Kendell, Communication '03.....	2017
Amy Martz, Communication '04 .....	2017
Jason Pierre-Paul, 2009.....	2017
Dr. Dorothy M. Russ, Biomedical Sciences '05.....	2017
Hannibal L. Baldwin, Finance '11 .....	2018
R. Grant Baxley, Management Information Systems '07 .....	2018
Vincent Terrell Jackson, Management '16.....	2018
Maja Lacevic, English and International Studies '09 .....	2018
Reuben Pressman, Entrepreneurship '11 .....	2018
Joel Raney, Civil Engineering '11 .....	2018
Dr. Venessa Walker, Biomedical Sciences '04 .....	2018
Keith W. Babb III, Social Work '07 and MPA '10.....	2019
Dr. Jacqueline Darna, Biomedical Sciences '07 .....	2019
Melissa "Mely" Salguero, Music Education '09.....	2019
Florida Rep. Chris Spowls, Political Science '06 .....	2019
Ryan Swanson, MArch '13.....	2019
Dr. Marlene "Joannie" Bewa, MPH '18 and PhD '23 .....	2020

John Brennan, Music Studies '12 .....	2020
Dr. Nicholas DeVito, Microbiology '08 and MD '12.....	2020
Rogan Donnelly, MBA '18.....	2020
Dakeyan C. Graham, PhD Music '15 .....	2020
Dr. Chinyere “ChiChi” Okpaleke, Biomedical Sciences '08 and MS Medical Sciences '10 .....	2020
Samuel Barrington, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences '12 and MBA '21 .....	2021
USAF Capt. David DeLeon, Marketing '14.....	2021
Anthony Morrison, General Business Administration '11 .....	2021
Jennie Nwokoye, Biomedical Sciences '12.....	2021
José Valentino Ruiz-Resto, Music Studies '09 and PhD '16.....	2021
Danielle Weaver-Rogers, Political Science '10.....	2021
Mark Clennon, Mass Communications '10 .....	2022
Garin Flowers, Mass Communications '09.....	2022
Dr. Karim Hanna, Biomedical Sciences '10 and MD '14.....	2022
Lauren Shumate Marcil, Criminology '10 and MA '14 .....	2022
Timothy Moore, Marketing, 2010-12 .....	2022
Daniel Erazo Pinto, International Studies '13.....	2022
Kristen Corpion, Anthropology and Political Science '10 .....	2023
Candace Braun Davison, Mass Communications '10.....	2023
Chris Fils, Finance '08 .....	2023
Catlin Skufca, History '11 .....	2023
Kayvon Webster, Health Sciences '13.....	2023
Jordann Windschauer, Mass Communications '12 .....	2023
Jonathan Davila, Biomedical Sciences '11 .....	2024
Corbyn Lichon, Accounting '13.....	2024
Shane McClanahan, Political Science, 2015-18.....	2024
Kyle L. McIntyre, Political Science '15.....	2024
George Papadeas, Marketing '13.....	2024
Janae Thomas, MPA '18 and PhD '23 .....	2024
Stefania Alastre Arcusa, Cell and Molecular Biology '17 and MSPH '21 .....	2025
Veronica “Ronnie” Gajownik, Interdisciplinary Social Science '15.....	2025
Ashley Washington Julmis, Finance '11.....	2025
Shelly Marc, Criminology and Political Science '13.....	2025
Bailee W. Olliff, Biomedical Sciences '12 and MD '16.....	2025
Hiram J. Ríos Hernández, Economics and International Studies '15.....	2025

*The Outstanding Young Alumni Award was not presented in 2016.*

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

## PRESENTING SPONSORS

# Phil and Jean Amuso



The Outstanding Young Alumni Awards ceremony is our favorite USF Alumni Association event. It's wonderful to learn about the personal journeys of our award recipients and how their USF experience helped make their successes possible.



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## PATRON SPONSORS

# Balaji and Heather Ramadoss

# USF ALMA MATER

*Hail to thee, our Alma Mater  
May thy name be told,  
Where above thy gleaming splendor,  
Waves the green and gold  
Thou our guide in quest for knowledge  
Where we all are free  
University of South Florida  
Alma Mater, Hail to Thee!*

# ABOUT THE USF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The USF Alumni Association is a nonprofit organization composed of former students and friends of the University of South Florida. The association helps USF's 400,000-plus living alumni stay connected and provides meaningful ways for USF Bulls to support, promote and protect their university.

Visit [usfalumni.org](https://usfalumni.org) for more information about the USF Alumni Association, including ways to get involved through volunteering, membership or giving.



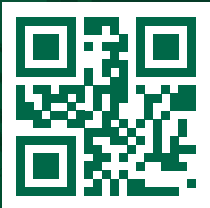
**USF Alumni Association**

# WAYS TO ENGAGE



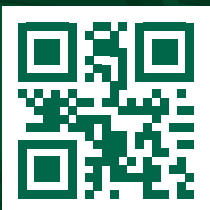
## **MENTORSHIP**

The USF LINK program aims to create meaningful relationships that foster personal and professional growth for both students and alumni.



## **BE BOLD**

Bulls of the Last Decade is an exclusive alumni group for individuals aged 35 or younger. Participate in professional networking mixers, community service projects and social events.



## **EMPOWER**

Celebrate outstanding Bulls! Make a gift to the USF Alumni Association. Contact Amabel McCormick at 813-396-2226 or [amabel@usf.edu](mailto:amabel@usf.edu).



**USF Alumni  
Association**

[usfalumni.org](http://usfalumni.org)