

# Giving Changes Lives

A Special Report from the USF Foundation's Office of Donor Relations & Stewardship | JUNE 2014



## USF Women's Club

Helping students succeed since 1960



Allison Austin  
Women's Club Scholarship Recipient

From the earliest days, benefactors of the University of South Florida have focused on helping students achieve the dream of a college education. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that the very first campus club is the source of one of USF's longest running endowed scholarships. The first club was the USF Women's Club, which has cultivated a strong history of generosity and community involvement for more than 50 years. The Club was founded in 1960 by Grace S. Allen, the wife of Dr. John S. Allen, USF's founding president, as a way for USF employees and their families to get to know each other. The Club also wanted to raise money for the University in fun and enjoyable ways, so they held Bridge parties. Proceeds raised at these parties and the Club's sponsored gala dinners were used to purchase televisions for the USF Infirmary and eventually fund the Club's two endowments: the Grace Allen Library Endowment and the Grace Allen Endowed Scholarship.

The Library Endowment helps purchase materials to support instruction and research, while the Endowed Scholarship is designed to help non-traditional-age students attain both undergraduate and graduate degrees. Thanks to Women's Club members and matching funds from the State of Florida, the Grace Allen Scholarship fund is fully endowed and awards several scholarships each year.

The immediate past president of the Women's Club, Rose Killinger, is incredibly passionate about student success and increasing the Women's Club's capacity for philanthropy.

"We recently researched our scholarship giving through the years. Since 1970 we have awarded \$300,000 in scholarships to nearly 300 students. This started with 'book' awards of \$75.00. In 1973 a full-tuition scholarship was awarded for \$190. Currently we are awarding six scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 per year," said Rose.

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Did you know...

**73%** of USF students receive some form of financial aid

Did you know...

**27%** of undergraduate students are the first in their family to go to college (an increase of 16% since 2007)

## WOMEN'S CLUB

CONTINUED FROM COVER

She explained that the Women's Club also decided to research and compile a complete list of recipients in the hope that these alumni will now recognize an opportunity to give back to the fund that helped them realize their dreams.

"We are extremely proud of our accomplishments. The act of giving is truly a good feeling," said Rose.

Alison Austin is a USF Women's Club scholarship recipient and is working toward a master's degree in rehabilitation and mental health counseling. She discovered the USF Women's Club while researching possible scholarship opportunities on the USF website.

"This scholarship means that I can afford the books I need to be successful in my courses," said Alison. "The scholarship from the USF Women's Club represents a vote of confidence and support for my current abilities and future goals from the women of our community. That means a lot, especially coming from women who have experience and expertise in such a wide variety of areas." Alison expects to graduate in December 2014.

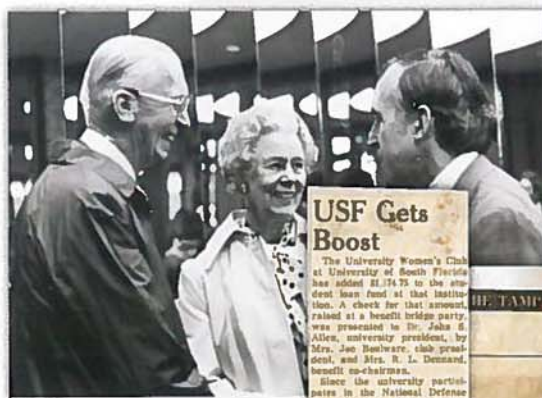
"Alison is one example of the many wonderfully talented USF students whose lives have changed as a result of receiving this scholarship" states Sharon Hamisak, Assistant Director of the USF Foundation Scholarship Office. "In some cases, this scholarship has been the deciding factor on whether or not a student is able to complete their education. The USF Women's Club has been an invaluable resource to students for more than 50 years, and we look forward to partnering with them long into the future."

Rose said the club still embraces its founder's vision. "We take pride in helping to transform lives through the gift of education at USF. This is what Grace Allen intended from the beginning."

For more information on giving to, or scholarship eligibility for, the USF Women's Club/Grace Allen endowments, please contact Sharon Hamisak, Assistant Director for the USF Foundation Scholarship Office at 813.974.8305 or [shamisak@usf.edu](mailto:shamisak@usf.edu) or visit [www.usf.edu/ua/SCHOL](http://www.usf.edu/ua/SCHOL).



### College Scholars Benefit From Student Style Show



### USF Gets Boost

The University Women's Club at University of South Florida has added \$1,747.75 to the student loan fund at that institution. A check for that amount, raised at a benefit bridge party, was presented to Dr. John S. Allen, university president, by Mrs. Joe Bouhara, club president, and Mrs. R. L. Dennard, benefit co-chairman. Since the university participates in the National Defense Education Act to induce stu-

### Women in the News

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE, Tuesday, October 9, 1962



GREETING GUESTS at the President's Reception and Dance for University of South Florida faculty members and their wives last night were Adam and Mrs. Joseph Tombray and Dr. and Mrs. John Allen. Dr. Allen is president of the University and Mrs. Bouhara is president of the University Women's Club.



TEA TIME—Members of University of South Florida Women's Club were entertained at a tea yesterday by Mrs. John Allen (right) at her home, 10911 Carrollwood Ave. Mrs. Joe Bouhara serves Mrs. Harrison (left) and Mrs. Sidney D. Merin.—(Staff Photo by Dick Mooney)



Did you know...

**\$6.8M** in scholarship dollars were awarded to students in 2012-13 from donors giving to the USF Foundation