

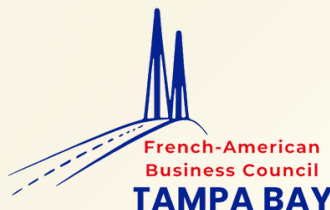
USF World & FRAMCO Present

**1st Annual
FRENCH BUSINESS FORUM**



November 22, 2024 | 9 AM - 2 PM

*USF Research Park
University of South Florida
Tampa Campus*



PROGRAM

9:00 a.m. Welcome Remarks
Kiki Caruson, Vice President, USF World

Special Remarks
*Christian Bréchet, Senior Associate Dean for Research
USF Health*

**9:15 a.m. Business, Technology, and Medicine:
Dialogue with the Consul General**
Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France

9:45 a.m. Supporting French Business in Tampa Bay
Moderator: Betty Cappa, President, French-American Business Council

*Panelists: Shannon Pastizzo, Program Director, USF CONNECT
Anne Latowsky, Chair, World Languages, USF
Deeksha Sridher, President, French Club, USF*

10:45 a.m. Coffee Break & Networking

**11:00 a.m. Medical Research and International Entrepreneurial
Collaborations**

Moderator: Christian Brechet, USF Health

*Panelists: Aurelie Joly-Amado, Senior Researcher, USF Health
Benoît Mouzon, Medical Researcher, Roskamp Institute*

12:00 p.m. Lunch, Networking & Exposition
*Showcase of French cultural and business organizations,
French-owned companies, and student organizations*



Welcome



KIKI CARUSON **VICE PRESIDENT, USF WORLD**

Dr. Caruson leads USF's global engagement across the Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Sarasota-Manatee campuses, including study abroad programming, international student and scholars services, the management of international partnerships, the Global Discovery Hub, initiatives that support research and scholarly mobility, Peace Corps programming, international alumni outreach, as well as global development activities.

Dr. Caruson is an expert regarding best practices for promoting strong relationships between university research and international offices and the data and metrics associated with successful global engagement across faculty, students, alumni, and global partners.

Dr. Caruson is an alumna of the USIEF India Fulbright Program for senior international education administrators (2013) and is an active faculty member in the School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies within the College of Arts and Sciences.

Distinguished Guest



RAPHAËL TRAPP **CONSUL GENERAL OF FRANCE**

An alumnus of the Faculty of Law at the University of Paris XII and the Institute of Administration, Mr. Trapp joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2003.

In 2004, he was assigned to the Budgetary Office at the General Administration Department before joining the Human Rights office of the Ministry (2006-2009).

Starting from 2009, Mr. Trapp was appointed as Legal Advisor at the Human Rights unit of the Permanent mission of France to the United Nations in Geneva (Switzerland).

In 2012, he took over the unit as Head of the Human Rights department of the Mission. He participated in the establishment of the Commission of inquiry on Human Rights violations in Syria, worked more broadly on the universal protection of freedom of speech, and the fight against arbitrary detentions and death penalty.

In 2013, Mr. Trapp joined the French Embassy in Rabat (Morocco) as First secretary at the Political Affairs unit, a period during which he worked in close relationship with the Moroccan civil society. Back in Paris, at the Secretary General department of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, he served as a Policy officer to follow up management and general Consular affairs; the last year of his posting, he managed the policy officers' team of the Secretary General.

In 2019, he was appointed Deputy permanent Representative of France to the United Nations and the International Organizations in Vienna (Austria) and worked on the nuclear Iranian file, on space affairs and on combatting cybercrime.

Mr. Trapp is married and has two children. He nurtures a particular passion for jazz music.



CHRISTIAN BRÉCHOT
SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR
RESEARCH, USF HEALTH

Panel Moderator

Dr. Christian Bréchet, MD, PhD, is a distinguished scientist with a career spanning molecular biology, virology, hepatology, and oncology. He began his academic career as a professor of Cell Biology and Hepatology at Paris Descartes University in 1989. During this time, he also led the clinical liver disease department at Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital and managed a prominent research unit at the Necker Faculty of Medicine, supported by

Inserm, Paris Descartes University, and the Pasteur Institute. Additionally, he directed the National Reference Centre on viral hepatitis.

From 2001 to 2007, Dr. Bréchet served as General Director of Inserm, France's leading biomedical research agency. His expertise later led him to a key role as Vice-President of Medical and Scientific Affairs at Institut Merieux, overseeing significant advancements in diagnostics, vaccines, and food safety. From 2013 to 2017, he served as President of the Institut Pasteur, where he implemented global strategies in research and expanded the international Pasteur Institute network.

Since 2018, he has continued his impactful work as a tenured professor at the University of South Florida and contributed to the Global Virus Network until 2023. His pioneering research includes hepatitis B and C studies linking viral infections to liver cancer, and recent work on Reg3A/HIP related to diabetes and Alzheimer's. Dr. Bréchet's prolific career includes over 400 publications, 18 patents, and the founding of three biotech companies, marking him as a transformative figure in virology and oncology.



BETTY CAPPA
PRESIDENT, FRENCH-AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

Panel Moderator

Betty Cappa, an accomplished professional with more than 20 years of experience in Commercial Real Estate, is highly regarded in the industry. Originally from the picturesque island of Martinique, she moved to Florida in 2015, where she has since built a reputation for her unwavering dedication and expertise. Throughout her career, Betty has represented clients from the United States, Canada, and Europe, providing her with a global perspective and an understanding of diverse markets. She's known for her meticulous attention to detail and a client-first approach that sets her apart.

Betty's multilingual skills in French, English, and German enable her to connect and communicate with clients across cultural boundaries effortlessly. She is a certified Investor Realtor, Price Strategic Advisor, and an expert in short sales and foreclosures, credentials that underscore her ability to guide clients through complex real estate transactions.

Outside of her professional life, Betty finds relaxation and joy on the golf course and expresses her creativity through painting. Her grandchildren are a constant source of happiness, and she treasures the time spent with them.

In her role as President of the French American Business Council of West Florida, Betty actively fosters international business relations. Additionally, as a member of The Economic Club of Tampa and the Ambassador Council for Cristo Rey Tampa Salesian High School, she participates in initiatives that shape the economic and educational landscape of her community.



SHANNON PASTIZZO **PROGRAM DIRECTOR, USF CONNECT**

Panelists

Shannon Pastizzo is the Program Director of USF CONNECT. She oversees innovation initiatives at USF including the Tampa Bay Technology Incubator and the Student Innovation Incubator. USF CONNECT provides support for companies including technology and life science start-ups by facilitating access to top-tier research, programming, faculty, students, supporting organizations and funding sources.

Her career spans more than 20 years in non-profit experience leading major economic development, innovation and partnership projects. Prior to joining USF CONNECT, she was the Director of Business Development for Synapse, a community helping each other succeed by sharing resources, opportunities and ideas to promote innovation. She was instrumental in creating Synapse events, including the yearly Tampa Bay Synapse Summit. She holds a BS in Accounting from the University of Connecticut.



ANNE LATOWSKY **WORLD LANGUAGES CHAIR, USF**

Dr. Anne Latowsky is an Associate Professor of French and Chair of the department of World Languages at USF. She directed the French MA program from 2013-2023. A medievalist, she is the author of *Emperor of the World: Charlemagne and the Construction of Imperial Authority, 800-1229* (Cornell University Press, 2013, pb. 2020), which won the Best First Book prize from the Southeastern Medieval Association in 2015.

Most recently she co-edited with Courtney M. Booker *In this Modern Age: Medieval Studies in Honor of Paul Edward Dutton* (Trivent, 2023). She is engaged in multiple translation projects and is currently finishing a book on the tradition of Charlemagne's legendary battles in Spain. In addition to serving as the president of the Southeastern Medieval Association from 2020-2023, she also served from 2019-2022 as an elected Councillor of the Medieval Academy of America. She offers courses in French literature and culture, civilization, and linguistics, and particularly loves to teach Old French.



DEEKSHA SRIDHER **PRESIDENT, USF FRENCH CLUB**

Deeksha Sridher is currently a third year Honors student at USF. She is from Omaha, Nebraska, where she has lived for most of her life. She is majoring in biomedical sciences and minoring in French. Deeksha's career aspiration is to become a physician.

She first became interested in learning French when she was in middle school, and had the opportunity to compete in a contest known as the National French Exam. She competed in the National French Exam every year up until her senior year, where she placed first in Nebraska and third in the nation several times. She was a member of French Honor Society in high school. In college, she had the opportunity to be secretary for French Club during her sophomore year, and is currently the French Club president.

Aside from French Club, her other activities include neuroscience research, volunteering at a center for cancer patients, being the secretary for HOSA (a prehealth organization allowing students to compete in a variety of competitions), and programming director for SPARKS (a magazine centered on writing about Asian American experiences).



AURELIE JOLY-AMADO **SENIOR RESEARCHER, USF HEALTH**

Dr. Aurélie Joly-Amado is a distinguished researcher and professor at the University of South Florida. She specializes in neurodegenerative diseases, particularly Alzheimer's disease and tauopathies. Her work focuses on understanding the mechanisms of tau pathology and exploring potential therapeutic strategies.

Dr. Joly-Amado has contributed significantly to the field through her research on the role of inflammation in neurodegenerative diseases and the impact of metabolic changes on aging. She has authored and co-authored numerous peer-reviewed scientific papers and has presented her findings at various national and international conferences.

In addition to her academic role, Dr. Joly-Amado serves as a scientific consultant, leveraging her expertise to advance healthy aging initiatives. Her dedication to research and education continues to inspire and drive progress in the fight against neurodegenerative diseases.



BENOÎT MOUZON **MEDICAL RESEARCHER, ROSKAMP INSTITUTE**

Dr. Benoit Mouzon, Ph.D., is a Research Biologist II and accomplished neuroscientist specializing in traumatic brain injury (TBI) and its neurobiological impacts. Dr. Mouzon holds a B.S. in Molecular Biology and an M.S. in Biotechnology from the Florida Institute of Technology, a Graduate Certificate in Biotechnology from McGill University, and a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from The Open University. He has completed extensive research rotations, including in Neuropathology at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, UK.

Over the past two decades, Dr. Mouzon has developed significant expertise in translational TBI research. His pioneering work includes creating a mild TBI (mTBI) mouse model that mimics the persistent neuroinflammatory and pathological changes seen in human TBI, enabling him to investigate long-term effects and cognitive deficits resulting from repetitive brain injuries. His research has also expanded to studying the effects of mTBI on traumatic optic neuropathy (TON), with a focus on the roles of tau proteins and cellular responses. His recent studies demonstrate the therapeutic potential of ST266 in mitigating optic neuropathy, contributing valuable insights into non-invasive cell-based therapies for visual dysfunction following brain trauma.

Dr. Mouzon has led collaborative pre-clinical studies, evaluating innovative therapies for TBI in partnership with renowned institutions and biotech firms, including neural stem cell and amnionic cell secretome treatments. His current research, supported by multiple grants from the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Veterans Affairs (VA), focuses on DYRK1A inhibitors and amnion-derived cell secretomes as treatments for TBI and Gulf War Illness.

Dr. Mouzon is an established contributor to scientific literature with over 50 peer-reviewed publications and extensive involvement in neuroscience societies and editorial boards. His work at the Roskamp Institute and James A. Haley Veterans Hospital emphasizes advancing therapeutic strategies to improve patient outcomes in TBI, neurodegenerative diseases, and neuroinflammation.

SUPPORT STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIPS

**[Click Here To
Contribute](#)**

**GIVE USF
STUDENTS
THE WORLD**

USF NETWORK FRANCE



510

Alumni
from France

140⁺

Faculty
engaged

25

Students
from France

890⁺

Study
abroad

USF Global Networks bring together alumni, students, faculty, and partners to build worldwide communities of support for international programs, research, and business connections.

Belonging to a Global Network is an exciting way to expand personal and professional connections in a particular part of the world, to collaborate with USF, and to engage with others who are interested in that special place.

Did you know?

Tampa and Le Havre have been Sister Cities since 1992, fostering cultural exchange, collaboration, and opportunities for both communities.

**SCAN
TO JOIN**

OR VISIT:



<https://tinyurl.com/usfnetworkfrance>

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

A GLOBALLY ENGAGED RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

FRANCE

COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT BRIEF

ABOUT USF

The University of South Florida, a high-impact research university dedicated to student success and committed to community engagement, generates an annual economic impact of more than \$6 billion. With campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee, USF serves approximately 50,000 students who represent nearly 150 different countries. *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked USF as one of the nation's top 50 public universities for five consecutive years, and this year USF earned its highest ranking ever among all universities public or private. In 2023, USF became the first public university in Florida in nearly 40 years to be invited to join the Association of American Universities, a prestigious group of the leading universities in the United States and Canada. Through hundreds of millions of dollars in research activity each year and as one of the top universities in the world for securing new patents, USF is a leader in solving global problems and improving lives. USF is a member of the American Athletic Conference. Learn more at www.usf.edu.

ABOUT USF WORLD

USF World leads the University's engagement with the world by providing resources that empower members of the university community to function as global leaders and global stewards. The goals of USF World are to promote a global culture at USF, globalize student success, enhance global initiatives within the university, and deepen global engagement with the Tampa Bay community. USF contributes to solutions for the world's most pressing challenges. Visit USF World at www.usf.edu/world to learn more about the strategy for USF World and USF's global activities.

USF AGREEMENTS

Active partnerships between USF and institutions in France include: Mission Interuniversitaire de Coordination des Echanges Franco-Américains (MICEFA), EM Normandie School of Business, and the Rennes School of Business.

FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

153

faculty are engaged with France.*

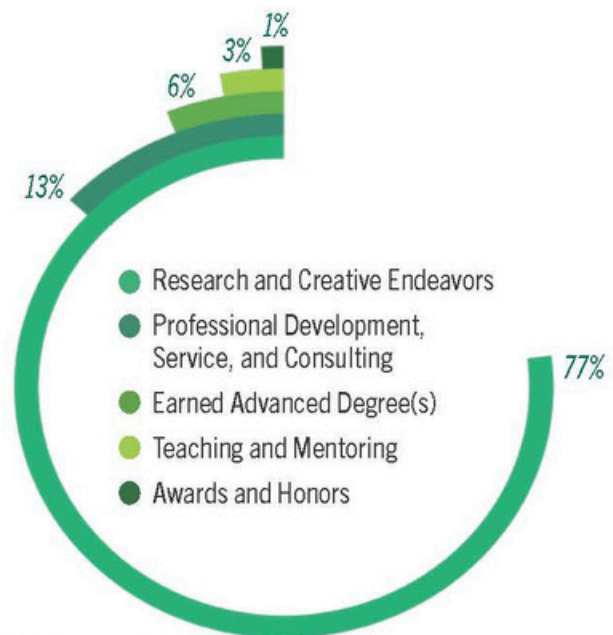
135

are involved in one or more of the following: research and creative endeavors, teaching and mentoring, earned advanced degree(s), professional service, development, and consulting, and awards and honors.

18

have been involved solely through conference participation in France.

**Note: Faculty may appear in more than one category and activities date from 2014-Present. Conference presentations are not represented in the chart.*



USF World

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

A GLOBALLY ENGAGED RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

USF NETWORK FRANCE

Join more than 500 alumni, students, faculty, & community members in USF's Network France. [Visit USF World Networks](#)

FULBRIGHT AWARDS

Recent USF faculty Fulbright recipients include:

- **David Lewis** (Integrative Biology) 2019-2020
- **Christina Richards** (Integrative Biology) 2016-2017
- **Steven Prevaux** (General Counsel) 2015-2016
- **Dianne Morrison-Beedy** (Nursing) 2014-2015

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

From 2019-2023 USF faculty researchers co-authored:

656
publications with
214
institutions in France

The top 5 research areas are:

- Immunology
- Allergy
- Clinical Neurology
- Environmental Sciences
- Neurosciences

The top 5 institutions of co-publication are:

- CNRS
- Université Paris Cite
- Institut National de la Santé et se la Recherche Médicale
- Assistance Publique Hopitaux Paris (APHP)
- Sorbonne Université

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM FRANCE



OPPORTUNITIES FOR FRENCH STUDENTS TO STUDY AT USF

Housed at USF, the Florida-France Linkage Institute (FFLI) was established in 1989 and is one of eleven Florida bi-national institutes created by the Florida Legislature to promote business, educational, cultural, and scientific exchange between Florida and other nations and regions of the world. French students may apply to the Institute for an out-of-state tuition waiver to study at USF or any other public university in the State of Florida.

The Raymond and Simone Miklos Endowed Scholarship is designated for French students who choose to study at USF. The Miklos Scholarship is awarded competitively to French students, born in France, who demonstrate excellence in their academic pursuits while pursuing a degree at USF. Recipients receive an award of \$2,000 to \$3,000 USD per semester of enrollment. Combined with the tuition benefits from the Florida-France Linkage Institute, the Miklos Scholarships makes USF an excellent choice for students from France seeking a degree from a top American university.

USF STUDY PROGRAMS IN FRANCE

USF students are also engaged in semester exchange programs with notable French universities including the 18 member universities of the MICEFA consortium in Paris. The Mission Interuniversitaire de Coordination des Echanges Franco-Américains (MICEFA) is a French non-profit association that facilitates student exchange between member universities in Paris and the Ile de France region and North American partner universities in both the United States and Canada.

USF offers 4 study abroad programs in France:

- USF in Nice: French Language and Culture
- USF Paris: Dance
- USF Paris: Theater
- USF Paris: Art and Art History

