



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG

813-974-5848
OLLI-inquiries@usf.edu
stpetersburg.usf.edu/olli/
140 7th Ave S, St. Petersburg, 33701

REGISTER TODAY



OLLI ST. PETERSBURG OPEN HOUSE

02.13.25

12:30 – 1:30PM // USF ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS // USC BALLROOMS

The Open House will take place during the St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs and introduce St. Petersburg audiences to new OLLI programming at USF's downtown St. Petersburg campus. Keynote speaker is Jennifer O'Brien, who holds a PhD in Psychology and is an expert on neuroscience and cognition. Life-long learning is an important piece of the puzzle of how we keep our brains healthy in later life. In this talk, I will introduce some of the science explaining how our brains age, what risk factors we should avoid, and what we should be doing to maximize healthy brain aging.



Deby Cassill

holds an PhD in Biology and is an Associate Professor in Integrative Biology at ONE USF

Ants Reveal That Cooperation, Not Competition, is What Makes Us Human

Societies share several traits: family units with overlapping generations of parents and offspring; variation in size, fertility, and abilities; division of labor; food sharing; and a common enemy. In this lecture, I will explain the environmental risk factors that favored the evolution of the hierarchical structure of cooperative societies in ants and humans.



MARCH 17, 2025
NOON – 2PM
SLC 2100



Gary R. Mormino

is the Frank E. Duckwall professor emeritus of Florida history at USF St. Petersburg. He has written award-winning books and is currently working on a study of Florida and WWII.

Ten Foods That Define Florida

Florida boasts an extraordinarily rich food culture. In this illustrated talk, he will discuss the significance of Grits & Grunts, smoked mullet, the impact of the Columbian Exchange, and many other foods that generations have enjoyed in the Sunshine State. Professor Mormino teaches a class in Food, History, and Culture at USF St. Petersburg.



Catherine Wilkins

holds an MA in Art History and Ph.D. in History from Tulane University. She is currently serving as Associate Dean of the Judy Genshaft Honors College, where she also teaches community-engaged service-learning courses at the intersection of art and health, and history and environmental science studies.

Experience the Healing Arts

Experience how interactions with visual art can benefit people on both sides of the healthcare equation - doctors and patients alike. We'll learn by doing, how interactive and fun engagement with art can improve communication, observation, and cognition skills, and discuss how these benefits relate to health and wellness.



MARCH 19, 2025
10AM – 11AM
SLC 2100



MARCH 20, 2025
5:30PM – 7:30PM
SLC 2100



Carrie O'Brion

oversees marketing, communications and strategic initiatives at USF St. Petersburg. A former award-winning reporter for the Tampa Bay Times, she is an enthusiastic storyteller with an undergraduate degree in political science from Colgate University and a master's in communications from Johns Hopkins University.

Building Your Personal Brand With Social Media

In this course, you'll learn how to strategically use social media platforms to create and enhance your personal brand. We'll cover key techniques for crafting compelling content, engaging with your audience, and leveraging analytics to refine your online presence. By the end of the course, you'll have a robust personal brand that stands out in the digital landscape.

MARCH 21, 2025
6PM – 7:30PM
SLC 2100

MARCH 28, 2025
6PM – 7:30PM
SLC 2100

APRIL 4, 2025
6PM – 7:30PM
SLC 2100

Parking is available in
LOT 2



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Florida and World War II

Pearl Harbor unleashed a series of revolutions that reshaped modern Florida. On the eve of Pearl Harbor, Florida was the smallest state in the American South. Today, it is the third largest state in America. WWII was the lynchpin. The war brought millions of recruits to Florida and the construction of military bases (such as MacDill Field and Drew Field). The illustrated talk will highlight the achievements of women and African Americans in the conflict.

APRIL 2, 2025
10AM – 11AM
SLC 2100

APRIL 25, 2025
6PM – 7:30PM
SLC 2100



Dr. Joe Askren

is a Professor of Instruction in the School of Hospitality at Muma College and a Certified Executive Chef. He teaches a variety of food and beverage courses and is the Director of the USF Brewing Arts program. Joe was a former Chef Instructor at Le Cordon Bleu Culinary School and was an industry chef for 17+ years.

Intro to Craft Brewing

The intro to craft brewing program will provide participants with the foundational knowledge in the industry of craft brewing including an introduction to the process of brewing, from the base ingredients to the science and business of craft beer.

