

We Look Back – And Ahead – At Fall Open House



In its 50th year of football, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers have a lot of amazing achievements to look back on and celebrate. So what are they looking forward to now?

Brian Ford, the Bucs' chief operating officer, came to OLLI's Fall Open House on Sept. 10 to discuss that topic with some 300 OLLI members and guests assembled at the Shanna and Bryan Glazer Jewish Community Center.

It was nearly 50 years ago, in 1976, that the Bucs played their first game in

Tampa. Since then, the team has become a major player in the National Football League and a two-time Super Bowl winner.

Looking back on the team's past achievements, Ford emphasized that their successes have not just been on the field but also in the community. Among them, a small business grant program, scholarships and mentoring programs for girls and women, youth leadership development programs, and more; the team members' involvement in Habitat for Humanity, Metropolitan Ministries and other organizations; the Glazer contributions to the JCC, the Glazer Children's Museum, the Glazer Family Playground, the Glazer Vision Foundation, and other projects.

Fostering a relationship with their neighbors is a very important goal, so much so that the team employs 246 people in various departments who work with the community, Ford said. "We want to win championships, but the number one goal is to be a part of this community," he said.

Looking ahead, the team is planning events throughout this season to celebrate its 50th year, including special games, panel discussions, videos, and the sale of 50th anniversary memorabilia.

“We want to be the pride of this community,” Ford said. “The support this community gives sports teams is second to none. For that I want to thank you.”

Looking Ahead For USF

The future also looks bright for the University of South Florida, said USF Communications and Marketing Vice President Dan Caterinicchia.

Things to look forward to include the university’s new stadium, which will open in fall 2027, providing a new venue for USF football as well as other events, he said. He also discussed the Bellini College of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity and Computing, which opened in 2024. It is the first college in the nation to bring together studies in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and computing, he said.

Looking Ahead For OLLI

Open House attendees also learned about upcoming classes, lectures, travel opportunities and other activities this semester.

The fall semester provides 130 courses and lectures, including a wide variety of technology classes “that are simple, that take the mystery out of technology, that make it practical and fun,” said Technology Coordinator Jeanne Dyer. Through these classes, you can learn about iPhones and Android phones, artificial intelligence, outdoor photography, and various apps and computer tools, she said.

OLLI’s volunteer faculty continues to grow, and several new teachers gave presentations on the courses they’re offering this semester. Through these classes you can learn about politics, healthy aging, writing a flash memoir, t’ai chi chih, and Creative Aging in Museums.

Many thanks to our Open House sponsors: Tampa Bay Federal Credit Union, Touchstone Home Care, and Dedicated Senior Medical Center,

Here are some scenes from the Open House (photos by Mike Hayes and Sandy Buckley):













