

Jordan Zimmerman left USF's Board of Trustees after 11 years.

Find out the best spots to visit on the USF St. Petersburg campus.

Sofia García Vargas walks through the highs and lows of the Olympics this year.

CN THE CROW'S NEST

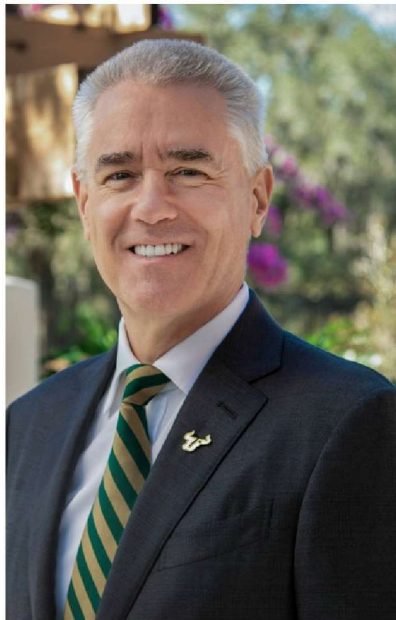
THE CAMPUS NEWSPAPER AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG

Volume 57, Issue 1 - August 2, 2021 | Online at crowsneststpete.com | [@CrowsNestStPete](https://www.facebook.com/CrowsNestStPete) | [@USFCrowsNest](https://www.instagram.com/USFCrowsNest) | [@USFCrowsNest](https://twitter.com/USFCrowsNest) | [@USFSPCrowsNest](https://www.linkedin.com/company/USFSPCrowsNest)

PRESIDENTIAL PUZZLE



COURTESY OF STETSON UNIVERSITY



COURTESY OF USF



MARTHA RHINE | CROW'S NEST

Rhea Law (left), Steve Currall (center) and Martin Tadlock are central figures in the everchanging USF administrative landscape.

Shortest in history

By **Annalise Anderson**
akanderson1@usf.edu

Since USF was founded in 1956, seven presidents have led the school as it evolved from a shaky start-up to an institution that proudly calls itself a preeminent research university.

But none of the presidents had a tenure as brief as Steve Currall's.

President Currall announced July 19 that he is stepping down from his position on Aug. 2, just two years after assuming the presidency.

In his surprising announcement, Currall called the last two years "a challenging and intense journey," navigating hurdles like consolidation, the COVID-19 pandemic, social unrest and fluctuating state budgets.

Currall wrote that health and family reasons are the cause for his retirement from the presidency.

"On a personal level, the demands of the president's role are immense. The intensity of the past two years has put a strain on my health and my family," Currall wrote. "Therefore, after thoughtful reflection, I have decided to retire from the USF presidency to ensure that I preserve my health, as well as to spend more time with my wife, Cheyenne, and my 91-year-old father."

While the Board of Trustees commences its search for new leadership, Provost Ralph Wilcox will serve as acting president until the board names someone to the interim position.

Though brief, Currall's tenure was a tumultuous one. Several moves made by his administration caused contention among the USF community.

>> SEE CURRALL on P3

'Honored' to be nominated

By **Annalise Anderson**
akanderson1@usf.edu

USF Board of Trustees Chair Will Weatherford announced on July 26 his recommendation of alumna and former board chair Rhea Law to serve as interim president after President Steve Currall's departure on Aug. 2.

Law was a founding member of the Board of Trustees, where she served as vice chair for five years and four years as the first and only female chair. She was also a founding member of USF Law Alumni Society's Board of Directors.

She served on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee for USF's last

two presidential searches and on the USF Research Foundation Board.

Law is the former CEO and board chair of Tampa law firm Fowler White Boggs. In 2014, she led the merger of Fowler with national law firm Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney.

>> SEE HONORED on P2

Sticking around?

By **Michael Alden**
aldenm@usf.edu

Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock announced on July 22 he is negotiating with the USF administration to potentially extend his role into next year.

At the first in-person campus community forum in over a year, Tadlock addressed issues of campus stability, enrollment numbers and budget.

He also addressed a key question for this year: will he extend his tenure as regional chancellor?

Tadlock told those in attendance he may retain his current position beyond Dec. 31 to help search for candidates for several university positions.

"President Currall has asked that I extend my time as regional chancellor through June 30, 2022, which will allow the time needed for a national search for a new regional chancellor and vice chancellor for academic affairs vice provost," Tadlock said. "I'm

working with him on the details of that agreement."

Tadlock affirmed the extension is still under consideration and has not been finalized.

"It's not a done deal. It's an ongoing conversation. There's a lot of considerations related to personal and family concerns as well," he said. "Then professionally, yes, I want to make sure this campus is in a good place. That is definitely a concern. That's why I'm considering staying until the end of June to help that happen."

>> SEE TADLOCK on P3