



CampU freshman have a little good, clean fun during a shaving cream fight.

Team Cobra poses for a team photo after the 1956 Olympics, an "Amazing Race" type of activity held during CampU. At one of the stations, team members had to use newspapers to dress up a teammate like Rocky. The team is doing their "Team Cobra" hand gesture.

Learning Their Way Around Bulls Country



Heading off to college is an exciting time, but it can also be full of uncertainty for many students. In addition to navigating a new campus and meeting heightened academic expectations, these new Baby Bulls worry about making friends and finding their rightful place among the thousands of returning upper classmen who seem to know everyone and everything.

That's why New Student Connections, the Office of Admissions, the USF Foundation and your USF Alumni Association partnered to create CampU, an overnight, off-campus experience for incoming USF freshman that gives them a chance to get to know each other, learn USF's history and traditions and gain confidence before they begin their collegiate journey into Bulls Country.

This year's camp, held Aug. 16-18 at the Dayspring Conference Center in Parrish, included 80 students who spent the weekend doing fun team-building and confidence-building activities. The group split into spirit teams and created a team name and chant; they battled for the CampU Team Cup in the 1956 Olympics; they developed personal action plans for how to get involved on campus and they discovered their personal strengths using StrengthsQuest, a 30-minute online assessment tool that provides a customized report on each freshman's talents.

"I was scared that I wouldn't be able to meet new people because all my friends were going to different colleges," says Adam Hamilton, a Class of '17 Bull who attended CampU. "It helped me broaden my horizons, meet new people and get out of my comfort zone."

"I begged my mom to sign me up for CampU and that was possibly one of the smartest decisions I made," says Hunter Stanley, a Class of '16 Bull who attended CampU the previous summer. "I met some fantastic people who I think will be lifelong friends."

CampU cost \$150 for the weekend, and included meals, snacks, lodging, transportation, the strengths assessment and a swag bag with a T-shirt and other USF merchandise. The Alumni Association also offers a limited number of scholarships and fee waivers for deserving freshmen.

Applications and information about next summer's CampU will arrive in the inboxes and mailboxes of freshmen accepted into USF's Class of '18 next spring. If you would like to sponsor a student for CampU, contact LaToya Wider at lwider@usf.edu.



The CampU class poses for a group shot to thank their parents and sponsors for the great kickoff to their collegiate careers.