

EVENT IDEAS

PROFESSIONAL MIXERS: A business card exchange held at a popular downtown spot after work is always a winner. Food, door prizes, and a separate section within the establishment work well. Arranging drink specials by showing your Alumni Association membership card is a great way to build membership into the Alumni Association and provide your guests with discounts.

TV WATCH PARTY: If the Bulls don't play in your city, you can still support your Alma Mater. This is a great opportunity to gather your local alumni at a local sports bar or someone's home to cheer the Bulls onto victory. It doesn't take a lot of work, just a few phone calls.

HOMECOMING: Homecoming has evolved into the largest annual event at the University. It's a great time to get a group together to visit your Alma Mater and see the many changes that have taken place on campus. It is also the time to meet and make new friends, relive the life of a college student by participating in the many planned activities and celebrate as USF continues to make its mark nationally. The event usually takes place sometime in the fall. Mark your calendars and plan now to join the Alumni Association during USF's biggest tradition: *Homecoming*.

AWARD DINNERS: The more-formal occasions provide a great opportunity to recognize an outstanding alumnus in your community and highlight the achievements of our USF graduates. If your chapter/society awards a student scholarship, this would be an excellent time to make the presentation of the scholarship to the recipient (s). This may also be a good time to invite local students, who will be entering USF and their parents. A USF faculty member or administrator could be invited to be the keynote speaker. This takes advanced planning and coordination with the Alumni Association Staff Liaison, but it's worth the effort and can produce a great event that involves alumni, future USF students, faculty, staff the community and friends of the University.

CULTURAL EVENTS: Plan to attend a cultural event together such as special art exhibits, museums, shows, etc.

SERVICE PROJECTS: Our alumni volunteer visibility within the community is important to the continued enhancement of USF's national reputation. Serving your community on behalf of the University is a great way to get involved, make a difference and support your Alma Mater. You don't have to be a crusader, just gather your local alumni and pitch in for a day or afternoon on a service project that is coordinated by another organization. They will appreciate the help and you'll have a chance to involve more alumni. Some service suggestions include: Paint Your Heart Out, Humane Society Pet Adoption Day, American Cancer Society or Heart Association Walk-A-thon, etc. Check with your local Chamber of Commerce for community events, gather your local alumni and get involved.

LOCAL AREA ATHLETIC EVENT: Whether the Bulls visit your city or you have a professional athletic team, the chapter/society may choose to attend the game as a group or host a pre-game party. You may want to cook hamburgers and hot dogs and provide beer and soda or you could have it catered. The lower your costs, the better your chance for strong participation. Again, door prizes and a separate location with easy access will help ensure a good event. The chapter/society should coordinate the details through the Alumni Association.

BOOK CLUB: Start a book club to add an educational touch to your chapter/society. Try reading books of local authors, USF professors, etc.