

WSMR Public Radio

Florida Matters Public Affairs Show

University Beat

News Stories

July 1 – Sept. 30, 2020

UNIVERSITY BEAT THIRD QUARTER 2020

University Beat reports run on WUSF 89.7 FM every Wednesday at approximately 6:44 am, 8:44 am and 5:44 pm.

It also runs on WSMR 89.1 & 103.9 FM the following Monday at about 10:25 pm. Each report is between three and a half to four and a half minutes in length.

[USF Escapes Serious Damage From Gov. DeSantis' Veto Ax](#)

(July 2, 2020) When Governor Ron DeSantis cut \$1 billion from the state's budget earlier this week, included in his vetoes was just over \$800,000 for a trio of projects. (Higher Education, finance, health)

[USF To Hold Second Virtual Commencement Saturday](#)

(August 7, 2020) The University of South Florida will hold its second virtual commencement this weekend. Nearly 3,000 degrees will be conferred Saturday. (Higher education)

[USF Moves To 'Modified Phase II' Of Its Reopening Plan](#)

(August 10, 2020) University of South Florida President Steven Currall announced Friday that the school has moved to a modified Phase II of its return-to-campus plan. (Higher education, health)

[College Students Move Into Dorms With Stricter COVID-19 Safety Protocols In Place](#) (August 21, 2020) Students are moving in to their residence halls at local colleges. In the era of coronavirus, that means learning to follow a host of new protocols. (Higher education, health)

[USF Students Need To Get Their Masks On](#) (August 21, 2020) USF students, faculty and staff returning to campus Monday will have to wear masks at all times, socially distance and monitor their symptoms through a symptom tracker - via their smart phone or a computer. (Higher education, health)

[Tampa Bay Sports Teams Join Protests In Response To Wisconsin Shooting](#) (August 27, 2020) Sports protests in response to a shooting by Wisconsin police came to the greater Tampa Bay region Thursday, with teams responding in different ways. (Sports, politics, higher education)

[University Of South Florida Sees Strong Fall Enrollment, Record Freshman Class](#) (September 2, 2020) While the number of students enrolled at USF is down slightly in Fall 2020 compared to a year earlier, it's a record freshman class in terms of their academic credentials. (Higher education)

[Florida Universities Post Strong Showing In U.S. News & World Report Rankings](#) (September 15, 2020) U.S. News & World Report's annual rankings of the nation's colleges and universities are out, and many Florida schools showed strong performances. (Higher education)

[USF Wearable Devices Study Aims To Predict When COVID-19 Symptoms Will Worsen](#) (September 17, 2020) The study examines how a percentage of otherwise healthy adults are having an "allergic reaction" to the virus. (Health, higher education)

[USF Football Postpones FAU Game Following COVID-19 Cases At Notre Dame](#) (September 23, 2020) Notre Dame officials said seven of its 94 players tested positive for coronavirus following the USF game. (Sports, higher education)

[USF Study Looks At Hurricane Evacuations In Midst Of Pandemic](#) (September 30, 2020) The study targets residents who were affected by Hurricane Laura, a Category 4 storm that struck Louisiana last month, and Hurricane Sally, which hit the Gulf Coast earlier this month. (Climate change, higher education)

FLORIDA MATTERS – THIRD QUARTER, 2020

Florida Matters Quarterly report July 1- Sept. 30, 2020

Time aired: Tuesdays at 6:30 – 7 p.m. and Sundays at 7:30 – 8 a.m. on WUSF 89.7 FM; Monday at 10 – 10:30 p.m. on WSMR 89.1 FM

[For November's Election, Pinellas County Is One Of The Largest Swing Counties At Play](#) (September 30, 2020) For a year that's brought a global pandemic and resultant economic upheaval, how will that affect some of the county's voters? (Elections, economics, politics, governance)

[Much Like In 2016, Disinformation Is A Concern For The Upcoming Election](#) (September 22, 2020) The presidential election is 42 days away. As the falsehoods surrounding Joe Biden continue to mount on social media sites and elsewhere, how can you filter through the political clickbait on your feed? (Media, elections, social media, democracy)

[Tampa Bay's Small Music Venues Struggle With No End In Sight](#) (September 16, 2020) Most local music venues have been shut down for six months and as long as they can't welcome back large crowds, many are staying closed. Owners are pleading for financial help from all levels of government in the hopes that they can ward off permanent closure. (Music, business, health, government)

['COVID Is The Bike With The Training Wheels For This Decade'](#) (September 8, 2020) The coronavirus pandemic has turned our lives upside down. But how many of these changes will become permanent? We talk with a futurist who says the changes that are coming in the 2020's will be more transforming than anything we've seen in decades. (Culture, health, economics, education, work, business)

[With Eviction Relief Extended, The Future Is Again On Hold For Renters And Landlords](#) (September 2, 2020) As Gov. Ron DeSantis continues a piecemeal approach to stopping evictions, the questions are piling up about what happens if - and when - the relief ends. (Business, government, health, finance, work)

[Uncertainty Remains As K-12 Schools and Colleges Open For Class](#) (August 26, 2020) With public K-12 schools and universities starting a new school year, some students are heading back to campus. But a Monday ruling challenging the state's face to face instruction requirement could change that. (Education, higher education, governance, politics, health)

[Florida Faces Census Challenges Ahead of September Deadline](#) (August 18, 2020) Amid the coronavirus pandemic, the U.S. Census Bureau is trying to count every individual living in the United States. (Government, health, economy, business, work)

[Are Mail-In Ballots Secure; And How About Our Elections?](#) (August 11, 2020)

Florida's primary elections are coming up Aug. 18, and close to two million people have already cast ballots. Almost 90% of those have been cast by mail. (Elections, governance, media, social media)

[Florida Matters: For Better Or Worse, Toll Roads Would Transform Florida](#)

(August 4, 2020) Planning is continuing on building three new toll roads, which would become the biggest road construction project in Florida since the Interstate Highway System in the 1950s. (Government, transportation, environment, business)

[Florida Matters: Getting Ready For A Pandemic Election](#) (July 28, 2020)

We're getting ready to have our first big election in Florida since the coronavirus pandemic hit the state in March. How will that affect the number of votes cast? (Elections, government, media)

[Florida Matters: To Reopen Or Not To Reopen Is The Question For Florida Schools](#)

(July 21, 2020) To open or not to open? That's the big question as the new school year comes around –right in the midst of a spike in the number of coronavirus cases. (Education, higher education, health, politics, work, economy)

[USF President's First Year Punctuated By Coronavirus, Accreditation - And More](#)

(July 14, 2020) On July 1, Steven Currall marked his first anniversary as president of the University of South Florida. (Higher education, health, politics, economy)

[Florida Matters: Budget Cuts And COVID-19](#)

(July 7, 2020) Governor Ron DeSantis slashed a billion dollars from the state budget. And as the coronavirus pandemic drags on, future cuts are likely. (Education, environment, business, transportation, economy, work, higher education)