UNIVERSITY BEAT FOURTH 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 Announces $36.7 Million In Budget Cuts
(October 2, 2020) The cuts, which so far include pay reductions for university leadership and employees in USF Athletics, are driven by a COVID-19-related decline in state taxes and lottery funds. Potential effects on the salaries of faculty and staff have not been announced. (Higher education, politics, pandemic, finance)

USF Changes Spring Break Dates
(October 5, 2020) USF’s spring break, which was originally scheduled for March 15-21, is being moved to April 12-18. (Higher education, pandemic)

COVID Takes Challenge Of Tracking Infectious College Students To New Level
(October 12, 2020) Some students are putting down home addresses instead of their college ones on COVID testing forms — slowing the transfer of case data and hampering contact tracing across state and county lines. (Pandemic, higher education)
USF Is Eliminating College Of Education Undergraduate Programs
(October 15, 2020)
The move comes as the university looks to cut $36.7 million over the next nine months. (Higher education, state finances, pandemic)

Partying During Pandemic: Florida College Students Complain About Classmates Packing Bars, Parties
(October 22, 2020) Universities have received scores of formal complaints from students about classmates’ behavior, according to a review of months’ worth of such files turned over under the state’s public records law. (Law and order, higher education, pandemic)

USF St. Petersburg Officials Discuss Enrollment Issues, College of Ed Cuts
(October 23, 2020) The USF St. Petersburg Campus Advisory Board met virtually to talk about a number of issues Thursday. (Higher education)

How Tampa Bay Area Private Colleges Plan To Handle Thanksgiving, Spring Semester
(October 27, 2020) Here are the Thanksgiving and spring semester plans of private universities and colleges around the Tampa Bay region. (Higher education, pandemic)

Don't Trust Social Media To Inform Your Election Decisions, Survey Shows
(October 29, 2020) A USF School of Public Affairs survey asked 600 people about how they use social media for news during this election season. (Higher education, communication, politics)

Teacher Recruitment Will Suffer From USF College Of Education Changes, Officials Say
(November 2, 2020) A virtual discussion with school district officials looked at the possible effects of closing the USF College of Education undergraduate program. (Higher education, state finances, pandemic)

Despite Pandemic, Florida Universities Won't Waive Testing Requirement For Applicants
(November 9, 2020) Changing the testing requirement is up to the State University System’s Board of Governors. They have not, despite students, parents and high school counselors urging them to do so. (Higher education, pandemic)

USF - Navy Football Game Postponed Due To COVID-19 Concerns
(November 18, 2020) This Saturday’s USF home football game against Navy has been postponed as the Bulls deal with coronavirus issues and other injuries. (Sports, higher education, pandemic)
USF Men's, Women's Basketball To Open Season Without Fans At Home Games
(November 20, 2020) Fans will not be permitted to the Yuengling Center for the start of the USF basketball seasons, and officials say they will re-evaluate at a later date. (Sports, higher education, pandemic)

USF Changes Course On Closure Of Education Programs
(November 20, 2020) The university had announced in October that it was eliminating the College of Education because of budget cuts, but leaders now say some programs may remain. (Higher education, state finances)

As Enrollment Lags, New College Offers Guaranteed Admission To Qualified Area Students
(November 25, 2020) The honors college hopes to nearly double its enrollment in the next several years. (Higher education, pandemic)

Enrollment By International Students In U.S. Colleges Plummet
(December 5, 2020) The pandemic is a major reason, but the number of international students has been falling for years. (Higher education, pandemic)

USF Searches For Ways To Boost Black Enrollment After Years Of Decline
(December 7, 2020) A $60,000 grant will enable the university to hire an external consultant who can research the problem and suggest solutions. (Higher education, minorities)

USF Faculty Leaders Ask For Halt To Budget Cuts
(December 10, 2020) Earlier this month, the USF Faculty Senate published a letter detailing their concerns about planned budget cuts. On Tuesday, the Board of Trustees got a chance to hear those concerns firsthand. (Higher education, state finances, pandemic)

FLORIDA MATTERS – FOURTH QUARTER, 2020
Florida Matters Quarterly report Oct.1- Dec. 31, 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

Here's What It's Like to Run A Clinical Trial During A Pandemic
(December 22, 2020) The University of South Florida and Tampa General Hospital are helping run clinical trials for a vaccine developed pharmaceutical company Novavax. But it’s hard to get people to take an experimental shot. (Health news, pandemic, higher education)
Calls To Tampa Bay's 211 Center Are Increasing During The Holiday Season
(December 15, 2020) The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay operates a 2-1-1 emergency call center and connects people to mental health resources. We first talked to them in April and we're checking back in. (Public health, mental health, pandemic, first responders)

Long Faced With Sub-Standard Conditions, Farm Workers Deal With Added Challenges During A Pandemic
(December 9, 2020) On this week's Florida Matters, we learn more about how the coronavirus is impacting Florida’s agricultural sector by traveling to Immokalee — about two hours south of Tampa Bay. (Agriculture, minorities, immigrants, pandemic)

Florida May See Fewer Snowbirds This Winter. What Does That Mean For The Tampa Bay Businesses They Frequent?
(December 1, 2020) Many are staying put due to the pandemic. And for Canadians, the U.S. border is closed. (Tourism, business, pandemic)

With COVID Cases Surging, Do We Gather Virtually Or In Person This Thanksgiving?
(November 24, 2020) The CDC advises against meeting with family and friends outside of your household. But many Americans are still forging ahead, cautiously. Here's how you can minimize the risks if you meet in person or virtually. (Pandemic, travel, tourism)

In The Quest To Re-engage Voters, Florida Democrats Have A Long Road Ahead
(November 17, 2020) President Trump steered many of Florida's Latino voters away from voting for president-elect Joe Biden and other state Democrats by painting them as socialists, guest Sabrina Rodriguez said. (Politics, minorities, immigrants)

I-4 Corridor Voters Give Their Post Election Reactions
(November 10, 2020) One week after the presidential election, we check in with two voters we met earlier this year. They share their thoughts on the presidential race as well as local races and their hopes for a new presidency. (Politics, pandemic)

As Election Day Nears, Thoughts From A First-Time Voter And An Update On Early Voting
(October 27, 2020) He talks about his first time voting, what issues matter to him and how he thinks politicians can get on the same page. (Politics, minorities, immigration, pandemic)

COVID-19 Survivors Tell Their Stories, Urge The Public Take The Virus Seriously
(October 21, 2020) This week, Florida Matters shares the stories of three Tampa Bay residents who contracted and survived COVID-19. Their stories are part of a larger series airing this week on WUSF. (Pandemic, minorities, government)
Small Businesses Are Still Adapting To Reopening
(October 14, 2020) Seven months after the pandemic forced most businesses across the country to close down, businesses are still adapting to reopening. (Business, government, pandemic)

Voting By Mail A Popular Option Ahead of November’s Election
(October 6, 2020) Nearly 600,000 Floridians have already voted in the November general election, with more than 10 percent of requested vote-by-mail ballots turned in to election supervisors. (Politics, government, pandemic)