UNIVERSITY BEAT FIRST QUARTER 2021
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 To Hold In-Person Commencement For Spring Graduates
(March 15, 2021)
Graduation ceremonies are scheduled for May 7-9 at Tropicana Field and will be held under COVID-19 guidelines. (Higher Education, pandemic)

USF To Fully Reopen This Fall
(March 4, 2021) President Steven Currall announced on Wednesday that USF is planning to fully reopen its three campuses this fall. (Higher education, pandemic)

Survey: Textbook Costs Having Greater Impact On Students During Pandemic
(March 1, 2021) An affordable textbook campaign surveyed more than 5,000 students and showed the cost of textbooks is skyrocketing due to the coronavirus pandemic. (Higher education, economics, pandemic)
USF Football Unveils 'Phase 1' Of Facility Improvements, Including Indoor Performance Facility
(February 25, 2021) USF Athletics is unveiling the timetable for a $22 million indoor performance facility, along with $3 million in renovations to the Lee Roy Selmon Athletics Center. (Sports, business, higher education)

Colleges Add More In-Person Classes For Spring, Amid High Risk Of Coronavirus Spread
(February 3, 2021) Many colleges are starting their spring semester this week, and new data show that schools are bringing students back to campus, with more in-person classes. (Higher education, pandemic)

Didn't Get Enough Financial Aid For College? You Can Ask For More Money
(January 18, 2021) The FAFSA uses tax data from two years ago to determine a student's eligibility for financial aid for college. But if your financial situation has changed since then, there are ways to get more money. (Finance, business, higher education)

USF Health Temporarily Stops Offering COVID-19 Vaccine
(January 17, 2021) USF Health has temporarily stopped offering COVID-19 vaccines because it has not received any additional doses from its hospital partners or the state. (Health, pandemic)

USF St. Petersburg Regional Chancellor To Step Down In December
(January 12, 2021) USF St. Petersburg Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock will step down Dec. 31, 2021. He says it will give him more time to spend with his family. (Higher education)

USF Announces Plans To Retain College Of Education
(January 6, 2021) The decision comes after university officials announced plans to discontinue the college in October amid budget cuts. (Politics, business, higher education)

'We Can't Relax:' USF To Test Residential Students For Coronavirus Upon Return
(January 4, 2021) USF's director of student health services hopes that 24-hour PCR tests will identify any students who are infected upon return to campus, so they can isolate themselves and hopefully curb the spread of coronavirus. (Pandemic, higher education)
St. Petersburg Community Leaders Share Optimism And Concern For Tropicana Field Site's Future
(March 30, 2021)
St. Petersburg city officials are weighing a shortlist of four proposals for the redevelopment on Tropicana Field. And as the process picks up steam, two prominent members of the city's African American community discuss their hopes for and fears about the project. (Minorities, sports, business development, politics)

With Hillsborough's 1-Cent Tax Ruled Unconstitutional, How Does That Affect The County's Transportation Issues?
(March 23, 2021) Last month, the Florida Supreme Court ruled against the county’s 1-cent sales tax that was meant to fund transportation improvements. Without it, those improvements are delayed once again while Hillsborough’s roads, bridges and more continue to age. (Transportation, politics, development)

One Year Later, Floridians Take Stock Of What's Still Uncertain
(March 16, 2021) We check back in with three Tampa Bay residents who we first heard from late last year. Also an update on the timeline of the pandemic with Health News Florida editor Julio Ochoa. (Pandemic, health, education)

With The Biden Administration At Work, What Does That Mean For The Gulf Of Mexico?
(March 10, 2021) We hear from the director of The Florida Institute of Oceanography about what's affecting the Gulf of Mexico these days, how economic needs should be balanced with the Gulf's health, and more. (Environment, government, politics, economy, fishing)

Gov. DeSantis Deepens Divisions, Looks To Reelection In State Of The State Address
(March 2, 2021) This week, you'll hear some excerpts of the governor’s speech earlier on Tuesday and post-address analysis with William March. (Politics, education, transportation, pandemic, health, environment)

Class Of COVID-19 Project Gives Many Faces To Florida's Education System Issues
(February 23, 2021) WUSF's Kerry Sheridan and project editor Jessica Bakeman talk about the series of education stories and how vulnerable populations of students are facing the educational challenges exacerbated by the pandemic. (Education, higher education, pandemic, health, minorities)
Tampa Native Marty Baron Retires After Storied Career In Journalism
(February 16, 2021) After 40 years in the industry, Marty Baron is retiring from the Washington Post at the end of this month. Baron grew up in Tampa and went on to intern at the Tampa Tribune and work at the Miami Herald. (Media, politics, government)

Health News Florida Series Explores Use Of The Baker Act on Children
(February 2, 2021) Last December, HNF reporter Lynn Hatter did a five-part series detailing the challenges facing children who are involuntary committed and the schools that invoke the Baker Act to deal with disruptive students. (Education, law and order, minorities)

What Could A Scaled Back Super Bowl Look Like For Tampa Bay?
(January 26, 2021) As the Buccaneers prepare to play Super Bowl 55 in their home stadium, Tampa Bay businesses and sports officials are bracing for what could be an underwhelming economic impact from the big game — at least in the short term. (Sports, business, economy, government, pandemic)

Florida Matters Looks Ahead To Florida Under The Biden Presidency
(January 19, 2021) On this week’s show, we’ll explore what a new president means for the Sunshine State and how the old one might wield his power. (Politics, government, transportation, education, health, environment, pandemic)

After A Socially Distant Year, The Zest Podcast Returns With A Greater Focus On Florida Food History
(January 12, 2021) This week on Florida Matters, we'll learn more about the new season of WUSF's food podcast, The Zest, and get a taste of some episodes. (Food, media)

What Will Florida Politics Look Like In 2021?
(January 5, 2021) Host Bradley George and Zac Anderson of the Sarasota Herald-Tribune have a wide-ranging conversation that touches on the new leaders of the state legislature as well as the amendments approved by voters in November. (Politics, government, health, pandemic, transportation, environment)