

WSMR Public Radio

Florida Matters Public Affairs Show

University Beat

News Stories

April 1 – June 30, 2020

UNIVERSITY BEAT SECOND 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 Tops State Universities' Performance-Based Funding Metrics; Consolidation Still On Track](#) (Jun 1, 2020) The [Florida Board of Governors](#) released its student success-based metrics last week, and the [University of South Florida](#) came out on top of the state's twelve public universities. (Higher Education, politics)

[USF Launches Phase One Of Reopening Plan](#) (Jun 15, 2020) The University of South Florida is rolling out its plan to reopen its campuses. Phase one of a four phase plan [approved last week](#) by the Board of Trustees goes into effect Monday. (Higher Education, politics, public health)

[USF Announces Online-Only Classes After Thanksgiving](#) (May 27, 2020) The Florida Board of Governors is scheduled to talk about [plans for reopening](#) the state's twelve public universities Thursday. The University of South Florida released a revised calendar for the fall semester ahead of that meeting. (Higher Education, politics, public health)

[Two-Thirds Of Floridians Have Lost Wages Or Had Job Disrupted, Survey Shows](#) (May 20, 2020) A new survey shows one out of four people in the state have had their work hours cut because of the pandemic - and nearly 18 percent have been laid off from work. The [Sunshine State Survey](#) of 600 people was done by Nielsen and the University of South Florida. According to USF assistant professor Joshua Scacco, six out of 10 respondents said they are concerned about the effect the economic shutdown is having on their finances. (Business, minorities, women, higher education, public health)

[With Fall Enrollment Up, USF Aims For In-Person Classes](#) (May 18, 2020) With summer classes starting online Monday, [University of South Florida](#) officials continue to work on plans for the fall – and there is at least one surprising statistic they are keeping in mind when making any decisions. (Higher Education, politics, public health)

[Why The Pandemic Could Be An Opportunity For Entrepreneurs](#) (May 12, 2020) The United States is facing its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, with unemployment in the double digits. But for people looking to start a business, one expert says the road ahead might lead to opportunity. (Business, higher education, public health)

[University Of South Florida Confers Spring Degrees Virtually](#) (May 10, 2020) This weekend, more than 7,000 University of South Florida students joined the ranks of the school's alumni. But they did it in a way that had not been done before. (Higher Education, public health)

[USF To Hold Virtual Commencement, Tampa Bay Area To Honor Grads](#) (May 8, 2020) The [University of South Florida](#) is holding perhaps the most unusual commencement in the school's more than 60-year history this weekend. At the same time, there will be gestures of support for the class of 2020 around the Tampa Bay area. (Higher Education, public health)

['I Wasn't Scared For Myself' - USF Student Shares His Coronavirus Story](#) (May 6, 2020) While some groups are at a higher risk for COVID-19, no one is immune from the spread of the disease. University of South Florida senior Geoffrey Watters is recovering from a mild case of COVID-19, just in time to graduate this month. But the 22-year-old still has concerns about others who may not be as lucky. (Higher Education, public health)

[USF Discusses Phased Approach For Fall Reopening](#) (Apr 29, 2020) While Florida businesses and institutions are trying to figure out how - and how fast - they'll reopen under Gov. Ron DeSantis' plan, universities are also discussing how they will bring students back to campus. Like many others, the University of South Florida is looking at a phased approach. (Politics, higher education, public health)

[Vinik Family Foundation Donates \\$50,000 To USF Student Fund](#) (Apr 9, 2020) Jeff and Penny Vinik, through their Vinik Family Foundation, are giving \$50,000 to the University of South Florida [United Support Fund](#). The initiative provides financial relief to students

who are facing economic need – rent, food, and other unexpected expenses – due to the coronavirus pandemic. (Business, higher education, minorities, public health)

[USF's Pandemic Research And Response Fund Up To \\$85,000](#) (Apr 8, 2020) Funding medical research can be difficult in the best of times – let alone during a pandemic. But donations to the University of South Florida's Pandemic Research and Response Fund are helping the school's research teams and front-line workers combat the spread of the coronavirus. (Higher Education, public health)

FLORIDA MATTERS – SECOND QUARTER, 2020

Florida Matters Quarterly report April 1-June 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

[Florida Matters: Nursing In The Heart Of The American Pandemic](#) (Jun 30, 2020) On Florida Matters this week, we're taking a look at life behind the front lines - the front lines of the war on the coronavirus. Many first responders - doctors, nurses and people just willing to lend a hand - have forsaken the relative comfort of their own hometowns and ventured into the epicenter of the virus outbreak. (Public Health, women, higher education)

[Florida Matters: Black Arrests; Black Business Success](#) (Jun 23, 2020) This week on Florida Matters, we hear why Black Americans get arrested at a rate higher than other groups. It's a very complex issue, and there are many reasons - some believe they're over-policed or targeted by police for no reason. One professor says it's the result of centuries of discrimination that are built into our culture. (Minorities, women, business, law enforcement)

[Florida Matters: Future Of Tampa Bay Tourism Up In The Air](#) (Jun 16, 2020) Hotels in the Tampa Bay area had their second-best month ever in February. But, what a difference a month makes. (Tourism, public health, politics, business)

[Florida Matters: How Coronavirus Is Affecting The Black Community](#) (Jun 9, 2020) Many studies are showing the coronavirus has sickened and killed black Americans at a disproportionately high rate. One study found that the 22 percent of U.S. counties that are majority black account for nearly half of coronavirus cases - and almost 60 percent of deaths from Covid-19. (Minorities, public health, higher education)

[Florida Matters: Black Voices In Tampa Bay Matter](#) (Jun 2, 2020) Brian Butler is a former Army officer, president and CEO of his own Tampa company, and African American. That last definition has defined much of his life - including being stopped several times for no reason other than his color. In the wake of protests and riots after

George Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis police officer, Butler was moved to write an opinion piece in the Tampa Bay Times. Florida Matters talks to Butler about whether he's grown accustomed to being profiled and whether he harbors any bitterness because of it. (Minorities, law and order, politics)

[Florida Matters: 'Audio Postcards' From Coronavirus Land](#) (May 26, 2020) The toll the coronavirus is taking on all of us can be measured in different ways. Jobs that are lost. The money troubles that come with it. The isolation. WUSF Public Media wanted to go beyond the headlines and hear from you. Or at least those who filled out a survey form we sent out a while back to see how you're doing in these unique times.

So on this edition of Florida Matters, we're going to hear from several of those people - in their own words, via "audio postcards." (Public health, minorities, women, politics, business)

[Florida Matters: Mixing Hurricanes And Coronavirus Distancing](#) (May 19, 2020) While most of us are still sheltering in place, trying to ride out the storm of coronavirus, well -- guess what -- a real storm may be just around the corner. (Public safety, public health, transportation,)

[Florida Matters: Selby Gardens, Nonprofits And Coronavirus](#) (May 12, 2020) Not only small businesses and restaurants have been hurt by the pandemic. Many nonprofits are having an existential crisis, as donors hold on to their wallets and government help begins drying up.

One of the nonprofits affected is [Marie Selby Botanical Gardens](#) in Sarasota. Florida Matters' Steve Newborn talks with president and CEO [Jennifer Rominiecki](#) about how the community is coming to the aid of nonprofits like hers. (Nonprofits, business, public safety, philanthropy)

[Florida Matters: The Future of Tampa International Airport - And Small Businesses](#) (May 8, 2020) When almost everybody is staying at home, that obviously doesn't bode well for the state's tourism industry. And for all those tourists flying into some of the nation's biggest tourist destinations -- well, they're not. Some estimates have airport traffic down to a trickle. The not-so-friendly skies has had a ripple effect on businesses that rely on airports for their livelihoods. Other restrictions are being slowly lifted, so we'll start to get a feel for how businesses are going to recover. (Transportation, public safety, politics, business)

[Florida Matters: The \(Maybe Not\) Dismal Short-Term Future Of Tampa Bay Business](#) (May 6, 2020) As we transition back to normal, Florida Matters looked for some analysis on the unique challenges Tampa Bay businesses, non-profits and the economy will be facing as we transition from stay-at-home orders to heading back to work again.

So we got some insight with Balaji Padmanabhan, the Anderson Professor of Global Management, the Director of the Center for Analytics & Creativity and a professor in the Information Systems and Decision Sciences Department at the University of South Florida Muma College of Business. (Business, public health, politics, nonprofits)

Florida Matters: Tampa International Airport's Joe Lopano On A Long Recovery Ahead (May 5, 2020) When almost everybody is staying at home, that obviously doesn't bode well for the state's tourism industry. And for all those tourists flying into some of the nation's biggest tourist destinations -- well, they're *not*. Some estimates have airport traffic down to a trickle. The not-so-friendly skies has had a ripple effect on businesses that rely on airports for their livelihoods. Other restrictions are being slowly lifted, so we'll start to get a feel for how businesses are going to recover. Gov. Ron DeSantis tapped several task forces to look at how and when we should be going back to business as normal. One of the business leaders who was part of the Re-Open Florida Task Force is Tampa International Airport CEO Joe Lopano. (Transportation, public health, business, politics)

Florida Matters: Coronavirus, Isolation And Mental Health (Apr 28, 2020) We're all living in a whole new world out there - the world of COVID-19, coronavirus or social distancing. Whatever you call it, it's a world of isolation. The changes in our daily routines and the resulting isolation can affect people's mental health in a lot of ways. Whether you're home alone, with a sick family member or with kids out of school - isolation can increase stress and anxiety. So just what is happening out there? And is there anything we can do about our mental health? On this week's Florida Matters, we get a little insight from Clara Reynolds, president and CEO of the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay. (Mental health, public health)

10 Years After Gulf Oil Spill, Environmental Effects Linger (Apr 20, 2020) April 20 marks 10 years since the BP oil spill began off the Louisiana coast when the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig exploded. Over the next six months, more than 200 million gallons of crude spilled into the Gulf. It's considered to be the largest oil spill in U.S. history. (Environment, politics, public health, public safety)