

WUSF Public Media

Florida Matters Public Affairs Show

University Beat

News Stories

Jan. 1 – Mar. 31, 2020

UNIVERSITY BEAT FIRST 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.

[New USF Health Morsani College Of Medicine Opens In Downtown Tampa](#) (Jan 8, 2020)

When students at the University of South Florida return to school Monday, most members of the Morsani College of Medicine will no longer be attending classes on the Tampa campus. Instead, they'll be learning in a new state-of-the-art facility downtown. (Higher education, Business, Health care)

[Downtown Morsani College Of Medicine Opens New Doors For USF, Tampa](#) (Jan 15, 2020) If there's one good word to describe the new [USF Health Morsani College of Medicine](#) and [Heart Institute](#), it may just be "open." (Health care, higher education)

[Scientists 'Shocked' At Shrinking Size Of Colossal Oysters In Florida](#) (Feb 12, 2020)

Colossal oysters, which once thrived in Florida's northern Gulf Coast, are shrinking in size and in numbers. Scientists at the University of South Florida [published a study in the journal Biology Letters](#) on Feb. 5 that examines this loss. (Environment, climate change, higher education)

USF Students Find Political Inspiration In Iowa And New Hampshire (Mar 11, 2020) Over the years, college-age voters have been accused by some of being apathetic when it comes to politics. Two groups of University of South Florida students are trying to flip that narrative. (Politics, higher education)

USF, State Universities Moving Classes Online Due To Coronavirus Fears (Mar 11, 2020) All Florida public universities, including the University of South Florida, will transition to online course instruction to lessen the risk of coronavirus. The Florida Board of Governors announced the change will take place “as soon as possible.” (Pandemic, health care, higher education)

A Tampa Educator Encourages Students To Become Good Citizens (Mar 18, 2020) Bickering over the presidential primary and fears of coronavirus may cause some younger people to steer clear of civic engagement. But one Tampa Bay area educator is offering strategies to help kids get excited about making a difference in the world. (Pandemic, higher education)

Coronavirus Has Tampa Bay Area Schools, Universities Preparing For Online Learning (Mar 23, 2020) State officials made the decision to cancel all in-person classes for the remainder of the school term. Schools and universities across the Tampa Bay area are now having to gear up for the transition to online instruction. (Pandemic, health care, higher education)

USF Touting Teamwork To Create 3D Swabs For COVID-19 Testing (Mar 30, 2020) About two weeks ago, Dr. Charles Lockwood, dean of the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, came to researcher Summer Decker with a question for her and her colleagues: could 3D printing help alleviate the shortage of nasal swabs used in COVID-19 testing kits? (Pandemic, health care, higher education)

FLORIDA MATTERS – FIRST QUARTER, 2020

Florida Matters Quarterly report Jan. 1-March 31, 2019

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

Marketplace's David Brancaccio Breaks Down The Economy For Tampa Bay Audience

(Mar 31, 2020) Just days before officials began shutting down large gatherings to slow the spread of COVID 19, David Brancaccio, host of the Marketplace Morning Report, visited downtown St. Petersburg for a live event. He joined Florida Matters Host Bradley George at the Palladium as part of the Aresty Speaker Series, and touched on a wide variety of topics from the effect coronavirus was having on the global economy, as well as Brancaccio's ongoing **Econ Extra Credit** project, in which he is reading a chapter a week from an open source economics textbook. (Pandemic, Economics, health care, economy, business, media)

Coronavirus Forces Small Businesses To Adapt Or Die

(Mar 24, 2020) The coronavirus pandemic is not only taking its toll of the nation's healthcare system, but also its businesses. This week, Florida Matters takes a look at small businesses, which are particularly hard hit. Host Bradley George spoke with Alsace Valentine, co-owner of Tombolo Books in St. Petersburg and Eileen Rodriguez of the Florida Small Business Development Center at the University of South Florida. (Pandemic, business, economics, higher education)

WUSF Offers Special Live Coverage For Florida Primaries (Mar 17, 2020) Floridians are heading to the polls on Tuesday where voters will decide which Democratic candidate they want to face president Donald Trump in November. WUSF is bringing you live coverage of Florida's primaries throughout the night and we're inviting you to join the conversation. (Politics, health care, education, business)

'I-4 Votes' Aims to Highlight Issues Important To Central Florida Residents (Mar 10, 2020) Floridians are going to the polls on March 17 for the state's presidential primary. This election cycle, WUSF is focusing on the issues rather than the political horse race. To do that, WUSF has teamed up with reporters at NPR member station WMFE in Orlando for I-4 Votes, a collaboration covering the election issues that matter to those living along the I-4 corridor. (Politics, health care, immigration, gun rights, transportation, abortion, foreign affairs)

WrestleMania In Tampa Is A Sort Of Homecoming (Mar 3, 2020) Professional wrestling, or as it's called in some circles, "sports entertainment," has a long history in Florida and in Tampa. (Sports, history, business, tourism)

Florida Matters Looks At How Henry Plant Put Tampa On The Map (Feb 25, 2020) Historian Canter Brown takes a look at the man who literally put Tampa on the map. He has written a new book, Henry Bradley Plant: Gilded Age Dreams for Florida and the New South." (History, growth)

Florida Matters: Jews Play Important Part In Florida's Story (Feb 18, 2020) Despite not being officially allowed to live in Florida until 1763, Jewish people escaping expulsion and exclusion were among the earliest settlers of the state. A new comprehensive history – "Jews of Florida: Centuries of Stories" – takes a look at that historic individuals who include politicians, business leaders, artists and Nobel Prize winners. (History, religion, minorities, business, art, health care)

'Cat Tale' Tells The 'Wild, Weird Battle To Save The Florida Panther'

(Feb 11, 2020) Florida's state animal has never had it very good. The Florida Panther was shot at, run off its hunting grounds and hemmed in by roads and development. It got so bad that by the early 1990s, only a handful remained. The tale of how the panther was led back on the road to recovery has several twists and turns, including a "happy ending" that has taken 20 years to materialize. The story is told by environmental reporter Craig Pittman in his new book, "Cat Tale: The Wild, Weird Battle To Save The Florida Panther." (Environment, endangered species, politics, growth, medicine, literature)

Florida Matters: Election Security Improving From 2016 (Feb 4, 2020) Our nation's democratic elections are being threatened like never before. Florida Matters this week takes a look at how our ballots are being protected - both nationally and around the state. WUSF's Robin Sussingham talks with Brian Corley, supervisor of elections with Pasco County, and Miles Parks, a reporter with National Public Radio in Washington, D.C. (Politics, election security, democracy, cybersecurity)

Florida Matters: DeSantis Shuns Controversy In State Of The State Address (Jan 14, 2020) As the Florida Legislature opens its 2020 session, Gov. Ron DeSantis addressed House and Senate members Tuesday during his State of the State address. He discussed some of the “bold” steps the state took in 2019 around such areas as education, the environment, health care and public safety, and stressed that “we have much more to do.” (Politics, state government, environment, public safety, health care, education)

**Quarterly Issues Report
WUSF News Stories Jan. 1 – March 31, 2020**

(See Attached Excel Files)