

Quarterly Issues Report

WSMR Radio

Florida Matters Public Affairs Show

University Beat

Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 2013

UNIVERSITY BEAT FOURTH QUARTER 2013

University Beat reports run on WUSF 89.7 FM every Tuesday at approximately 6:35 am, 8:35 am and 5:45 pm.

It also runs every Friday on WSMR 89.1 FM every Monday at about 10:00 pm. Each report is between two and a half minutes and three and a half minutes in length.

University Beat: USF Health Service Corps - Farmworkers (week of September 30, 2013)

By Mark Schreiner

To help mark the recent Mexican Independence Day, and to reach out to an underserved community, the USF Health Service Corps and Dade City-based “Farmworkers Self-Help” held a health fair fiesta. (Medicine, Education, Agriculture, Immigration, Minorities, Poverty, Children)

University Beat: Poverty Forum (week of October 7, 2013)

By Mark Schreiner

They're some pretty big concepts: poverty and the effect it has on the education of low-income children in poor neighborhoods. A group of USF faculty and researchers is hoping to take ideas developed across disciplines and turn them into action that will make a difference, with the help of the community, elected officials and non-profit and public agencies. (Business, Economy, Education, Minorities, Poverty, Labor, Politics)

University Beat: Rolling Dance Chair (week of October 14, 2013)

By Mark Schreiner

There's a freedom that comes with dancing and the ability to express yourself through movement. People with physical disabilities who can't experience that freedom might soon find an answer thanks to an invention from a USF Dance instructor. (Handicapped, Arts, Education, Science)

University Beat: Festival of Reading (week of October 21, 2013)

By Mark Schreiner

A preview of the 21st Annual Tampa Bay Times Festival of Reading on the USF St. Petersburg campus through a discussion with three authors with ties to the University of South Florida who will be presenting their latest works. (Education, Arts)

University Beat: Flexible Technology RE-BROADCAST (week of October 28, 2013)

By Mark Schreiner

A USF professor takes geometry and use lasers to cut precise pieces out of polymer, pins them together and then adds pins and springs to make them move, he creates something called “compliant mechanisms.” These dynamic shape shifters have many uses, ranging from lightweight armor to oil spill stoppers. (Environment, Science, Military, Transportation) (ORIGINALLY RAN week of March 18, 2013)

University Beat: Seed Funding (week of November 4, 2013)

By Mark Schreiner

As USF officials announce plans to open a Florida Inventors Hall of Fame, they’re also offering up to 50-thousand dollars in seed funding for certain aspiring university entrepreneurs. (Business, Education, Science)

University Beat: Briefskate (week of November 11, 2013)

By Mark Schreiner

It’s part skateboard, part briefcase. It’s the Briefskate: a skateboard you can open up and put your personal items inside of. We talk to the inventor of the device. (Business, Education, Science)

University Beat: Upcycled Art (week of November 18, 2013)

By Mark Schreiner

One person’s trash is another one’s...art? That’s the case at the USF Botanical Gardens, where both natural and man-made beauty already exist side-by-side. But the newest addition is ‘upcycled’ art created by a class of Tampa magnet school students. (Arts, Education, Environment)

University Beat: Archaeology of Beer (week of November 25, 2013)

By Mark Schreiner

A USF St. Petersburg professor is conducting research into “the archaeology of beer” and looking at how beer has played a role in civilizations dating back thousands of years. (Science, Agriculture)

University Beat: 22 Random Acts (week of December 2, 2013)

By Mark Schreiner

Birthdays often mean doing something for ourselves, but USF student Vaneesha Patel decided to mark her recent 22nd birthday by committing 22 random acts of kindness. (Education)

University Beat: Fireman’s Challenge (week of December 9, 2013)

By Mark Schreiner

Members of USF’s Greek community recently competed in a charity event to determine who has the best firefighting skills – and while they didn’t have to put out a fire, they had to complete some of the other physically demanding tasks that real firefighters have to do. (Education, Business)

University Beat: USF Nursing B.E.A.R.S. Program (week of December 16, 2013)

By Mark Schreiner

Being stuck in the hospital for the holidays is tough for anyone, but it’s especially hard on young people. Students and faculty at the USF College of Nursing are reaching out in a small, but heartfelt way, by

handing out teddy bears to 800 young patients in Tampa Bay area hospitals. (Education, Children, Medicine)

FLORIDA MATTERS – FOURTH QUARTER 2013

Florida Matters Quarterly report Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 30, 2013

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

[Best of Florida Matters from 2013 \(December 20, 2013\)](#)

We're taking another listen to some of our most memorable stories of 2013. We look at the issue of gun violence in Florida and the popularity of recreational shooting. We talk to people who helped bring the story of the Dozier School for Boys to national attention. We also hear the debate on legalizing medical marijuana in the Sunshine State. We explore what it's like to explore Tampa Bay as a tourist with a trip down the Little Manatee River, and belly up to the bar to experience the craft beer craze. And as part of our occasional "newsmaker" series, we talk with Florida's Agricultural Commissioner Adam Putnam. (arts, tourism, culture, politics)

[Florida Matters: 2013 Year in Review \(December 16, 2013\)](#)

It has been quite a year in Florida news, with the George Zimmerman acquittal, the death of political legend C.W. Bill Young, a new mayor in St. Petersburg and candidates gearing up for the governor's race next year. This week on Florida Matters, we'll revisit these stories and other major news of 2013. (politics, education, arts, medicine)

[Florida Matters: Tampa Bay's Foodie Scene \(December 10, 2013\)](#)

It's that time of year when our waistlines tend to expand. Now that we've put the turkey and cranberry sauce away and are getting ready for those office parties and holiday dinner outings, is there a better time than now to place a spotlight on some of the more interesting places to eat in the Tampa Bay area? (food, culture, tourism)

[Adoptions in Florida \(December 3, 2013\)](#)

When a 15-year-old boy appeared before a church congregation last month, pleading for someone to adopt him, tens of thousands of folks responded. In spite of that, there are hundreds of kids who are not making headlines and still are waiting for that call. (culture, adoptions, families, politics)

[Citrus Greening: The War to Save Florida's Crop \(November 26, 2013\)](#)

Citrus greening has now infected every citrus producing county in Florida, and is threatening the survival of Florida's signature crop. It's gotten so bad that the CEO of Florida Citrus Mutual tells homeowners who are thinking of planting an orange tree -- put in a palm tree. The frantic search for a cure to this deadliest of citrus diseases. (agriculture, science, politics)

[Florida Matters: Medicaid Expansion Town Hall \(November 19, 2013\)](#)

Florida has rejected an offer of more than \$50 billion over 10 years from the federal government to expand Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act. So the question remains: how will health care be funded for more than a million low-income Floridians? Last week, a panel discussion was held at Stetson University College of Law to discuss the options. It was sponsored by the Tampa Bay Healthcare Collaborative. (medicine, politics)

[Florida Matters Newsmaker: Adam Putnam, 'I'm a Conservative, but I'm not angry about it.'](#)
[\(November 12, 2013\)](#)

At age 26, he was the youngest member of Congress when he took office in 2001, but after a decade in Washington, Adam Putnam of Polk County said he wanted to leave on his own terms and come back to Florida. “Nobody wonders now why it was that I wanted to get out of Congress.” Putnam told Florida Matters. “At the time, I said I wanted to get out with my soul and my sanity still in tack and I’m proud that I did. But the things that were frustrating me in Congress have only gotten worse. It’s just a hot, wet mess in Washington.” (politics, agriculture, water issues)

[Florida Matters: The End Of Remedial College Classes \(November 5, 2013\)](#)

Half of Florida students who take the state's college placement exam end up failing at least one section. In the past, those students would have brush up in remedial reading, writing or math courses before starting their college degree. But a new Florida law will allow most recent high school graduates to skip those remedial classes, also called developmental or prep courses. Advocates say ending remedial requirements will help more people finish their studies. But colleges say taking the classes might still be a good idea for some students. (education, politics)

[Florida Matters: JFK in Tampa: The 50th Anniversary \(October 29, 2013\)](#)

You may not have known this - unless you're over 55 and have lived in Tampa since the early 1960s - but Tampa was one of the final stops for John F. Kennedy before that fateful ride he took in the presidential convertible in Dallas. He was treated like a rock star - and four days later, that dream was shattered with an assassin's bullet. Independent filmmaker and journalist Lynn Marvin Dingfelder has spent years collecting rare footage and interviewed scores of people who witnessed the president's visit in November, 1963. We talk with Dingfelder and Russell Groover, a former motorcycle police officer who was part of JFK's motorcade as he traveled 28 miles around Tampa. (politics, history)

[Florida Matters: Debate for St. Petersburg Mayor \(October 22, 2013\)](#)

The next mayor of St. Petersburg won't have any shortage of issues he'll have to handle. What to do about the Rays wanting to leave Tropicana Field. The future of the iconic pier - which now sits shuttered on what is likely the city's most visible – and valuable - space. And how to promote public transportation, especially with a countywide referendum next year that could bring the region's first light rail line to Pinellas County. Current Mayor Bill Foster is looking to get re-elected. He survived the primary along with former City Council Chair Rick Kriseman, whose most recent job was representing Pinellas County in the Florida House of Representatives. (politics, transportation, tourism)

[Florida Matters: Tampa Bay Times Festival Of Reading \(October 16, 2013\)](#)

Thousands of book lovers flock to the University of South Florida Times Festival of Reading each year. And this year it's expected to be another busy Saturday when the festival returns on October 26th. It features writers such as Edwidge Danticat, Jamie Ford, Gilbert King, David Finkel and more. This week on Florida Matters we talk to the woman who pulls the festival together, Times Book Editor Colette Bancroft. And we hear from authors such as Jamie Ford, Ira Sukrungruang, Jeff Klinkenberg and Stephanie Hayes. (books, Florida culture, tourism)

[Florida Matters: Flood Insurance \(October 11, 2013\)](#)

If you live near the water, you can't rule out a flood. But a change to a federal law is poised to make living in flood zones a lot more expensive. A change in the federal flood insurance program took place on Oct. 1. The 2012 [Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act](#) now in effect gets rid of federal subsidies for flood insurance. Some homeowners in affected areas are looking at some major sticker shock, and people in the housing industry are more than a little concerned. This is a big deal in Florida, and especially Pinellas County, which has more subsidized properties than any other county in the nation. (housing, politics, insurance)

[Florida Matters: Medical Marijuana \(October 1, 2013\)](#)

A group called [United for Care](#) is behind the push to get a constitutional amendment legalizing medical marijuana on the 2014 Florida ballot. The group is chaired by Orlando attorney [John Morgan](#), founder of the law firm Morgan & Morgan, who is bankrolling the campaign. But not everyone thinks medical marijuana should be legalized, including [Kevin Sabet](#) of the Drug Policy Institute at the University of Florida. [Charlie Brown](#), who serves on the city council in Denver, Colo., where medical and recreational marijuana are legal, says Florida should be prepared for plenty of challenges. (medicine, politics, law and order)