

USF students come together for hurricane relief efforts



Leda Alvim

MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

In partnership with the Caribbean Cultural Exchange (CCE) and the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), Student Government (SG) will lead hurricane relief efforts across campus.

The initiative began after Cherleya Carey, a senior majoring in psychology, wrote a letter to SG outlining the importance to organize relief efforts for the Bahamas after Hurricane Dorian hit the islands.

"This hurricane has left hundreds without a home, lack of food and basic essential needs," Carey wrote in the letter to SG. "As international students, we

feel a deep sense of hopelessness, especially because we are miles away from home and not there to assist with this tragic event."

The week-long drive will be collecting donations between Sept. 16-20 across different on-campus pop-up locations.

Students can drop off donations on Monday in front of the library, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; on Wednesday at Bull Market, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and on Thursday at Juniper-Poplar Hall, from 4-7 p.m.

According to the Assistant Director of Outreach and Community Affairs Zinah Haj, the donation drive will focus on collecting four main items but will accept any donations from students.

Among the items accepted are: women's hygiene products, baby products, first aid kits and ring-pull soup cans.

"We will accept anything donated, however, at this time, we are looking into the items that have the highest demand," Haj



SG will be collecting donations Sept. 16-20 across different on-campus pop-up locations. **SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/SG**

said. "At the end of the day, this isn't something that anyone can do alone. This is a collaborative, student-led initiative, where SG's role is to manage it."

After Hurricane Dorian hit the Bahamas, the OMA organized relief efforts around campus and provided assistance in the donation drive.

According to the Director of OMA Stacy Pippin, SG

approached the office with the vision to host a donation drive and she proposed the idea of a collaborative initiative with the CCE.

"There are countless students across campus who feel the call to do something, to give something, but also feel the pressure to do it quickly," Pippin said. "These leaders understand the value in doing it collectively and recognize

that working through the logistics and ensuring the mechanisms to transport collected supplies at mass quantity is not as easy as it sounds."

On Sept. 6, OMA hosted Community Hour: Standing in Support & Solidarity with the Bahamas, an event featuring stress relief and solidarity activities, native music and food

See **HURRICANE** on **PAGE 3**

USF unveils plans to reinvest surplus funds



Alyssa Stewart

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nick Trivunovich shared his plans for the 2020 Carry Forward spending plan to the Board of Trustees (BOT) Tuesday morning.

The purpose of the plan is to create a methodology to reuse unspent funds that have

accumulated over the years.

Specifically, the funding is supposed to circulate back into university operations, which could increase financial aid, scholarships, research opportunities, IT projects, student success initiatives and facilities.

This budget has no effect on student fees.

Trivunovich was required to present an estimated timeline and cost breakdown for the funding to the BOT, according to the guidelines and reporting standards.

About \$240 million was

designated for the beginning state Educational and General (E&G) fund balance before encumbrances. However, after the 7 percent statutory reserve requirement, the funding was lowered to about \$189 million.

See **FUNDING** on **PAGE 3**

The Oracle

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FUNDING

Continued from PAGE 1

“Required reserve, restricted and commitments” are the three main categories under the plan. However, those break down into the following four categories: Compliance, audit, and security; academic and student affairs; facilities, infrastructure, and IT; and UBOT approved operating requirements.

Of the \$189 million, \$73 million is designated for the “restricted fund” and \$81 million is for the “commitments fund.”

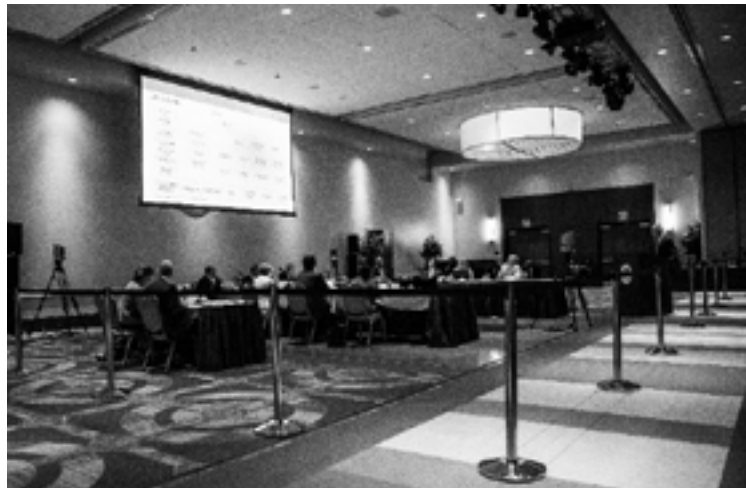
Under the academic and student affairs category, \$34.4 million is spent on funding initiatives such as faculty research startup funds and graduation research.

In an interview with The Oracle, Provost Ralph Wilcox said the faculty funding is used to start up research agendas. This could be used to support scientific equipment or it could go directly to undergraduate and graduate research.

Funding is also used for instructional and advising support, meaning faculty salaries. Wilcox said increasing professor’s salaries will help

reduce the number of students in each class.

“Students will be able to get a more personal experience which will in return create



VP and CFO Nick Trivunovich was required to present an estimated timeline and cost breakdown for the Carry Forward spending plan to the BOT. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

better student grades, improve retention and timely graduation,” Wilcox said.

Student success IT platforms are also taken into account. This could range from funding contracts for retention and regression research to electronic journals in the USF Library.

According to the beginning

fund balance history, the carry forward balance is projected to decrease from \$267.7 million to \$239.9 million by 2020. Wilcox said the \$27.8 million difference

is due to how the university is strategically using its funding.

“We’re being cautious in how we invest in carry forward funds,” Wilcox said. “Our goal is to focus on important elements of our university, which would be supporting students and our professors.”

HURRICANE

Continued from PAGE 1

for students, staff and faculty with over 100 attendees.

SG is working alongside Sol Relief, a non-profit organization based in St. Pete, to distribute the donations collected throughout the drive. The non-profit was chosen based on its proximity to USF, credibility on its services and the assurance that they would deliver the items to the Bahamas, according to Haj.

Sol Relief responds to the needs in the Bahamas by partnering up with the aviation community and other non-profits to distribute the donations to the areas affected.

Logistics on how the items will be delivered to Sol Reliefs are still yet to be determined, according to Haj. As of Sept. 11, students leading the initiative will be in charge of delivering the donations to the non-profit.

“We needed to guarantee that the items that we were collecting are going to be sent out to the people of the

Bahamas that need it, instead of sitting in a warehouse without a destination,” Haj said. “Sometimes people get too many donations, but they don’t have a plan of attack on how they will be delivered.”

Although the supply drive will last for a week, the Bahamians United and Impactful have plans to organize initiatives throughout the semester, including the placement of a donation bin at the College of Education to collect items, according to Carey.

“While we are collecting items throughout next week, we are also considering long-term goals on how to help the Bahamian community throughout the year,” Carey said.

“When the event happens, people are more subjected to give during the hurricane’s aftermath. However, a lot of people in the islands will still need help for a long period of time.”



After Hurricane Dorian hit the Bahamas, the OMA organized relief efforts around campus and provided assistance for the donation drive. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/OMA

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Splash Pals leaders empower children with disabilities



Brianna Miranda and Bryan Clampitt are creating a safe space for children with disabilities through Splash Pals, an aquatic recreation program that stimulates them through unstructured play. In turn, they are gaining relevant experience for a future career in the health field.



Amelio Nazarko

FOCAL POINTS
EDITOR



Children are paired with volunteers who spend an hour playing with them and socializing. **SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/SPLASH PALS**

USF students Brianna Miranda and Bryan Clampitt, come from two different majors. Their common ground is their goal of working in the health field. As president and vice president of Splash Pals, — an adapted aquatics and therapeutic swimming program for children with disabilities — they have shared in the fulfillment that comes from forming meaningful relationships with children who have disabilities.

Miranda is a health sciences major and the president of the organization. When she completes her undergraduate studies at USF, she plans to enroll in a doctor of physical therapy program, where she said will use many of the skills she gained at Splash Pals.

Clampitt, Splash Pals' vice president, is in his junior year of his biomedical engineering track. His major gives him the option to work in many different fields, but he has taken a specific interest in the health sector.

“Working with and

understanding those with disabilities and their needs is a large undertaking. Many of those needs can be met with the skills and material taught to biomedical engineers,” said Clampitt.

Both Clampitt and Miranda seem inspired by the work that they do and sought out a position at Splash Pals as a way of enriching their undergraduate experiences. They are ardent believers in the power of unstructured play for individuals with cognitive and/or neurological disabilities.

Once the supervisors arrive, Splash Pals welcome both new and returning children to the session. Children are paired with volunteers who spend an hour playing with them and socializing. They aim to create a safe space where they can interact with the children on a personal level.

Once the session is over, the children go home and the students record any behavioral problems the children may

have had so they can better



Donations to Splash Pals pay for lifeguards, equipment, pool rentals and more. **SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/SPLASH PALS**

understand the actions of each child and adapt later sessions as needed.

The kids get to play with dive rings, squirt toys, and pool noodles in a safe environment.

“They have formed meaningful relationships with the volunteers and look forward to our pool sessions,” said Clampitt.

Both Miranda and Clampitt have developed a stronger understanding of people with disabilities. It's their work at

Splash Pals that reinforce their goals of working in health fields.

“It makes me extremely happy and provides a great sense of fulfillment to know I get to impact so many children's lives positively on such a regular basis,” said Miranda.

They encourage other students to get involved by reaching out through BullSync or visiting the “Prospective Student Members” section of their website.

The organization relies on sponsorships and donations to keep the program running. All of the money that they receive goes back into the organization to pay for lifeguards, equipment, pool rentals, and more.

Its sole purpose is to ensure that children with disabilities have a safe playing environment that encourages individual expression.

“[Splash Pals] motivates me even more to work hard and pursue my goals so I can have a career where I get to do things like this everyday,” said Miranda.

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Trump's comments on Bahamian refugees are unacceptable



Trump's lack of moral leadership is an embarrassment to the reputation of the U.S. **SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE**

After Hurricane Dorian destroyed much of the Bahamas and killed an estimated 50 people as of Tuesday, many Bahamian refugees resorted to fleeing the island via ferry to the U.S.

The refugees were shocked to find out that they were ordered to disembark if they did not have a U.S. visa, even given the circumstances.

Amid the confusion of the various U.S. agencies tasked with making this decision, President Donald Trump cleared the air on Monday by telling reporters, "I don't want to allow people that weren't supposed to be in the Bahamas to come into the United States — including some very bad people and some very bad gang members."

Trump has provided yet another example of his utter disregard for the well-being of countries that are primarily populated by people of color. His lack of moral leadership is an embarrassment to the reputation of the U.S.

This comment is the most recent in a series of racial attacks made by the commander in chief. In the past he has been reported as asking, "Why do we need more Haitians?" and has referred to countries in Africa as "s***hole countries."

He also has gone as far as disparaging American citizens by implying that hurricane victims in the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico were not willing to help rebuild the island.

It is clear that Trump has set a

different standard for countries that are primarily populated by people of color and in the past has been reported as pondering about why we don't get more immigrants from predominantly white countries like Norway.

There has been a bipartisan effort from legislators calling to make it easier for hurricane victims to take refuge in the U.S. According to the Orlando Sentinel, 18 U.S. democratic house members from Florida, as well as both Republican U.S. Senators from Florida, have called to make it easier for Bahamian refugees to seek safety in the U.S., by waiving certain Visa requirements.

Luckily many Americans and, especially, Floridians have rejected the president's

brand of hate. NPR reported that the United States Agency for International Development is in the process of distributing 47 metric tons of aid to those suffering on the island, in coordination with the Bahamian Red Cross.

The moral foundation of this country relies on the American people resisting the president's brand of divisive rhetoric. In a time in which people are suffering and the death toll is expected to rise, it is nothing short of cruel to not only deny assistance to those suffering, but to add insult to injury.

Jared Sellick is a junior majoring in political science.

USF's climb in college rankings is nothing to celebrate

By Nathaniel Sweet
CORRESPONDENT

On Tuesday, the U.S. News and World Report released their updated college rankings for public colleges. Much to the satisfaction of the administration, USF was ranked #44 among public universities, placing it among the top 50 in the United States.

While this development might seem like a cause for celebration, students should remember the facts about these lists. Far from an objective measure of educational quality, college rankings are really a signifier of unearned privilege.

Researchers and commentators have written volumes on why college rankings are unhelpful, if not damaging to schools and students. Lists like those by U.S. News & World Report make no attempt to measure the quality of teaching or the success of students after college.

Instead, they rely on statistical "proxies" like opinion surveys, high-school SAT scores and graduation rates. Each of these stats can be manipulated, and colleges often punish low-income students and students of color in the process.

More broadly, there's a serious moral problem at the

core of college rankings that goes unquestioned: the notion that elite status is a reasonable goal worth pursuing to begin with. Ideally, all students should have access to quality higher education, regardless of the school they attend. Seen in this light, a number-ranking of the "best" colleges makes little sense.

What, then, is the real reason we give such weight and credence to these lists? One clue lies in who gets admitted to highly-ranked colleges: overwhelmingly, these schools serve the children of the wealthy, then fast-track them into high-status jobs through elite alumni networks.

Far from promoting social mobility, elite schools hoard ruling-class power and launder it from one generation to the next. College rankings are just a highly-visible outgrowth of this trend, pushing public universities to emulate the worst tendencies of these colleges in hopes that they'll join the club.

USF might be climbing the list, but we should fear for who they'll leave behind to get there.

Nathaniel Sweet is a senior studying political science.

QBS

Continued from PAGE 8

in Week 1 and during the third quarter of last week's game against Georgia Tech.

While the scoreline was closer during McCloud's appearance against Georgia Tech, his offensive line protection seemed much better than when Barnett was in the game.

Ultimately, McCloud hasn't even attempted 20 percent the number of passes Barnett has, given the limited playing time he's seen thus far.

That hasn't stopped fans on social media from demanding McCloud start over Barnett, though. With frustrations reaching their tipping point during an eight-game losing streak that dates back to last October, the demand for change is in the air.

For his part, Strong seemed to not fear the opportunity for change, especially since McCloud has made the most of his limited playing time.

"Jordan has not played as much as Blake has played, but the opportunities he's been given, he's taken full advantage of it and has done a really good job," Strong said. "So we can't be afraid to make that change."

This isn't the first time Strong is facing the decision on whether to make a change. During Strong's time at Louisville, he made a pretty notable quarterback change, albeit under different circumstances.

After starting the 2011 season as the backup to senior Will Stein, freshman Teddy Bridgewater became the Cardinals' starting quarterback by the fourth game. In similar fashion to McCloud, Bridgewater came into an early-season game against Kentucky — albeit in place of an injured Stein — and threw for two touchdowns in the win, playing well enough for fans to demand a change there.

"I'm not afraid to make that change," Strong said. "I know I had a similar situation when I was at Louisville with Teddy ... so he came



Blake Barnett has been the starting quarterback since 2018. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

into the Kentucky game and played well for us, we ended up beating them.

"That's why you have practice and we get a chance to look at them. I know we see the game situation where everybody has their own thoughts, but we're going to put the right guy out there."

Who that guy is obviously remains to be seen — even how much playing time he gets remains a fair question. Given the fact both Barnett and McCloud have taken equal reps in practice this week, and the Bulls are playing an FCS team, it wouldn't be unprecedented for the two to see equal playing time before making a more permanent decision by the conference opener on Sept. 28.

But from what both Strong and Bell have said this week, it sounds like they want the quarterback that starts Saturday to be the one going forward.

"We've been looking at it, we've been keeping stats, all the stats that we can keep to try to make sure that we go with the right guy," Bell said.

That guy will be either Barnett or McCloud. That's the only guarantee at this point.

BOUNCE BACK

Continued from PAGE 8

when we have a called play that we execute at a high level and stay in good down and distance, it helps our quarterbacks."

The offensive line, which has given up eight sacks this season and has been the root of much of the offensive issues, was also addressed ahead this week. Sophomore Donovan Jennings will play left tackle, which will shift senior William Atterbury back to right guard.

"What [Jennings] did play in high school was left tackle, so we want to put him back at his comfortable position," Bell said. "[Atterbury], his footwork is really fundamentally sound [at guard]."

Bell also wants to see more effort from junior Jarrett Hopple and senior Marcus Norman.

Overall, Bell's goal is finding out how to work out the kinks

in his offense, which he said isn't an easy task.

"Shoot, I'm figuring out what I can do, I'm staying up all night and I'm not getting much sleep," Bell said. "A lot of it's on me, so we've got to come together and play a really good football game ... let's go get this thing going."

Meanwhile, the defense played what Strong called one of the best performances in years against Georgia Tech on Saturday.

Due to a targeting penalty late in the fourth quarter on Saturday, senior linebacker Patrick Macon, who leads the defense with 14 tackles, will be required to sit out the first half, which will add a layer of uncertainty to the defense.

The offense and defense alone don't win games, however. A joint effort is needed to climb out of the hole USF has fallen down, according to Strong.

"From offense to defense to

kicking game, we're a team," Strong said. "We win as a team, we play as a team, we lose as a team."

And Strong said that the objective is to show that the Bulls are better than how they've performed in the past two weeks. He stressed the fate of the team lies on the coaching staff's shoulders — the talent is there but guidance is crucial.

"We're better than what we're showing right now," Strong said. "I told the coaches we've got to keep going. Because the players are going to play the way we [coach them] ... it's got to be confidence, they got to believe in themselves. And we've got to make sure that whoever they put on the field they can execute and do everything we asked them to do."

Kickoff between the Bulls and the Bulldogs will be broadcast on ESPN3 at 6 p.m.

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RUNDOWN

Viens earns multiple weekly honors



Evelyne Viens
SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/GOUS-FBULLS

After a record-tying-and-setting weekend, a USF women's soccer player has received several weekly honors.

Senior striker Evelyne Viens, who scored five goals in two games during the UTSA Tournament in San Antonio — including a double brace against Rice on Friday — was named AAC Offensive Player of the Week on Monday and TopDrawerSoccer.com Player of the Week as well as United Soccer Coaches Player of the Week on Tuesday. She also earned all-tournament honors Sunday.

Viens' four goals on Friday tied a program record for most goals in a game — a record she previously tied in 2018 — as well as tying the program record for most career hat tricks (3).

Viens also set a new program record for shots in a career (266), surpassing the previous record by five.

She also holds the program record for most career goals (54) and goals in a season (20), both set in 2018.

Football

As QB competition, no starter appears obvious



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

Call it a quarterback competition, call it a quarterback controversy — call it whatever you want, really.

The only certainty about who will line up under center for USF on Saturday against South Carolina State is this: it'll either be Blake Barnett or Jordan McCloud.

"We're giving them both the same amount of reps," offensive coordinator Kerwin Bell said. "I'll tell you what, they both accepted the challenge. They're both

playing really well in practice. Jordan's really pushing Blake, and Blake's really picked up his game this week in practice."

But no decision had been made as of Wednesday morning, according to Bell. He expected coach Charlie Strong to possibly make a final decision by Thursday.

Given the nature of game-week preparations, naming a starter Thursday would make sense.

"Really, our two work days are Tuesday and Wednesday," Strong said Monday. "So when you get into Thursday, Thursday we're just reviewing the plays. We're going back through it — our guys know exactly what they have to get done. So it's going to be done fairly quickly."

It's hard to argue against the idea that the freshman has played better through the first two games of the season. McCloud has completed almost 90 percent



Jordan McCloud has played limited action this season, but may start against South Carolina State. ORACLE PHOTO/BRIAN HATTAB

of his passes, while Barnett is at an even 50 percent with two interceptions.

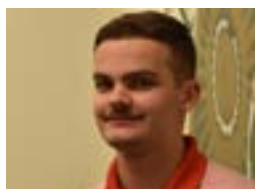
But McCloud's opportunities have been different than Barnett's.

He came in during the fourth quarter of an already blowout game against Wisconsin

See QBS on PAGE 7

Football

Still looking to bounce back



Nolan Brown

STAFF WRITER

After two losses, USF (0-2) will be looking for its first win of the season Saturday at Raymond James Stadium against South Carolina State.

Although the Bulldogs (2-0) are an FCS team, they shouldn't

be underestimated. South Carolina State has two sizeable wins under its belt — a 28-13 win over Wofford and a 34-0 shutout win over Lane College.

Given USF's last two performances, Saturday's game may very well be a toss-up. Strong defensive performances from South Carolina State may only add to USF's offensive woes.

Junior defensive lineman Roderick Perry was one of three Bulldogs named to the MEAC Players of the Week after last week's win. Perry stood out with five tackles, including three

tackles for a loss of 13 yards.

USF is ranked last in the AAC in total points this season with 10 and the Bulls are currently the only team in the conference without a win.

"This has been a very tough two weeks for me," offensive coordinator Kerwin Bell said. "We've got to find a way out of it and we've got to get some confidence."

Picking apart the offense and pointing fingers isn't the key to making progress. The quarterback situation isn't the only thing to blame, according

to Bell.

"There's a lot of other things that went wrong too, so we got a lot to address," Bell said.

Bell pointed out that the running game needs attention as much as the quarterback situation. USF only has 119 rushing yards in 53 attempts.

"I tell people it's not third down that's the problem, it's first down," Bell said. "We run the ball, we get hit for yards lost ... we've got to make sure we're fundamentally sound and

See BOUNCE BACK on PAGE 7