

'Nowhere to go, nowhere to turn'



Bahamian students are not able to return to their homes because their central airport, Grand Bahama International Airport, has been destroyed. **SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE**



Niamh Larkin

STAFF WRITER

Hurricane Dorian's strength caused the university to close Tuesday, Sept. 3, and many students had to return to their hometowns to help prepare or remain in Tampa away from the storm's path.

The storm ripped through the Bahamas on Sunday as a Category 5, killing nearly 20 people. The hurricane is

projected to head North and make landfall near North Carolina and South Carolina as a Category 2 hurricane Thursday through Friday morning, according to the New York Times.

Many students from the Caribbean were devastated after hearing about Dorian's aftermath.

Cherleya Carey, a senior studying psychology from Nassau, Bahamas, watched videos and Facebook live streams over the weekend as the storm blew over her home.

"Many Bahamian students felt a deep sense of hopelessness while we watched our homes being destroyed, there is nothing you can really do except wait it

out," Carey said.

Multiple students have still not heard from their families on the islands, according to Carey. However, she has been in contact with her family who is doing okay.

Carey said she has heard that there are children who are separated from their parents and elderly people who are in need of medical assistance, now that the storm has passed.

"A lot of residents have nowhere to go, nowhere to turn," Carey said.

Carey and other Bahamian students are not able to return to their homes because their central airport, Grand Bahama

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SG Senators reflect on Senate President's impeachment



Alyssa Stewart

EDITOR IN CHIEF

During her two-month tenure as Student Government (SG) Senate President, Susane Nazir was able to organize trainings and retreats for senators, a Senate special election, set up partnerships with Career Services among other initiatives.

However, these accomplishments were inadequate in securing her position as Senate chair. Nazir was terminated effective July 23 for her "unorganized" leadership style.

Sen. Noor Kantar and Sen. Nawal Yousef requested a Vote of Confidence (VOC) against Nazir because they did not feel like she carried out her role effectively.

SG statute 4.1.1 states that the purpose of a VOC is to "determine whether the Senate has confidence in a Senator's ability to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of an elected position."

The last VOC to pass the Senate was four years ago, in which the finance chair was

removed for working remotely, two hours away, and repeatedly making errors in student organization budgets, according to Nazir.

The senator was removed a few weeks into the fall semester, whereas Nazir was terminated from her position for nearly a month before the semester began.

Nazir admitted that she was taken aback when she was notified of the VOC.

"I was surprised when I found out a VOC had been submitted against me, but more than that I was disappointed," Nazir said in an email to The Oracle. "Some people in SG disliked when I would focus on holding myself and others accountable."

After a VOC request is submitted to the Pro Tempore, the item has to be added to the Senate agenda for the next meeting. The person who called for the VOC is now considered 'the sponsor.'

The sponsor, Yousef, and the subject of the VOC, Nazir, presented a five-minute opening statement, had a question-and-answer period with the Senate and a debate between one another.

The Senate entered a discussion period that followed a voting procedure in which 16

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The Oracle

THE UNIVERSITY OF
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FOOTBALL

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keeping the ball on the ground.

“We’re pretty familiar with their staff coming from Temple,” Reaves said. “I’ve seen that offense for the last four-five years. I know they love to run the ball. They have some pretty good players, a pretty dynamic quarterback.”

In last year’s game, Georgia Tech’s quarterbacks ran all over the Bulls’ defense. Senior TaQuon Marshall and freshman Tobias Oliver combined for 210 net yards rushing and four touchdowns. While Marshall is gone, expect more of the same from the now-sophomore Oliver, who was the leading second-leading rusher in Georgia Tech’s 52-14 loss to No. 1 Clemson last week.

“You have a quarterback that’s very, very talented running the ball, as we saw last year,” defensive coordinator Brian Jean-Mary said. “So they’ve added a lot more quarterback run.”

“They like their receivers, but obviously it’s going to be a

different type of passing game because they’re coming from an option background with the quarterbacks. So it presents a different challenge. But at the end of the day, they’re going to lean on what they feel is most successful.”

If the Bulls can get past Georgia Tech, it would snap what is now tied for the longest losing streak in program history. Despite the obvious difficulties of the lengthy losing streak, currently capped off by an almost 50-point defeat on national television, veteran leaders like Wilcox are attempting to keep things together.

“Leadership comes into play here — definitely when we don’t have the result we want,” Wilcox said. “We’ve just got to bring the young guys along — if they’re contributing ... they’ve got to follow the older guys and just really work hard to stay the course.”

The Bulls and Yellow Jackets kick off at Bobby Dodd Stadium in Atlanta on Saturday at 2 p.m. The game will be broadcast on the all-new ACC Network.

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SENATE

Continued from PAGE 1

people decided Nazir was unfit as Senate President and six people believed she should have stayed.

Yousef said she felt suitable to be the sponsor for the VOC because she was an unbiased senator since none of the issues directly related to her.

Some of the issues Yousef said she noticed include Nazir being biased toward new senators, making “on-the-spot” rules and rarely being in the office.

In one specific situation, Kantar said Nazir said during a Senate meeting that cell phones were not allowed even though they were allowed to be used in the 59th term. Nazir then “singled-out” someone in front of the Senate even though they were using their phone for business items and emails, according to Kantar.

Yousef’s presentation during her open statement stated that Nazir violated the statute 201.2 “Be independent and impartial in all their SG-related decisions” and statute 201.2.6 “Uphold the truth in an accurate manner.”

Nazir defended herself by saying that Senators were treating her unfairly and “did not respect her.” Also, she said her absence was because she was in the hospital.

However, after speaking with The Oracle, Nazir said she was removed from her position based on mistakes.

“I have no doubt that those reasons were used as an excuse for removing me, rather than as actual reasons justifying my termination,” Nazir said.

Looking back, Yousef said she was frustrated with Nazir’s

answers during the debate because of “her use of words.”

“I was more frustrated with some of the things she said such as being victimized, harassed and that I had a personal vendetta against her,” Yousef said. “She was using words that were too heavy and they were just excuses to find a way out.”

During the VOC, Nazir said multiple times that senators did not respect her and people would talk negatively about her in the office when she wasn’t present. In an interview with The Oracle, Nazir said negative comments took away from her experience and that she has spent the last “two years struggling and growing in SG.”

“I didn’t want to let down the people who believed in me and in what I could do,” Nazir said. “I didn’t want to spend all my time focused on never-ending internal drama, largely perpetrated by the same few people; It just wasn’t a priority.”

Yousef said she initially did not want to present to the Senate, but she felt it was for the best interest of the group. She said this was especially because other people in Senate were also having issues.

“Being a new senator, it was out of my comfort zone but I felt like I had to stand up for what I believed in,” Yousef said. “There were facts and evidence to support in everything I said.”

Similarly, Kantar said she did not feel right staying quiet about how she felt.

“I never had the intention to come for her personality or personal life,” Kantar said. “I had to say something because I was no better than someone who was choosing to keep quiet.”

Even though Nazir was only

able to serve as Senate President for two months, she said she is making her short journey a learning experience.

“At the end of the day I am happy with the choices I made as a person, because I know I did so with good intent, strong ethics and in the best interest of Senate and the Student Body,” Nazir said. “I wouldn’t have changed much because it would’ve been changing my values for the sole basis of appeasing people whose purpose was to remove me, and that wasn’t my priority as Senate President.

“I’m grateful for the good and the very bad, because I’ve learned key aspects about myself and people that I don’t think I would have learned elsewhere.”



Suzane Nazir was terminated from her position effective July 23. **SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/SUZANE NAZIR**

DORIAN

Continued from PAGE 1

International Airport, has been destroyed.

“This is the worst I’ve ever seen, I cannot even describe it — it’s heartbreaking,” said Carey.

Carey has reached out to International Student Services, in hopes of guidance, and will be meeting with them in the following weeks.

Rebecca Blackler, a senior studying marketing, remained in Tampa while her mother prepared for the storm in Merritt Island, located on the eastern coast of Florida. She said her hometown is expected to receive a lot of rainfall and flooding as the storm passes by in the next couple days.

Blackler said she did not return home because she was unsure whether USF would decide to close the campus on Tuesday.

“They should make quicker decisions,” Blackler said. “It’s hard to say if they should have closed campus for longer or not as you never know what will happen.”

USF officially announced its closure Friday, Aug. 30 at 5 p.m.

D’Ajonae Jayawardana is a biomedical sciences sophomore from Freeport, Bahamas. Her family lives in South Bahamia, one of the few areas of the island that did not flood.

“I felt broken and helpless, it hurts seeing people you know on social media needing to be rescued,” she said.

Jayawardana is part of a group of Bahamian USF students who have teamed up with the Caribbean Cultural Exchange, as well as others in Tampa and Orlando to gather donations for survivors of Hurricane Dorian.

The donations will be sent to the Bahamian Consulate in Orlando, where they will then be shipped weekly off to the islands. There is also a donation drop-off location in St. Petersburg.

“A lot of people just see the Bahamas as paradise or vacation but real people live there with real lives and they are hurting and need help,” Jayawardana said.



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The failed academic logo a year later: What went wrong?



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

During her fall address on Sept. 5, 2018, now-former USF president Judy Genshaft unveiled a new academic logo as the university entered a new era.

“Do you love it?” Genshaft enthusiastically asked the crowd at the Marshall Student Center ballroom.

She received a positive reaction then, but it became apparent quickly the rest of the USF community hated it.

But why? Why did something as mundane as a logo cause such drastic backlash?

It wasn't necessary and made things more confusing

USF could have saved itself a lot of headache had it just adopted the ‘Iconic U’ for academics. Not just from the community backlash, but with the implementation process itself, considering USF had been using USF Athletics’ logo for marketing purposes for several years prior.

While using an athletic brand for academics is not common, it's not unprecedented. The University of Miami adopted its ‘Iconic U’ universitywide in 2009.

By USF's own admission, it was concerned about a “muddled brand” due to not having consistent branding, noting all the variations of logos that can be



Adopting a new logo without fixing brand standards was a huge mistake for USF. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/BRIAN HATTAB

found around campus.

However, USF “muddled” the brand further by unveiling the new logo at united.usf.edu, complete with a video that combined statues from all three USF campuses with the ‘Iconic U’ logo, leading some to believe the new academic logo was also being implemented for USF Athletics.

Even without the confusion the rollout caused, USF could have simply adopted stricter logo requirements. Adopting a new logo without fixing brand standards was akin to cleaning up water from a spill before plugging the hole that caused the mess in the first place.

The university just couldn't stop fueling the fire

Shortly after implementation, USF released a video in the style of “Mean Tweets” from “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” Almost all of the “tweets” were kind to the logo, with a few razzes mixed in. However, what was read weren't tweets at all, they were comments on SPARK's website — the agency that created the logo.

While the video never claimed the comments came from Twitter, reading comments off SPARK's

website instead of actual tweets from the USF community was disingenuous at best and lying by omission at worst.

In March, while talks of scrapping the logo were actively going on, USF “updated” it by altering the tail and the back hooves of the bull, as if those were the reasons people hated it.

It seemed every time the complaining was finally dying down, USF decided to rile everyone up again — a terrible strategy for getting people to accept something they initially disliked.

The logo was a drastic departure from what everyone expects a university logo to look like.

It made USF stick out from its counterparts in Tallahassee, Gainesville and Orlando like a sore thumb.

Sometimes it's good to be adventurous. But, unlike the university slogan that debuted with the logo and was ditched even faster, ambition shouldn't always come over tradition.

Brian Hattab is a graduate student studying journalism.

Hurricanes are getting worse, here's why



Jared Sellick

COLUMNIST

Once again we find ourselves in the thick of hurricane season preparing for another catastrophic storm that has the potential to devastate communities. We know the reason these storms are getting worse year after year.

July 2019 was found to be the hottest month on record, according to CNN. We know that increased temperatures contribute to the development of storms like Hurricane Dorian.

July was the hottest month on record is because we are warming the planet through our greenhouse emissions. Luckily, there are many things that you can do as a USF student to turn the tide and protect the state of Florida and the planet from these increased storms and rising sea levels.

Many USF students and faculty devote a lot of time and energy to develop new ways to combat climate change.

The Student Green Energy Fund (SGEF) is a portion of USF's budget devoted to offsetting the college's carbon emissions as well as invest in solar panels and other technology meant to decrease our

impact on the climate. The SGEF encourages students to propose their own green initiatives that have the potential to be implemented all over campus.

The Patel College of Global Sustainability (PCGS) is on the cutting edge of research in green technology and is actively promoting environmental sustainability. They are an excellent resource for students who would like to have a career in green technology or policy.

However, much of our power to combat climate change rests on our ability to call for action. College campuses have historically been a source of social, economic and political change. Determining the best path to sustainability is important, but it is more important that these ideas actually get implemented on a larger scale.

Student organizations such as the Climate Action Coalition are dedicated to calling for climate action on the local, state and federal level. If students believe in ensuring that Tampa is habitable for generations to come, the call to action has to start now.

If students at USF and all over the world truly come to realize the power of their voice, we will be able to stop the worst consequences of climate change through new technology, policy and legislation.

Jared Sellick is a junior majoring in political science.

Bulls Chronicle: Ericka Torres

Combining her life experiences and an international studies degree, Ericka Torres hopes to weave her passions together.



Amelio Nazarko

FOCAL POINTS
EDITOR

Ericka Torres, a junior majoring in international studies with a minor in criminology, has taken an interest in gun control policy after a horrific event that occurred during her freshman year at USF.

Hearing that so many of her loved ones were affected by the Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) shooting in Torres's hometown of Parkland, was one of the most traumatic experiences of her life, she said.

She remembers being sent videos while the shooting was happening and hearing the screams of those who were once her classmates as bullets came through the ceiling and floors.

Torres is constantly being reminded of the grief her loved ones had to endure as more shootings happen in other parts of the country.

Many of her friends from Parkland have become activists involved with the March For Our Lives Movement. She says that it's these people who constantly educate her about the importance

of gun reform.

"Parkland was one of the safest cities in Florida and knowing that something so tragic happened somewhere that I felt safe really scared me," said Torres.

She urges people to educate themselves about gun reform, contact their elected officials, and support organizations like Everytown for Gun Safety that work to end gun violence. Most importantly, she wants people to talk about the shootings so all of the victim's stories are heard.

"I'm concerned about how desensitized we have become to these shootings," said Torres.

From this experience, she learned to never take her loved ones for granted.

"People can be taken from you in an instant," said Torres.

Although it was difficult to cope with the tragedy, she did not let the experience affect her academically. What happened at MSD will never leave her, but she is holding onto positive memories of her home and her loved ones.

Before investing more of her time into her criminology studies, she was strictly focused on learning about international relations.

"My goal is to work [as part] of an organization like the [United Nations], managing public or media affairs, concentrating on distributing policy," said Torres.

This goal stems from her interest in international culture. Having only been out of the

country a handful of times, once to her father's home country of Guatemala, she desires more interaction with cultures outside



of her own.

When asked what she loves to do, the arts seemed to be high on her list of passions.

"I love the way art allows a person to express themselves in an unconventional fashion and how it speaks to everyone differently," said Torres.

But, how do the arts align with her chosen path, and how will she connect her passion to working in public/media affairs?

"Managing international relationships is like using artistic mediums to make people feel or understand something, except

surrounded by different cultures was the norm. Itching for a move from Parkland, Torres said traveling to USF challenged her in ways that she didn't expect.

"Back home, I had convenient access to museums, street art and local artists," said Torres.

For someone like her, who is constantly feeding off of the perceptions and narratives of others, it's challenging to be in a space where there is more room for distraction.

"I am a natural procrastinator and have always dealt with social anxiety. It's easy for me to get off track and overthink. However, by surrounding [myself] with motivated people that are always trying to grow and better themselves, [I feel] more self-driven," said Torres.

As for her studies at USF, Torres is proud of how much she has evolved. After what happened in Parkland, she hopes to dive deeper into her criminology studies so she can better understand the policies behind gun control.

More than anything, Torres is an experience collector. In the mosaic of world cultures, she wants to take her time exploring each, because "there is no room for growth in your comfort zone."

Bulls Chronicle is an ongoing series in The Oracle's Focal Points section which features students around campus.

cultures and languages would be the mediums," Torres said.

Torres soaks up as much culture as she can, knowing that these experiences are exactly what will shape her into the future international public affairs professional she hopes to be.

"I see so many people [at USF] that look different and have come from different parts of the country and the world," said Torres.

Growing up near Miami, being

Football

Looking to bounce back



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

It's fair to wonder how USF (0-1) will respond against Georgia Tech (0-1) on Saturday, especially considering it's coming off the largest defeat in program history — a 49-0 loss against then-No. 19 Wisconsin.

For their part, the Bulls seem to be in good spirits.

"It's tough to get popped in the mouth the first game," tight end Mitchell Wilcox said. "But this team is built for adversity and can deal with it, and we're going to bounce back. I'm sure of it."

A big key for USF against the Yellow Jackets will be whether its offense can get anything going after struggling last week. The Bulls were only able to net 157 yards in the season opener.

"Well, all I know to do is you put it in the past and you learn from it, and we have showed them the film," offensive coordinator Kerwin Bell said. "You've just got to work a little bit harder, and you've just got to continue to believe in yourself. You can't lose confidence."

Of USF's 157 yards, just 26 came on the ground.

"I've got to take the blame," Bell said. "We didn't move the ball the way I thought we would.



The Bulls defeated the Yellow Jackets 49-38 last year in Tampa. USF and Georgia Tech meet again Saturday in Atlanta. **ORACLE FILE PHOTO**

We surely didn't run it — we've got to have more balance."

More importantly for the Bulls, they can't afford to let one loss turn into anything more.

"Week 1 doesn't define us," defensive end Greg Reaves said. "We've still got 11 more opportunities. We can't let last week beat us ... we have another opportunity ahead of us. Let's just go 1-0 this week. You can't change what happened in the past."

Regarding the past: the only prior meeting between the two teams came last year in Week 2, when the Bulls pulled off a wild, come-from-behind 49-38 victory. Most notably, Terrence Horne returned back-to-back kickoffs for touchdowns during the first quarter, becoming the first player in AAC history to return two kickoffs for touchdowns in the same game.

But Georgia Tech has different

leadership than the team that came to Raymond James Stadium last September, although that leader is not unfamiliar to the Bulls.

After longtime coach Paul Johnson retired at the end of 2018, the Yellow Jackets hired Geoff Collins to replace him. Collins coached at Temple the past two seasons, leading the Owls to a 15-10 record.

"Even though the personnel is different, the scheme is similar, like on defense, they're going to do the same things they did at Temple," coach Charlie Strong said. "Offensively, I think what he's done is he's catered to his personnel, because the quarterback for them is the one that makes their offense go."

While the triple option offense that was run under Johnson may be a thing of that past, make no mistake, Georgia Tech loves

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Men's Soccer

Bulls look to enter win column



Nolan Brown

STAFF WRITER

After a close battle with No. 1 Maryland that ended in a 1-0 defeat, the Bulls are in high spirits.

USF (0-1) held on until the 70th minute when the Terrapins found the net and broke the deadlock.

Despite the loss, coach Bob Butehorn was impressed with the team's performance.

"I was obviously pleased but would've liked to get a better result, we thought we deserved a little better," Butehorn said. "But I was pleased with how the guys handled the environment, how the guys responded defensively, to a team that put them under a lot of pressure."

But now the Bulls are back home to play Marquette (1-0-1) on Friday evening in their first home game of the season — and they're looking for their first win.

"They're a good team, well-coached," Butehorn said. "I think that it's a good matchup and we think it's a good opportunity and we're going to approach it like that."

The Golden Eagles have two overtime games under their belts — a win and a draw. For the Bulls, Friday's game will be their second. But Butehorn isn't worried that Marquette has more

game experience this season.

"That's not anything you can do anything about and worry about," Butehorn said. "It's one of those things you can't control."

"Let's just focus on how we defend well and know our opponent but not worry about them."

Marquette boasts a powerful attack, however. Offensive leaders — seniors Luka Prpa, Patrick Seagrist, Connor Alba and sophomore Lukas Sunesson — led the way last season with a combined 18 goals and 14 assists.

Butehorn isn't shaken by the Golden Eagles' attacking prowess, however.

"We're going to face, and we have faced, some very good forwards and will continue to face good forwards," Butehorn said. "We just prepare ourselves as best we can. We have an idea about the opponent, but we focus on ourselves as much as we can."

The Bulls are still trying to shake off the preseason sluggishness and find their footing. Given that USF added seven new recruits to its roster prior to the season, players are still trying to gel in with the team and are still learning to work with each other.

"We're in the infancy stages of, hopefully, a pretty successful season," Butehorn said. "So I think we're going to run into our growing pains ... I think the important thing for us right now is to focus on winning games and being successful ... I think all the other stuff will wash itself away."