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Virtual USF week kicks off with prizes, events boosting Bull pride



Audra Nikolajski

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Though students will not be able to partake in the in-person festivities that a normal USF Week would boast, the Campus Activities Board (CAB) has arranged a series of events with participation prizes that would make even the least-spirited Bull proud.

USF Week will begin Monday and run through Friday, or more importantly, USF Day, as declared by former Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio in 2010. Some celebrations, like Bull Brag, will run for the entirety of the week, but others like Monday's University Lecture Series (ULS) will entertain students for one night only.

Planning a week of celebration virtually is difficult, according to Coordinator for the Center for Student Involvement (CSI) Alexis Fuentes. He said he anticipates the week to be easier to attend than previous years because it's online.

"There's more accessibility for students or parents and family, or alumni who may not necessarily come to the campuses in person to be able to join in virtually from anywhere that they can," he said. "So we're really happy to be able to still have this week-long celebration in a virtual setting."

The week-long festivities will begin Monday at 6:30 p.m. with its traditional kickoff, followed by a ULS featuring actor Max Greenfield, best known for his work in the Emmy award-winning television show "New Girl." The event will last until 8:15 p.m. and will cost a total of \$25,990, covering both speaker and promotional items.

The event's promotional items will be a popular one, according to Fuentes. For attending the ULS, audience members can win one of 200 campfire mugs featuring the event's name, which will be shipped to them at the end of the week.

"For kickoff, we're doing a campfire mug, and on the campfire mug you'll see the logo along with the actual event name so it's really just to increase the Bull pride from USF Week," Fuentes said.

"[The promotional items are] to encourage attendance, and just to get more people hyped up for the week. Each day you'll see on our Instagram the promotion that we're giving for that day. Students will be able to see what they can win if they come and attend the event."

Despite the anticipated popularity of the campfire mug, Fuentes said he doesn't anticipate it will be as popular as the bull plushie that will be given out during Tuesday's Ultimate Bull Talent Show.

"We're really excited for students to come out and participate in the Talent Show, and then get an Ultimate Bull Talent Show plushie, because we know that will be a hot commodity," he said. "So we're excited to see the student feedback when we start promoting those."

There will only be 46 bull plushies available to win, so



The Center for Student Involvement has put together a lineup of virtual events for USF Week to stir up pride within Bulls no matter where they are. ORACLE FILE PHOTO

Fuentes said students will need to sign on early. Even if students come for the plush bull, they are bound to stay for the talent, according to Fuentes.

"So our form just closed [March 26] to participate in the Ultimate Bull Talent Show, so we have a total of four students who are going to be virtually performing," Fuentes said. "We have Kéydrine Gayle, who's our Miss USF. She's going to be our host, and we're inviting representatives from all three campuses to be a judge for the Ultimate Bull Talent Show."

The four contestants will be judged by a panel of three individuals, each representing a campus. The Tampa campus representative will be Truman Hoang, who won the Ultimate Bull Talent Show last year. Aldo Jesus, the Harborside Activities Board president, will represent the St. Pete campus and Sarasota-Manatee Lt. Gov. Melisa Escobar will represent the Sarasota-Manatee campus.

The talent show will take place from 7-8:30 p.m. on Microsoft Teams. The event will cost \$715.60 in total to run, including the bull plushies and prizes for the contestants.

Wednesday's event will be Rocky at his best, as students will gather virtually to celebrate the mascot's birthday. This will be a day-long event, according to Fuentes, with a variety of activities for students to participate in. All of the day's events add up to a price tag of \$3,363.

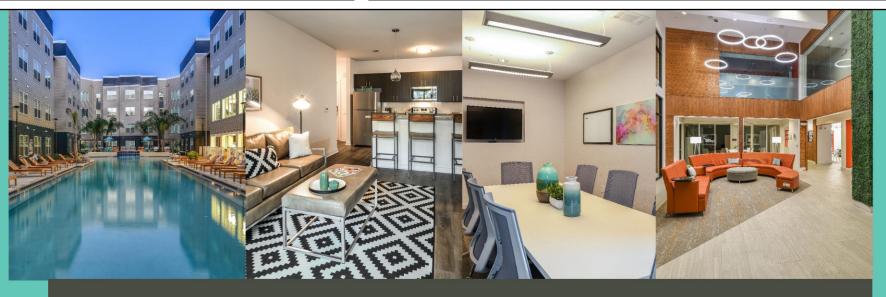
The most notable events of the day include three virtual escape rooms, which have three different themes. The Missing Mascot Escape Room will be USF themed and take place at 12 p.m. The Exit Files Escape Room will be "X-Files" themed at 4 p.m. and the Zombie Desert Escape Room will be Zombie themed at 10 p.m. The escape rooms will be on Zoom and are facilitated by a vendor called Neon Entertainment, a company that

See USF Week on PAGE 8

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Max Greenfield to speak at Monday's ULS



Emma Lail

CORRESPONDENT

Dropping out of college to follow his passions was something Max Greenfield didn't think twice about, and during Monday's University Lecture Series (ULS), he will share with students his life journey from earning a 0.67 GPA to becoming an award-winning actor in TV and film.

The event will be held following the USF Week Kickoff. The kickoff will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the ULS will run from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. on Microsoft Teams with 45 minutes of moderated questions from Sophia Nieves, a mass communications major, and

15 minutes of audience Q&A.

Up to 10,000 people will be able to attend the event, according to Student Programs Coordinator Isabelle Arroyo-Acevedo. In total, the kickoff and ULS will cost \$25,990, including paying Greenfield and purchasing 200 mugs with the USF Week logo that will be given away to audience members.

Greenfield is best known for starring as Schmidt in Fox's "New Girl," which started airing in 2011. The show, which ran for seven seasons until 2018, is based on the everyday lives of four roommates including the main character Jess, played by actress Zooey Deschanel, who just moved into a loft with three men, one of them played by Greenfield.

Over the years, the show received dozens of awards, including an Emmy in 2012 for Outstanding Directing for a Comedy Series, Outstanding Main Title Design and Outstanding Casting for a Comedy Series, and Greenfield was nominated for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series. The following year, he was nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actor and the show won the Best Television Series Award.

With a passion for acting since he was a child, Greenfield's career took off in 2000 when he starred in an MTV show called "Undressed," which allowed him to pursue other roles. He made his first big debut in 2004, playing the role of "Ike Green" in a drama called "Cross Bronx."

After he graduated from Dobbs Ferry High School in New York, Greenfield attended the University of Wisconsin in 1998 for a short period of time as an art major, but dropped out his freshman year as he didn't meet certain academic requirements.

In an interview with GQ, a New
See ULS on PAGE 10



Max Greenfield, an Emmy-nominated actor best known for his role as Schmidt on the Fox TV show "New Girl," will headline USF Week's University Lecture Series. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

USF alumna to teach the art of crafting cocktails in Tuesday's mixology class



Dylan Cohen

CORRESPONDENT

USF alumna Raven Johnson is shaking things up — drinks, that is — for USF Week as she joins the USF Alumni Association for a mixology class Tuesday night.

The event will be held via Zoom on April 6 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Johnson will be showing participants how to make two

drinks from scratch — Rocky's green and gold margarita and whiskey sours. The target audience is USF alumni, however, undergraduate students are also welcome to join, according to USF Alumni Association Associate Executive Director Jay Hardwick.

Those who register for the event will receive a shopping list for ingredients that remain under \$20 in total. The class will feature instructions on how to create simple syrup from scratch, slice herbs and fruits and assemble the cocktail correctly to create the drink without using a

pre-made mix.

During the event, Johnson will also go step-by-step through making non-alcoholic alternatives, commonly known as "mocktails," for those under the legal drinking age, such as including Coke rather than alcohol.

The event will cost \$20 to register, half of which will be going toward Johnson's business, Pour Up Atlanta, and the other half will go toward the USF Green and Gold scholarship fund, which is used to finance various scholarships for current students. The event will be

moderated by Hardwick, with a brief trivia session and an opportunity for participants to mingle during a 10-minute break between cocktails.

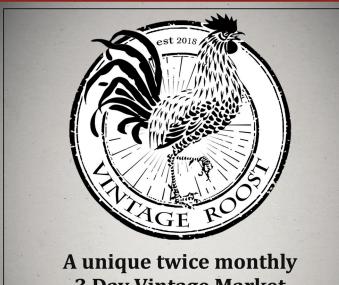
Johnson graduated from USF in 2017 with a master's in education and college student affairs and started her bartending business in 2018 in Atlanta. Also, she was on the board of the Black Alumni Chapter at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNC Charlotte) where she graduated with a bachelor's in psychology in 2015.

After the COVID-19 pandemic, Johnson transitioned most of her business dealings online, alongside her mixology classes, which she previously used to fundraise for the Black Alumni Chapter of UNC Charlotte.

"[I and the Black Alumni Chapter] thought of an idea for a fundraising event to benefit the Black tech equity initiative we created," said Johnson. "We gave computers to underserved populations entering college for the first time, and it went really well."

Hardwick eventually found Johnson on LinkedIn while looking for a USF alum to host

See MIXOLOGY on PAGE 10



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Students will be able to register via Google Forms, and they can select which rooms they want to participate in as well as designate friends they want to escape with.

Rocky's Birthday Bash will close with an "Among Us" tournament at 8 p.m. on the Recreation and Wellness' Discord server. The first 99 participants in the tournament will receive a mini speaker.

Speaking of speakers, students will be able to vote on the best student DJ during Bullstock: The Remix on Thursday at 8 p.m. The first 150 students to attend will receive a tie-dye T-shirt kit.

Bullstock: The Remix will last for an hour and a half and feature 10 students who will be given a topic to form a playlist about two hours prior to the event, according to Isabelle

Arroyo-Acevedo the CSI student programs coordinator.

The students acting as DJs will play a 15-minute set from their themed playlists. Audience members will then decide who is the best DJ of each round and the winners will receive T-shirts and cash prizes. The event will cost a total of \$9,500 including paying the vendor, Aux Cord Wars.

All of the week's events will lead up to USF Day on Friday. To celebrate the annual celebration, Fuentes said the activities will be entirely social media based. CAB will post different prompts for students to post on their stories, including a "USF Bingo" or "This or That."

"'This or That' prompts are very Florida-related things because we wanted to show that pride of where you went to school, and the state that the school is in," he said. "So for example, [a post will say] a Pub Sub or the Sonic corn dog."

Each post will count as a submission for the social media competition. Each challenge will give students the opportunity to win one of three prizes, either a Keurig K-Mini, a mini projector or a record player. This will make the costs for USF Day a total of \$205.42.

At the end of the week, each of the prizes will be packed up and shipped out to all of those who win throughout the week.

USF Week may not look the same as it has in previous years, however, Fuentes said the core values still remain.

"[As a university] we're still developing. I think there's still a lot of culture and tradition that is still coming along," Fuentes said. "So really, USF week is a celebration of our history, a celebration of the university and just a celebration of being a Bull."



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Without a real cake, this year's Rocky's Birthday Bash will feature virtual escape rooms and an esports competition. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BOARD

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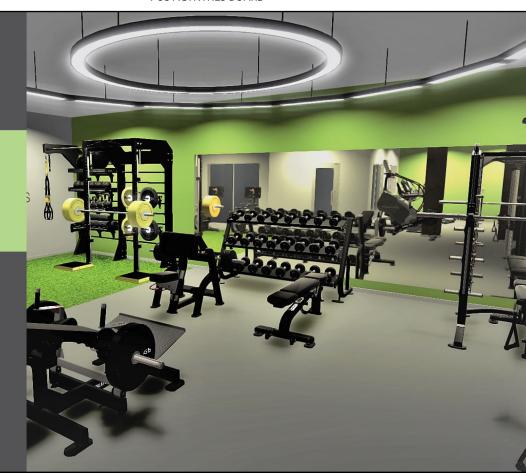
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ULS

Continued from PAGE 6

York City-based men's magazine, Greenfield said dropping out of college didn't phase him as much as it infuriated his parents. He said he was always aware of the career he wanted to achieve, which was acting.

Greenfield also made small appearances on shows such as "Gilmore Girls" and "American Horror Story," according to Greenfield's IMDb filmography page.

His small appearances, however, were just a quick glimpse into what his acting and film career had in store. Throughout his life he has starred in 38 shows and movies, had guest appearances in 22 and provided voiceovers in five different films, one being the iconic movie "Ice Age" in which he voiced "Roger," the dyno-bird.

The actor has also been on the other side of the camera, producing films such as "Fist Fight" which aired in 2017, starring popular actor and musician "Ice Cube."

Success has led Greenfield to immense accolades. Besides his Golden Globe and Emmy nominations, he was also awarded a Teen Choice Award in 2012 and 2013, Critics Choice TV Awards in 2012 and 2013, a Streamy Award in 2014, Online Film and Television Awards in 2012 and 2013 and Gold Derby Awards in 2012, 2013, 2016 and 2018.

His current role includes the CBS comedy show "The Neighborhood," which aired in 2018 and had its third season debut in November. The show revolves around a white middlewestern family that moves to California in a predominantly African American neighborhood. Greenfield plays the role of Dave Johnson, who's the father of a white Midwestern family.

Mixology

Continued from PAGE 6

an event for USF week, and according to him, all of the pieces fell into place.

"We've been continuing to look for creative virtual ways to be engaging our alumni during the pandemic," said Hardwick.

"In December, we had a virtual beer tasting event utilizing an alumnus' brewery, so the next step was to find an alumnus in this kind of industry, [and] we found Raven pretty much entirely out of the blue."

Hardwick also reached out to the Black Alumni Chapters at USF and UNC Charlotte as well as the USF Atlanta Alumni Association due to Johnson's affiliations with the cities and institutions to help promote the event.

No experience in mixing drinks is required to participate in Tuesday's event, so it's worth a shot.



While alumna Raven Johnson will be showing fellow alumni how to properly mix margaritas during Tuesday's mixology class, participants under the legal drinking age can also join the fun and learn how to make mocktails. UNSPLASH/John Fornander



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USF WEEK SPRING 2021

Bullstock remixed as students face off in DJ competition



This year's Bullstock will feature the playlists of 10 students as they go head-to-head in a DJ competition Thursday evening. UNSPLASH/Krys Amon



Jorgelina Manna-Rea

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

With crowds discouraged for the time being, the staple event of USF Week — Bullstock — has been subject to some revisions so students can still enjoy music in a socially distant manner.

Otherwise known for bringing a series of artists for an on-campus concert, Bullstock has been altered this year to "Bullstock: The Remix." The event will be hosted by Aux Cord Wars, a DJ event program for college students, and consists of a live competition where students will compete head to head to see who has the best playlist for their designated genre of music. The \$9,500 event will be hosted through Zoom on Thursday at 8 p.m.

A maximum of 10 preregistered students will be accepted to participate in the competition to show off their skills with the aux. The chosen students will be paired off so there will be five 15-minute rounds of competition, each with specific categories of music their playlist should cater to — but participants will only be notified of their category two hours in advance.

"For example ... one of the themes is best dance songs. Those students, before the event, are required to create their own playlist of songs that they feel like fit into that theme the best," said Student Programs Coordinator at the Center for Student Involvement Isabelle Arrovo-Acevedo.

Those who do manage to defeat their counterpart in their choices of beats and mash-ups will be determined by votes from the audience that Aux Cord Wars will gather through a virtual poll. Attendees will also have a turn to give each DJ their own feedback.

"For the sake of getting students' feedback and interaction, we'll also have students share verbally who they think the winner is," said Arroyo-Aceyedo.

A bonus sixth round will be included at the end of the event

for any two students in attendance feeling invigorated by the spirit of virtual competition who want to participate on impulse.

The winner for each round will be rewarded with a prize, whether it's a T-shirt or an e-gift card

There will be questions and trivia in between the rounds so attendees can participate for a chance to win some of the prizes offered as well.

There's no limit to the number of people who can listen in on the battle between the playlists, but the first 150 students who join will have a Bullstock T-shirt and tie-dye kit shipped directly to their home.

Whether students show up to Bullstock as a listener or a DJ, many of them will leave the experience with a package at their doorstep or at least a new song to add to a playlist.

"At the end of the week we're going to collectively come together, pre-package the items on that Friday [and send them] to the students' addresses that they shared with us," said Arroyo-Acevedo.

Bull Brag recognizes random acts of kindness



Carla Ibañez

CORRESPONDENT

From doing the work of two because a colleague retired to putting smiles on faces despite their own adversities, Bull Brag will honor the most good-hearted people across all USF campuses during the celebrations of USF Week.

Bull Brag will be recognizing three students and two faculty or staff members from the USF community every day of USF Week. Winners of the award will be selected based on outstanding service or acts of kindness given to the USF community.

Individuals are encouraged to submit a nomination on the Marshall Student Center (MSC) website for the award. Due to the high number of applicants, the event planners decided to extend the event to last the entirety of USF Week.

"We were kind of overwhelmed with the amount of amazing stories that people had to share about a friend, a colleague or a professor that had really gone above and beyond to be there for them and a lot of times in spite of some personal tragedies that that person may have been dealing with in their own life," said Christopher Liska, conference and event planner at the MSC.

Participants will be divided in three different categories including students, faculty and staff. Winners will be selected by their acts of service to others, and they will be awarded by being featured on the MSC website and social media.

The MSC's event team, consisting of Associate Director for Event Planning Elizabeth Sorenson and four event planners including Liska, hope to not only honor individuals who have gone above and beyond to help support their colleagues or classmates, but to also inspire others to do the same act in the long run.

"This idea came up in one of our meetings about creating an award that would specifically honor students, faculty or staff that had gone out of their way over the past year, which was a tough one for everyone to kind of help create that sense of community within [the] university," said Liska.

With the purpose of creating a more online-friendly event, people will be able to have access to the awards anytime on the MSC's Instagram page @usf_msc and official website.

"We found it was really hard to get student engagement and that there was a lot of fatigue, between being in other meetings and in classroom settings that were all virtual now, talking with their family, virtually ... it was really difficult," said Liska.

A small act of kindness can make a big difference, and Bull Brag is seeking to encourage those acts within the community, according to Liska.

"You're just serving the USF community, and it goes a long way in inspiring them, and then hopefully inspiring others to



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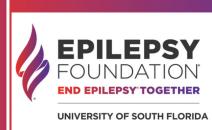
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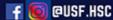
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