

## In-person ULS returns in October



Leda Alvim

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Back in front of a live audience, the University Lecture Series (ULS) will return to in-person lectures beginning October after more than a year of hosting speakers online.

The first in-person ULS will take place Oct. 14 in commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The speaker, who hasn't been announced yet, will get paid \$26,500 for a one-hour, in-person lecture, according to Student Programs Coordinator for the Center for Student Involvement (CSI) Isabelle Arroyo-Acevedo.

Arroyo-Acevedo said she hopes to announce the upcoming ULS speaker by next week. The

location has yet to be confirmed as of Sept. 24, but Arroyo-Acevedo said it will most likely be in the Marshall Student Center Ballroom due to its "convenient location."

"For us to be able to announce the speaker, we have to have approval from the agency, so it really just depends on when the official agency gives us the approval, and a lot of that depends on the contract," she said. "Hopefully in about a week, but it really just depends on the agency."

Last year, the Campus Activities Board (CAB) hired actress Diane Guerrero, best known for her roles in "Orange Is the New Black" and "Jane the Virgin," to speak for \$25,000 Nov. 16 via Microsoft Teams.

The total budget for the 2021-22 academic year allocated for ULS is \$165,758, of which \$131,758 is designated for speaker fees, \$30,000 for vendors and \$4,000 for marketing purposes, according to Arroyo-Acevedo. The vendors' fees cover costs associated with



The Campus Activities Board hopes to host two to three in-person lectures in the fall as part of its University Lecture Series. ORACLE FILE PHOTO

hiring photographers, American Sign Language interpreters and live captioning, as well as renting venues for the event.

Around 60% of the budget for ULS is allocated in the spring, while 40% is for the fall semester, Arroyo-Acevedo said. The reason behind it, she said, is due to a higher number of lectures in the

spring semester, ranging from three to four lectures compared to two or three in fall, as well as larger events taking place during each semester.

The number for fall speakers, however, is still not confirmed, according to Arroyo-Acevedo, due to negotiations and scheduling.

"We do not have any confirmed

right now," she said. "We're still in the process of confirming for later on in the semester."

The process to select a ULS speaker begins through a survey sent out to students so they can vote on which artists and celebrities they would like to see featured. For the upcoming ULS,

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## UP to identify impaired drivers during Monday's checkpoint



Leda Alvim

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Late-night Monday drivers will suffer a delay during their trips across campus as University Police (UP) conducts its Roadside Safety Checkpoint to identify impaired drivers in the area.

The checkpoint will take place Monday at 10 p.m. on Holly Drive, west of 50th Street. It will last an hour followed by a five-hour

saturation patrol across campus. Around seven officers will be deployed at the checkpoints, according to Captain Martin King.

"The area does change since we have limited roads on campus, but historically, Hillsborough County is one of the higher impaired driving counties in

the state of Florida, so we try to do our part and deter impaired driving and this is one way we're able to do so," he said.

Once vehicles enter the checkpoint, they will be stopped and drivers will need to show their driver's license. Officers will potentially identify other driving misconducts, including an

expired drivers' license or brake light out which could potentially lead to a traffic citation or a warning.

"We do a very brief and quick overall exterior safety check in the vehicle of any lights or equipment issues that it might have because, a lot of times,

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her growing up, her grandmother, Yolanda Campos Manzanilla, left an immense impact on her by being the reason she could focus on education and literary knowledge.

“My grandmother, who is on my Venezuelan side, is the person who taught me how to read. I learned how to read when I was a year and a half [old], and by the time I was 3, I was reading the newspaper. That’s just because education is such a value that my Venezuelan grandmother took every moment of her day that I was [with her] on the weekends to make me curious about learning,” she said.

Manzanilla passed away when Nuñez was a junior at FIU. The months following her death were challenging, she said, as she was one of her biggest influences and supporters.

“She supported me because she believed in me and she always made me feel that there was nothing that I couldn’t do if I was willing to work for it and learn,” Nuñez said.

The persistence she learned from her grandmother helped Nuñez start her career in higher education at Boston College as a resident director, and Nova Southeastern University and Old Dominion University, where she had a hard time building relationships due to a lack of understanding around her Latin culture in leadership environments.

“The challenge for me wasn’t the role but it was the environment and the lack of community which further empassioned me to continue to advocate for disability, specifically among Latinx people, but to continue to take challenging conversations as opportunities for education,” Nuñez said.

“That’s something that I

created over the two years that I was [at USF] before arriving in Tampa at USF.”

For the past six years, Nuñez has worked as the program director for both Academic Initiatives and Living Learning Communities in Housing and Residential Education at the Tampa campus. Now that she’s mastered her ability to build relationships, Nuñez said she has three main goals for OMA she hopes to implement into the office over time through honor and trust.

Her priorities include solidifying her leadership style and having a student-centered lens so students from different backgrounds can reaffirm their values through inclusion.

Other goals include solidifying partnerships with groups on campus such as the Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Institute on Black Life. Nuñez hopes to bridge the gap between faculty engagement and student success and ensure students recognize the impact faculty can have on their journey to success.

Nuñez’s past experiences and solidified moral compass allow her to bring a fresh perspective to an already expanding office. She hopes her ambitions for the future will produce real change at the university.

“I’m very passionate about social justice, education, multicultural affairs and diversity and inclusion work, specifically within the context of educating students and allowing them to feel that they’re able to explore their identities and feel affirmed in those identities as they learn about others,” she said.

“This is a position that I’ve been waiting for, if I may say that within the context of my career journey. I’m super excited and grateful that the university community has trusted me with such an endeavor.”

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## UP CHECKPOINT

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drivers don't realize they're driving around with maybe a brake light out because how often do you check stuff like that, so this is just a comprehensive approach to complete overall traffic safety," King said.

Officers will then interact with the driver by asking questions, and if any signs of impairment are identified, further evaluation will be conducted.

Classic signs of impairment include noticing any visible alcohol or open containers inside the vehicle, the slurring of words by the driver when speaking with the officer as well as detecting the odor of alcohol or drugs from the driver or within the vehicle, according to King.

Any of these signs will lead officers to conduct a thorough evaluation of the driver's level of impairment. The officer will request the driver to step out of the vehicle once it's parked and conduct a brief interview, followed by a series of exercises to better gauge their alcohol content.

Exercises include walking nine steps down a line and back, and standing on one leg with their hands by their side for a period of time, according to King.

Based on those exercises, if the officer concludes the driver is too impaired to drive, they would be placed under arrest and transported to the Orient Road Jail in Hillsborough County while their vehicle would be towed from the scene.

"They would be held there for a minimum amount of time until the jail determines that they are no longer impaired," King said. "At that point in time, they could

post a bond to exit the jail, or they could remain in jail and unable to post bond until their first initial hearing."

After the checkpoint ends at 11 p.m., the patrol will begin. Officers will be deployed around campus in their marked vehicles and "saturate" the area and surrounding jurisdiction looking for any signs of impaired drivers.

The initiative has been around for the past decade, according to King, but it was halted in 2020 because of safety issues related to the pandemic.

"Obviously, during the COVID pandemic, we had to pause the operation just due to the increased interaction with the drivers in order to mitigate any COVID exposure for the officers and also due to the fact that the population on campus was extremely limited [over] the last 18 months," King said.

During the last safety checkpoint in fall 2019, around 13 vehicles were stopped and no arrests were made. King said the ultimate goal of the checkpoint, and announcing it in advance, is for drivers to make better and safer choices when on the road.

"We typically do not see a lot of impaired driving arrests in our checkpoints, which is kind of our goal because the key is to have people make better decisions prior to going out and having fun for the evening," he said.

"By advertising these checkpoints in advance, we hope that it puts in their head maybe alternative solutions to driving impaired such as Uber or having a sober driver."

## ULS

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students had the chance to vote on speakers including co-host of ABC's "The View" Ana Navarro, "Hamilton" and "In the Heights" star Anthony Ramos, former Senior Adviser to President Barack Obama Cecilia Muñoz and former NASA Astronaut José Hernández.

The artists included in the survey, according to Arroyo-Acevedo, are shared by around six talent agencies based on budget, topic and theme of the lecture as well as the speaker's availability. Some of the talent agencies CAB works with include Keppler Speakers, United Talent Agency, ICM Speakers, Gotham Artists and Creative Artists Agency.

"For a lecture, we really tried to make sure it's current issues or current topics ... that students might be interested in," Arroyo-Acevedo said.

"Once we get that list, our full [CAB] team, which is about 22 or so students, [will] identify people who we think would have a very meaningful and educational lecture but also a good balance of fun for students to come to, and then we will create the actual survey."

Besides voting on preselected speakers, students also get to suggest who should be featured in future lectures. Once the survey is completed, CAB will then begin making its selection and negotiating with the agencies.

Capacity at each lecture and ticket availability is still pending the contract's approval, according to Arroyo-Acevedo. Students will get to reserve free tickets through BullsConnect prior to the event.

Those who secure their tickets will get priority seating while students who don't have one on the day of the event will still have an opportunity to get a seat on a first-come first-serve basis based on the number of remaining seats available.

Arroyo-Acevedo said each speaker chooses whether they want a moderator or to give a lecture on a speech structure. If they select a moderator-style lecture, then CAB will create a



Students who don't reserve a free ticket through BullsConnect will be seated on a first-come first-serve basis. ORACLE PHOTO

list of potential candidates and vote among themselves on the best fit based on background and experience. The final selection will then be sent to the speaker for approval.

Meet and greet opportunities as well as VIP receptions will potentially return for a small selection of guests, according to Arroyo-Acevedo, but still pending confirmation on the contract.

"Ideally, we always try to have one [VIP reception] mostly because I think that's just a unique experience for students to be able to meet the speaker beforehand," she said. "I can't officially confirm because we're still working through contracts, but we do expect and anticipate

to have some."

Due to COVID-19, Arroyo-Acevedo said booking speakers has become challenging as some might not feel comfortable with certain state regulations on mask wearing and vaccinations.

"It could potentially be a little bit more challenging to book speakers, mostly because some of the agencies we work with share that some people might not feel comfortable coming to a university or coming to a state

that doesn't necessarily require mask wearing [and] doesn't require vaccinations," she said.

Though not required, Arroyo-Acevedo said CAB's team will be encouraging the use of face coverings during events.

With in-person ULS making a comeback after a year of online lectures, Arroyo-Acevedo said she is eager for new and returning students to experience and interact with speakers live.

"What students can look forward to is really just having that exciting in-person lecture experience again," Arroyo-Acevedo said. "We got a lot of feedback again and I think students are definitely excited to have it in person."



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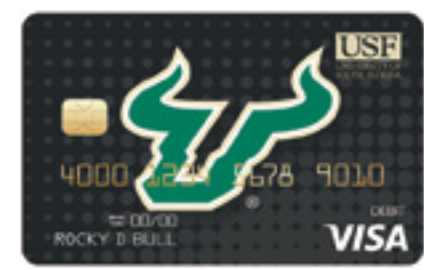
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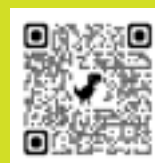
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## Give students equal access to Champion's Choice

By Brielle Lopez  
CORRESPONDENT

Champion's Choice used to be the place students went to eat at after a morning class or a quick jog on the treadmill at The Rec, but USF Dining Services has now made the dining hall exclusive to athletes, unless a non-athlete forks over an additional \$80 per semester for access.

Arguably one of the healthiest dining options available on campus, Champion's Choice shouldn't be restricted to non-athletes. It's unfair and should be reopened to all students with meal plans.

USF Dining Marketing Director Jessica Cicalese told The Oracle in an email Sept. 22 this decision was made to better cater to the "predominant population" of athletes who use the dining hall, allowing the menu and schedule to fit their needs. However, this move has "cash grab" written all over it.

Non-athlete students now must pay \$80 in addition to their meal plan to gain access to Champion's Choice.

There are meal plans available to all on and off-campus students, ranging from \$600 to \$2,120, according to USF's fall 2021 Meal Plan List. While they're already expensive, these prices have also been gouged by USF Dining. Just this fall, the Open Access and Any 15 plans went up \$70 and the Bull Block 175 increased \$35.

After increasing prices, it's unclear as to why USF Dining felt the need to charge non-athletes extra to use one of the dining halls.



USF Dining Services needs to stop trying to squeeze money out of students by making non-athletes pay extra to eat at Champion's Choice. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

If you're not an athlete and have decided to get the upgrade, you'd most likely want to make the most of your money. Champion's Choice, however, has already changed operating hours to fit athletes' needs.

Students now have from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on weekdays — as opposed to the 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. hours at the other dining halls — to get the meals they've paid an extra \$80 for.

Having a student pay extra for access to a dining hall is already absurd enough, but more ridiculous is giving them 12.5 hours total per week to use the upgrade.

Providing healthy eating options around campus is imperative, as highlighted in a 2019 study by Science Direct. The study, with 1,954 participants across six higher education institutions, found food availability, accessibility and prices were large factors in students' unhealthy food intake.

This study shows the importance of making healthy options accessible on campus,

and restricting access to Champion's Choice is doing the exact opposite of that.

Cicalese admitted the decision to restrict the dining hall to athletes came in part to provide them with more nutritious options than other dining halls.

"The decision behind the transition is largely due to the changing culture in collegiate athletics and greater appreciation for the impact nutrition plays in performance and recovery from training and competition," she said.

But because a student isn't enrolled in an official USF sports team doesn't mean they don't deserve healthy food options.

USF Dining should stop being greedy and open the dining hall back up to students with meal plans.

*Brielle Lopez is a senior majoring in English.*

## Florida abortion bill threat to bodily autonomy

By Felicity DeGaetano  
CORRESPONDENT

Florida State Rep. Webster Barnaby filed HB 167 on Sept. 22, an anti-abortion bill which forces physicians to test for a "fetal heartbeat" when a woman tries to get an abortion and reject the procedure if one is detected.

Barnaby's proposal would ban abortions after six weeks, punish doctors with fines of up to \$10,000 if caught providing an abortion after this time and also allow lawsuits to be brought to court up to six years after an abortion was provided against the law.

The bill is unconstitutional, rooted in ignorance and completely disregards public opinion on terminating pregnancies. Pro-choice state representatives need to take a stand to protect human rights.

In 1973, the Supreme Court passed *Roe v. Wade*, which protects a woman's choice to have an abortion without "excessive government intervention," according to the decision. The bill goes directly against this precedent.

Morning sickness usually doesn't start until six weeks into a pregnancy, according to the American Pregnancy Association, so once an individual knows to consult a doctor about a possible pregnancy, they won't even be able to consider an abortion.

False narratives by anti-choice activists have led to such "heartbeat bills." A "heartbeat" at six weeks is merely the pulsing

of a blood vessel, according to Marquette University anthropologist Michelle Rodrigues. Not until 10-12 weeks is the heart in a fetus developed enough to be identified as an actual heart.

Individuals also don't have to undergo surgery six weeks into a pregnancy. Many clinics provide abortion pills, specifically mifepristone and misoprostol, at the office and to take later at home which results in cramping and bleeding as her uterus is essentially flushed out. Taking the pills this early allows for them to be about 94%-98% effective, according to Planned Parenthood.

Abortions are supported by many Americans, according to the 2020 Kaiser Family Foundation Abortion Knowledge and Attitudes Poll. About 61%, or 741 of 1,215 people equally divided into Democrats, Republicans and Independents, said they wanted to protect a woman's access to pregnancy termination.

Anti-abortion laws have always strived to strip women of their bodily autonomy, fulfilling a grotesque political agenda driven by misogyny. Pro-choice state representatives must be consistently vocal leading up to the 2022 legislative session to protect Floridians' human rights.

*Felicity DeGaetano is a junior majoring in marketing.*

## Ejemplos de fortaleza: Neudy Nuñez upholds family values of education, advocacy in new OMA position



Clinton Engelberger

STAFF WRITER

The smell of a fresh, homemade meal often greeted Neudy Carolina Nuñez after school when she was younger. The meal, which her mom prepared to make sure Nuñez and her five siblings could focus on their school work, reflected her rich Venezuelan roots and her family's values of education as they started a new chapter in America.

Nuñez migrated to the U.S. with her family in 1991 and settled in Yonkers, New York. The main goals, she said, were to start building a new life and, consequently, fulfilling her mother's goal of helping Nuñez attend university in America.

"One value my mom really pressed for us was education. It was non-negotiable for me, as I knew by the age of 11 that I was going to go to college because, given our backgrounds and why we came to the United States, our goal was to get a college education," Nuñez said.

"I was always a very good and a very disciplined student, and my mom always invested in my education as she was a stay-at-home mom. She was a babysitter,

and she chose to work hard at home."

Just the way Nuñez's mother made sure she did all she could to build the best life for her kids, she is applying those same values to her new position as assistant dean of the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), which she is set to begin Oct. 5.

"I want the students that interact with me, or connect with the Office of Multicultural Affairs, to have no doubt that our primary focus is their success," she said.

"I hope they can trust me through how they get to know me and they can trust that ultimately I've accepted this position to serve them. I am committed to serving them with integrity, leadership and passion."

In seventh grade, Nuñez discovered an early passion for social and racial justice from reading Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." The book, as well as her passion for education, continuously shaped Nuñez's aspirations and identity in her community.

Major African American and Afro-Caribbean political and literary figures ultimately inspired Nuñez's life of advocating for others and highlighting diverse voices.

"Over time, and because I loved [Angelou's] writing so much, that was the gateway to exploring other writers, such as Toni Morrison, Roxane Gaye and Audre Lorde," Nuñez said.

"All of these women helped



Nuñez will begin her new position as assistant dean of the Office of Multicultural Affairs on Oct. 5. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

me connect myself to my identity as a woman and as a marginalized member of our society. Seeing how they were able to prove resilience and turn their suffering and challenges into great works of art inspired me."

Nuñez's constant dedication toward bringing diversity and inclusivity to all the places she has touched, as well as standing up to the injustices around her, were key personality traits

she developed from a young age. While Nuñez was heavily influenced by the values of her family, her sister, Johanny Nuñez, said she was a role model in how to stand up for herself.

"When we first arrived in the U.S. from Venezuela, we started school in Yonkers, where we stood out because of our language barrier. I remember when we were 5 and 6 years old, we were in the cafeteria having lunch and this other girl bullied

us and threw a banana peel toward us and began to mock us in English," Johanny said.

"I felt horrible and began to cry, but Neudy stood up for both of us and told me to not cry or be scared and to completely ignore her. She made sure I was OK and that I wasn't affected by the girl who was bullying us."

Leadership is something that comes naturally to Nuñez, and her personable and moralistic characteristics stretch far beyond the workplace, she said. With something as simple as standing up to a school bully, Johanny admired Nuñez's presence as a leader who can reach those in her personal life as well, reflecting that her actions aren't just a facade for a resume but rather rooted in the familial values she lives by.

When Nuñez started her freshman year at Florida International University (FIU) in 2005 to complete her bachelor's in English and minor in mass communications, she purposely read writers of the Afro-Caribbean diaspora and African American writers to expand her knowledge around social justice and inclusion.

"I just became very intrigued by that, and quickly realized that regardless of what I did with my life, I would want to start in a capacity where I would be an advocate for others," she said.

Nuñez said while her whole family has been an inspiration to

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# Takeaways: McClain earns starting job, USF shows grit in comeback attempt

By Elijah Koppel  
CORRESPONDENT

The trip to Provo, Utah to take on then-ranked No. 15 BYU on Saturday was never supposed to be an easy task for USF. In the first quarter, it looked like it was going to be a long night for the Bulls.

It appeared as if the team had regressed to the form they showed against NC State in the season opener, going down 21-0 before the end of the first quarter.

A significant reason for USF's unfavorable start was BYU's ability to orchestrate big plays offensively, including a pair of passes that went for 49 and 55 yards apiece.

The tide changed as the game wore on, however. The Bulls outscored the Cougars 27-14 in the second half and displayed some real hope for the future, specifically in freshman quarterback Timmy McClain.

## McClain proves himself to be the guy

For much of the season, Scott has maintained he wanted to have a starting quarterback named heading into Week 5 against SMU on Oct. 2. Following Saturday's matchup at BYU, it seems his wish has come true.

McClain, who completed 70.8% of his passes for 186 yards to go along with 55 yards on the ground, put himself in pole position to take over the job for the rest of the season with his performance against BYU.



Freshman quarterback Timmy McClain helped lead USF to three second-half touchdowns against BYU on Saturday. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

Aside from an early fumble on a botched snap from under center on fourth down, McClain looked unfrazzled by the moment.

Scott expressed confidence in the Sanford native in the postgame press conference, as he confirmed McClain will be the lead signal caller for the foreseeable future.

"I felt like Timmy's feet were really the difference for us in some situations when maybe we didn't have what we wanted downfield with the coverage, and he made some plays," Scott said. "I feel comfortable with him being our starter moving forward.

"We'll still take it week by week as we go. Obviously, there's no season-long contracts or anything like that, you've got to continue to play well. But right now, he moves the ball best for our offense."

After owning up to his first-quarter fumble, McClain praised the USF fanbase for their consistent support through the team's early-season struggles.

"I love the fanbase, just keep pulling for the team, [for the] coaching staff, keep our spirits lifted up," McClain said. "[To have] a fanbase like that, it just makes us better every week."

After approximately a year and a half of looking for his No. 1 guy, Scott may have found just him.

## Resilience in the face of adversity

BYU's opening drive appeared to shoot down any hope the Bulls had at an early upset. The Cougars scored on just four plays and continued that trend to jump out to a 21-0 lead before the first quarter expired.

However, the Bulls refused to roll over despite the large deficit, as they came out strong in the second half with the offense firing on all cylinders.

The Bulls had as many first downs in the third quarter alone (8) as they did the entire first half and scored on all three of their possessions, outscoring the Cougars 21-7 and winning the time of possession 19:17-10:43.

"I think the ability to run the ball [allowed us to sustain drives in the second half]," Scott said. "We knew this was a team that, they play a lot of coverage, and we knew they were not going to give us a lot of one-on-one opportunities with Weaver and some of our skill guys."

Saturday was the second time the Bulls managed to outscore an opponent in the second half of a losing performance, the first came against UF on Sept. 11.

## Defense exposed by balanced BYU attack

USF allowed five touchdowns on eight drives as well as forcing a punt once and a blocked field goal. On the last offensive series of the game, the Cougars ran the clock out.

"The yards after contact tonight is probably the story of the game defensively," Scott said. "When you're not tackling, you're not stopping the run, then it forces you to be a little bit more aggressive and get up there and then it gets into a one-on-one game [in the secondary] and their guys made the plays."

BYU's offense simply outplayed USF's defense, especially in the first half. USF's secondary was severely undermanned due to injuries, and when the Bulls stacked the box in an attempt to defend the run, the Cougars threw over the top, notably connecting on receptions of 55, 47, 49 and 27 yards.

The big plays in the passing game weren't the only thing that hurt USF, however. The Cougars rushed for 138 yards and two touchdowns on 5.5 yards per carry.

To the defense's credit, it was able to hold BYU to just one touchdown in the second half after surrendering 28 points in the first two quarters.