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The event was held simultaneously with other news conferences throughout Florida in an effort to publicize the seriousness of continuous budget cuts and the dire consequences.

They think, therefore they are.

They are the many members of the community and USF faculty or staff who attend the events planned for The Brain Event series, cosponsored by the Office of the Provost and The Tampa Tribune.

Designed to showcase USF’s research expertise beyond the realm of professional conferences, this semester’s free series will include a topic currently close to the collective heart: taxes.

USF Public Administration professor Susan MacManus will present an overview of public opinion surveys and research findings about “increasing cynicism” toward taxes and government.

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"I will discuss why that’s the case and how that affects the current situation," said MacManus.

Other events include "Demographics: Blacks, Whites & Hispanics in the Tampa Bay Area" with Miriam Stamps of Marketing, S. David Stamps of Social Sciences and Susan Greenbaum of Anthropology on Oct. 7; and "Iran: Its Evolving Role in the Middle East" with Mohsen Milani of Political Science on Oct. 14.

The Brain Event series originated in the fall of 1989 "to bridge the gap between the community and academia," according to Lifelong Learning Director Lee Leavengood. "It also allows us to share the exciting things happening at the university.

Tribune President and General Manager Jim Urbanski echoed her belief in the program. "It’s a wonderful event for the public, and we have the vehicle to get the story out.

We feel privileged to work with the University."

Past speakers have included Jacob Neusner of Religious Studies, Sara Dean of English and Peter Betsar of Marine Science.

College deans nominate their outstanding faculty to become Brain Event speakers, and Provost G. Meisels makes the final determinations.

"We continue to feature USF faculty and their important work to demonstrate that frontiers in contemporary knowledge are unfolding right here in the Tampa Bay community," said Meisels.

Leavengood said event originators never imagined the support speakers would receive from their own colleagues. But since research papers are most often presented at conferences away from campus, it gives faculty a chance to keep in touch with one another.

For reservations, which are required to attend any of the free Monday night lectures, call ext. 2403.

"Brain Event" series to include lecture on attitudes toward taxes

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A 'Mile of Hope'

USPS Senate member Andrea Daniel is coordinating an effort to get a mile-long list of signatures on a petition protesting recent cuts in the state's education budget.

Look for petition-signing stations across campus in early October.