

Faculty Senate talks innovation and funding

**RAUL HERRERA AND
JEFFREY PIERRE**
FIUSM Staff

Faculty and administrators gathered in the Wertheim Conservatory on Tuesday April 8 to discuss new University-related policy. President Mark B. Rosenberg was in attendance.

The meeting began with a spirited ovation for Provost Douglas Wartzok, who recently announced in a memorandum that he would be taking a sabbatical leave in Australia. Chairman Delano Gray took a moment to address Provost Wartzok for his role in the faculty senate.

“He has been a voice of reason in some of our meetings and we appreciate his participation as a senior faculty member and as a provost,” Gray said.

In the first action items discussed, the Global Learning Curriculum Oversight Committee approved a proposal adding 5 classes to the Global Learning curriculum including: Foreign Studies: Japan (JPN 3955); Magic and Religious Studies REL 3075); Islamic Faith and Society (REL 3362); Hospitality Industry Law (HFT 3603); and International Tourism HFT 3713).

Afterwards, the committee discussed several motions, including the approval of a new graduate degree program, an Online Master of Science in Environment Engineering, and the establishment of Unit-Specific Admission Standards for both an M.A. and Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction.

Another topic of discussion was the creation of an Academic Integrity Committee. Late last semester, the University charged three students and an alumnus with felony charges in an exam theft ring where they broke into an Owa Ehan room, hacked into a professor’s email and obtained and sold

exams. Alan Gummerson, professor in economics, commented on the need for reform.

“We saw that [the problem of academic integrity] was going to take longer than one year to solve,” Gummerson said. “We think there needs to be some change in the culture.”

Further along in the meeting, the Faculty Senate went into elections for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Candidates for chair were the incumbent Chairman, and Kathleen Wilson. The vice chair and secretary candidates, Jeorg Reinhold and Jennifer Doherty-Restrepo, respectively, ran unopposed. As such, the victors were Wilson, Reinhold and Doherty-Restrepo.

In President Rosenberg’s report, an emphasis was placed on the need for curriculum and technology reform. The president said his biggest concern is keeping the University relevant in the face of the changing nature of technology and the homogenization of education.

“Our context is rapidly changing,” President Rosenberg

PEDALING FOR PROTECTION



JEFFREY PIERRE/THE BEACON

Karina Piero, junior in hospitality management, participates in the annual Anthony’s Light Foundation by pedaling on the stationary bikes set up in the GC pit to raise awareness about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.

on assessment.”

In light of the the Board of Governors new funding model, performance — which he described as his passion of the moment — was the key point of his address.

“We don’t get funding on head counts anymore, we get funded on performance,” he said.

nors set to evaluate each of the 12 public universities in Florida. He expressed that although problems with retention and attrition could be related to the unique community FIU serves a large amount of the blame falls on the administration and the university itself.

An anecdote that he used

came in 2008 left the University without graduating.

The University’s current mission, according to President Rosenberg, will be aligned with the Board of Governors performance funding model and improve efficiency.

The President referred to a conversation with Florida House Speaker Will Weatherford, where the President said he fears the performance metrics will force the University to move away from low performing high-schools.

“He [Weatherford] was thinking I was saying, ‘lower the standards,’” said President Rosenberg citing the Speaker’s reaction.

In response to the speaker, President Rosenberg said, “No one is accusing me of having low expectations. It’s because I have high expectations that I want students from those schools.”

“We work in those schools because we believe everyone deserves a quality education, regardless of their zip code. As long as they’re qualified,” he said.

FACULTY SENATE 2014 - 2015



Kathleen Wilson:
Chair



Joerg Reinhold:
Vice Chair



Jennifer Doherty:
Secretary

said. “We’ve lost our monopoly on learning; we’ve lost our monopoly

The president referred to the ten metrics the Board of Govern-

to illustrate this was that about 1,200 students in the class that

SEE SENATE, PAGE 2

Transit Day gets students excited about their commutes

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

The South Florida Commuter Services teamed up with the Office of Sustainability and Parking and Transportation to bring not only the Miami-Dade County Transportation Office to speak with students about different transit options as part of Transit Day on April 9, but also Miami Heat Dancers, Burnie the Mascot and former NBA guard Tim Hardaway to get students excited about their commutes.

According to Glorimar Maldonado, an Office of Sustainability intern and sophomore

psychology major, 49,000 of the larger than 50,000 student population commutes to FIU.

“That is a big carbon emission that we put out every year,” Maldonado said.

Irene D. Ferradaz, a representative from Miami-Dade Transit, informed students about the college discount program, which gives 50 percent off a monthly pass.

“All buses, including the premium routes and the metro rail are included in that. It is sold at the parking authority where people buy their parking passes and stuff like that,” Ferradaz said. “We also have a corporate discount program for people who work at FIU,

which offers them between 10 and 15 percent off of a monthly pass.”

Ferradaz spoke about other options, too: carpooling, public transit and finding alternative ways to campus.

“Besides the monetary savings, it is also about reducing your carbon footprint, saving money on gas and [not having] to deal with parking,” Ferradaz said.

There are clear cut, long-term goals for Miami-Dade Transit that may benefit the University.

“Right now I know that we have a route that goes into the campus,” Ferradaz said.

“We are in the process of working with FIU to build a bus terminal on campus, so that would help even more students get to class via public transportation.

She said the county is also in the process of a transit development plan for the next ten years.

“There is a 10-question survey asking people about their input for transit opportunities for the next 10 years,” Ferradaz said.

SFCS has been working with FIU for two

SEE TRANSIT, PAGE 2

WORLD NEWS

US Pinned political satire in secret Cuban Twitter

Draft messages produced for a Twitter-like service in Cuba that the U.S. government secretly funded were overtly political, documents obtained by The Associated Press show, even though the Obama administration has said the program had a more-neutral purpose. The early messages poked fun at the Castro government and were created by a political satirist working for the social media project. Those messages conflict with the U.S. government's earlier assertions that its program didn't promulgate political content. Disclosure of the text messages came as U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Rajiv Shah told Congress in sometimes-confrontational testimony Tuesday that his agency's program was simply meant to increase the flow of information in a country that heavily restricts Internet access.

Feds say oil trains should have two-man crews

Responding to a series of fiery train derailments, federal regulators said Wednesday they will propose that trains transporting crude oil have at least two-man crews as part of new requirements aimed at preventing parked train cars from coming loose and causing an accident like one in July that killed 47 people. The Federal Railroad Administration had asked a freight rail industry advisory committee to make recommendations on whether two-man crews should be required, but the industry officials were unable to reach a consensus. Federal officials said they decided to move ahead with the two-crew member requirement anyway.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 25, Issue 80, in the article "University discriminates against student," it said "I was too much of a liability, according to them," when it should have said "They gave me the impression that I was too much of a liability to them."

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

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The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.

Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU tells history, tradition with food

JEFFREY PIERRE
Asst. News Director

For Or-Lee Kaidar, the thought of Jewish food instantly evokes memories of her grandmother's chicken soup, served with matzah balls and homemade kosher noodles. Kaidar says these memories play a significant role in her Jewish identity.

"Our whole is history is surrounded around food," said Kaidar, the Israeli fellow at Hillel YAD. "For us, food equals family; food equals home."

From 1930 to the late 80's, aside from being a top tourist destination, Miami Beach was largely known for its thriving Jewish community comprised of kosher restaurants, delis and synagogues.

In the last 30 years however, the Jewish population in Miami Beach has decreased — along with it, the businesses and culture.

With the intention of revitalizing the customs, the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU is hosting a series of tours encompassed around a chief element of any

culture: cuisine.

In conjunction with an exhibit at the museum titled "Growers, Grocers and Gefilte Fish: A Gastronomic Look at Florida Jews & Food," the Jewish Food Walking Tour takes participants on a historic journey to South Beach's staple Jewish restaurants, from both the past and present.

The Jewish Museum of Florida, which works to collect, preserve and interpret the material evidence of the Florida Jewish experience, has lead a tour on Sunday April 5, directed by Howard Brayer, the museum tour guide.

"If you started here and walked around the neighborhood, you wouldn't realize that there was a high concentrations of Jewish people here, said Brayer. "The food tour is reminder of that history."

That history is slowly fading away, according to Brayer.

The gentrification of Miami Beach in the late 80s and a diminishing elderly population both contributed to the decreasing number Jews and restaurant and shops.

Brayer says a lot of the traditions and recipes either weren't passed down or disregarded by younger generations.

"This tour should re-introduce people — young and old — to the Miami of yesterday," Brayer said. "And the food is an added plus. Everyone loves food."

The food tours will continue until September 21.

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JEWISH FOOD WALKING TOUR

WHERE: Jewish Museum of Florida- FIU, Miami Beach
WHEN: Ongoing on various days until September
COST: Museum members \$36; Non-members \$46 (Includes museum admission and exhibit tour.)

<http://jmof.fiu.edu/>

University tackles performance and technology in Faculty Senate meeting

SENATE, PAGE 1

Gray himself also commented on the need for an updated education in his election speech. He alluded to an anecdote about people calling the automobile a fad back in the day, saying that the "same thing is going to happen with electronic media."

"Classrooms in this day and age require leaders, not followers," Gray said.

Following the President, the Provost commented on curriculum reform and other initiatives.

The Provost also expressed concerns with the BOG performance model. Kenneth Jessell,

the funding model would meet the institution's "cost of living." One of the technological innovations

Our context is rapidly changing. We've lost our monopoly on learning, we've lost our monopoly on assessment.

Mark B. Rosenberg
President
FIU

CFO of the University, followed the Provost with his take on the financial problems the University faces. He was concerned with whether or not the new performance

Online Review Committee considered before its report, which included a CLEP-like test to eliminate core credits.

Susan Clemmons, Associate Dean of the Department of Decision Sciences & Information Systems, and Kristen Nichols-Lopez, Associate Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies of the Department of Psychology, spoke to the Senate about the new proposal.

"We need to find a solution to capture the magic of FIU," Clemmons said.

mentioned that there would be a "challenge exam, which will allow students to obtain credit."

"We want to translate what makes FIU courses unique into the MOOC, and we want to translate that into the exam," said Nichols-Lopez.

The Faculty Senate then closed with a United Faculty of Florida Report that cited the updates on their website, uff.fiu.edu.

For more information on the meeting, students can visit facultysenate.fiu.edu.

-news@fusm.com

Former NBA guard Tim Hardaway visits University for Transit Day

TRANSIT, PAGE 1

years.

"We are the ones that run the carpooling program and the transit program. Anything having to do with alternative modes [of transportation, such as] biking, walking," said Gretchen Abi Daher, a SFCS representative. "We do special events throughout the year, one of them being FIU Transit Day, where we are just promoting Miami-Dade

Besides the monetary savings, it is also about reducing your carbon footprint, saving money on gas and [not having] to deal with parking.

Irene D. Ferradaz
Representative
Miami-Dade Transit

transit." possible.

SFCS was the organization that brought in the members of the Heat organization and the reason the Abi Daher gave was that it would bring in as many students as

They also have incentive programs for carpooling that help out not only students, but faculty and staff as well. Right now, they have a promotion called the 826/836

Incentive Plan.

"We actually pay students, faculty and staff who carpool on those expressways," Abi Daher said. "We have the carpool spots on campus that will be expanded [in number] and they can be used by faculty, staff and students. They have to use a hangtag to use the spots and they print it out."

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University offers Panthers freedom to express themselves

JOSE VELEZ
Contributing Writer

We often hear complaints regarding decisions made in the United States and how things should be, but lets step back. Reflect on some of the major issues going on in the world right now.

Venezuela is currently fighting communism; people have stood up and made their voices heard. On-campus, honorable Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, President Mark B. Rosenberg and many students got together and voiced their displeasure with what is going on now in Venezuela.

It's a beautiful thing to live in a country where we can express ourselves no matter where we're from or what beliefs we may have. Seeing stands in Graham Center with students supporting the fight against injustice is truly something great.

Diversity at the University is something seen daily,

“

Students can walk around wearing a hat or shirt representing a country or have a sticker on a MacBook that represents displeasure with some injustice. It's a freedom that we share in this country and have the right to exercise.

”

whether we're walking to grab something to eat or running to the next class. It can be seen on individuals and in events.

Adnan Saeed, senior psychology major, served as the president of the Pakistani Students Alliance and has contributed to the diversity seen on-campus. He has done a lot to spread an understanding of the Pakistani culture in Miami.

Recently, Saeed hosted an event at Alfonso Field at FIU Stadium known as Basant. Basant is an annual kite festival in which many

members of the community, Pakistani and non-Pakistani, come together to fly kites, play games and enjoy Pakistani food and music.

The freedom to express yourself is a gift and seeing it exercised on-campus is something to be grateful for.

Students can walk around wearing a hat or shirt representing a country or have a sticker on a MacBook that represents displeasure with some injustice.

It's a freedom that we share in this country and have the right to exercise. Sharing this benefit may often be

taken for granted, but when we actually step back and see how good we really have it, it puts these things into perspective.

Venezuela is at a point where people that express disagreement with the current government are being penalized and mistreated.

This is happening in several other countries too. Being in a place where we can express ourselves and exercise our freedoms is a great thing.

-*opinion@fiusm.com*

What's a poor college student to do?

JENNA KEFAUVER
Staff Writer

I work 17 hours a week and make \$7.79 an hour. That means that every month I make about \$530.

Every month I'm charged \$213 for my health insurance which essentially does nothing, so I thought Obamacare would be a godsend.

Maybe it is for other people. I wouldn't know because I'm not eligible – I don't make enough money. I'm too broke for health insurance, which totally makes sense.

Make it so the healthy, 22-year-old, non-smoker with no pre-existing conditions isn't eligible. Or wait, let's make her eligible for Medicaid, which she can't have.

I understand that this is not the fault of whoever devised Obamacare, it's Rick Scott's.

Rick Scott didn't vote to expand Medicaid, so basically anyone who is eligible for Medicaid isn't eligible for Obamacare.

This is unfair to me and to the 8 million other Floridians who can't get health care because of this.

Now I have health care brokers calling me from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. everyday trying to make me sign up for health insurance

“

Rick Scott didn't vote to expand Medicaid, so basically anyone who is eligible for Medicaid isn't eligible for Obamacare. This is unfair to me and to the 8 million other Floridians who can't get health care because of this.

”

I still can't afford. And Floridians, as well as everyone in the United States, are being threatened with a tax penalty if they don't get health insurance?

According to ABCNews, “in 2014, the penalty is just \$95 per adult, but this quickly escalates to \$695 in 2016.”

That means that in addition to having to pay out-of-pocket for all medical care, Americans would have to pay almost \$700 a year starting in 2016, for not having something they can't afford.

We all know Obamacare is messed up, but that should be criminal: charging someone because Rick Scott, a known Medicare defrauder, decided against Medicaid expansion.

I mean, guys, he admitted to 14

counts of Medicare fraud and he's our governor? It's not as if he just defrauded Medicare.

According to Florida Democratic Party spokesman Joshua Karp in a press release, Scott “oversaw the largest Medicare fraud in the nation's history.” Why is he in charge?

His decision is not my fault and I shouldn't be punished for it.

While I'm exempt from paying these fines, I still have to spend 39 percent of what I make in a month on ineffective health care and that to me is punishment enough.

-*jenna.kefauver@fiusm.com*

THE BEACON Editorial SGA Political parties: Yay or nay?

During this year's Student Government Association elections, the FIU community saw a shift in the way the SGA political campaigns were presented to students.

There was a rise of FIU political parties with different party platforms: F-I-You and FIUnite. This system emulates the well known democratic and republican parties, and adds an extra layer to student government.

If some students feel the same way about certain issues, then students can align themselves accordingly and represent that party. This allows for easier campaigns and an overall organized year of elections.

We can see how these political parties can be beneficial to the University and the community as a whole, as it gives the students some guidance on how to choose the candidate under a party that best suits their ideals.

No matter what party, having a party system does add some professionalism to the SGA race. Candidates are now more accountable for what they say, as it'll not only just impact their own reputation, but the reputation of the party as a whole. This added responsibility will hopefully improve the quality of the work done in SGA.

On the other hand, we anticipate several issues that might come about due to the presence of these political parties.

While having two dominant political parties that are similar to parties present in the U.S. government can be easy to identify for the public, there are still internal problems in those parties. If an SGA candidate has problems with matching the respective ideals of either political party, then said candidate is caught in the middle without any visible support that students can easily identify. This means a candidate might be overlooked due to having no significant affiliation with either of the already-established parties.

This issue might lead to another dilemma in which several other political parties might come about, which we believe would only cause more confusion instead of acting as a solution to the problem. It would make sense for the candidates themselves to create more parties so that their ideals are properly presented; however, students are left having to decipher the platform of each existing political party if more political parties were to establish.

While we acknowledge the political party system worked the way the parties themselves intended this year of elections, in terms of creating a significant presence on campus. We believe that the presence of these parties can unnecessarily and excessively complicate a process that is already complex to begin with. It is just a matter of seeing how well this continues to work and if the student body continues to respond favorably towards the presence of political parties.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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Apollo's Goddess raises money for philanthropy

GISELLE CANCIO
Staff Writer

Danny Thomas believed that "No child should die in the dawn of life," and that families who brought their children to St. Jude for treatment would only have to focus on their child's recovery.

"Apollo's Goddess is a pageant at the end of a week long series of philanthropic events called Teke Week where the brothers of TKE raise money and awareness

"At the pageant itself, we crown our new Goddess, a representative from one of the sororities on campus, and that winner is our philanthropy representative for the following year."

The philanthropy of choice, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, is one of TKE's national and local philanthropies because an alumnus, Danny Thomas, founded it.

St. Jude is leading the way in which the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer. Since opening in 1962, St. Jude has pushed the survival rate of childhood cancer from 20 percent to 80 percent.

St. Jude never bills a family for any medical expenses, food, housing or travel and all the money St. Jude receives and operates with is completely obtained through donations and grants.

"We were able to raise \$6,061.98 between the pageant and the pre-events and although I was pushing to raise \$10,000 I was happy with the way everything ran considering it was the inaugural Teke Week and only the second Apollo's Goddess," Atkins said.

Most of the contestants were TKE Carnations, women that support the fraternity on a daily basis, so they said they were excited to run for the pageant and their sororities were happy to

The execution was pretty good for a first run event and we got a lot of positive feedback from the contestants, judges, and other guests who attended the pageant.

Matt Atkins
Vice President of Philanthropy
Tau Kappa Epsilon

for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital." Matt Atkins, the vice president of philanthropy said.

GIGGLE CODE



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

Students get the chance to ask comedians Jessimae, Carly, and Andrew from MTV's Girl Code and Guy Code questions after getting a good round of laughs during the show from the crew.

support them.

The events during Teke Week consisted of Hands for Hope, Spot the Cure, Give Thanks Day and Apollo's Challenge.

Monday was "Hands for Hope," where students were able to pay \$1 to post a handprint on a poster board.

Tuesday was "Spot the Cure," an Instagram competition between the teams to find as many TKE brothers as possible throughout the day.

Wednesday, "Give Thanks Day," the Apollo's Goddess Pageant contestants hosted their own fundraisers, and Thursday, "Apollo's Challenge," teams competed in different relays in order to gain points to win Teke

Week and win the 15 percent of money raised for their philanthropy.

"The planning has been happening for a very long time, at least a year, but there were still some major kinks to work out seeing how these events are so new," Atkins said. "The execution was pretty good for a first run event and we got a lot of positive feedback from the contestants, judges, and other guests who attended the pageant."

Stephanie Volero, a sister of Delta Phi Epsilon, won both Viewer's Choice and the Apollo's Goddess title. She was unable to comment by the time of press. Phi Sigma Sigma won

the overall Teke Week.

Volero is now TKE's new philanthropy representative and will be working with Atkins to come up with fundraising ideas, plan philanthropy events and raise as much money and awareness for TKE's philanthropies as she can during her reign.

"For next year's event we hope to have a higher attendance, a higher participation from the Greek Community, and to reach and exceed our goal and raise as much money and awareness as possible for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital," Atkins said.

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University to participate in Miami Pride Parade

JUNETTE REYES
Entertainment Director

The University is celebrating LGBTQA pride throughout the month of April. The celebrations started April 2 and will end May 2.

Several events have already occurred. Some events include the panel discussion "Loving Without Limitations: When an LGBTQ Loved One Comes Out" and the Lavender Graduation and Recognition Dinner. During the latter, graduating students that are part of the LGBTQA community were recognized for their academic achievements and leadership contributions in the University.

One significant event is the Miami Beach Gay Pride Parade and Festival which is taking place this Sunday, April 13, at South Beach. FIU expects to have an important role in the parade.

"We have officially participated with the LGBTQA Initiatives for two years. There have been previous FIU groups that have walked, but not as a unified front as we have been for the past two years," said Gisela Vega, associate director of the LGBTQA Initiatives in the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services.

In addition to President Mark B. Rosen-

berg attending for the second time, Vega expects over 200 to 300 alumni, faculty, staff and students from the University to attend and march in the parade.

Student involvement is especially prominent in the event due to the course "LGBT

with a theme and how we want to represent FIU at the parade," said Oscar Loynaz, director of Student Health Services.

"I think this is very important because it lets the community know that we respect diversity and that we appreciate people

I think being a part of the parade and having them see a prominent local University is supporting the effort sends a really strong message of support to the community.

Oscar Loynaz
Director
Student Health Services

and Beyond: Non-normative Sexualities in a Global Perspective."

"This class that I teach has been marching in the parade for the last six years. Last year, FIU kind of made it much bigger and we had a float and everything. The class this semester, we have 156 students and part of the class is for them to march in the parade. The class usually comes up

that come from different perspectives. For example, the very first parade that we were a part of, the slogan on the T-shirts said 'Who you are is not a choice, at FIU you have a voice.' I think that just really explains what it's all about: no matter who you are, we appreciate that at this University," said Loynaz.

This year, FIU's float will be the first one

right behind the float of Grand Marshals Gloria Estefan and Kenny Ortega.

Before the parade, an alumni, faculty and staff breakfast will be taking place at the Wolfsonian-FIU museum.

"We're starting an LGBTQA alumni association here at the university, so we're hoping to bring more community members to FIU and let them know FIU is a very different place now and that it is very supportive," said Vega.

Transportation is departing from Modesto A. Maidique Campus at 8 a.m. and will be available for the first 50 students.

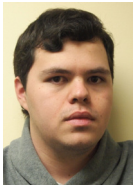
"I expect folks to have a great time, that people see FIU is a supportive place for all of our students and community members - regardless of sexual orientation or gender expression - that we include everybody, [and] that they get to see FIU as a leader in terms of how progressive we are," said Vega.

"I think being a part of the parade and having them see a prominent local University is supporting the effort sends a really strong message of support to the community," said Loynaz.

-junette.reyes@fiusm.com

Marvel cares about fans and their products

COLUMNIST



RAFAEL ABREU

The Marvel Universe that's been created on the silver screen has made much money and many more fans. People from all over the world have become fans of Iron Man, Thor and Captain America as a result of these wildly successful films.

What makes these films as popular as they are?

These films could have easily been mediocre and still make money, yet, these films have been critically favored for the most

“Marvel clearly cares about its characters; the filmmakers and writers hired tend to be respectful to the source material and have an understanding of the mythology.”

part (if Rotten Tomatoes is to be believed, no Marvel Universe film

has yet to go under the 60 percent mark).

Marvel let the world know some years ago that they were planning phases for their films, meaning that each film was part of an arc and had significance to an overall story.

Each film in the Marvel Universe is connected and planned way ahead of time, with much hype to follow.

Marvel's dedication shows not only in their treatment of source material but in adapting lesser known properties (not everyone knows about the most recent incarnation of the Guardians of the Galaxy).

Marvel clearly cares about its characters; the filmmakers and writers hired tend to be respectful to the source material and have an understanding of the mythology.

It can be seen as atypical of such a massive corporation to put so much focus on the quality of its works, especially if they're aware that they'll gross much money anyway.

The hiring of certain filmmakers, writers, and especially actors has helped elevate the films to be more than mere superhero fodder.

Films like “Iron Man” benefit

LOCAL COLLABORATION



DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

Several local acts performed at Will Call on Saturday, April 5 for a split release party, including Space Between Words, The Vilifiers and Sunghosts (above).

from being exciting, action packed, as well as well acted, well scripted, and very funny.

“Iron Man” serves as an excellent example of one of the universe's defining and most important traits.

When people now think of Iron Man, Robert Downey Jr. may be the first thing someone thinks about.

“Iron Man” becomes well regarded and liked because of Downey Jr., who many would agree is the best part of the Iron Man films. It gets to a point that people can't imagine anyone playing Tony Stark.

Digging at what makes the

Marvel films so popular could have much to do with their being around for a long time.

The Incredible Hulk has been around for about fifty or so years and has remained popular ever since.

If a motion picture comes out starring the Hulk, it will, at the very least, make money.

The people at Marvel don't view their films as merely ways of making money, since fans of Marvel in general have voiced their massive approval of their films, going crazy over small references that the casual viewer may not catch.

Of course, even a film like

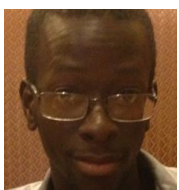
“Iron Man 3” can be critically praised but hated by audiences due to a few things that the writer-director changed. Still, when such controversy comes about, there are many fans that applaud Marvel for taking such risks, which goes to show that the company is not hampered down by the usual studio executives.

This mixture of Marvel deeply caring for their product and caring for their fans creates a universe that has been rightly praised and loved.

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Todd Barry lives up to Louis C.K.'s standards

COLUMNIST



KIERON WILLIAMS

Recently, Louis C.K. has decided to keep his trend of \$5 comedy going with the release of a new special he produced called “Todd Barry: The Crowd Work Tour.”

Anyone who is a fan of Louis C.K. knows that his comedy often breaks molds that we may have not even noticed.

In his most recent special, he gave us a new view on parenting: specifically about how boring it is; he even had a five-minute riff on one obnoxious child in his daughter's kindergarten class (who he nicknamed Xanthapus to avoid lawsuits).

Every time he's on stage, it's safe to assume you'll hear something you've never heard before — whether it's a new topic he dares to speak on or just a fresh perspective on a tired one.

Sometimes he goes a little too far, but you never know when it'll happen and it's always hilarious.

That's why when he produced a new special for one of his good friends Todd Barry, who decided

“It's hard to keep your composure as a viewer when you know that all it would take is one person to stump him, and the whole show would be ruined.”

to do a comedy tour around the U.S. without writing a single joke, I jumped at the chance to watch it.

Without a doubt, it lived up to the C.K. caliber.

It's fun to watch a great comedian completely comfortable in an element so foreign to the usual routine.

It's hard to keep your composure as a viewer when you know that all it would take is one person to stump him, and the whole show would be ruined.

Couple that with facing a different culture every night as he makes his way across the U.S. and all the cameras that surely surround him, and it's hard to imagine anyone could still

manage to make the whole room laugh every night.

But Todd does it. And then he does it again and again, his smooth and sarcastic sense of humor infecting the audience night after night.

Every time he's in a new city, you'll be at the edge of your seat, wondering how the show is going to go. But once he gets in the groove, his level of skill is undeniable and, of course, hilarious.

This special comes highly recommended, and if you can afford a TropiChop at Pollo Tropical, there's no reason you shouldn't buy this hour of comedy for yourself.

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BASEBALL

Garcia credits coaching staff for team's early success

REINALDO LLERENA
Contributing Writer

It is no secret that FIU catcher Aramis Garcia has been lighting up the box scores through the early part of this season for FIU Baseball. The junior from Pembroke Pines has played in all of the team's 32 games and is currently hitting .364 on the season.

Garcia leads the team with five home runs and 69 total bases through those 32 games. His 26 runs batted in is tied for second place with third baseman Josh Anderson. Only sophomore Edwin Rios has driven in more runs than Garcia with 28 runs batted in.

Do not think, however, that Garcia is only focused on his offense. Heading into the weekend series with Old Dominion University, the FIU pitching staff leads the nation with a combined team earned run average of just 1.63. Also, as of April 6th, Garcia's fielding percentage has remained around the .980 mark.

In spite of all of his early success this season at the plate, Garcia has not changed his approach whenever he goes up to bat

since the end of last season.

"Whenever I step into the box, I feel like I am in control," Garcia said. "I just try to slow the game down, try to take it at my own pace and look for that one good pitch to hit. I know that I am in control until I get two strikes. Until then, I just try to keep it simple and try not to do too much at the plate."

Garcia also credits most of his success towards the FIU Baseball coaching staff for the amount of training the team achieved during the offseason.

"I worked hard in the fall with all of our coaches," Garcia said. "I would have to give major credit to the coaches for what we have done this season as a team. I also worked out a lot during the offseason," Garcia mentioned. "I added about 10 pounds of muscle over the course of the offseason and worked on every part of my game as well."

Garcia's praise for the team does not end there. He believes that the team is going to go far this season and he has also learned the importance of playing hard every day.

"I really think that as a team that we have a really special group of guys this year," Garcia said. "What I've learned is that if I go out here and play hard everyday and do my part for this team, this team is going to do really well because we have a lot of really good players on this team."

Although the Baseball team has enjoyed a lot of success this year, they need to reverse its fortunes against Conference teams. As of April 6th, FIU holds an overall record of 24 wins and 8 losses. However, seven of those losses have come against Conference USA opponents, causing FIU to slip towards the middle of the Conference USA standings, despite their overall record.

If the University wants to dethrone conference-favorite Rice, then they need to improve their record against Conference USA opponents. If not, a possible trip to the College World Series may be just out of reach for Panthers.

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BEACON FILE PHOTO

Junior catcher Aramis Garcia is the driving force behind FIU's great start. Garcia has played in all 32 FIU games and is among the top players when it comes to batting average at a .364 clip.

SWIMMING

Perez earns C-USA Swimmer of the Year

RUBEN PALACIOS
Sports Director

Senior Sonia Perez helped FIU cap what is arguably its best swim season ever. Perez was named Conference-USA Swimmer of the Year, as voted upon by all the C-USA coaches.

Perez was the only C-USA swimmer to qualify for the finals and score at the NCAA Cham-



SONIA PEREZ

pionships. Perez, an Honorable Mention All-American, swam in the 200 IM, 400 IM and the 200 backstroke at the NCAA Championships.

A two-time C-USA Swimmer of the Week, Perez was a conference champion in the 400 IM and rode an undefeated streak in all meets up until competing at the NCAA Championships. Her 400 IM time at the C-USA Champi-

onships set a new championship record. Perez finished her FIU career with school records in the 500 freestyle, 1000 freestyle, 1650 freestyle and 400 IM.

Perez performed extremely well for the Panthers at the NCAA Championships, becoming the first swimmer in school history to qualify for the finals in an NCAA Championship event. Perez swam a preliminary time of 4:10.27 in the 400 IM, qualifying her for the evening session.

She went on to swim even faster in the finals, earning a mark of 4:10.17, the second-fastest time in program history. She finished 13th overall at the NCAA's, the highest-ever finish for an FIU swimmer in any event.

Her accomplishments earned her an appearance on The Morning Swim Show last week to talk about her time at FIU and her recent shine.

"I was really shocked because I was working for [swimming in

the NCAA's] the whole year," Perez said while on the show. "I was really nervous."

Perez also commented on being the highest-scoring Panther ever at the NCAA's/

"I was really happy. I just hope that this is motivation for upcoming freshmen, sophomores and juniors and I hope someone can beat my mark," Perez said.

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BASEBALL

Panther pitcher awarded C-USA Pitcher of the Week

RUBEN PALACIOS
Sports Director

After pitching a complete-game, five-hit shutout against conference rival Old Dominion last Sunday in the series finale, freshman starting pitcher Chris Mourelle was named the Conference USA pitcher of the week.

With the win on Sunday, Mourelle improved his record to 6-0 on the season

after allowing only five total hits and striking out five Monarch batters. The freshman's impressive game brought his season era down to 0.59, a team and conference low. The next best era in the conference is held by senior Ryan Williams out of ECU with a 0.84.



CHRIS MOURELLE

The complete game shutout was Mourelle's second of the season and the 10th shutout in total for all Panther pitchers this season. The last time

any FIU baseball team threw 10 shutouts in a season was 1995 when the team set a record with 16 total shutouts.

Mourelle is on pace to break the C-USA individual single-season era record set by Louisville's Carlos Fernandez back in 2003 with a 1.21 era. Mourelle will also have the chance to break FIU's single-season era record which is held by Joseph Burns with a 1.20 era, set back in 1995.

Mourelle, along with the rest of the FIU pitching staff, have combined for a

team era of 1.63 through the Panthers' 32 games this season. Last season, the team's era through 32 games was a 4.52.

After their midweek contest against University of Louisiana-Monroe on Wednesday, April 10 it will be a weekend series against conference opponent Louisiana Tech beginning on April 11, where Mourelle and the rest of the FIU baseball team will be able to display their talents.

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COLUMN

Thoughts on the FIU Athletic awards for the 2013-2014 seasons

COLUMNIST



RHYS WILLIAMS

Unlike the Oscars, the Grammys and the Tonys, I actually care about athletic awards that are given out.

It is getting towards that part of the year where collegiate athletics are wrapping up and finals are coming. This means that FIU held their athletic awards banquet for the 2013-2014 year.

I actually like that the awards varied



JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Graduated senior Greg Hickman received the Most Valuable Player award for Football at the 2013-2014 Athletic Awards Banquet.

for different sports and that all of the division-IA teams each gave a most valuable player award, a leadership award, and then a most improved.

Now there were sports that did that and I will speak on them but some of the better awards in my opinion were the ones that weren't shared.

Golf on its own

The golf team led by Head Coach Joe Vogel gave out the coach's award and the freshman of the year award, which were given to senior Shelby Coyle and freshman Coralia Arias respectively.

It's awards like that which I am completely okay with as a physical education for coaching major. I know if I have to give out awards that I will not just only follow out the basic awards but awards like this could be fun.

I definitely agree after hearing about what these golfers have done on the course all year with awarding them those awards along with sophomore Meghan MacLaren getting named the team's MVP.

Just keep on hustlin'

Multiple teams such as tennis, men's track and field, volleyball, baseball and softball all gave out an interesting award called the hustle award.

I am not sure exactly what the description of that award entails but I know that it has to be something good. Tennis gave the award to senior Giulietta Boha, who was the only senior on the team, which made sense. Men's track and field gave it to sophomore heptathlete/decathlete Chris Sullivan and anyone who does that many events in track and field defi-

nately deserves a hustle award in my book. Plus I know Sullivan personally and he is one of the hardest working athletes that I know. Volleyball honored sophomore Adriana McLamb and I never saw a volleyball game but I am sure that it was well deserved. Head Coach Turtle Thomas gave his hustle award to junior Josh Anderson. I have seen some baseball games this season and he may be the definition of this award. Softball's coach gave it to senior Bre Kaye and after watching softball I couldn't agree more that her play should be awarded.

Women's soccer stands out

The women's soccer team did not name an MVP.

The awards that were given were the Spring Panther award, which was given to freshman Pat Tomanon. I would guess that it is the player with the best personality, but I am not sure. I admit that I never saw a women's game this past year but I will completely agree with all of the awards that were given.

Junior Johanna Volz was honored with being the 2013-2014 women's soccer leadership award recipient. That makes sense and is a usual reward so it is fine by me again. The final award that was handed out was the hard hat award given to junior Marie Egan. My guess is that it is a player who overcomes controversy and even though I do not know what it was, I back anyone that can overcome adversity.

The stuff I actually know

Football, which I covered starting back in April of 2013 and continue to cover gave out three pretty basic awards.

The leadership award, which was given to senior offensive tackle David Delsoin, would make sense as the line is the most important part of the game of football to me. Without the lines it would basically be flag football. Giving Delsoin the award makes a lot of sense to me but I am sure that a lot of the reason why he got it is behind the scenes.

Junior wide receiver and running back Dominique Rhymes was named the most improved for the 2013-2014 season. I agree with this as it must take into account that this spring he has made a transition to more in the backfield at running back. I know for a fact that one of the players who the football team will most rely on will be Rhymes so this may be an extra little push for his workload.

The player who was awarded the MVP award for football was graduated defensive lineman Greg Hickman. Hickman, who in my opinion has the highest chance of going to the NFL in next month's draft, was a clear cut decision for this award in my opinion. I truly think that he was the on-the-field leader for the football team and even though it was not their best season, that he stood out. That makes him the best choice for me.

Overall

Even though not every sport was greatly successful this year it is fine to give them all recognition for the hard work and dedication that they showed in 2013-2014. I, as a member of Panther Nation, have hope that it will improve for 2014-2015 but these athletes do deserve the awards that they got.

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INTRAMURALS

Spring intramurals: soccer, flag football and dodgeball nearing championships

REBECCA CHARUR Contributing Writer

Every Spring, students compete in a variety of competitive intramural sports at FIU. Although each team fights for the win on the field, few stand the test of remaining undefeated. This season, students witnessed an intense and prideful athletic season of intramural sports that included soccer, flag-football and dodgeball, each boasting the crème de la crème of FIU's current intramural teams.

Kicking & Greeking

If you're looking for a talented and all-around intense soccer league look no further than the fraternity and sorority soccer teams of FIU.

Sigma Phi Epsilon finished the season with an undefeated

record of 8-0-0. They carried their perfect regular season record all the way through the playoffs where they defeated Phi Sigma Kappa, 6-0 and Sigma Alpha Mu 2-0. These victories landed them in the championship game against FIJI.

"With every game we get to know how one [player] plays with another so it's constant team chemistry," FIJI captain Joel Negro said.

FIJI capped off the regular season with a near perfect record of 4-0-1, only tying the first game of the season 1-1 against Sigma Alpha Mu. FIJI then defeated Beta Theta Pi and Pi Kappa Phi, to reach the final game. Here Sigma Phi Epsilon and FIJI squared off in a back and forth battle of the unbeaten. By the end of the night Sigma Phi Epsilon remained as the only completely undefeated team after the cham-

pionship was decided by penalty kicks. The final score was 4-1.

On the women's side, Tri Sigma and Alpha Omicron Pi took the top spots in the standings. Tri Sigma finished with a 4-0-1 regular season record while Alpha Omicron Pi finished the regular season with a 3-0-1 record. The two teams' only tie came in the season opener against each other that ended in a 0-0 draw.

Although Tri Sigma did not make it past the first playoff game, suffering a significant loss to Alpha Xi Delta, Alpha Omicron Pi successfully advanced to the final championship game. This came after defeating Phi Mu 8-0 and Phi Sigma Sigma 4-2.

"I think the reason we have been so successful is because we always try to have fun when we go on the field. I think forgetting that it is such a harsh competition

helps us relax and just play with each other and do well together with no stress or anger," Alpha Omicron Pi player Gabrielle Demmer said.

Alpha Omicron Pi and Alpha Xi Delta faced off in the championship game. Alpha Omicron Pi took home the championship and an undefeated record.

Are you ready for some (flag) football

No need to wait around for fall, football this year has come early in the form of FIU's intramural flag football league. Shermanaters and What up, beach? are at the top of their division and the league, each boasting a perfect regular season record of 9-0-0. What up, beach? defeated Balls Deep and Panthers to reach the semi finals, while Shermanaters, ironically, defeated Dream-

killers and Rob Ford.

The two teams will fight to keep the championship hopes and their undefeated record alive in the semi finals of the Men's A Playoff race, April 13 at 8:30.

In the other semi final game, ADC will take on The Johnny's, who also finished with an unbeaten record of 5-0-1.

The Five D's: dodge, duck, dip, dive, dodge

This is the story of a true underdog sport but with one not so underdog team. Slick Dappers are the talk of the Dodgeball Mini-League with an undefeated record of 7-0-0. Among these wins are notable victories against Miami Spring Ballers and Globo Gym.

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“Big Bang Theory” star talks science and education

ALEXI CARDONA AND
REBECA PICCARDO
FIUSM Staff

Mayim Bialik, who plays Amy Farrah Fowler on “The Big Bang Theory,” struggled for a B- in organic chemistry as an undergraduate in the University of California, Los Angeles.

But today, Bialik holds a doctorate in neuroscience, is the spokesperson for Texas Instruments and works with DeVry University to encourage young girls to learn more about the STEM fields: science, technology, electronics and math. She is also a modern Orthodox Jew and has helped lead services at UCLA’s Hillel organization.

Bialik was at the Biscayne Bay Campus on Monday, April 7, as the last guest speaker for the Student Government Association’s lecture series. She spoke to an audience of close to 400 students, alumni and members of the community.

She said being a recognized person and walking the red carpet is nice, but she identifies herself as a scientist more than an actress and uses her public image advocate for STEM education.

“When I think about what I want my impact to be, it’s not to be a famous person,” Bialik said, “I love the ability to put a positive face and a female face on science.”

Bialik started acting when she was about 11. She did guest spots on several shows and had a movie role in the 1980s. One of her

Although Bialik said she was never naturally good at math or science, her biology tutor, a dental student, made her fall in love with the field.

“My assumption that because I wasn’t good at something meant I could never be good at it was not true,” said Bialik. “I just needed to learn it differently and I needed more time to learn it.”

Not having the grades to go to medical school didn’t stop Bialik from continuing her work in the sciences. She continued her graduate studies in UCLA, during which she married and had her first child. She was eight months pregnant when she finished her PhD in neuroscience.

“That’s the level of understanding of the human experience that I wanted to have,” said Bialik, who became fascinated by the electrophysiology of neurons.

At the end of her doctorate, Bialik had to choose between her career as a post-doctoral researcher and her family. By choosing to pass on research to be close to her children, Bialik knew that her degree would not maintain the same value.

“This is difficult to talk about because we women are told we can have it all, be it all and do it all,” said Bialik. “But you cannot physically be in two places at once or make more of yourself than there is.”

She taught science to middle and high school students for five years after getting her degree and decided to give acting another try.

When Bialik auditioned for “The Big Bang Theory,” she had never heard about the show. She watched about 15 seconds of Jim Parsons play Sheldon Cooper and knew she could fill the part.

“I’m a scientist who went to grad school. I know tons of people like this. That’s not even acting,” she said.

Bialik said she loves playing a character who is awkward and a frumpy dresser.

“The Esquire image of biting on your glasses with your shirt open and wearing a thong is not how most of us do science,” she said.

Bialik said her faith shapes the way she dresses and presents herself on screen and in public. The notions of modesty in Judaism appeal to her, especially as a public person.

“Everybody gets to own a piece of me publicly. For me, it’s been a feminist notion to



COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF CAMPUS LIFE AT BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS

Mayim Bialik, who plays neurobiologist Amy Farrah Fowler in the show, “Big Bang Theory,” has a doctorate in neuroscience from the University of California Los Angeles.

take aspects of Judaism that try to protect how much of you everybody gets to have. That’s been really empowering,” she said.

Bialik’s work in TV, science, parenting, nutrition and within the Jewish community attracted a lot of members of the community to come see her speak at BBC.

Students and teachers from MAST Academy were among members of the audience, along with other students who admire Bialik’s work.

Luz Delgadillo, a high school student, found out about the event from her sister,

Yunova Delgadillo, a sophomore biomedical engineering major. She asked Bialik about her work as a scientist, because she was interested in the field as well.

Bialik said that although her degree has lost weight since she earned, she uses her knowledge to encourage young girls to pursue careers in sciences.

“Women are underrepresented in almost any field,” said Bialik.

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“The Esquire image of biting on your glasses with your shirt open and wearing a thong is not how most of us do science.”

Mayim Bialik
Ph.D.
Neuroscience

best-known roles was that of Blossom Russo in “Blossom,” an early 1990s family sitcom that aired in prime-time for five years.

After “Blossom,” Bialik made the decision to take time off to focus on her education.

Release Week to include spas and gay rights

RAUL HERRERA
Asst. News Director

With finals approaching, the Department of Campus Life and the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services joined forces to host events throughout the upcoming week at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Release Week starts on Monday, April 14, with a kickoff event combined with an LBTQA Pride celebration at the new Panther Square at 11 a.m.

“Release Week’s main goal is to provide a bit of unwinding and relaxing before finals,” said Andres Bermeo, marketing coordinator from Campus Life at BBC.

During the kickoff event, there will be food and giveaways for students, as well a resource fair

for Panthers to get information on LGBTQA issues and concerns.

“We do this in conjunction with MPAS,” said Bermeo. Since Release Week was at the same time as the LGBTQA Initiatives Pride Week celebration, both departments “combined efforts [to do both].”

Edwin Serrano, graduate assistant in the BBC LGBTQA Initiatives, commented on the collaboration.

“We decided to do a gay celebration,” Serrano said, “We have invited over eight organizations in the Miami Dade and Broward community.”

Serrano pointed to the Stonewall National Museum and Archives as another organization that will be attending. He said that these organizations would attempt to educate students on

LGBTQA issues.

“It’s a resource fair,” he said, clarifying that there would be eight tables and that students would be receiving a “passport” that is marked at each table visit. Students that participate in every table are provided with a free lunch.

“We are really providing resources to help educate not only students,” Serrano said.

According to Serrano, the event will be open to all students – regardless of sexuality or “whether they agree or disagree” – but it isn’t limited to only students.

Bermeo mentioned various planned occasions in his interview with Student Media, including a day of complete relaxation.

Another event, Spa Day, will

be held at Panther Square on Wednesday, April 16, from 11 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Bermeo said that Spa Day

“Campus Life has been the Godfather of every program. Everything we need — they’re always there.”

Edwin Serrano
Graduate Assistant
BBC LGBTQA Initiatives

will have free spa services for students, including a barbershop for men, nail polishes and makeup for women and free massages for all. Something else to look forward to that day is a giveaway.

“[Spa Day] will also feature

an aromatherapy workshop,” said Bermeo, pointing to its paraphernalia crafting activity.

The workshop will be held from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and it will be held at the theater, Bermeo said. The first 40 attendees will be served, so first come, first served. Additionally, MPAS will be holding the Day of Silence during Release Week.

According to Serrano, “Release Week as we know has been a tradition [at BBC].”

Serrano praised Campus Life, saying that it has been helpful to his department.

“Campus Life has been the Godfather of every program,” he said. “Everything we need — they’re always there.”

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Faculty Senate talks innovation and funding

**RAUL HERRERA AND
JEFFREY PIERRE**
FIUSM Staff

Faculty and administrators gathered in the Wertheim Conservatory on Tuesday April 8 to discuss new University-related policy. President Mark B. Rosenberg was in attendance.

The meeting began with a spirited ovation for Provost Douglas Wartzok, who recently announced in a memorandum that he would be taking a sabbatical leave in Australia. Chairman Delano Gray took a moment to address Provost Wartzok for his role in the faculty senate.

“He has been a voice of reason in some our meetings and we appreciate his participation as a senior faculty member and as a provost,” Gray said.

In the first action items discussed, the Global Learning Curriculum Oversight Committee approved a proposal adding 5 classes to the Global Learning curriculum including: Foreign Studies: Japan (JPN 3955); Magic and Religious Studies REL 3075); Islamic Faith and Society (REL 3362); Hospitality Industry Law (HFT 3603); and International Tourism HFT 3713).

Afterwards, the committee discussed several motions, including the approval of a new graduate degree program, an Online Master of Science in Environment Engineering, and the establishment of Unit-Specific Admission Standards for both an M.A. and Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction.

Another topic of discussion was the creation of an Academic Integrity Committee. Late last semester, the University charged three students and an alumnus with felony charges in an exam theft ring where they broke into an Owa Ehan room, hacked into a professor’s email and obtained and sold

exams. Alan Gummerson, professor in economics, commented on the need for reform.

“We saw that [the problem of academic integrity] was going to take longer than one year to solve,” Gummerson said. “We think there needs to be some change in the culture.”

Further along in the meeting, the Faculty Senate went into elections for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Candidates for chair were the incumbent Chairman, and Kathleen Wilson. The vice chair and secretary candidates, Jeorg Reinhold and Jennifer Doherty-Restrepo, respectively, ran unopposed. As such, the victors were Wilson, Reinhold and Doherty-Restrepo.

In President Rosenberg’s report, an emphasis was placed the need for curriculum and technology reform. The president said his biggest concern is keeping the University relevant in the face of the changing nature of technology and the homogenization of education.

“Our context is rapidly changing,” President Rosenberg

PEDALING FOR PROTECTION



JEFFREY PIERRE/THE BEACON

Karina Piero, junior in hospitality management, participates in the annual Anthony’s Light Foundation by pedaling on the stationary bikes set up in the GC pit to raise awareness about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.

on assessment.”

In light the the Board of Governors new funding model, performance — which he described as his passion of the moment — was the key point of his address.

“We don’t get funding on head counts anymore, we get funded on performance,” he said.

nors set to evaluate each of the 12 public universities in Florida. He expressed that although problems with retention and attrition could be related to the unique community FIU serves a large amount of the blame falls on the administration and the university itself.

An anecdote that he used

came in 2008 left the University without graduating.

The University’s current mission, according to President Rosenberg, will be align with the Board of Governors performance funding model and improve efficiency.

The President referred to a conversation with Florida House Speaker Will Weatherford, where the President said he fears the performance metrics will force the University to move away from low performing high-schools.

“He [Weatherford] was thinking I was saying, ‘lower the standards,’” said President Rosenberg citing the Speakers reaction.

In response to the speaker, President Rosenberg said, “No one is accusing me of having low expectations. It’s because I have high expectations that I want students from those schools.”

“We work in those schools because we believe everyone deserves a quality education, regardless of their zip code. As long as they’re qualified,” he said.

FACULTY SENATE 2014 - 2015



Kathleen Wilson:
Chair



Joerg Reinhold:
Vice Chair



Jennifer Doherty:
Secretary

said. “We’ve lost our monopoly on learning; we’ve lost our monopoly

The president referred to the ten metrics the Board of Gover-

to illustrate this was that about 1,200 students in the class that

SEE SENATE, PAGE 2

Transit Day gets students excited about their commutes

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

The South Florida Commuter Services teamed up with the Office of Sustainability and Parking and Transportation to bring not only the Miami-Dade County Transportation Office to speak with students about different transit options as part of Transit Day on April 9, but also Miami Heat Dancers, Burnie the Mascot and former NBA guard Tim Hardaway to get students excited about their commutes.

According to Glorimar Maldonado, an Office of Sustainability intern and sophomore

psychology major, 49,000 of the larger than 50,000 student population commutes to FIU.

“That is a big carbon emission that we put out every year,” Maldonado said.

Irene D. Ferradaz, a representative from Miami-Dade Transit, informed students about the college discount program, which gives 50 percent off a monthly pass.

“All buses, including the premium routes and the metro rail are included in that. It is sold at the parking authority where people buy their parking passes and stuff like that,” Ferradaz said. “We also have a corporate discount program for people who work at FIU,

which offers them between 10 and 15 percent off of a monthly pass.”

Ferradaz spoke about other options, too: carpooling, public transit and finding alternative ways to campus.

“Besides the monetary savings, it is also about reducing your carbon footprint, saving money on gas and [not having] to deal with parking,” Ferradaz said.

There are clear cut, long-term goals for Miami-Dade Transit that may benefit the University.

“Right now I know that we have a route that goes into the campus,” Ferradaz said.

“We are in the process of working with FIU to build a bus terminal on campus, so that would help even more students get to class via public transportation.

She said the county is also in the process of a transit development plan for the next ten years.

“There is a 10-question survey asking people about their input for transit opportunities for the next 10 years,” Ferradaz said.

SFCS has been working with FIU for two

SEE TRANSIT, PAGE 2

WORLD NEWS

US Pinned political satire in secret Cuban Twitter

Draft messages produced for a Twitter-like service in Cuba that the U.S. government secretly funded were overtly political, documents obtained by The Associated Press show, even though the Obama administration has said the program had a more-neutral purpose. The early messages poked fun at the Castro government and were created by a political satirist working for the social media project. Those messages conflict with the U.S. government's earlier assertions that its program didn't promulgate political content. Disclosure of the text messages came as U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Rajiv Shah told Congress in sometimes-confrontational testimony Tuesday that his agency's program was simply meant to increase the flow of information in a country that heavily restricts Internet access.

Feds say oil trains should have two-man crews

Responding to a series of fiery train derailments, federal regulators said Wednesday they will propose that trains transporting crude oil have at least two-man crews as part of new requirements aimed at preventing parked train cars from coming loose and causing an accident like one in July that killed 47 people. The Federal Railroad Administration had asked a freight rail industry advisory committee to make recommendations on whether two-man crews should be required, but the industry officials were unable to reach a consensus. Federal officials said they decided to move ahead with the two-crew member requirement anyway.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 25, Issue 80, in the article "University discriminates against student," it said "I was too much of a liability, according to them," when it should have said "They gave me the impression that I was too much of a liability to them."

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

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The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.

Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU tells history, tradition with food

JEFFREY PIERRE
Asst. News Director

For Or-Lee Kaidar, the thought of Jewish food instantly evokes memories of her grandmother's chicken soup, served with matzah balls and homemade kosher noodles. Kaidar says these memories play a significant role in her Jewish identity.

"Our whole is history is surrounded around food," said Kaidar, the Israeli fellow at Hillel YAD. "For us, food equals family; food equals home."

From 1930 to the late 80's, aside from being a top tourist destination, Miami Beach was largely known for its thriving Jewish community comprised of kosher restaurants, delis and synagogues.

In the last 30 years however, the Jewish population in Miami Beach has decreased — along with it, the businesses and culture.

With the intention of revitalizing the customs, the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU is hosting a series of tours encompassed around a chief element of any

culture: cuisine.

In conjunction with an exhibit at the museum titled "Growers, Grocers and Gefilte Fish: A Gastronomic Look at Florida Jews & Food," the Jewish Food Walking Tour takes participants on a historic journey to South Beach's staple Jewish restaurants, from both the past and present.

The Jewish Museum of Florida, which works to collect, preserve and interpret the material evidence of the Florida Jewish experience, has lead a tour on Sunday April 5, directed by Howard Brayer, the museum tour guide.

"If you started here and walked around the neighborhood, you wouldn't realize that there was a high concentrations of Jewish people here, said Brayer. "The food tour is reminder of that history."

That history is slowly fading away, according to Brayer.

The gentrification of Miami Beach in the late 80s and a diminishing elderly population both contributed to the decreasing number Jews and restaurant and shops.

Brayer says a lot of the traditions and recipes either weren't passed down or disregarded by younger generations.

"This tour should re-introduce people — young and old — to the Miami of yesterday," Brayer said. "And the food is an added plus. Everyone loves food."

The food tours will continue until September 21.

-jeffrey.pierre@fusm.com

JEWISH FOOD WALKING TOUR

WHERE: Jewish Museum of Florida- FIU, Miami Beach
WHEN: Ongoing on various days until September
COST: Museum members \$36; Non-members \$46 (Includes museum admission and exhibit tour.)

<http://jmof.fiu.edu/>

University tackles performance and technology in Faculty Senate meeting

SENATE, PAGE 1

Gray himself also commented on the need for an updated education in his election speech. He alluded to an anecdote about people calling the automobile a fad back in the day, saying that the "same thing is going to happen with electronic media."

"Classrooms in this day and age require leaders, not followers," Gray said.

Following the President, the Provost commented on curriculum reform and other initiatives.

The Provost also expressed concerns with the BOG performance model.

Kenneth Jessell, One of the technological innovations

Our context is rapidly changing. We've lost our monopoly on learning, we've lost our monopoly on assessment.

Mark B. Rosenberg
President
FIU

CFO of the University, followed the Provost with his take on the financial problems the University faces. He was concerned with whether or not the new performance

Online Review Committee considered before its report, which included a CLEP-like test to eliminate core credits.

Susan Clemmons, Associate Dean of the Department of Decision Sciences & Information Systems, and Kristen Nichols-Lopez, Associate Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies of the Department of Psychology, spoke to the Senate about the new proposal.

"We need to find a solution to capture the magic of FIU," Clemmons said.

mentioned that there would be a "challenge exam, which will allow students to obtain credit."

"We want to translate what makes FIU courses unique into the MOOC, and we want to translate that into the exam," said Nichols-Lopez.

The Faculty Senate then closed with a United Faculty of Florida Report that cited the updates on their website, uff.fiu.edu.

For more information on the meeting, students can visit facultysenate.fiu.edu.

-news@fusm.com

Former NBA guard Tim Hardaway visits University for Transit Day

TRANSIT, PAGE 1

years.

"We are the ones that run the carpooling program and the transit program. Anything having to do with alternative modes [of transportation, such as] biking, walking," said Gretchen Abi Daher, a SFCS representative. "We do special events throughout the year, one of them being FIU Transit Day, where we are just promoting Miami-Dade

Besides the monetary savings, it is also about reducing your carbon footprint, saving money on gas and [not having] to deal with parking.

Irene D. Ferradaz
Representative
Miami-Dade Transit

transit." possible.

SFCS was the organization that brought in the members of the Heat organization and the reason the Abi Daher gave was that it would bring in as many students as

They also have incentive programs for carpooling that help out not only students, but faculty and staff as well. Right now, they have a promotion called the 826/836

Incentive Plan.

"We actually pay students, faculty and staff who carpool on those expressways," Abi Daher said. "We have the carpool spots on campus that will be expanded [in number] and they can be used by faculty, staff and students. They have to use a hangtag to use the spots and they print it out."

-rhys.williams@fusm.com

University offers Panthers freedom to express themselves

JOSE VELEZ
Contributing Writer

We often hear complaints regarding decisions made in the United States and how things should be, but lets step back. Reflect on some of the major issues going on in the world right now.

Venezuela is currently fighting communism; people have stood up and made their voices heard. On-campus, honorable Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, President Mark B. Rosenberg and many students got together and voiced their displeasure with what is going on now in Venezuela.

It's a beautiful thing to live in a country where we can express ourselves no matter where we're from or what beliefs we may have. Seeing stands in Graham Center with students supporting the fight against injustice is truly something great.

Diversity at the University is something seen daily,

“

Students can walk around wearing a hat or shirt representing a country or have a sticker on a MacBook that represents displeasure with some injustice. It's a freedom that we share in this country and have the right to exercise.

”

whether we're walking to grab something to eat or running to the next class. It can be seen on individuals and in events.

Adnan Saeed, senior psychology major, served as the president of the Pakistani Students Alliance and has contributed to the diversity seen on-campus. He has done a lot to spread an understanding of the Pakistani culture in Miami.

Recently, Saeed hosted an event at Alfonso Field at FIU Stadium known as Basant. Basant is an annual kite festival in which many

members of the community, Pakistani and non-Pakistani, come together to fly kites, play games and enjoy Pakistani food and music.

The freedom to express yourself is a gift and seeing it exercised on-campus is something to be grateful for.

Students can walk around wearing a hat or shirt representing a country or have a sticker on a MacBook that represents displeasure with some injustice.

It's a freedom that we share in this country and have the right to exercise. Sharing this benefit may often be

taken for granted, but when we actually step back and see how good we really have it, it puts these things into perspective.

Venezuela is at a point where people that express disagreement with the current government are being penalized and mistreated.

This is happening in several other countries too. Being in a place where we can express ourselves and exercise our freedoms is a great thing.

-*opinion@fiusm.com*

What's a poor college student to do?

JENNA KEFAUVER
Staff Writer

I work 17 hours a week and make \$7.79 an hour. That means that every month I make about \$530.

Every month I'm charged \$213 for my health insurance which essentially does nothing, so I thought Obamacare would be a godsend.

Maybe it is for other people. I wouldn't know because I'm not eligible – I don't make enough money. I'm too broke for health insurance, which totally makes sense.

Make it so the healthy, 22-year-old, non-smoker with no pre-existing conditions isn't eligible. Or wait, let's make her eligible for Medicaid, which she can't have.

I understand that this is not the fault of whoever devised Obamacare, it's Rick Scott's.

Rick Scott didn't vote to expand Medicaid, so basically anyone who is eligible for Medicaid isn't eligible for Obamacare.

This is unfair to me and to the 8 million other Floridians who can't get health care because of this.

Now I have health care brokers calling me from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. everyday trying to make me sign up for health insurance

“

Rick Scott didn't vote to expand Medicaid, so basically anyone who is eligible for Medicaid isn't eligible for Obamacare. This is unfair to me and to the 8 million other Floridians who can't get health care because of this.

”

I still can't afford. And Floridians, as well as everyone in the United States, are being threatened with a tax penalty if they don't get health insurance?

According to ABCNews, “in 2014, the penalty is just \$95 per adult, but this quickly escalates to \$695 in 2016.”

That means that in addition to having to pay out-of-pocket for all medical care, Americans would have to pay almost \$700 a year starting in 2016, for not having something they can't afford.

We all know Obamacare is messed up, but that should be criminal: charging someone because Rick Scott, a known Medicare defrauder, decided against Medicaid expansion.

I mean, guys, he admitted to 14

counts of Medicare fraud and he's our governor? It's not as if he just defrauded Medicare.

According to Florida Democratic Party spokesman Joshua Karp in a press release, Scott “oversaw the largest Medicare fraud in the nation's history.” Why is he in charge?

His decision is not my fault and I shouldn't be punished for it.

While I'm exempt from paying these fines, I still have to spend 39 percent of what I make in a month on ineffective health care and that to me is punishment enough.

-*jenna.kefauver@fiusm.com*

THE BEACON Editorial SGA Political parties: Yay or nay?

During this year's Student Government Association elections, the FIU community saw a shift in the way the SGA political campaigns were presented to students.

There was a rise of FIU political parties with different party platforms: F-I-You and FIUnite. This system emulates the well known democratic and republican parties, and adds an extra layer to student government.

If some students feel the same way about certain issues, then students can align themselves accordingly and represent that party. This allows for easier campaigns and an overall organized year of elections.

We can see how these political parties can be beneficial to the University and the community as a whole, as it gives the students some guidance on how to choose the candidate under a party that best suits their ideals.

No matter what party, having a party system does add some professionalism to the SGA race. Candidates are now more accountable for what they say, as it'll not only just impact their own reputation, but the reputation of the party as a whole. This added responsibility will hopefully improve the quality of the work done in SGA.

On the other hand, we anticipate several issues that might come about due to the presence of these political parties.

While having two dominant political parties that are similar to parties present in the U.S. government can be easy to identify for the public, there are still internal problems in those parties. If an SGA candidate has problems with matching the respective ideals of either political party, then said candidate is caught in the middle without any visible support that students can easily identify. This means a candidate might be overlooked due to having no significant affiliation with either of the already-established parties.

This issue might lead to another dilemma in which several other political parties might come about, which we believe would only cause more confusion instead of acting as a solution to the problem. It would make sense for the candidates themselves to create more parties so that their ideals are properly presented; however, students are left having to decipher the platform of each existing political party if more political parties were to establish.

While we acknowledge the political party system worked the way the parties themselves intended this year of elections, in terms of creating a significant presence on campus. We believe that the presence of these parties can unnecessarily and excessively complicate a process that is already complex to begin with. It is just a matter of seeing how well this continues to work and if the student body continues to respond favorably towards the presence of political parties.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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Apollo's Goddess raises money for philanthropy

GISELLE CANCIO
Staff Writer

Danny Thomas believed that "No child should die in the dawn of life," and that families who brought their children to St. Jude for treatment would only have to focus on their child's recovery.

"Apollo's Goddess is a pageant at the end of a week long series of philanthropic events called Teke Week where the brothers of TKE raise money and awareness

"At the pageant itself, we crown our new Goddess, a representative from one of the sororities on campus, and that winner is our philanthropy representative for the following year."

The philanthropy of choice, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, is one of TKE's national and local philanthropies because an alumnus, Danny Thomas, founded it.

St. Jude is leading the way in which the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer. Since opening in 1962, St. Jude has pushed the survival rate of childhood cancer from 20 percent to 80 percent.

St. Jude never bills a family for any medical expenses, food, housing or travel and all the money St. Jude receives and operates with is completely obtained through donations and grants.

"We were able to raise \$6,061.98 between the pageant and the pre-events and although I was pushing to raise \$10,000 I was happy with the way everything ran considering it was the inaugural Teke Week and only the second Apollo's Goddess," Atkins said.

Most of the contestants were TKE Carnations, women that support the fraternity on a daily basis, so they said they were excited to run for the pageant and their sororities were happy to

The execution was pretty good for a first run event and we got a lot of positive feedback from the contestants, judges, and other guests who attended the pageant.

Matt Atkins
Vice President of Philanthropy
Tau Kappa Epsilon

for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital." Matt Atkins, the vice president of philanthropy said.

GIGGLE CODE



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

Students get the chance to ask comedians Jessimae, Carly, and Andrew from MTV's Girl Code and Guy Code questions after getting a good round of laughs during the show from the crew.

support them.

The events during Teke Week consisted of Hands for Hope, Spot the Cure, Give Thanks Day and Apollo's Challenge.

Monday was "Hands for Hope," where students were able to pay \$1 to post a handprint on a poster board.

Tuesday was "Spot the Cure," an Instagram competition between the teams to find as many TKE brothers as possible throughout the day.

Wednesday, "Give Thanks Day," the Apollo's Goddess Pageant contestants hosted their own fundraisers, and Thursday, "Apollo's Challenge," teams competed in different relays in order to gain points to win Teke

Week and win the 15 percent of money raised for their philanthropy.

"The planning has been happening for a very long time, at least a year, but there were still some major kinks to work out seeing how these events are so new," Atkins said. "The execution was pretty good for a first run event and we got a lot of positive feedback from the contestants, judges, and other guests who attended the pageant."

Stephanie Volero, a sister of Delta Phi Epsilon, won both Viewer's Choice and the Apollo's Goddess title. She was unable to comment by the time of press. Phi Sigma Sigma won

the overall Teke Week.

Volero is now TKE's new philanthropy representative and will be working with Atkins to come up with fundraising ideas, plan philanthropy events and raise as much money and awareness for TKE's philanthropies as she can during her reign.

"For next year's event we hope to have a higher attendance, a higher participation from the Greek Community, and to reach and exceed our goal and raise as much money and awareness as possible for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital," Atkins said.

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University to participate in Miami Pride Parade

JUNETTE REYES
Entertainment Director

The University is celebrating LGBTQA pride throughout the month of April. The celebrations started April 2 and will end May 2.

Several events have already occurred. Some events include the panel discussion "Loving Without Limitations: When an LGBTQ Loved One Comes Out" and the Lavender Graduation and Recognition Dinner. During the latter, graduating students that are part of the LGBTQA community were recognized for their academic achievements and leadership contributions in the University.

One significant event is the Miami Beach Gay Pride Parade and Festival which is taking place this Sunday, April 13, at South Beach. FIU expects to have an important role in the parade.

"We have officially participated with the LGBTQA Initiatives for two years. There have been previous FIU groups that have walked, but not as a unified front as we have been for the past two years," said Gisela Vega, associate director of the LGBTQA Initiatives in the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services.

In addition to President Mark B. Rosen-

berg attending for the second time, Vega expects over 200 to 300 alumni, faculty, staff and students from the University to attend and march in the parade.

Student involvement is especially prominent in the event due to the course "LGBT

with a theme and how we want to represent FIU at the parade," said Oscar Loynaz, director of Student Health Services.

"I think this is very important because it lets the community know that we respect diversity and that we appreciate people

I think being a part of the parade and having them see a prominent local University is supporting the effort sends a really strong message of support to the community.

Oscar Loynaz
Director
Student Health Services

and Beyond: Non-normative Sexualities in a Global Perspective."

"This class that I teach has been marching in the parade for the last six years. Last year, FIU kind of made it much bigger and we had a float and everything. The class this semester, we have 156 students and part of the class is for them to march in the parade. The class usually comes up

that come from different perspectives. For example, the very first parade that we were a part of, the slogan on the T-shirts said 'Who you are is not a choice, at FIU you have a voice.' I think that just really explains what it's all about: no matter who you are, we appreciate that at this University," said Loynaz.

This year, FIU's float will be the first one

right behind the float of Grand Marshals Gloria Estefan and Kenny Ortega.

Before the parade, an alumni, faculty and staff breakfast will be taking place at the Wolfsonian-FIU museum.

"We're starting an LGBTQA alumni association here at the university, so we're hoping to bring more community members to FIU and let them know FIU is a very different place now and that it is very supportive," said Vega.

Transportation is departing from Modesto A. Maidique Campus at 8 a.m. and will be available for the first 50 students.

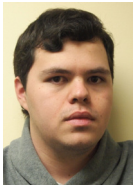
"I expect folks to have a great time, that people see FIU is a supportive place for all of our students and community members - regardless of sexual orientation or gender expression - that we include everybody, [and] that they get to see FIU as a leader in terms of how progressive we are," said Vega.

"I think being a part of the parade and having them see a prominent local University is supporting the effort sends a really strong message of support to the community," said Loynaz.

-junette.reyes@fiusm.com

Marvel cares about fans and their products

COLUMNIST



RAFAEL ABREU

The Marvel Universe that's been created on the silver screen has made much money and many more fans. People from all over the world have become fans of Iron Man, Thor and Captain America as a result of these wildly successful films.

What makes these films as popular as they are?

These films could have easily been mediocre and still make money, yet, these films have been critically favored for the most

“Marvel clearly cares about its characters; the filmmakers and writers hired tend to be respectful to the source material and have an understanding of the mythology.”

part (if Rotten Tomatoes is to be believed, no Marvel Universe film

has yet to go under the 60 percent mark).

Marvel let the world know some years ago that they were planning phases for their films, meaning that each film was part of an arc and had significance to an overall story.

Each film in the Marvel Universe is connected and planned way ahead of time, with much hype to follow.

Marvel's dedication shows not only in their treatment of source material but in adapting lesser known properties (not everyone knows about the most recent incarnation of the Guardians of the Galaxy).

Marvel clearly cares about its characters; the filmmakers and writers hired tend to be respectful to the source material and have an understanding of the mythology.

It can be seen as atypical of such a massive corporation to put so much focus on the quality of its works, especially if they're aware that they'll gross much money anyway.

The hiring of certain filmmakers, writers, and especially actors has helped elevate the films to be more than mere superhero fodder.

Films like “Iron Man” benefit

LOCAL COLLABORATION



DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

Several local acts performed at Will Call on Saturday, April 5 for a split release party, including Space Between Words, The Vilifiers and Sunghosts (above).

from being exciting, action packed, as well as well acted, well scripted, and very funny.

“Iron Man” serves as an excellent example of one of the universe's defining and most important traits.

When people now think of Iron Man, Robert Downey Jr. may be the first thing someone thinks about.

“Iron Man” becomes well regarded and liked because of Downey Jr., who many would agree is the best part of the Iron Man films. It gets to a point that people can't imagine anyone playing Tony Stark.

Digging at what makes the

Marvel films so popular could have much to do with their being around for a long time.

The Incredible Hulk has been around for about fifty or so years and has remained popular ever since.

If a motion picture comes out starring the Hulk, it will, at the very least, make money.

The people at Marvel don't view their films as merely ways of making money, since fans of Marvel in general have voiced their massive approval of their films, going crazy over small references that the casual viewer may not catch.

Of course, even a film like

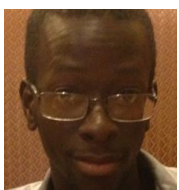
“Iron Man 3” can be critically praised but hated by audiences due to a few things that the writer-director changed. Still, when such controversy comes about, there are many fans that applaud Marvel for taking such risks, which goes to show that the company is not hampered down by the usual studio executives.

This mixture of Marvel deeply caring for their product and caring for their fans creates a universe that has been rightly praised and loved.

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Todd Barry lives up to Louis C.K.'s standards

COLUMNIST



KIERON WILLIAMS

Recently, Louis C.K. has decided to keep his trend of \$5 comedy going with the release of a new special he produced called “Todd Barry: The Crowd Work Tour.”

Anyone who is a fan of Louis C.K. knows that his comedy often breaks molds that we may have not even noticed.

In his most recent special, he gave us a new view on parenting: specifically about how boring it is; he even had a five-minute riff on one obnoxious child in his daughter's kindergarten class (who he nicknamed Xanthapus to avoid lawsuits).

Every time he's on stage, it's safe to assume you'll hear something you've never heard before — whether it's a new topic he dares to speak on or just a fresh perspective on a tired one.

Sometimes he goes a little too far, but you never know when it'll happen and it's always hilarious.

That's why when he produced a new special for one of his good friends Todd Barry, who decided

“It's hard to keep your composure as a viewer when you know that all it would take is one person to stump him, and the whole show would be ruined.”

to do a comedy tour around the U.S. without writing a single joke, I jumped at the chance to watch it.

Without a doubt, it lived up to the C.K. caliber.

It's fun to watch a great comedian completely comfortable in an element so foreign to the usual routine.

It's hard to keep your composure as a viewer when you know that all it would take is one person to stump him, and the whole show would be ruined.

Couple that with facing a different culture every night as he makes his way across the U.S. and all the cameras that surely surround him, and it's hard to imagine anyone could still

manage to make the whole room laugh every night.

But Todd does it. And then he does it again and again, his smooth and sarcastic sense of humor infecting the audience night after night.

Every time he's in a new city, you'll be at the edge of your seat, wondering how the show is going to go. But once he gets in the groove, his level of skill is undeniable and, of course, hilarious.

This special comes highly recommended, and if you can afford a TropiChop at Pollo Tropical, there's no reason you shouldn't buy this hour of comedy for yourself.

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BASEBALL

Garcia credits coaching staff for team's early success

REINALDO LLERENA
Contributing Writer

It is no secret that FIU catcher Aramis Garcia has been lighting up the box scores through the early part of this season for FIU Baseball. The junior from Pembroke Pines has played in all of the team's 32 games and is currently hitting .364 on the season.

Garcia leads the team with five home runs and 69 total bases through those 32 games. His 26 runs batted in is tied for second place with third baseman Josh Anderson. Only sophomore Edwin Rios has driven in more runs than Garcia with 28 runs batted in.

Do not think, however, that Garcia is only focused on his offense. Heading into the weekend series with Old Dominion University, the FIU pitching staff leads the nation with a combined team earned run average of just 1.63. Also, as of April 6th, Garcia's fielding percentage has remained around the .980 mark.

In spite of all of his early success this season at the plate, Garcia has not changed his approach whenever he goes up to bat

since the end of last season.

"Whenever I step into the box, I feel like I am in control," Garcia said. "I just try to slow the game down, try to take it at my own pace and look for that one good pitch to hit. I know that I am in control until I get two strikes. Until then, I just try to keep it simple and try not to do too much at the plate."

Garcia also credits most of his success towards the FIU Baseball coaching staff for the amount of training the team achieved during the offseason.

"I worked hard in the fall with all of our coaches," Garcia said. "I would have to give major credit to the coaches for what we have done this season as a team. I also worked out a lot during the offseason," Garcia mentioned. "I added about 10 pounds of muscle over the course of the offseason and worked on every part of my game as well."

Garcia's praise for the team does not end there. He believes that the team is going to go far this season and he has also learned the importance of playing hard every day.

"I really think that as a team that we have a really special group of guys this year," Garcia said. "What I've learned is that if I go out here and play hard everyday and do my part for this team, this team is going to do really well because we have a lot of really good players on this team."

Although the Baseball team has enjoyed a lot of success this year, they need to reverse its fortunes against Conference teams. As of April 6th, FIU holds an overall record of 24 wins and 8 losses. However, seven of those losses have come against Conference USA opponents, causing FIU to slip towards the middle of the Conference USA standings, despite their overall record.

If the University wants to dethrone conference-favorite Rice, then they need to improve their record against Conference USA opponents. If not, a possible trip to the College World Series may be just out of reach for Panthers.

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BEACON FILE PHOTO

Junior catcher Aramis Garcia is the driving force behind FIU's great start. Garcia has played in all 32 FIU games and is among the top players when it comes to batting average at a .364 clip.

SWIMMING

Perez earns C-USA Swimmer of the Year

RUBEN PALACIOS
Sports Director

Senior Sonia Perez helped FIU cap what is arguably its best swim season ever. Perez was named Conference-USA Swimmer of the Year, as voted upon by all the C-USA coaches.

Perez was the only C-USA swimmer to qualify for the finals and score at the NCAA Cham-



SONIA PEREZ

pionships. Perez, an Honorable Mention All-American, swam in the 200 IM, 400 IM and the 200 backstroke at the NCAA Championships.

A two-time C-USA Swimmer of the Week, Perez was a conference champion in the 400 IM and rode an undefeated streak in all meets up until competing at the NCAA Championships. Her 400 IM time at the C-USA Champi-

onships set a new championship record. Perez finished her FIU career with school records in the 500 freestyle, 1000 freestyle, 1650 freestyle and 400 IM.

Perez performed extremely well for the Panthers at the NCAA Championships, becoming the first swimmer in school history to qualify for the finals in an NCAA Championship event. Perez swam a preliminary time of 4:10.27 in the 400 IM, qualifying her for the evening session.

She went on to swim even faster in the finals, earning a mark of 4:10.17, the second-fastest time in program history. She finished 13th overall at the NCAA's, the highest-ever finish for an FIU swimmer in any event.

Her accomplishments earned her an appearance on The Morning Swim Show last week to talk about her time at FIU and her recent shine.

"I was really shocked because I was working for [swimming in

the NCAA's] the whole year," Perez said while on the show. "I was really nervous."

Perez also commented on being the highest-scoring Panther ever at the NCAA's/

"I was really happy. I just hope that this is motivation for upcoming freshmen, sophomores and juniors and I hope someone can beat my mark," Perez said.

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BASEBALL

Panther pitcher awarded C-USA Pitcher of the Week

RUBEN PALACIOS
Sports Director

After pitching a complete-game, five-hit shutout against conference rival Old Dominion last Sunday in the series finale, freshman starting pitcher Chris Mourelle was named the Conference USA pitcher of the week.

With the win on Sunday, Mourelle improved his record to 6-0 on the season

after allowing only five total hits and striking out five Monarch batters. The freshman's impressive game brought his season era down to 0.59, a team and conference low. The next best era in the conference is held by senior Ryan Williams out of ECU with a 0.84.



CHRIS MOURELLE

The complete game shutout was Mourelle's second of the season and the 10th shutout in total for all Panther pitchers this season. The last time

any FIU baseball team threw 10 shutouts in a season was 1995 when the team set a record with 16 total shutouts.

Mourelle is on pace to break the C-USA individual single-season era record set by Louisville's Carlos Fernandez back in 2003 with a 1.21 era. Mourelle will also have the chance to break FIU's single-season era record which is held by Joseph Burns with a 1.20 era, set back in 1995.

Mourelle, along with the rest of the FIU pitching staff, have combined for a

team era of 1.63 through the Panthers' 32 games this season. Last season, the team's era through 32 games was a 4.52.

After their midweek contest against University of Louisiana-Monroe on Wednesday, April 10 it will be a weekend series against conference opponent Louisiana Tech beginning on April 11, where Mourelle and the rest of the FIU baseball team will be able to display their talents.

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COLUMN

Thoughts on the FIU Athletic awards for the 2013-2014 seasons

COLUMNIST



RHYS WILLIAMS

Unlike the Oscars, the Grammys and the Tonys, I actually care about athletic awards that are given out.

It is getting towards that part of the year where collegiate athletics are wrapping up and finals are coming. This means that FIU held their athletic awards banquet for the 2013-2014 year.

I actually like that the awards varied



JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Graduated senior Greg Hickman received the Most Valuable Player award for Football at the 2013-2014 Athletic Awards Banquet.

for different sports and that all of the division-IA teams each gave a most valuable player award, a leadership award, and then a most improved.

Now there were sports that did that and I will speak on them but some of the better awards in my opinion were the ones that weren't shared.

Golf on its own

The golf team led by Head Coach Joe Vogel gave out the coach's award and the freshman of the year award, which were given to senior Shelby Coyle and freshman Coralia Arias respectively.

It's awards like that which I am completely okay with as a physical education for coaching major. I know if I have to give out awards that I will not just only follow out the basic awards but awards like this could be fun.

I definitely agree after hearing about what these golfers have done on the course all year with awarding them those awards along with sophomore Meghan MacLaren getting named the team's MVP.

Just keep on hustlin'

Multiple teams such as tennis, men's track and field, volleyball, baseball and softball all gave out an interesting award called the hustle award.

I am not sure exactly what the description of that award entails but I know that it has to be something good. Tennis gave the award to senior Giulietta Boha, who was the only senior on the team, which made sense. Men's track and field gave it to sophomore heptathlete/decathlete Chris Sullivan and anyone who does that many events in track and field defi-

nately deserves a hustle award in my book. Plus I know Sullivan personally and he is one of the hardest working athletes that I know. Volleyball honored sophomore Adriana McLamb and I never saw a volleyball game but I am sure that it was well deserved. Head Coach Turtle Thomas gave his hustle award to junior Josh Anderson. I have seen some baseball games this season and he may be the definition of this award. Softball's coach gave it to senior Bre Kaye and after watching softball I couldn't agree more that her play should be awarded.

Women's soccer stands out

The women's soccer team did not name an MVP.

The awards that were given were the Spring Panther award, which was given to freshman Pat Tomanon. I would guess that it is the player with the best personality, but I am not sure. I admit that I never saw a women's game this past year but I will completely agree with all of the awards that were given.

Junior Johanna Volz was honored with being the 2013-2014 women's soccer leadership award recipient. That makes sense and is a usual reward so it is fine by me again. The final award that was handed out was the hard hat award given to junior Marie Egan. My guess is that it is a player who overcomes controversy and even though I do not know what it was, I back anyone that can overcome adversity.

The stuff I actually know

Football, which I covered starting back in April of 2013 and continue to cover gave out three pretty basic awards.

The leadership award, which was given to senior offensive tackle David Delsoin, would make sense as the line is the most important part of the game of football to me. Without the lines it would basically be flag football. Giving Delsoin the award makes a lot of sense to me but I am sure that a lot of the reason why he got it is behind the scenes.

Junior wide receiver and running back Dominique Rhymes was named the most improved for the 2013-2014 season. I agree with this as it must take into account that this spring he has made a transition to more in the backfield at running back. I know for a fact that one of the players who the football team will most rely on will be Rhymes so this may be an extra little push for his workload.

The player who was awarded the MVP award for football was graduated defensive lineman Greg Hickman. Hickman, who in my opinion has the highest chance of going to the NFL in next month's draft, was a clear cut decision for this award in my opinion. I truly think that he was the on-the-field leader for the football team and even though it was not their best season, that he stood out. That makes him the best choice for me.

Overall

Even though not every sport was greatly successful this year it is fine to give them all recognition for the hard work and dedication that they showed in 2013-2014. I, as a member of Panther Nation, have hope that it will improve for 2014-2015 but these athletes do deserve the awards that they got.

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INTRAMURALS

Spring intramurals: soccer, flag football and dodgeball nearing championships

REBECCA CHARUR Contributing Writer

Every Spring, students compete in a variety of competitive intramural sports at FIU. Although each team fights for the win on the field, few stand the test of remaining undefeated. This season, students witnessed an intense and prideful athletic season of intramural sports that included soccer, flag-football and dodgeball, each boasting the crème de la crème of FIU's current intramural teams.

Kicking & Greeking

If you're looking for a talented and all-around intense soccer league look no further than the fraternity and sorority soccer teams of FIU.

Sigma Phi Epsilon finished the season with an undefeated

record of 8-0-0. They carried their perfect regular season record all the way through the playoffs where they defeated Phi Sigma Kappa, 6-0 and Sigma Alpha Mu 2-0. These victories landed them in the championship game against FIJI.

"With every game we get to know how one [player] plays with another so it's constant team chemistry," FIJI captain Joel Negro said.

FIJI capped off the regular season with a near perfect record of 4-0-1, only tying the first game of the season 1-1 against Sigma Alpha Mu. FIJI then defeated Beta Theta Pi and Pi Kappa Phi, to reach the final game. Here Sigma Phi Epsilon and FIJI squared off in a back and forth battle of the unbeaten. By the end of the night Sigma Phi Epsilon remained as the only completely undefeated team after the cham-

pionship was decided by penalty kicks. The final score was 4-1.

On the women's side, Tri Sigma and Alpha Omicron Pi took the top spots in the standings. Tri Sigma finished with a 4-0-1 regular season record while Alpha Omicron Pi finished the regular season with a 3-0-1 record. The two teams' only tie came in the season opener against each other that ended in a 0-0 draw.

Although Tri Sigma did not make it past the first playoff game, suffering a significant loss to Alpha Xi Delta, Alpha Omicron Pi successfully advanced to the final championship game. This came after defeating Phi Mu 8-0 and Phi Sigma Sigma 4-2.

"I think the reason we have been so successful is because we always try to have fun when we go on the field. I think forgetting that it is such a harsh competition

helps us relax and just play with each other and do well together with no stress or anger," Alpha Omicron Pi player Gabrielle Demmer said.

Alpha Omicron Pi and Alpha Xi Delta faced off in the championship game. Alpha Omicron Pi took home the championship and an undefeated record.

Are you ready for some (flag) football

No need to wait around for fall, football this year has come early in the form of FIU's intramural flag football league. Shermanaters and What up, beach? are at the top of their division and the league, each boasting a perfect regular season record of 9-0-0. What up, beach? defeated Balls Deep and Panthers to reach the semi finals, while Shermanaters, ironically, defeated Dream-

killers and Rob Ford.

The two teams will fight to keep the championship hopes and their undefeated record alive in the semi finals of the Men's A Playoff race, April 13 at 8:30.

In the other semi final game, ADC will take on The Johnny's, who also finished with an unbeaten record of 5-0-1.

The Five D's: dodge, duck, dip, dive, dodge

This is the story of a true underdog sport but with one not so underdog team. Slick Dappers are the talk of the Dodgeball Mini-League with an undefeated record of 7-0-0. Among these wins are notable victories against Miami Spring Ballers and Globo Gym.

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“Big Bang Theory” star talks science and education

ALEXI CARDONA AND
REBECA PICCARDO
FIUSM Staff

Mayim Bialik, who plays Amy Farrah Fowler on “The Big Bang Theory,” struggled for a B- in organic chemistry as an undergraduate in the University of California, Los Angeles.

But today, Bialik holds a doctorate in neuroscience, is the spokesperson for Texas Instruments and works with DeVry University to encourage young girls to learn more about the STEM fields: science, technology, electronics and math. She is also a modern Orthodox Jew and has helped lead services at UCLA’s Hillel organization.

Bialik was at the Biscayne Bay Campus on Monday, April 7, as the last guest speaker for the Student Government Association’s lecture series. She spoke to an audience of close to 400 students, alumni and members of the community.

She said being a recognized person and walking the red carpet is nice, but she identifies herself as a scientist more than an actress and uses her public image advocate for STEM education.

“When I think about what I want my impact to be, it’s not to be a famous person,” Bialik said, “I love the ability to put a positive face and a female face on science.”

Bialik started acting when she was about 11. She did guest spots on several shows and had a movie role in the 1980s. One of her

Although Bialik said she was never naturally good at math or science, her biology tutor, a dental student, made her fall in love with the field.

“My assumption that because I wasn’t good at something meant I could never be good at it was not true,” said Bialik. “I just needed to learn it differently and I needed more time to learn it.”

Not having the grades to go to medical school didn’t stop Bialik from continuing her work in the sciences. She continued her graduate studies in UCLA, during which she married and had her first child. She was eight months pregnant when she finished her PhD in neuroscience.

“That’s the level of understanding of the human experience that I wanted to have,” said Bialik, who became fascinated by the electrophysiology of neurons.

At the end of her doctorate, Bialik had to choose between her career as a post-doctoral researcher and her family. By choosing to pass on research to be close to her children, Bialik knew that her degree would not maintain the same value.

“This is difficult to talk about because we women are told we can have it all, be it all and do it all,” said Bialik. “But you cannot physically be in two places at once or make more of yourself than there is.”

She taught science to middle and high school students for five years after getting her degree and decided to give acting another try.

When Bialik auditioned for “The Big Bang Theory,” she had never heard about the show. She watched about 15 seconds of Jim Parsons play Sheldon Cooper and knew she could fill the part.

“I’m a scientist who went to grad school. I know tons of people like this. That’s not even acting,” she said.

Bialik said she loves playing a character who is awkward and a frumpy dresser.

“The Esquire image of biting on your glasses with your shirt open and wearing a thong is not how most of us do science,” she said.

Bialik said her faith shapes the way she dresses and presents herself on screen and in public. The notions of modesty in Judaism appeal to her, especially as a public person.

“Everybody gets to own a piece of me publicly. For me, it’s been a feminist notion to



COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF CAMPUS LIFE AT BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS

Mayim Bialik, who plays neurobiologist Amy Farrah Fowler in the show, “Big Bang Theory,” has a doctorate in neuroscience from the University of California Los Angeles.

take aspects of Judaism that try to protect how much of you everybody gets to have. That’s been really empowering,” she said.

Bialik’s work in TV, science, parenting, nutrition and within the Jewish community attracted a lot of members of the community to come see her speak at BBC.

Students and teachers from MAST Academy were among members of the audience, along with other students who admire Bialik’s work.

Luz Delgadillo, a high school student, found out about the event from her sister,

Yunova Delgadillo, a sophomore biomedical engineering major. She asked Bialik about her work as a scientist, because she was interested in the field as well.

Bialik said that although her degree has lost weight since she earned, she uses her knowledge to encourage young girls to pursue careers in sciences.

“Women are underrepresented in almost any field,” said Bialik.

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“The Esquire image of biting on your glasses with your shirt open and wearing a thong is not how most of us do science.”

Mayim Bialik
Ph.D.
Neuroscience

best-known roles was that of Blossom Russo in “Blossom,” an early 1990s family sitcom that aired in prime-time for five years.

After “Blossom,” Bialik made the decision to take time off to focus on her education.

Release Week to include spas and gay rights

RAUL HERRERA
Asst. News Director

With finals approaching, the Department of Campus Life and the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services joined forces to host events throughout the upcoming week at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Release Week starts on Monday, April 14, with a kickoff event combined with an LBTQA Pride celebration at the new Panther Square at 11 a.m.

“Release Week’s main goal is to provide a bit of unwinding and relaxing before finals,” said Andres Bermeo, marketing coordinator from Campus Life at BBC.

During the kickoff event, there will be food and giveaways for students, as well a resource fair

for Panthers to get information on LGBTQA issues and concerns.

“We do this in conjunction with MPAS,” said Bermeo. Since Release Week was at the same time as the LGBTQA Initiatives Pride Week celebration, both departments “combined efforts [to do both].”

Edwin Serrano, graduate assistant in the BBC LGBTQA Initiatives, commented on the collaboration.

“We decided to do a gay celebration,” Serrano said, “We have invited over eight organizations in the Miami Dade and Broward community.”

Serrano pointed to the Stonewall National Museum and Archives as another organization that will be attending. He said that these organizations would attempt to educate students on

LGBTQA issues.

“It’s a resource fair,” he said, clarifying that there would be eight tables and that students would be receiving a “passport” that is marked at each table visit. Students that participate in every table are provided with a free lunch.

“We are really providing resources to help educate not only students,” Serrano said.

According to Serrano, the event will be open to all students – regardless of sexuality or “whether they agree or disagree” – but it isn’t limited to only students.

Bermeo mentioned various planned occasions in his interview with Student Media, including a day of complete relaxation.

Another event, Spa Day, will

be held at Panther Square on Wednesday, April 16, from 11 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Bermeo said that Spa Day

“Campus Life has been the Godfather of every program. Everything we need — they’re always there.”

Edwin Serrano
Graduate Assistant
BBC LGBTQA Initiatives

will have free spa services for students, including a barbershop for men, nail polishes and makeup for women and free massages for all. Something else to look forward to that day is a giveaway.

“[Spa Day] will also feature

an aromatherapy workshop,” said Bermeo, pointing to its paraphernalia crafting activity.

The workshop will be held from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and it will be held at the theater, Bermeo said. The first 40 attendees will be served, so first come, first served. Additionally, MPAS will be holding the Day of Silence during Release Week.

According to Serrano, “Release Week as we know has been a tradition [at BBC].”

Serrano praised Campus Life, saying that it has been helpful to his department.

“Campus Life has been the Godfather of every program,” he said. “Everything we need — they’re always there.”

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