

University to provost: It's not goodbye, it's see you later

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

University members only had kind words to say about Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartzok -- knowledgeable, inspirational, tireless, a leader.

President Mark B. Rosenberg said Wartzok, who is stepping down from his provost position, exceeded his expectations.

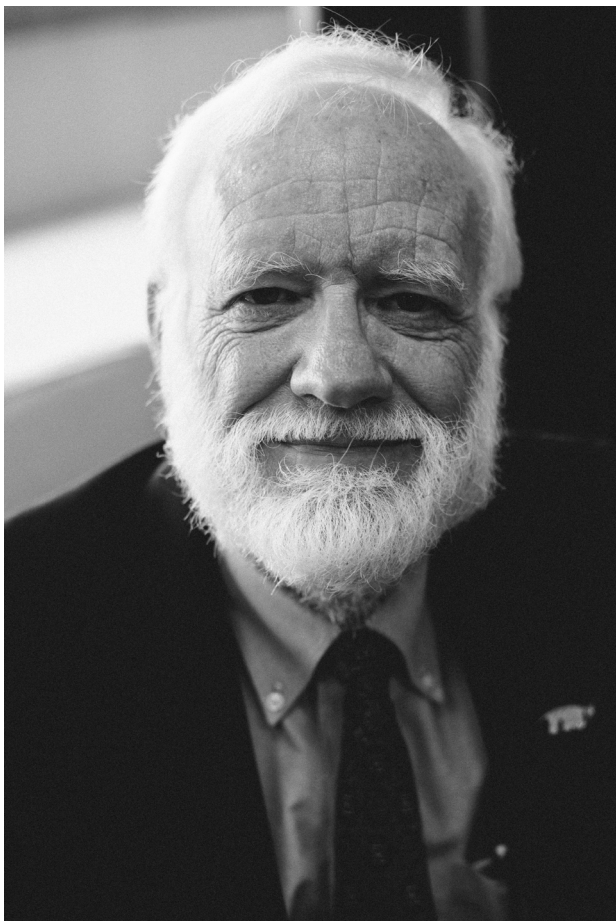
"The easier my life is, the harder the provost is working, and I've had an easy life," Rosenberg said to the Faculty Senate on April 8.

Given his experience

as graduate dean at the University of Missouri, Rosenberg convinced Wartzok to take the provost position five years ago.

"He also enlisted President [Modesto] Maidique to get me enthusiastic. Between the two of them, it was pretty hard to resist," Wartzok said. "With the wonderful diversity of our student population, and being an urban university with a major metropolitan area that certainly rivals New York for creative activity, it was a pretty easy decision to make."

Wartzok, who has been at the University for 42



JEFFREY PIERRE/THE BEACON

Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartzok has stepped down from his provost position effective July 1, but plans to return to the University in 2015 in a different role.

“He is very focused and very engaged; just in tune with what he’s doing. He has inspired me to be a better leader.”

Birgitta Rausch-Montoto,
Chief of Staff
Office of the Provost

years, served as the dean of graduate studies and vice president of academic affairs, before his appointment as interim provost in 2009 and provost in 2010.

This appointment had a condition: Wartzok would only fill the position for up to five years.

Now leaving to Australia on sabbatical, Wartzok said he is ending on a high note, being recently appointed to the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies. He said he hopes to return to the University in 2015 in a different position.

He said FIU is “a university of the future.”

“I have no intention to go anywhere else other than

FIU,” Wartzok said.

According to Rosenberg, Wartzok was instrumental in the growth of the University, generally with undergraduate students.

“He makes my job easier, no question,” Rosenberg said in an interview with Student Media. “He is a personification of a world class professor.”

Wartzok noted the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools’, the University’s regional accreditor, biggest criticism about FIU in 2001 -- the graduate program had grown rapidly, but there was a lack of a “central

SEE PROVOST, PAGE 2

“The easier my life is, the harder the provost is working, and I’ve had an easy life.”

Mark B. Rosenberg
President
FIU

Tuition tracker: higher sticker price, less aid

ROHAN JANI
Staff Writer

Students have been awestruck by rising tuition, but pair a higher sticker price with a decrease in financial aid and you have low-income students -- 59 percent of FIU’s undergraduates -- struggling to make ends meet.

Tuitiontracker.org is a tool that shows what students really pay for college at more than 3,000 colleges and universities in the U.S., including factors like family income and financial aid and categorized by socio-

economic status.

Plug FIU into the “track” bar and you get the sticker cost of attending for four years, as well as the average net price -- the amount students actually paid based on family income. The net price subtracts federal, state, local and university grants and scholarships.

A color-coded timeline displays data from 2008 to 2012. The main trend: sticker price is rising and so has the net price for low-income students, who are receiving less aid.

And the prices may have been even

more expensive. Luisa Havens, vice president for enrollment, told the Miami Herald that FIU’s net prices are “misleading” in statistical value, determining a “miscalculation” in 2008-2009 statistical analyses.

Federal figures show the net price for the University’s poorest students at \$1,866, while Havens said it was really \$5,822.

Havens was unavailable for comment; however, students shared their financial struggles.

Political science and psychology senior Sadaf Chaudhry said, although she is an outlier, having her tuition paid in full by

scholarships and grants for most of her college career, she had to pay some money out-of-pocket this semester, experiencing the decrease in aid first hand.

“I did notice that there have been reductions in funding and that credit costs have increased in the past few years,” Chaudhry said. “It’s becoming more difficult to achieve a bachelor’s without having to be knee-deep in student debt, and I’m very concerned about other students when I know that they were not as fortunate as I am

SEE TUITION, PAGE 2

Senate supports University’s push for fairgrounds

MADISON FANTOZZI
News Director

In the Senate’s last meeting of the academic year it passed its final piece of legislation 19-1: a bill supporting the University’s efforts to obtain the fairgrounds.

Senators were eager to sponsor the bill, which reads “the University’s mission... is inhibited by its inability to expand to incorporate the land held by the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition.”

According to the Senate, the Fair and Exposition “only contributes to the community by occupying the land reserved for it from mid-March to early April,” while

FIU “provides year-long benefits to the community.”

Thus, the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus recommends that FIU actively advocates for the relocation of the Fair and Expo so that the University may expand into the space the fair currently occupies.

It asserts that FIU must continue to expand and create new buildings to accommodate its 50,000+ student body.

“An inability to meet the demands of the diverse student body’s academic interests and research needs will inevitably result in a decline of student population and, as a result, a decline in

quality of education,” the bill says.

However, the Miami-Dade’s lease to the nonprofit through 2040 with extensions to 2085 stands in the University’s way of obtaining the 86 acres at Tamiami Park.

According to President Mark B. Rosenberg, MMC will be out of footprint in seven years. In October, he said “small steps” had been taken to acquire the fairgrounds.

“It’s a process and it’s important that we get it right,” Rosenberg said. “We want to make sure that with our partners at Youth Fair, it can be win-win.”

But now county leaders and Miami-Dade representatives in

Tallahassee are working to help FIU strike a deal with the Fair and Expo. The Senate found it crucial to join in support.

Three sites have been explored for the fair’s possible relocation and Rosenberg said the University would possibly contribute up to \$80 million for construction cost. Miami-Dade has not made such a pledge.

Although the fair season has ended and new senators are taking their seats for the next academic year, SGC-MMC said it will provide greater support by actively advocating for the relocation of the Fair and Expo in the future.

Senate Speaker Nicholas

Aquart also recognized five “outstanding senators” in the Senate’s last meeting.

Housing Senator Daniel Irigoyen, Graduate Senator Tiffanie Stewart, Lower Division Senator Mary Corbin, Business Senator Stefan Bahad and Engineering Senator Jolene Fan were recognized.

“They wrote at least one piece of legislation and attended multiple events,” Aquart said.

Aquart will name the senator of the year on April 14.

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WORLD NEWS

Pakistan: Taliban factions clash, killing dozens

Intelligence officials and militant commanders in Pakistan say clashes this week between Taliban factions in the northwest have killed dozens of fighters. One senior Taliban commander put the number of dead at 23. Other intelligence officials put the number as high as 43. There was no immediate way to independently confirm the death toll in the remote and dangerous area.

Syria death toll from rebel infighting rises to 68

Pope Francis asked for forgiveness Friday from people who were sexually abused by priests, and vowed that there will be no going back in the church's fight to protect children. Francis made the off-the-cuff remarks after coming under criticism from victims' advocacy groups for a perceived lack of attention to the problem and ongoing demands that he sanction bishops who covered up for pedophiles. In his remarks to members of the International Catholic Child Bureau, a French Catholic network of organizations that protects children's rights, Francis said he felt "called to take it upon myself" and "ask forgiveness" for the evil that some priests had committed against children.

Pope asks for pardon for sex abuse by priests

The death toll from infighting between rival Islamic rebel groups in an eastern Syrian town has risen 68 killed, with some shot after being captured alive, activists said Friday. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said battles raged Friday for a second day in the oil-rich Deir el-Zour province near the Iraqi border.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 25, Issue 84, the article "Panther pitcher awarded C-USA Pitcher of the Week" was written by Alejandro Solana, not Ruben Palacios.

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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FIU to host Afro-Cuban event

BIANCA ORDONEZ
Contributing Writer

The School of Music is planning to finish the semester with an Afro-Cuban bang, hosting Grammy award-winning percussionist Ignacio Berroa in its final event.

The School of Music and the School of Architecture and the Arts are welcoming Berroa's deep Cuban roots and jazz style in the event appropriately titled Afro-Cuban Jazz and Beyond.

"His music is unique,

it has such a Latino influence," said Michelle Vires, marketing director of the College of Architecture and the Arts. "Whether Cuban or not, the Cuban culture is something we cannot escape. It is part of our identity."

The schools are working in tandem with the Cuban American Student Organization.

Berroa will give a brief historical lesson on how the Cuban revolution and other Afro movements have influenced Jazz music.

"I appreciate events like these," said Chris Castro, saxophone player and graduate student pursuing a degree in musical education. "They expose students to successful musicians who can serve as an example."

Vires referred to the event as "entertainment with education," not only for music students.

"Music connects you with one another," Vires said. "All of our events are community centered, which is why our entrance fees are so low."

Afro-Cuban Jazz and Beyond with Berroa, is open to the public on April 25 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall.

Admission is \$20 for the general public, \$15 for FIU faculty and staff and \$10 for students.

All of the proceeds will go to the Israel "Cachao" Lopez Scholarship, which students in the Jazz program of the School of Music are eligible for.

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Tuition tracker shows low-income students are hurting the most

TUITION, PAGE 1

and that they are struggling so much."

According to the tracker, FIU's sticker price was \$15,870 in 2008-2009. In 2011-2012, this price was \$17,565. While aid increased from 2008 to 2009 in most cases, it has since been on the decline.

Thus, while all students are paying more, those who need financial help the most have been impacted at a more intense rate.

Jasiel Lopez, a freshman in management and administration, thinks the largest argument right now is over the distribution of financial aid and how students are most affected by it when it comes to low versus high income families.

"Most students with very low income generally receive financial aid that they need, and then there are students with higher-income parents who might not require the aid but take

it anyway, while leaving the lowest-tier students unqualified for aid," Lopez said. "Low-tier students need aid the most and are desperate for it."

Lopez commented on personal experience.

"I have to work to be able to afford my tuition," Lopez said. "Students who have to work are in a really tough situation since employment opportunities for young adults are scarce in this economy too."

According to the tracker, 59 percent of FIU undergraduates are low-income and receiving Pell Grant money.

Fatima Hamouda, a junior in religious studies, argues that there are more positives to high tuition than negatives, however.

"Besides the obvious cons that college tuition is expensive and that people would have to apply for small amounts of grants and scholarships, most people would have to apply

regardless and still be in debt for it," Hamouda said. "On the contrary, with larger tuition rates we have more qualified professors, better services in school, more tutoring centers, better healthcare options and so on."

But Chaudhry proposed a solution so that student financial departments can hear her blueprint.

"There should be a priority in making federal grants more available and more accommodating to students," Chaudhry said. "Several construction projects have already occurred at FIU that force me to question if FIU is prioritizing and allocating its funds adequately. I sometimes feel like the University is more of a shopping mall than an academic institution."

Student Media made attempts to contact all directors within enrollment services, but none were successful.

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Wartzok leaves FIU after 42 years

PROVOST, PAGE 1

oversight" of graduate programs.

Wartzok said that as provost, he understood that there was too much focus on research and graduate education and not enough at the undergraduate level, however.

"I thought that I needed to compensate for my background in graduate work and pay a little more attention to the undergraduates," Wartzok said.

Besides accomplishing the highest award for undergraduate education and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Most Visible Progress award for outstanding improvement in six-year graduation rate and major graduate education award from the Council of Graduate Schools, Wartzok has also been an influential figure

for his colleagues right here at FIU.

"Provost Wartzok has provided outstanding leadership to us. I would like to thank him for the clarity he brought to every

the hardest working individual I've ever worked with," Montoto said. "He is very focused and very engaged; just in tune with what he's doing. He has inspired me to be a better

eled some during these past five years, most of that travel has been in conjunction with a conference or a meeting that Doug needed to attend," Susan Wartzok said.

Wartzok plans to return next year for FIU's 50th anniversary and hopes that much more will be accomplished. But until then, he said there is much to do in Australia.

He has arranged for his sabbatical at Macquarie University in Sydney and is planning on writing papers in his area of research – marine mammals and marine policy.

"Being Provost is a job that you work on every day of the week, every weekend and usually about 18 hours a day. So it'd be nice to do a little something different," Wartzok said.

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"I have no intention to go any place else other than FIU."

Douglas Wartzok
Provost
FIU

issue at hand and for his quick responses to every question we have," said Lakshmi Reddi, dean of the Graduate School.

With his popularity of wearing Birkenstock sandals, Chief of Staff Birgitta Rausch-Montoto described Wartzok as a "humble, low-key leader" who has held a very powerful role.

"He has probably been

leader."

After committing to only five years as provost, Wartzok and his wife Susan Wartzok, Head of Cataloging for FIU Libraries, are looking forward to hiking in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney and in Australia's Southern Alps, where they have climbed the Horn of Mount Buffalo.

"We love to travel, and even though we have trav-

Jack of all trades: Why an English major

LUIS SANTANA
Opinion Director

Recently, the Atlantic put out an article claiming that FIU's English bachelor is the second biggest waste of money in obtaining a college degree. As an English major, I was a bit bothered by this. I didn't want to think that some publication had the power to declare that the degree I've been working hard to obtain was "A waste of money."

Looking at the metrics behind the article, I'm relieved to see that not only is the aforementioned article not true, but that they took incomplete data and tried to make it seem complete. This reflects so poorly on the Atlantic as a publication, that it makes me wonder why the writer took the time to write such a long winded article if it was missing factual information.

When I decided last year to be an English major, I didn't expect to find a job immediately after my college career. I knew very well that a humanities degree wouldn't secure a job for me, but rather I was taking these classes because for as long as I can remember I've enjoyed reading and learning about history.

I wanted to enjoy my college career, and instead of having a major that would secure me one sort of job, I wanted to have a major that would allow me to try all sorts of different jobs. I wanted to become a jack of all trades and learn many different facets of

life rather than pigeon hole myself into a single sort of career. And I'm not alone in this thinking. Sergio Aranda an English Alumni Association board member said, "My English degree has allowed me a lot of flexibility in terms of what I wanted to do in my career."

“ I didn't expect to find a job immediately after my college career. I knew very well that a humanities degree wouldn't secure a job for me, but rather I was taking these classes because for as long as I can remember I've enjoyed reading and learning about history. ”

This leads us to the question of what has college become and more importantly how will this new wave of what college is affect the humanities.

I've addressed this before, but I see college becoming a means to an end, and no longer about the pursuit of knowledge or doing something that you like. With the generation of failures that we

have leading our government breathing down our necks and telling us what we need to study to ensure the safety and monetary stability of America, I can see why some people pick majors solely on monetary value. I can see why 'logical' majors like STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics—are chosen and given scholarships over the humanities. But let's not forget what allows these ideas to be told to each other. It's our language, written and spoken. Its stories like those written by Asimov that inspire people to think of a scientific future. Its stories written by Hitchcock that allow us to overcome our fears and be courageous. To downplay any major is to bring down those who have stood for what the major embodies.

To those choosing what to major in, pick what makes you happy. If that so happens to be a lucrative degree, then by all means do it. But to my fellow humanities majors, don't allow yourself to be discouraged because our majors are looked down on.

Creativity and versatility are at the heart of our major and though at first you may not be able to live out your dream of writing a book or creating the next modern art masterpiece, keep your dream in the forefront of your mind and you never give up on yourself. I assure you one day you will be making the things that you love, and making the world better through it.

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Panthers, going green goes farther than the label

SANDEEP VARRY
Staff Writer

Everyday more and more people are starting to realized the benefits of eating healthy and green food. People, especially youth, are seen engaged in everlasting talks about switching to whole wheat, cutting down on meat and drinking smoothies or natural juices. Seldom do these talks involve concern about the containers, cans and bottles that contain the healthy food.

Taking care of your health primarily involves two aspects: exercise and food. While people spend time reading magazines, online articles and getting tips from friends on how to improve their own health, rarely will they spend time figuring out what is good for their planet's health.

People spend a lot of time reading every little detail on nutrition labels, but they hardly spend a fraction of that time to check if the food container has a recyclable symbol. They'll drink

a smoothie mixed with proteins, but they don't care to check if there are other options to a Styro-foam container -- which they'll carelessly end up throwing in the trash later.

“ It is not uncommon to come across people who spend their sweet time picking out the most organic and healthiest of food options that American supermarkets have to offer... Then, without a single thought, they dump those amazing products straight into plastic bags. ”

It is not uncommon to come across people who spend their sweet time picking out the most organic and healthiest of food options that American supermarkets have to offer. They feel good about themselves while checking out those products, as they look down on people who are

buying a bag of chips or soda. Then, without a single thought, they dump those amazing products straight into plastic bags.

Seriously, how hard is it to carry your own

recyclable or cloth bag with you? You'll feel extra good about yourself. Your body and your planet both deserve better. We drive miles to get to amazing places which offer green and healthy sandwiches, but we never question when establishments serve us in non-reusable or non-recy-

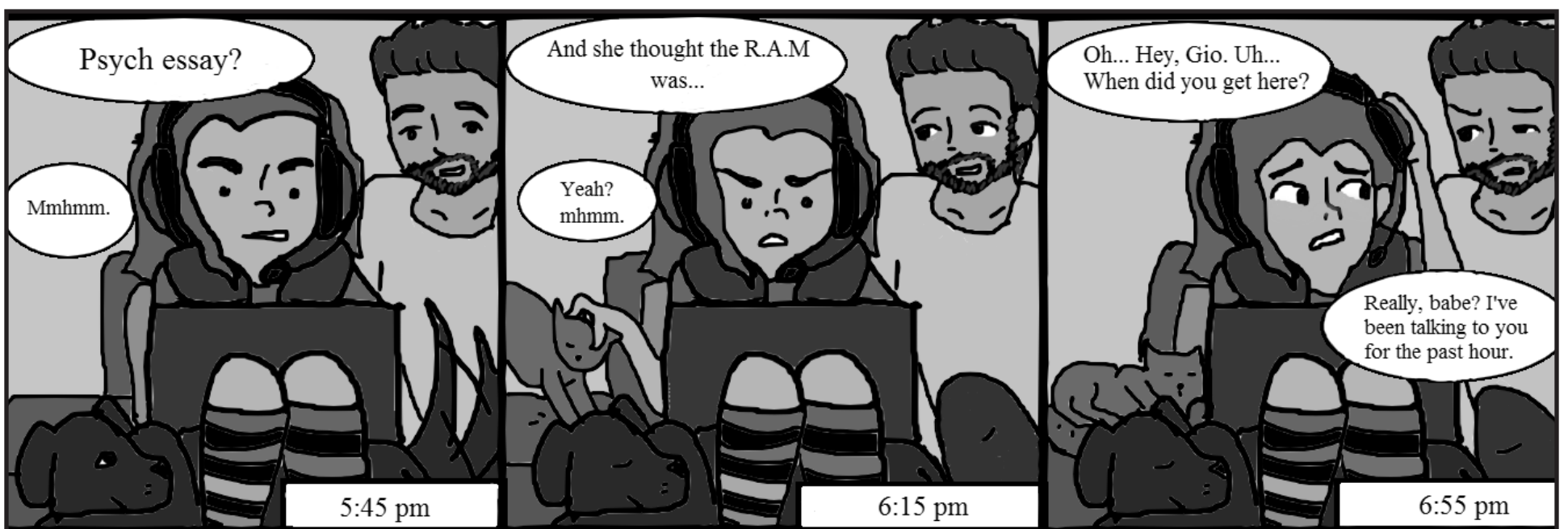
clable containers.

You might have heard the popular joke, "How do you find out if someone is vegan? You don't have to find out, they will tell you." As they lecture you to quit eating meat, they buy their stuff in plastic bags. Next time you see them, make sure you lecture them back on how they are ruining the health of your land in efforts to keep themselves healthy.

I am not saying everyone is like that; I personally have friends who care about what they are eating as well as what they are eating on. I guess its fine if you are a purist or not, as long as you are making a sincere effort to go easy on Mother Nature. Hopefully, next time you buy something healthy, you will spend a second to reflect not only on your own health, but also on the health of this God-gifted beautiful land you live on.

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FOCUS



NICOLE GRADY/THE BEACON

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Dance Marathon fundraised \$72,000 for local hospital

GISELLE CANCIO
Staff Writer

Children like Shannon from Boca Raton, have their lives saved at Miami Children's Hospital, thanks to the Children's Miracle Network and those who fundraise for it.

FIU students came together this past weekend for 17 hours in honor of 17 million children at the 17th annual Dance Marathon.

"It's a big philanthropy and community service project where we raise funds and awareness for all the children across the nation that are taken in by CMN," Silvia Vidaurre,

ties throughout the marathon to keep everyone entertained."

The marathon is run by something they call "Morale Captains."

These individuals create a line dance by picking songs from different categories and making up dances to them.

Throughout the marathon, the line dance is taught piece by piece to the dancers and by the end of the marathon, the whole dance comes together.

In between teaching the line dance, dancers were able to play different board games like candy land and jenga, play different

It wouldn't be a marathon without the miracle children.

"Miracle families who have been impacted or affected by an illness and have been helped by the foundation come and share their story and serve as an inspiration to the committee and dancers," Joana Garcia, Dance Marathon Advisor, Assistant Director in the Center for Leadership and Services Office, said. "This allows everyone to see who they are fundraising for and really allows them to put a name and face to the cause."

One of the Miracle

“

Miracle families who have been impacted or affected by an illness and have been helped by the foundation come and share their story and serve as an inspiration to the committee and dancers. This allows everyone to see who they are fundraising for and really allows them to put a name and face to the cause.

Joana Garcia
Assistant Director
Center for Leadership and Services Office

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Media & Community Relations Chair said. "The dancers take a pledge to stand for 17 hours and there are multiple activi-

ice breakers like ride that pony and red light green light, color and write notes to each other; all while standing.

Children, Shannon, was diagnosed with esophageal atresia and was quickly airlifted from Boca Raton to Miami Children's

Plastic Pinks discuss the growth of the garage rock scene in Miami and their contribution

JUNETTE REYES & DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS
FIUSM Staff

In collaboration with WRGP Radiate FM's program Local Radiation, FIUSM has had the chance to interview several up-and-coming, as well as, established acts on the Miami scene.

Some of these artists include Panic Bomber, Smurphio from the local electronic funk band known as Afrobeta, Jean Jacket, The Cornerstoners, Flight Williams from the collective rap group known as Outta This World, Juan Turros and Michelle Forman of ¡Suéñalo!, DJ and producer Jesse Perez, The Halfways, Millionyoung, Eagle Chief, vocalist Juan Rozas from Tremends, Lavola, The Vili-fiers, and Hunters of the Alps.

This time around, FIUSM got to sit

down and interview lead vocalist June Summer, rhythm guitarist Augie Pink and lead guitarist Luigi Toni La Roca of Plastic Pinks.

Plastic Pinks is additionally made up of bassist Charlie De Jesus and drummer Nicholas Ochoa. They will be performing this Saturday, April 12 at Churchill's Pub alongside several other local acts.

Tell us a bit about yourselves.

June: In the case of Augie and myself, we're actually brothers. We're actually from Puerto Rico. We moved here about three years ago.

Luigi: I'm Italian.

June: But the band actually started here in Miami. We've been together for a year, something like that.

EMBRACING THE ENVIRONMENT



MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Austin Pierce, a junior in geochemistry, writes his favorite outdoor spot on the Campus Consciousness board during an event hosted by the Ecology club and Environmental Engineering club to bring environmental awareness.

Hospital within hours of birth.

Esophageal atresia is a condition when the esophagus is too short, keeping infants from swallowing their food.

The gap in Shannon's esophagus reached from the bottom of her neck to her diaphragm, which meant immediate treatment was necessary.

The only bump in the road was that a procedure like this had never been done before in South Florida.

Her father says "Dr. Burnweit came up to me and said, I actually just read about this procedure but it's never done it; if you allow me to, I can try it on your daughter," he replied to her "That's the only chance I have so I'll

trust you."

Four long stitches were attached to each end of the esophagus and drawn to the outside of her body.

During the procedure, the doctor didn't realize she had to secure the string with something, so she yanked too buttons off of her lab coat and tied the string around them.

Each day, the string on the buttons was pulled from the outside of Shannon's body until the pieces were long enough to be sewn together.

"When the day came to remove the buttons and sew her esophagus together, I knew that was the best day of my life," her father said. "I still have the two buttons and they will be sewn on her wedding dress in the same places they

were on her body."

She is now a healthy and happy ten year old and loves ballet, soccer and ice skating.

Shannon is only one of the many miracle children, who came to the marathon and reminded everyone to stand for those who can't. \$72,000.95 was raised and that will be donated directly to Children's Miracle Network Hospital to help children like Shannon survive.

"It's because of what you do that allows a guy like me to be a Dad," said a miracle father, who was standing with his now 14 year old son, a survivor of acute myelocytic leukemia.

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What kind of music do you play?

June: We play, if you want to call it that, garage rock. Rock and roll mostly.

Luigi: Or as we like to call it, rad city sticky pop.

Augie: It's actually because of the sticky melodies we play.

What are some of your musical influences?

June: To be really honest, some of it came from Davila 666. That is Puerto Rican garage rock band that is really successful.

Augie: Ty Segall.

June: Black Lips.

Luigi: I grew up listening to At the Drive In. So I really love post-punk music. I like death rock music as well. So I guess

we just try to incorporate all of that into garage rock music.

In terms of garage rock music, do you feel there has been a revival?

June: It has been happening, yeah. It's been really good. One of the main things that has been happening lately is actually that, especially here in Miami. It has been growing pretty big. In Atlanta, it's getting pretty huge as well.

Augie: Yeah, Atlanta is huge. They have The Coathangers and The Black Lips.

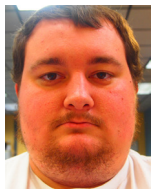
Where does the name come from?

Augie: The first thing everyone says is pink flamingos, everyone says that.

SEE BAND, PAGE 5

Uproar week of activities provided nice break away from stress near finals

COLUMNIST



RHYS WILLIAMS

Last week the Student Programming Council (SPC) at FIU held the Spring version, of pretty much, a homecoming week.

Here is my take on the events I attended:

Comedic relief

Just like homecoming, the week started off with a comedy show and this one brought in three of the newest big names in comedy.

Three members of the cast of the shows “Guy Code” and “Girl Code” in Carly Aquilino, Jessimae Peluso and Andrew Schulz graced the stage, both separately and at the end on Monday, April 7.

It was a great story from their lives, mostly speaking on sexual encounters, but funny none-the-less for those with an adult sense of humor.

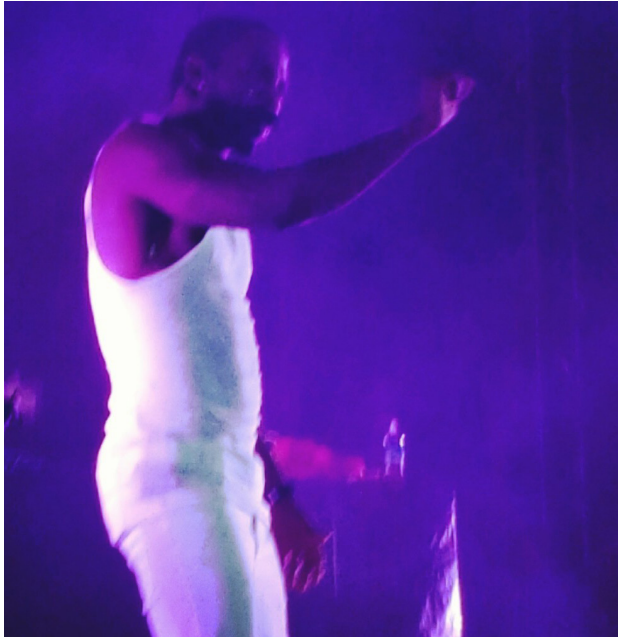
As a fan of the show, “Guy Code,” I was glad that another comedy show was going to focus on them.

One of the most awkward things though was the Aquilino and the comedian that was brought in for the homecoming comedy show, Chris Distefano, recently broke up.

A note to Aquilino is that she can call me if she wants to hang out in Miami.

Or she could introduce me to Melanie Iglesias if possible because I am currently single.

The group question and answer session at the end did have some good outcomes, but, I was waiting for that one guy to stand up and direct a question towards the ladies in honor of their coworker Roland “Lil Duval” Powell and



RHYS WILLIAMS/THE BEACON

Jason DeRulo performed during the Uproar Concert on Thursday, April 10 at MMC.

say “Wat dat mouf do?”

I know several of my classmates here at FIU and I believe that it was a 50/50 shot as to whether or not the student body enjoyed the type of jokes that were told.

Having been to a few comedy shows in my lifetime, I would give it four out of five stars.

I’m always ‘Safe and Sound’ while I’m ‘Ridin’ Solo’

The concert on Wednesday night brought two musical talents together, that people would never say in the same sentence.

The two acts were Capital Cities and Jason DeRulo.

Capital Cities brought along a first time opener in Scavenger Hunt, who was decent in my opinion, but no one that I would rave over or become a groupie for.

I honestly only knew a single song by Capital Cities, before they came to campus, but some of their music I could see myself listening to at a party with friends.

I do appreciate the trumpet player, who I believe is the best member of the ensemble, being involved in a music genre where he is not sitting inside of a concert hall or in an underground jazz club during prohibition.

My favorite part of the night was the headliner in DeRulo.

I would have his song Ridin’ Solo on constant repeat all of the time in high school.

I’m not sure why, but that, along with Ice Box by Omarion were two of my favorite songs back in the day.

He had a twerking competition on stage with six FIU females to get the crowd going. In my opinion, it worked.

His dance crew was one of the better that I had seen in a while.

Some of his newer songs such as Talk Dirty were pretty good as well, but overall, for the concert, I am only going to go with a 3.5 out of 5 because the disc jockey opener was unknown and I had trouble finding a reason to want to listen to Scavenger Hunt.

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Plastic Pinks believe more local venues should cater to garage rock scene in Miami

BAND, PAGE 4

Luigi: The truth is, it’s really open for interpretation.

June: It actually just happened because we tried a bunch of names, I’m not gonna lie to you. We tried probably more than 200 names because every time we checked, the name was taken. So we just decided to go with whatever came up.

Augie: It was really random. June and I were sort of out. We were actually at Gramps in Wynwood and were just drinking and talking and whatever. One thing led to another and the name just jumped at us. It’s fairly simple but it works.

Where have you performed around the city?

June: We’ve actually played Blackbird.

Luigi: Churchills, Propaganda at Lake Worth. PRL in Hollywood.

Augie: Kill Your Idol.

June: Kill Your Idol actually helped us a lot. That was our first show.

Augie: We all had a fever that day.

Luigi: Yeah, I almost passed out.

Augie: And when we finished, back then we had our other guitarist and he ended up puking in the back and everything when we finished. We were all like dying.

June: We were all really sick.

Luigi: We play house parties too. Last month, we played about nine times. I can’t remember any of them for the life of me because it’s just one after the other and it’s just exhausting after a while.

Would you say there are enough venues that cater to your sound in the city?

Luigi: I say not enough in my opinion from what I see. I mean, I grew up with Churchills.

Augie: There could be a little more.

June: To be honest, though, I like to be that band that even if you don’t expect us to play there, we play there and you’re gonna have fun. So even if we don’t have the perfect venue for our type of music, we still make that show happen and be good.

Augie: Also, you never know who is going to be there.

Luigi: We’ve been fitted into some pretty funny spots and people end up going “Whoa, I did not expect seeing that coming from you guys. That’s awesome. Where are you guys from?” and all that.

Do you have a story or an example of that, playing in a venue where your sound does not necessarily appeal to the audience?

Augie: Actually at Vagabond, it was hip-hop night.

Luigi: We almost broke the stage because people got so crazy. I had to pull a girl out of the fire pit because she almost got caught on fire.

It was just so rowdy, a little bit more than my comfortability. But everyone was like “Yeah man, that’s what it’s about, that’s awesome.” and I was like “Oh man someone just almost got hurt.” I was a little traumatized.

June: The show was actually pretty good. It just takes you by surprise and it just depends

on the mood as well. People are really into just letting loose.

Augie: We’re very energetic out there. We feed off of that.

Luigi: We don’t wait for anybody to move, we initiate moving.

June: If no one is moving, I’m jumping in and making them move.

Luigi: We move more than anyone.

What do you have to say about the music scene in Miami?

Augie: There is a lot of really good talent out there that I feel people need to expose themselves more to. I say people like The Gunghos, Casual Creatures, The Costs.

Luigi: It has yet to be mined. With all genres, even Holly Hunt is amazing, we love them.

Augie: Whorish Boorish, obviously.

June: Your usual suspects like Jacuzzi Boys. It’s a thing where if you don’t search for it, you might not notice it as quickly as some other people.

But seriously, it’s out there. Seriously, it’s growing, venues are getting a little bit more open minded about the whole rock and roll scene.

Luigi: It’s like a fungus.

June: it’s spreading around, it’s actually getting big. We have moments where people actually recognize us on the street and they want to know more.

Luigi: We even have people that listen to dance music that have come to our shows and like our music.

Augie: Definitely, people need to go out there and see that it is really happening. Music is happening.

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NATALIE BOJORQUEZ/THE BEACON

The local garage rock band named Plastic Pinks is comprised of lead vocalist June Summer (left), rhythm guitarist Augie Pink (right), lead guitarist, Luigi Toni La Roca (center), bassist Charlie De Jesus and drummer Nicholas Ochoa.

2013-2014 Honor Roll Athletes

Men's Basketball:

Adrian Diaz
Marco Porcher Jimenez
Dominique Williams

Women's Basketball:

Aleksandra Bodlovic
Jerica Coley
Marita Davydova

Volleyball:

Silvia Carli
Lucia Castro
Carolyn Fouts

Baseball:

Alec Beyersdorf
Nathan Burns
Zachary Carter

Softball:

Samantha Green
Corinne Jenkins
Breanna Kaye

Sand Volleyball:

Marina Boulanger
Ellyssa Citron
Maria Coukoulis

Men's Soccer:

Roberto Alterio
Luke Bray
Gonzalo Frechilla

Women's Golf:

Coralia Arias
Shelby Coyle
Sophie Godley

*Tennis:

Giulietta Boha
Valentina Briceno
Tina Mohorcic
Nina Nagode
Carlotta Orlando
Aleksandra Trifunovic

Women's Soccer:

Shelby Bowden
Ellen Crist
Marie Egan

Men's Cross Country/ Track and Field:

Brandon Ballard
Dylan Cook
Daniel Fernandez

Football:

Richard Burrows
Ricky Fernandez
Cody Hodgens

Swimming and Diving:

Jennifer Alfani
Kiara Anderson
Sabrina Beaupre

Women's Cross Country/ Track and Field

Maria Alea
Chantae Barnett
Destiney Burt

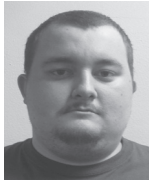
*Tennis was the only team at FIU where all athletes were named to the Honor Roll

Head over to fiusm.com for full list

COLUMN

C-USA honor roll shows that FIU needs some work

COLUMNIST



RHYS WILLIAMS

FIU is finishing up its first season in Conference USA and finishing up the 2013-2014 academic year with exams next week. On April 10, C-USA released their list of athletes who are present on the Academic Honor Roll for that time period.

This list of 3,213 male and female athletes from different schools that have competed in Division-IA sports had over 150 names - 154 exactly - that are familiar to FIU.

Tennis above the rest

Regardless of the amount of players on a team, having an entire roster on the honor roll by the conference is a fantastic accomplishment.

The tennis program, led by Head Coach Katarina Petrovic, had all six tennis players named to the list.

I do acknowledge that six is a small number, and it may not be as impressive, if say, they had a team of 24 and all of them got on, but, it can't be taken away from them that as a group.

They all worked hard in the classroom, as well as on the courts, to be successful.

Women lead the way

In looking at the list, it is clear that the

Women's teams at FIU did much better in the classroom than the men in 2013-2014.

The best comparisons of this are Men's and Women's basketball and baseball to softball.

Men's basketball, led by first year Head Coach Anthony Evans, only had three athletes named to the list: junior forward Adrian Diaz, junior guard Marco Porcher Jimenez and freshman guard Dominique Williams. However, Head Coach Cindy Russo had 12 of her 15 athletes' names on the list.

Between baseball and softball, there were a combined 24 of 58 athletes.

This may sound pretty good, but when you break it down, 11 of the 18 in that list were from the softball program while the other 13 of 40 are from baseball.

105 of the names out of the 154 were female.

That is a large number, and something that is a great accomplishment to achieve.

However, it does raise some questions as to why the men are slacking in the classroom.

It also adds to the fact that the C-USA Commissioner's Academic Medal List, which honors those who have a cumulative GPA of over 3.75 had 19 FIU student-athletes and 18 of those are female.

More than expected

The football program had 10 players named to the list.

This is honestly more than I expected.

After knowing that 17 players were academically ineligible for the 2013-2014 season, I had only expected four or five student athletes.

It is terrible that on the list of 71 students, only 10 were named to the list.

As a physical education major on the coaching track, I know that in the future, I will not find it anywhere near acceptable for only 14 percent of my athletes to have good grades.

I do acknowledge as well that it was a special circumstance with a new coach, losing some better players, and other various actions that happened, but this coming year, the grades of the football team should be looked at under a larger microscope.

Overall

It concerns me that more student-athletes were not a part of this list.

I would encourage these players to look at the title that they are able to carry.

The first part of their title is student, and with only this small percentage of athletes getting recognized for having a high cumulative GPA, it will stun me that if not only they, but their coaches as well do not make a push for near 100 percent of eligible players to be named to this list within the coming years.

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FEATURE

Rec center event benefits St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

GISELLE CANCIO
Staff Writer

Students were able to step up, dance it off and shake it off for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at a new event at the Recreation Center called "Just Dance."

"Just Dance is a fund-raising event for St. Jude's and also the Recreation Leadership Team," President of the Recreational Leadership Team Kristopher Alvarez said. "Just Dance was chosen as the name because it incorporates our popular PantherFIT classes including Zumba, The Grove, Bollywood Body Works and Cardio Funk."

Zumba is considered a party at the recreation center. It's a fun class inspired by Latin dance and includes both Latin and international music. There's no time for breathing when doing Zumba.

Cardio Funk it determined as the class to "pop lock and drop it." This high energy dance fitness class mixed with hip hop flavor and choreographed by "booty-shaking" hits is guaranteed to burn a large amount of calories.

The Grove gives students permission to express themselves via authentic movement. There is an opportunity to experience all genres of music and embrace the power of moving creatively.

Bollywood Body Works adds some culture to the cardio. This is a new dance class where Eastern jams are the only jams and it's guaranteed to get students moving and burning fat.

There was a 20 minute session for each of the classes offered with a few breaks in between. The two hour event was a hit, and students willingly paid the \$10 entrance fee. A student

who attended was expected to burn anywhere between 600-1000 calories.

"I think it's cool that the rec center is putting on events for the students," sophomore chemistry major Maria Pinto said. "The \$10 didn't bother me because some of these classes cost \$2 anyway and it was going to a good cause, plus it was for a good workout so I hope to see something similar to this again."

Alvarez and Maria Roman were on the planning committee for four months trying to make this event come to fruition.

Four instructors agreed to teach the classes at a time outside of the norm: Nakreisha Causey, Maria Roman, Nihat Ahmen and Danny Gonzalez.

The instructors collectively agreed to mesh their classes together in order to make it a better experience

for the students.

"We expected a lot of students to show up and just have fun experiencing all the different classes that are being offered in one event and to understand that while they are having fun, they are also helping out St. Jude Hospital," Alvarez said. "We had just that, I was so happy with the turnout."

The Recreation Center plans on planning and executing more events like "Just Dance" so that students who didn't get a chance to attend this one can attend another.

"I'll be here for every event they put together like Just Dance," junior finance major Stephanie Stuart said. "I've never seen something like this put on and it's so awesome, and convenient, to come and get a great workout while helping a good cause."

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GOING DEEP



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Junior wide receiver T.J. Lowder participated in the annual Blue vs. Gold intersquad game on April 12 at FIU Stadium.

COLUMN

Tennis enters championship with high hopes

COLUMNIST



JAHREL FRANCIS

When one truly excels, it isn't just in one aspect of life. To identify and achieve goals throughout one's college career sets you up for the future and nearly all that it holds.

To look at Panthers women's tennis is where I see an ideal example of exactly what I am speaking of. Not only are they exceeding but they are spreading their wealth in success throughout themselves and representing the University while doing so. To be in the position of Head Coach Katarina Petrovic is sure to be one that makes any leader proud.

The tennis team has now closed out the season against rival school, Florida Atlantic University, with a win to put them at 11-6. This seems to be just the tip of the iceberg as they were able to achieve Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll. While I say "they" it is impressive to state that every player on the team has received the award. Lone senior Giulietta Boha, sophomores Carlotta Orlando and Aleksandra Trifunovic, freshmen Nina Nagode, Tina Mohorcic and Valentina Briceno.

The purpose of school is for the education. Some problems that people take up being a student-athlete is putting the athletic side ahead of school. This problem can be assumed canceled by the young tennis team while they have a good balance of all they take part in. To bring more awe to the situation they are all international students meaning they are able find this balance away from home and what they have known their entire lives.

Having the season transition toward the Conference USA Championships the Panthers have swept FAU for a 4-0 victory. The more experienced Boha, Orlando and Trifunovic came in with quick doubles and singles points to shutout their season with no love for the Owls.

Next step is Norfolk, Virginia for the 2014 Conference USA Tennis Championships commencing April 16. Boha is not a stranger to the level competition so I feel she has the greatest potential. Not Conference USA but

being part of the 2011 Sun Belt Conference championship title team, Boha has a taste of big winning in her system. Being around her matches anyone can tell a taste is not enough for her and she is going for more.

Orlando and Trifunovic are the next up to do something big at the championships. Being new to the conference they have the ability to do great things and I am looking forward to hearing about all the upsets they make. They may not be scouted a great amount as they are in a new conference and do not have the greatest records. Flying under the radar i feel they are a great stealth threat.

As for the youngest members of the team they will have some tough matches. This competition is not easy but they will show their hard work in some matches. Getting far in the competition or not, there is nothing to hang their heads about because they have ample time and opportunity. At the same time, they need to take advantage of the exposure to this level of competition.

With that said I do not feel the team will do well as a unit but they will do well individually. With individual success it will add up for the team but I don't feel it will be enough to win the title as a team. They are great and tough competition so I can't take anything from them and much success won't be of significant surprise. The team is small in numbers and young in experience. These Panthers are still developing under Petrovic to be at their full strength.

With Boha leaving there will have to be a new leader to step up and maybe even a team captain. To me, Orlando and Trifunovic are the first prospects to this responsibility but there is still possibility for a new member of the team to take some control and lead the team where they want to go.

On or off the courts the women's tennis team is something to applaud. The championships will prove who wants what more.

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JAHREL FRANCIS/THE BEACON

Senior Giulietta Boha is heading to make her last mark in the 2014 C-USA Championships before her time as a Panther is up.

SAND VOLLEYBALL

Panthers continue climb in national rankings with Buck-Crockett at helm

OSCAR BALDIZON
Staff Writer

FIU sand volleyball is in the middle of an impressive winning streak and fully prepped to crash the party which will be the largest collegiate sand competition for NCAA institutions in the country, the Fiesta on Siesta Key Tournament.

With 200 doubles teams competing from 32 institutions around the country, this event is a true test for what the competition will be like at Nationals.

The Panthers haven't lost since the first week of the season and currently hold a 13-2 overall record. Coming off a 4-0 weekend at the Surf & Turf Tournament FIU defeated Florida Atlantic University, Louisiana

State University, the University of North Florida and Florida Gulf Coast University.

The Panthers only dropped six sets for the entire weekend and properly honored their seven seniors on the final day; Jessica Mendoza, Maryna Samoday, Ksenia Sukhareva, Camila Rosado, Jessica Gehrke, Maja Rosko and Elly Citron.

Now sitting at number six nationally FIU has continued their steady rise up the national standings from where they started the season; nine overall.

Much of that success can be attributed to tremendous depth as a result of a splendid first year recruiting class.

Three of the freshmen Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett

brought into the program this year start in top three pairs teams.

Aren Cupp, Marina Boulanger, and Giovanna Pasos all came into FIU with the talent to compete and have been put in the best positions to succeed.

"We got a lot of good players this year. It's a great mix of players that have proven themselves before and freshman that are more than ready to compete. As a coach, it's great because it creates such a positive environment with the freshman being able to push everybody to be better," Buck-Crockett said.

Pasos currently partners with senior, Jessica Mendoza, on the No. 1 pairs team at FIU.

Mendoza brings plenty of experience and leadership from a history in both sand and indoor volleyball as she was the floor

captain for FIU's indoor team this past year as well.

After finishing third at the AVCA Championships last year she is continuing to meet expectations.

The pleasant surprise of the year has been her partner, Giovanna Pasos.

Hopes were high for the Brazilian from the moment Buck-Crockett got her to sign to play at FIU way back in November. But no one could have expected her to step into the number one spot and be so effective immediately.

"At first I was having a bit of a rough time, the American game is much more physical while the Brazilian style focuses more on technique. Conditioning was tough but we have such a great team and everyone works together so well it's easy to over-

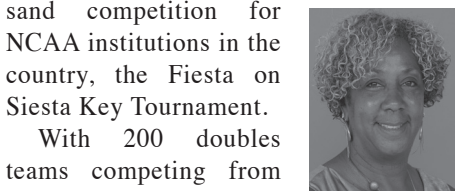
come any obstacles we face," Pasos said.

The stage is set for FIU to continue its ascent into the national spotlight and they will have their chance to square off against top 10 competition they could meet again at this year's AVCA Championships.

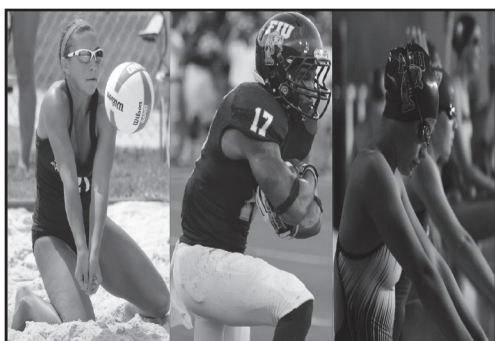
Both Georgia State University and Florida State University will be at the Fiesta this weekend, with a shot at redemption from an early season loss to FSU on the line for the Panthers.

"Were peaking at the right time, I can see the team starting to reach to the next level, and now we will have one more push and hopefully everything lines up for a selection to Nationals," Buck-Crockett said.

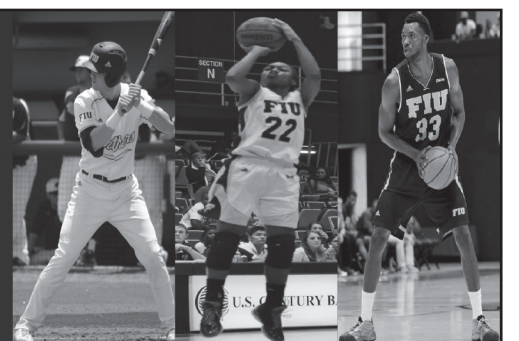
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BUCK-CROCKETT



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SJMC faculty win grant for sea level rise project

REBECA PICCARDO
BBC Managing Editor

Four professors joined forces in the hopes of innovating journalism and civic engagement to address the rising concern about sea level rise in South Florida, and they just received the funds to do so over the next academic year.

School of Journalism and Mass Communication professors Robert Gutsche, Susan Jacobson, Kate MacMillin and Juliet Pinto won a \$35,000 grant from the Online News Association Challenge Fund to test their proposed project titled, “Sea level rise in South Florida: How are waters affecting you?”

The issue they want to address with this project builds upon the ideas from Pinto and MacMillin’s work that was featured in WPBT2, “Changing Seas.”

“It was important to stick with that issue,” Pinto said.

The ONA and its partners, the Knight Foundation, the Excellence and Ethics in Journalism Foundation, the Democracy Fund and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, launched the \$1 million Challenge Fund last december to help universities fund projects that bring “innovation in journalism education,” according to their website.

This collaboration came about when Jacobson and Gutsche were working on a proposal to bring more application development into the SJMC curriculum while Pinto and MacMillin worked on their own

proposal about the issue of rising seas, according to Jacobson.

When they found out they were working towards the similar goals, the four faculty combined their ideas and created a “super proposal,” Pinto said.

The winners receive up to \$35,000 in “micro-grants” to support their local news experiments, and customize their curriculum to create a “teaching hospital model,” the ONA website said.

After the first year of implementation, each project is eligible to compete for a \$100,000 award, which would extend their local project for a second year, according to Gutsche.

The purpose of the ONA Challenge Fund is to create a collaboration between faculty, students, news organizations and community members to raise awareness about a local issue.

With the grant money, the SJMC faculty members plan to develop a Web Geographic Information System course to get students involved in “innovative, investigative journalism and citizen science,” according to their submitted project proposal online.

One of the goals of the grant is to take publicly available data and combine it with information gathered through crowdsourcing to create apps that will let the public know how sea level rise projections will affect their area, Jacobson said.

The idea is that the public can type in their local address and get the projections of sea level rise over

SWITCHING UP THE CLASSROOM SCENE



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Professor Liu moves the classroom setting outdoors as she taught her Social Media & Globalization class by the bay.

the next few years, Jacobson said. For this, students, journalists and members of the community must get involved in gathering information about elevation and other factors that will have an impact.

Jacobson said she would help teach this new course, “Mapping Sea Level Rise for Media,” for the upcoming academic year along with the University GIS department to help gather data.

Each project member is bringing their expertise to the table to make a difference in the reporting and community engagement about this local issue.

MacMillin, who could not be reached for a comment, would use her experience to manage all the content for this project, according to Jacobson.

Pinto’s knowledge of environmental issues will help guide the idea of “crowd hydrology,” which will help get members of the community

to build on the public data feeds from the South Florida Water Management District, she said.

“Crowd hydrology,” or crowdsourcing is one of the ideas that made their project proposal stand out to ONA, Gutsche said.

His reporting and progressive pedagogy will help get students to learn about local issues and help members of the community to get involved with crowd hydrology and guide them in the journalistic process, Gutsche said.

“This is a progressive pedagogical project,” said Gutsche, who wants students to assess their work as journalists in terms of making a difference.

“[We need to ask ourselves] is the journalism that we’re doing effective?” he said.

The University’s partners in this project include Jennifer Fu, center head of the GIS department at FIU; Neal Hecker, chief content officer of

WBPT2; Alexa Elliott, producer of “Changing Seas”; Caroline Lewis, founder and CEO of Climate Leadership Engagement Opportunities Institute; Jayantha Obeysekera, chief modeler of South Florida Water Management District; Ernie Hsiung, co-captain of Code for Miami and Rebekah Monson, lead organizer of Hacks/Hackers.

The the array of local partners involved in this project would “make the outcome even more powerful,” Gutsche said.

With the collaboration of Code for Miami, for instance, Jacobson said that she hopes to have future hackathons at the University to “brainstorm on the issue of sea level rise and discuss solutions.”

“We can invite members of the tech community to play with the data,” she said.

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Silence to voice out concerns in the community

RAUL HERRERA
Asst. News Director

University students will take a vow of silence, taking a stance against the abuse of members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

“We’re going to have day of silence on both campuses,” said Edwin Serrano, graduate assistant at the Biscayne Bay Campus LGBTQA-Initiatives at FIU’s Multicultural Programs & Services.

Serrano informed Student Media that the purpose of this Day of Silence, on April 17, is to “stand for folks that have been abused” in the LGBT community, and that it will “let folks know about the issues LGBTQA individuals face.”

“Such an effort reflects on how powerful silence can be and how we can make our voices stronger,” Serrano said. “It’s a way of turning silence on its head, as reclaiming silence as a tool.”

“

Such an effort reflects on how powerful silence can be and how we can make our voices stronger.

Edwin Serrano,
Graduate Assistant
Multicultural Programs and Services

Serrano pointed to recent deaths of transgendered individuals, saying that ignorance is to blame for the loss of members in

the community.

“We really just want to stand tall and show our support by really choosing not to speak the entire day,” he said. “It’s very educational, very engaging and interactive.”

In his first interview with Student Media, Serrano said that he was not entirely in charge of the events, and that there

would be a meeting with Giselle Vega to fully finalize all details.

“We will most likely give people a pre-meeting to give cards, tapes, shirts,” Serrano said, pointing out the possibility of having “Silent Selfies,” where students who support homosexual and transgendered activism take selfies to show solidarity.

When reached out to by Student Media, Vega was unavailable for comment.

In a second interview, Serrano pointed to more details, including that the event would take place between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and would end with “Scream for Ice Cream”, where participants would “[break] the silence”.

Serrano said that this kind of abuse “happens

worldwide.”

He later referred to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network’s Day of Silence website, which calls the protest “a day of action in which students across the country vow to take a form of silence to call attention to the silencing effect of anti-LGBT bullying and harassment in schools.”

The GLSEN does not specify whether or not their program applies to American schools, or extends to schools in countries where violence against LGBTQA individuals is encouraged. Serrano said that he believed that other countries may be doing such activities.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that in 2012, there were 5,790

“single-bias” hate crime incidents in the US. Of these, 48.3 percent were motivated by racial bias, 19.6 percent were motivated by sexual-orientation bias, 19.0 percent were motivated by religious bias, and 11.5 percent were motivated by ethnicity/national origin bias.

But the activism does not end with just the Day of Silence. Serrano mentioned that the event is part of a larger initiative.

“It is part of our April Pride Month series of events,” Serrano said. “It’s like a mini-component of the Pride Month.”

Students interested in the event can go to lgbt.fiu.edu and dayofsilence.org for more information.

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