

State grants \$10 million to relocate fair, but the University needs voter support



MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Students and Alumni attended the 9th Annual Federal Government Conference, where they could meet representatives from different federal government branches to discuss career opportunities. Panel discussions on government employment were held in the morning, and a resource fair was held in the GC pit in the afternoon.

REBECA PICCARDO
News Director

For years, the University has lobbied to relocate the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair and acquire the 86 acres of adjacent county-owned land for expansion.

Meetings involving the county, the University and the Fair resulted in the analysis of 24

different sites across the county. The county is completing a viability study of the latest site under consideration—Tropical Park.

“We feel that is the appropriate site and that is the feasible site for us to move the fair there,” said Senior Vice President of External Relations Sandra Gonzalez-Levy at the Board of Trustees committee meeting on June 3.

The Fair has a 99-year lease with the county, through 2040.

The University has gained more confidence recently when the Florida Legislation granted \$10 million for the University’s Strategic Land Acquisition initiative.

“What that has done to us is the fact that it has told the commissioners and the county how serious we are and also how the state is serious about

supporting us,” Gonzalez-Levy said. “It has actually placed us on track in order for the us to get the fair.”

However, county voters may think differently. A recent poll conducted by Bendixen & Amandi International for the Miami Herald and El Nuevo Herald shows that the voters don’t support FIU’s plan to move the fair.

The poll, which surveyed 400

Miami-Dade registered voters from June 3 to June 5, showed that 43 to 50 percent of voters oppose the University’s land acquisition initiative.

By contrast, The University External Relations office had reported in April that the Miami Herald had conducted an unscientific poll that showed 77

SEE FAIRGROUNDS, PAGE 2

University honors Douglas Wartzok, Provost Emeritus

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
Asst. News Director

After 42 years dedicated to higher education, Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartzok bid farewell to FIU before leaving on his yearlong sabbatical.

On June 26, a reception was held in the GC Ballrooms to honor Wartzok and his wife, Susan Wartzok, head of Cataloging for FIU Libraries, for their tireless leadership and service to the University.

“We want to thank Doug and Sue for all that they’ve done to make our University a better, stronger, and more moral institution,” said President Mark B. Rosenberg.

“This position of provost is the most difficult in the University. [Wartzok] found a way in his incredible sprint as provost to make it look easy,” Rosenberg said.

Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, Kenneth Jessell, who was MC for the event, described Wartzok as a dreamer and a dream-maker.

Jessell said that despite of his degrees in mathematics and physics and a doctorate in neurophysiology, Wartzok dreamed of something bigger: to study and conduct research on marine life.

Wartzok will continue this career path

in Australia during his sabbatical where he has been appointed to the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies.

“You’re going to need a sabbatical just to rest after your sabbatical,” said Jessell.

Wartzok said he plans to return next year for the University’s 50th Anniversary as a biology faculty member.

At the event on Thursday, Wartzok was also described as a dream-maker.

According to Rosenberg, millions of dollars have been raised for donations, sponsoring research and the University’s expansion of 5 million square feet during Wartzok’s administration.

FIU alumna Sahar Ajabshir came to the event to show respect to the provost for all his support and motivation towards University students.

“In every ceremony, like my graduation, he was always present. I feel like now that he is leaving, I have to be there for him too,” said Ajabshir. “[To show] that we understand that these people are working very hard for us.”

SGA-MMC President Alexis Calatayud said that Wartzok understands students and their multi-cultural background and some of their socio-economic limitations.

Above all else, he also understands the students’ intense desire to make their dreams a reality.

“Provost Wartzok,” said Calatayud as she addressed him. “Your heart for FIU and your spirits for University academia and administration, has given FIU students the greatest possible gift they can ask for: the opportunity to make their dreams come true.”

“Provost Wartzok, your heart for FIU and your spirits for University academia and administration have given FIU students the greatest possible gift they can ask for: the opportunity to make their dreams come true.

Alexis Calatayud
President
SGC-MMC

In a previous interview with Student Media, Wartzok said students need to have a commitment to lifelong learning.

“To continue to be intellectually alive because that’s really what distinguishes

us from all the other creatures on Earth,” Wartzok said.

He also said that to be Worlds Ahead, students cannot plan for a career that’s there today. He said most contemporary careers were unknown at FIU when he arrived 13 years ago.

Other speakers at the event were Board of Trustees member Cesar Alvarez, President of the United Faculty of Florida Teresa Lucas and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the College of Arts & Sciences Maureen Donnelly.

As a gift of gratitude, Wartzok was given an antique world globe and was named Provost Emeritus of Florida International University.

He thanked his wife Susan for supporting him throughout his responsibilities as provost.

He also said that provosts come and go, but the faculty and staff remain and continue providing all the services to students.

“FIU really is the future of America and I’m immensely grateful to have played a part in it,” Wartzok said.

For the video related to this story, check out fiusm.com.

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WORLD NEWS

Transportation in Brazil mostly holding up under onslaught of World Cup fans

With more than half of the World Cup's 64 games completed, many are pleased with how it has gone so far, in particular because Brazilians had strong reservations about staging the event.

Hundreds of thousands of foreigners are here for the tournament. People across the globe from Kolkata to the occupied Palestinian territories are riveted, and even the United States has seen a record television viewership audience. There have been problems, and the concerns Brazilians had about playing host leading up to the tournament remain unaddressed. But for the first few weeks at least, foreign visitors, estimated at approximately 600,000 from more than 180 countries including a strong U.S. contingent, are breathing a sigh of relief that the logistical problems some feared in the lead-up have not yet materialized, particularly in transportation and lodging. Major concerns over transportation and, in particular, airport readiness in Brazil surfaced in the months prior to the World Cup. Brazil spent billions of dollars on airport renovations yet some went unfinished and many were delayed. That infrastructure was significant because the tournament was spread out over 12 cities, and many teams and their fans faced long travel distances while in Brazil.

Suspect arrested after blast in Nigeria red light district kills 11

One suspect has been arrested in connection with Friday's deadly attack on a hotel in the red light district in Bauchi, Nigeria, the Bauchi State Police Commissioner said Saturday. Lawal Shehu told journalists the suspect was being interrogated and that efforts to apprehend his accomplices had intensified. The blast took place late Friday at a building on the outskirts of the city believed to have been used as a brothel. Witnesses said gunmen wearing military uniforms detonated explosives and began shooting people at random. The commissioner said the number of victims had risen to 11 dead and 28 injured. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, but the radical Islamist group Boko Haram has targeted Bauchi in the past. Boko Haram, which launched its insurgency against the government in 2009 with the aim of creating an Islamic state in Nigeria, has killed more than 2,000 people in the country's north this year alone.

SGC-MMC talks possible parking garage counters, low meeting attendance

ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA
Staff Writer

It appears that meeting attendance has become an issue for both sections of the Student Government Association now that Summer B has begun.

While the SGC-BBC senate did not reach quorum this week, the senate meeting for SGC-MMC on June 23 received special recognition for its lowest attendance during summer.

"This is the first Senate meeting of the semester in which attendance is so low," commented Senate speaker and graduate senator, Charles Perretti.

Of a group consisting of around 28 Senators, only 11 were present for the general meeting.

Perretti cited the beginning of the Summer B term as a possible reason as to why so many of the senators were absent.

He added that, during the Summer semester, senators are not obligated to be present for the general meetings— a

duty that is enforced more strictly during the Fall and Spring semesters.

Despite the low turnout, those who were present wasted no time in going straight to business.

Among the several agenda items that were

According to an announcement made by Perretti at a previous senate meeting, the parking garage counters will keep track of all the available spaces in the parking garage in which they are installed, updating the student popu-

dance that, although the position of comptroller is vacant, SGC-MMC president, Alexis Calatayud, has taken it upon herself to handle the comptroller's duties for the time being.

This may spell some trouble.

According to Perretti, the organization's constitution does not allow the president to sign off on duties charged to the supervision of the comptroller.

However, as the position is vacant, Calatayud is allowed temporarily to handle the unfulfilled duties.

"It might behoove us if the Senate votes to make an amendment to the statute," Perretti said. "The Senators may decide that in lieu of a comptroller 'x' individual may assume the position for a certain amount of time until someone is appointed to the position."

For the related video, check out fiusm.com.

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“There has been some news regarding the installation of parking garage counters in Blue and Gold garages here on campus, but there's no solid information on it.

Charles Perretti
Senate Speaker
SGC-MMC

discussed, one dealt with developing news on a potential addition to the operating system in Blue and Gold garages.

"There has been some news regarding the installation of parking garage counters in Blue and Gold garages here on campus," Perretti said. "But there's no solid information on it."

lution when the garage is filled to capacity.

The measure aims to reduce traffic and pollution, among other things.

Assuring the senators present at the meeting that the newly appointed Cabinet members are hard at work fulfilling their various duties, Perretti informed those in atten-

University receives funds, continues lobby for fairgrounds

FAIRGROUNDS, PAGE 1

percent of participants supported the initiative.

This may be a setback to the University because its next move was to lobby the county commission for a county-wide referendum asking the residents of the community to move the fairgrounds, according to Gonzalez-Levy.

"We have a very short window of opportunity for us to actually get approval from the commission for us to acquire the fairgrounds site and to move the fair," said Gonzalez-Levy at the June 3 meeting. "That window is now."

At the faculty senate meeting on June 10, Provost Douglas Wartzok addressed questions about the recent poll.

"I would interpret the total vote as [there still being] a confusion between [acquiring] specifically the Youth Fair and the county park," Wartzok said. "A lot of people are opposed to the idea that FIU would be taking away park land."

FIU's Strategic Land Acquisition Initiative does not include Tamiami Park, just the area occupied by the Youth Fair.

Wartzok said that the phrasing in the recent poll might have been confusing to some people.

"The way it was phrased was not as clear as 'specifically the Youth

Fair,'" he said.

In the Miami Herald poll, the question asks, "do you support or oppose FIU's efforts to expand onto County owned land currently leased to the Dade County Youth Fair?"

The relocation estimate, according to SGC-MMC President Alexis Calatayud, is approximately \$30-\$50 million, which would come out of FIU's pocket and the state legislature.

However, the Herald's poll says that the relocation estimate is between \$200 and \$250 million, and

“We have a very short window of opportunity for us to actually get approval from the commission for us to acquire the fairgrounds site and to move the fair. That window is now.

Gonzalez-Levy
Senior Vice President
External Relations

the cost would be shared between FIU, Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida.

The Modesto A. Maidique Campus is, according to External Relations, "the smallest main campus of the 12

state universities in Florida and has the highest classroom utilization rate in the system."

The 2013-2014 Student Government Association Senate passed a bill to support the the efforts to relocate the fair so the University can expand because the student population has outgrown its facilities.

"The Modesto A. Maidique Campus is meant to support 37,000 students and we are well beyond that with a current population of 54,000," Calatayud said.

SGC-MMC, according to Calatayud, believes the success of this acquisition is that it will not only benefit the student population at the University but also the local community.

External Relations had previously reported that, with the acquisition of the fairgrounds, there would be a \$900 million expansion, with a recurring economic impact of \$541 million a year.

"The Miami Herald poll highlights the need for all FIU Fair Ground Expansion advocates to clearly articulate the facts of local economic impact and enhanced student experience that will undoubtedly strengthen voter support of FIU's continued growth and expansion," Calatayud said in an e-mail to Student Media.

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K-pop shouldn't be harshly judged

LAUREN SHADE
Contributing Writer

I first noticed it while I was waiting in traffic; my front windows were rolled down letting in a soft breeze and pouring out one of my favorite songs. Specifically it was "One of a Kind" by the infamous Korean idol, Kwon Ji Yong, better known by his stage name, G-Dragon. We were at a standstill on Florida's Turnpike in 7 p.m. traffic when I looked over to the idle vehicle beside me. I saw a pair of curious dark eyes and lips that formed a frown as they took in the foreign sounds that were in every way similar to Western music, save in speech.

After a few minutes when the passenger didn't look away, but still stared inquisitively into my car, I rolled up my windows embarrassed -- I was glad they were tinted. Of course, this scenario can be looked at from many different angles; for instance, the driver could have been looking at me, or might have been interested in my car, so on and so forth.

However, these scenarios in which attention suddenly surrounded me each time my ringtone sung out EXO-K's "Mama" or I turned Pandora on to my Korean Pop beats station, play over and over in my head. One occurrence became two, two became three, and so forth until I couldn't help but trace back everyone's curiosity to the second I pressed play and the music started drumming out creative beats or YouTube videos pumped out ostentatious colors.

The first negative comments I received in response to K-pop was from my co-workers.

Mind you, I work with a very diverse group of people and their music tastes vary from country to alternative.

When I played K-pop I'd get everything from prejudiced remarks about North Korea to accusations about being "obsessed" with Asian culture.

Others would refer to me as "the girl who listens to that Asian stuff," a title that did no justice to my taste in music. Yes, I like Big Bang and Born to Beat, but I also like Led Zeppelin and The Strokes. So why did my affinity for K-pop music suddenly overshadow every other genre of music that I prefer?

For months I only heard responses like "Korean music? Don't they want to bomb us?," "But you can't even understand what they're saying," "They sound weird," "I can't take them seriously," "They all look the same," and "They're trying to be too much like America."

Listening to K-pop has solidified my belief that a majority of people in the West are closed-minded to things and even concepts that they are unfamiliar with. People in many parts of the East, Latin America and in various European countries openly listen to American music.

In Germany, English isn't a native language, yet, as someone with first hand experience I know that when Germans listen to American music, they aren't indiscriminately judged and automatically labeled. They don't have to turn down the volume or roll up their windows.

I've found support for my love of Korean pop in the form of small, select groups that

dedicate themselves to Korean sub-culture. It hasn't changed the looks I get or the whispers that are tossed around me when I play some of my favorite K-pop songs.

I wondered if I was alone until I spoke with Stephanie Montes De Oca, the vice president of FIU's Korean Culture Club.

"[K-pop] definitely has changed my opinion on music. I had people judge me because I like Korean culture and music. They would think it was weird and just make fun of me," she said. "They don't have a passion for something they really love to talk about, so I don't let it get to me because it makes me happy."

It took me a long time to embrace the differences between South Korean music and Western music. It's different, I get it, but Skrillex did a track with G-Dragon and Lee Chae-rin, or CL from 2NE1. On top of that, Block B is having a showcase in Miami and this year is the first opening of Kpop Con Miami 2014.

Give or take a year or two, I think Korean pop music will be popular in the States. I'm not ashamed to say that I love K-pop and I shouldn't be judged for it. I'm coming out of my proverbial K-pop closet. Don't be so quick to judge because before you know it, you may be listening to it too.

As of press time, the Block B concert was held June 27 at the The Fillmore Miami Beach in the Jackie Gleason Theatre. The Kpop Con Miami 2014 was held June 28 at the Miami Convention Center.

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THE BEACON | Editorial

Play fair: that is not how you get things done

Fueled by the University's "inability to meet the demands of the diverse student body's academic interests and research needs," words taken from a Student Government Council bill passed last year, FIU has had its eyes set on the Miami-Dade County Fairgrounds space for almost four years now.

To sum it up: on one side, you have the University asserting that the expansion and growth of our campus is favorable for everyone -- a win-win they call it, decorated with a new illustrious medical center. On the other side, you have the fair president and CEO Bob Hohenstein, still rapturous over the fair's recent 20 percent growth in attendance, saying, "We are perfectly happy, very content, and have been successful at this location; been here for 43 years."

And now, the University has support from lawmakers in Tallahassee -- \$10 million granted by the Florida Legislation for the University's Strategic Land Acquisition initiative -- and a viable new location only 10 minutes away from the current Sweetwater site: Tropical Park.

Judging from the University's behavior in light of our new endorsement, it would seem that the stones are all in place and the only thing left is for President Rosenberg to treat Hohenstein to a steak dinner and shakes hands in good faith.

Throughout the negotiations, the University has found a sense of self-entitlement and arrogance. Vice President of External Relations Sandra Gonzalez-Levy even said to Herald reporters, "Fairs are kind of dying out," you know, in black and white, the fair industry is becoming obsolete and we're trying to educate the masses and reinvigorate the community, so give us what we need.

This is an interesting way to try to sway fair-ground executives; some would even say starting fights and insulting the very people you're trying to persuade wouldn't be the best approach.

In the case where the fair says "yes," county voters will still need to give FIU the green-light through a public referendum. After two polls were conducted -- one through Bendixen & Amanti International, a communications consulting firm that specializes in research methods, and one through the Office of External Relations -- the University is no closer to understanding how much (or how little, according to the B&A International poll) public support they will receive.

Provost Emirates Douglas Wartzok attributed the difference in results to the phrasing of the poll. Another question with an answer that's still vague: How much will it cost to move the fair, and who is going to pay? The University was given \$10 million by the Board of Governors during this past legislative session, but will the money have any impact?

The relocation estimate, according to SGC-MMC President Alexis Calatayud and the University, is approximately \$30-\$50 million, which would come out of FIU's pocket and the state legislature's. However, the Miami Herald reports that the relocation estimate is between \$200 and \$250 million, the fair's estimate, and the cost would be shared between FIU, Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida.

The question of how and why these two estimations differ so much has also yet to be answered.

At the core of it all, despite the University's poise, the fair is the only one who can OK the deal. A 99-year lease through 2040 gives the fair all of the power and the final say.

Miami's lifestyle and scene makes the entire city look bad

KRISTOPHER SAAD
Contributing Writer

A lot of people here in Miami seem to think that life is much like your typical Miami night club: nonstop dancing, superfluous drinking, booming loud music, strobe lights, show-boating and self-obsessed debauchery. To a certain extent, some of these things do seem a lot like real life, but it's a life of vapid and superficial existence.

This is the stereotypical Miami club scene, the one shown in movies and on TV, the one which many people from both here and abroad flock to in downtown and on the beach. It's not enriching nor is it fun once you see past the fog machines and lazy drum machine beats.

Do the math. Figure out how many real friends, genuine lovers or life-altering experiences you'll get out of the scene. I guarantee there won't be a lot. The clubbing scene in Miami is

notoriously elitist and vain.

Almost everyone there attempts to affect some kind of importance or social supremacy.

“The clubbing scene in Miami is notoriously elitist and vain.”

Money and power are king; even if people have neither, they pretend that they do. Many of the people who are into the clubbing scene in Miami are into mainstream electronic dance music.

Here, disc jockeys hit play on iTunes and stand around fist-pumping and dancing to their obnoxiously repetitive beats they've remixed without so much as touching their consoles. Yet the massive crowds at mainstream clubs go wild and regularly pay hundreds to see their

favorite DJ. You hear the music blaring from car stereos, on the radio and on TV. It's the music people associate with Miami culture.

The lifestyle this mainstream electronic dance music reinforces is a scene that embodies and exudes glitz, glamour, wealth and opulence. The people, therefore, attempt to reflect some of the characteristics of the music themselves.

You see it in music videos, promotional posters and at aforementioned clubs. Imagine a guy rolling up in the rented limousine with a watch that is, or is made to look, more expensive than a car, wearing a \$20,000 suit, surrounded by four bodyguards and inhuman swagger; note also the girls that crowd around him as he enters attempting to win a spot at his highly coveted private table with bottle service.

Or think about the girl in 12-inch, diamond studded heels

with a faux Prada handbag who refuses to consciously acknowledge anyone who she perceives to be smaller than her; she's the girl many guys will attempt to seduce through plentiful free drinks and engorged, self-centered conversation.

This is what the clubbing scene and music sells to its fans. It spreads the ideas of money and power as the most important things in life. This is why mainstream electronic "club" music, typical Miami dance clubs and the people who seek to live out that lifestyle are inherently bad for our reputation as an emerging world-class city. Their preferences paint a picture of the kind of people they most likely are: self-centered, egotistical, inconsiderate, self-serving masses and it makes me sad.

I am disappointed this is the picture people imagine when they think of Miami.

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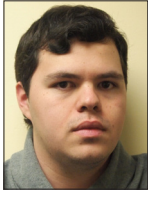
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Transformers comes in strong opening weekend

COLUMNIST



RAFAEL ABREU

The fourth film in the Hasbro franchise, "Transformers: Age of Extinction," does away with Shia LaBeouf, gives us Mark Wahlberg and features Nicola Peltz, Jack Reynor, Stanley Tucci and Kelsey Grammer as our fellow humans.

Hasbro had Peter Cullen as Optimus Prime, John Goodman as Hound, John DiMaggio as Crosshairs and Ken Watanabe as Drift voicing the Autobots.

The film, directed by Michael Bay, features some good cinematography, showing off spectacular action, destruction, and of course, explosions—gorgeous explosions, I might add.

The action is easy to follow, but occasionally there might be a moment where you're not 100 percent sure as to either what just happened or how something happened; thankfully, these moments—no more than five—are few and far between.

Bay's direction is top form here, featuring slow-motion, sweeping takes, and plenty of looking-up shots, almost a Bay trademark. There's no doubt Bay calculates his shots very well with only one bad/weird close-up in

the whole picture.

The soundtrack music and sound are both good overall, as are the voices of the Autobots and the general action that occurs. It may be a loud movie, but anyone going in should expect that.

One might say these films don't have much of a story, but I think it's worth talking about. "Age of Extinction" has a man named Cade Yeager (Wahlberg), just wanting to invent something useful and make sure his daughter Tessa (Peltz) stays safe and healthy. Of course, Optimus Prime is discovered and long story short, they're on the run from scary men who want to destroy all the Transformers.

Headed by Harold Attinger (Grammer), these scary men are generally ruthless as well as enjoyable to watch -- hammy performances help a film like this one. There's also Joshua Joyce (Tucci), who has been working on creating a matter out of what the Transformers are made out of; a matter which allows him to make anything, including man-made Transformers that are, in his view, better than the ones that came before them.

While I enjoyed the cast as a whole, Tucci was (as always) not only a highlight, but a scene stealer, scene

chewer, and fun as hell. His brand of character acting was more than welcomed in a film like this, especially with the amount of comic relief he gives off (not to say Wahlberg or any of the other characters aren't funny, because they definitely are).

The settings are nice, starting off in Texas, then Chicago, all the way to China—the final battle taking place in Hong Kong.

I was incredibly impressed, not to mention wowed, by the gorgeous cinematography that would showcase a lone Texas field, a Chicago cityscape, or, my personal favorite, an explosion at a factory in Hong Kong; one particular shot that I really loved was the second-to-last one that involves the sun. I also think the script for a film like this was strangely hilarious, slightly self-aware, and easy enough to follow that I don't need to wonder what is going on.

For entertainment's sake, "Age of Extinction" was exactly what I wanted and then some, a film that delivers the goods in action, comedy, spectacle, and enjoyment.

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Students assist Fabien Cousteau in Mission 31

AQUARIUS, PAGE 8

Zenone said that at one point, the habitat's air conditioner stopped working properly to which led temperatures to rise up to 90 F.

"It was like Miami on a hot July day," said Zenone.

However, that did not stop the FIU students from continuing their expedition.

With a supportive and experienced crew, Zenone said that everything in the habitat is really safe.

"This stuff is more regulated than traffic in Miami," he said.

Shantz said they almost had all the luxuries of home—running water, a hot shower, a microwave and even wireless internet.

During the mission, they sent out fake model predators that imitate the behavior of large predatory fish such as barracudas.

Zenone said the model predators allow them to understand how herbivorous fish respond to predation and its effect on reefs.

According to NASA's Earth Observatory, the Florida Keys have lost over 90% of living coral. Much of this loss is due to man-made sources of pollution, such as agricultural fertilizers and human waste.

"It's a reality that we're going to have waste as humans, but there are better ways to handle it and they do exist. It's just getting

people moving on that," said Zenone.

Their concern for the health of coral reefs is not only because of the effects on the marine ecosystem, but also because of the benefits reefs provide to the environ-

"You go to the beach and you see this beautiful, extensive blue water, and you don't really think about what's going on beneath that water."

Andrew Shantz
PhD
Candidate

ment as a whole.

According to Shantz, coral reefs and their macro-built seawalls are a natural defense against hurricanes.

"When we lose coral reefs, we start to lose some of that coastal protection that they offer," said Shantz. "You go to the beach and you see this beautiful, extensive blue water, and you don't really think about what's going on beneath that water."

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University Muslims observe Ramadan

CRISTINA GARCIA
Staff Writer

'Tis the season to be jolly, but don't strike the harp or join the chorus just yet because we're not talking about Christmas in July—it's Ramadan!

Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims around the world. In fact, it is when Prophet Muhammad first received revelations of the Quran, therefore the month is considered the most sacred time of the year by Muslims.

Since the holiday is based on the lunar calendar, it shifts every year. According to the Islamic Society of North America, the first day of Ramadan this year was Saturday, June 28. In other places, the fast started June 29 or June 30.

Adnan Samma, a senior majoring in economics and international relations, said that debates surrounding when to start Ramadan have dated back a long time.

"How do you tell if it's Ramadan? It's based on the new moon. Ramadan doesn't begin if the new moon has not been seen. If it's sighted June 27, then [fasting] begins the following day," said Samma.

Once Ramadan begins, able healthy Muslims abstain from food, water, smoking and sexual intercourse from sunrise to

sunset.

"Know it's not just fasting of the stomach, but also of the mouth," said Samma, "no swearing or acting rash."

Although it may sound hard, it's not supposed to be impossible for followers to perform. According to ISNA, fasting is obligatory for adult Muslims "except those who are ill, travelling, pregnant, diabetic or going through menstrual bleeding." Muslims who are able to fast, but have to miss a few days during Ramadan for the previous reasons, are able to make up the days anytime before the following year's Ramadan.

Muhammad Nasimul Ghani, a sophomore in economics and international relations, said fasting during the summer is easiest because he doesn't have classes.

"At least Miami has rain and sometimes a nice breeze; in Dubai, a small breeze is like a slap in the face because it's more like a heatwave," said Nasimul Ghani.

There are a few things Muslims and non-Muslims joining the fast can do to help them cope with the demands of the month. According to Nasimul Ghani, the biggest thing is to practice patience and remind

SEE RAMADAN, PAGE 5

Grooves and good vibes with Say Anything

COLUMNIST



CLAUDIO ZELAYA

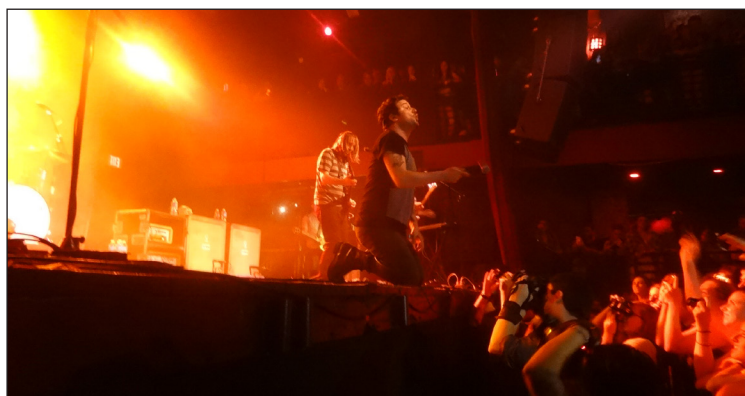
On June 17, I had the pleasure of attending a concert at Revolution Live for the band Say Anything with opening acts You Blew It!, The So So Glos, and The Front Bottoms.

It was a packed house as the early show began with Orlando-natives, You Blew It!. I wouldn't go as far as to say this was an exceptional performance;

the crowd was unfortunately not into the first band up at the beginning.

The audience only got moving once they played the pop-like tune "Regional Dialect" which was very fast paced and gave everyone a reason to move. Unfortunately, the next song, "Strong Island", was very slow, slowing the mood—the crowd just stood there once again.

One thing is for sure and that is that through every song, the drummer with the amazing mustache looked like he was



CLAUDIO ZELAYA/THE BEACON

Front-man and lead singer of Say Anything, Max Bemis, gets personal with the crowd.

having the show of his life.

After a short set from You Blew It!, The So So Glos were up next to a semi-warmed up audience.

I wasn't very familiar with this band's music, but I can testify that their bass player was one of the best I've seen in ages.

If there was one instrument that stuck out in this set, it was definitely the bass. Alex Levine had the charisma and skill that I

SEE VIBES, PAGE 5

Muslim students experience Ramadan differently

RAMADAN, PAGE 4

yourself of the reasons behind the fast.

“When you remind yourself why you’re fasting, it makes your body understand you’re doing something that’s worth it,” he said.

The month of fasting is a time for spiritual reflection and increased worship, according to ISNA. During the fast, Muslims turn away from worldly activities and focus on God. In addition to cleansing the body and the spirit from impurities, the fast helps people empathize with those less fortunate, those that regularly do not have something to eat or drink.

“When you’re with people, friends and family that are fasting as well, it’s easier. It makes you think about it less,” said Nasimul Ghani. “You’re not constantly reminded about it.”

Samma, an international student from

the Democratic Republic of the Congo, said celebrating Ramadan on-campus is a little different from home.

“Back home I’m with family and Mom wakes me up. Here, I have to cook stuff on my own and celebrate it independently,” said Samma. “Back home it’s more joyous to go to the mosque. Here, you don’t know many people.”

For a successful Ramadan, Samma recommends to wake up early and eat breakfast, not just sleep past sunrise; to talk less so one’s mouth doesn’t become dry; and to avoid foods that are really oily or spicy because that could lead to stomach problems which would make your fast more difficult.

Veronica Canas, an alumna of the University, experienced something similar to Samma when she went to India on a study abroad program and found herself there during Ramadan.

“

When you remind yourself why you’re fasting, it makes your body understand you’re doing something that’s worth it.

Muhammad Nasimul Ghani
Sophomore
Economics and International Relations

”

“Fasting was difficult because I wasn’t at home and I wasn’t in control of when I was eating,” she said, “but they were very accommodating— they even bought me dates.”

Canas said something that helped her fast was a good breakfast.

In answer to the need for community and good food, the Muslim Students Association and FIU Pakistani Student Association are getting together to host the “Annual One Dish Iftar,” where fasting students can get together to pray and break the fast.

The event is in the style of a potluck and those attending are encouraged to bring one dish.

According to the MSA at FIU’s Facebook event page, it’s an opportunity “to learn the virtues of Ramadan and break our fast together as brothers and sisters.”

The event is to be held on July 3, in Graham Center 305, from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. For more information, please visit the MSA at FIU Facebook page.

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Revolution Live presented a memorable show

VIBES, PAGE 4

wish every bass player had today.

Short one member, The So So Glos were still able to put on an enjoyable set with help from Brian Seller of the next band up, The Front Bottoms.

For the first few minutes of The Front Bottoms set, I felt as if they were the headlining band as opposed to Say Anything. From the start of their set, you could barely hear Brian Seller sing as the fans were singing along even louder.

The fans moved to every side of the floor as the traditional mosh pits opened up. I won’t say I knew the names of every song, but they proved they could wake the audience up with a medley of groovy songs.

The popular single, “Au Revoir,” sent the venue shaking as the perfect sing along went underway. The set

ended with the members of You Blew It! joining them on stage which felt like the perfect way to end the last set of the night... if the night were to end that early.

After hours of jumping, getting pushed around, and some instances of just standing there, the headlining band, Say Anything, finally hit the stage. The crowd roared as soon as the lights started flashing and Say Anything jumped into their vast catalog of songs.

“Six Six Six” was one of the most enjoyable portions of the set that set the mood for a phenomenal closing act. Like every other act that night, Reed Murray, the drummer, was playing what seemed like the best show of his life.

The pace rarely slowed down as Say Anything let it be known they were there to make everyone sweat. The mosh pit opened up once again to songs like “She Won’t Follow You” and “Do Better.” “Do Better” was one of the

songs fighting for best song of the night until they played arguably the most recognizable tune in their arsenal, “Wow, I Can Get Sexual Too.” This turned everyone nuts as people were flying in the air, singing along, and just set the tone of the night to an all-time high.

After that, the band left the stage while the audience chanted for an encore.

The band’s vocalist, Max Bemis came back out by himself to serenade everyone with a couple acoustic songs before being joined by his band. The night came to an end with another fast paced jam to send everyone home. The concert had some of the most exceptional musicians I’ve seen in a while.

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BadBadNotGood’s new album keeps traditional jazz elements alive

COLUMNIST



DAVID SANABRIA

Contemporary jazz albums, those which extend their influence outside the jazz community, are a dime a dozen. Jazz was big in the early 20th century and it has lost support due to the genre’s shift towards eclectic rock and avant-garde music. The genre has not seen mass public support since the post-bop and jazz-fusion glory days. According to “Music & Culture,” jazz music sales now account for less than three percent of sales figures.

“III,” comes a more traditional jazz sound -- a surprise when compared to their earlier works. BBNG’s first two albums were defined by a list of impressive covers including a classic rendition of “The World Is Yours” by Nas and a few tracks by Odd Future.

This album presents the band’s new direction, one heavily influenced by the jazz masters who preceded them.

Gone are the hip-hop covers in favor of something that makes more sense when considering their classically trained background.

The album opener “Triangle” is the standout here, with piano and percussion

“

This album presents the band’s new direction, one heavily influenced by the jazz masters who preceded them.

”

Jazz was big in the early 20th century and it has lost support due to the genre’s shift towards eclectic rock and avant-garde music. The genre has not seen mass public support since the post-bop and jazz-fusion glory days.

With BadBadNotGood’s new album,

rhythms reminiscent of some of the early ‘60s jazz classics.

What immediately differentiates the track from their influences includes the incorporation of synthesizer and hip-hop beats.

“Confessions” immerses the listener in

USA: ICH GEBE AUF



MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Students gathered at GC to watch Germany defeat the US National Team in the World Cup game of Thursday, June 26.

soothing saxophone and quick drums in the style of modal jazz. “Kaleidoscope” plays like a smooth jazz track and develops into a dazzling, orchestral piece after the implementation of a hip-hop beat.

An “organ,” which derives its sound from a programmed synthesizer, appears on the track “Since You Asked Kindly.” This song is one of the album’s highlights, blending the old and the new better than any other song.

Instrumentally, this album pales in comparison to great works by John

Coltrane and Bill Evans.

BadBadNotGood are not experts on their respective instruments as the greats.

That does not matter so much due to their forward thinking and ear for great rhythms.

The incorporation of electronic instruments with jazz is not a new idea, but it is done in a way that Bill Evans may have attempted if he had these instruments at his disposition.

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BASEBALL

FIU second baseman shares travel insights

JUNETTE REYES
Editor-in-Chief

Baseball is nearing the end of its season and the rest of the games appear to be keeping the boys away from home for quite some time.

Second baseman Edwin Rios is no stranger to away games in his sophomore year as a sports management major at FIU and is always grateful to be back home.

"It feels real great. I mean we're excited to be back home. It's Miami weather. It's hot but we love it, we're used to it. We're just glad to be back home and sleep in your bed," Rios said.

On the topic of his bed, Rios said that is what lets him know he is back home when returning from an away game.

"Your bed, there's nothing like your own bed and sleeping in it. Just the bed, I love my bed," Rios said.

Several matchups against opposing teams have Rios and the team visiting various cities

and states, such as in Hattiesburg, Mississippi where the team played in the Conference USA tournament.

Despite the opportunity to visit these places, the team rarely gets a chance to explore the area.

"Not really," Rios said. "Well, we go to the mall in the mornings. [Head] Coach [Turtle Thomas] likes us to wake up early, so we go to the mall, walk around and go eat. So yeah, we kind of see the malls, but nothing else."

This does not stop Rios and his teammates from having their own bit of fun, though.

"This past weekend, everyone decided to get those little PS Vitas. I decided to get one and then my mother said it was too expensive. So I had to sell it and give it back. It was kind of sad, but whatever I got the money back. Now I can use the money to eat and, you know, more important stuff than a PlayStation," Rios said.

In regards to his fellow teammates and prepping the team before each game, Rios said he enjoys being the one to lift their spirits.

"I'm kind of like the guy that tries to pump up the team. I put the music on really loud and just start dancing around to see if anyone gets pumped up. And when it's time to go, just thank God for giving me another chance to play the game and get at it," Rios said.

The game itself is clearly important to Rios, and his record on fiusports.com shows that he plays hard for the love of the game.

During his freshman year at FIU, the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association named Rios a "Second-Team Freshman All-American," having led the team with a .332 batting average, 52 RBI, nine home runs and 20 doubles.

His career as a freshman on the team totaled up to 24 multi-hit games and 15 multi-RBI games, both of

which he was the leading player on the team. As an infielder on the team, Rios has also made 47 starts at short-stop and 11 starts at first base.

Before entering FIU, Rios played at Osceola High School in Osceola, Fla. and was named the MVP of his team and all-county, having hit .400 with four home runs and 30 RBI.

Rios takes the game seriously even during the off-season.

"When the off-season comes, it's summer ball and you just keep working out. Baseball is a year round sport, so there are really no breaks. You always just have to work hard and just gotta keep getting better," Rios said.

Getting better at the game is ultimately one of the things that push Rios and the team. A seven-game winning streak was recently broken against University of South Florida in the third and final game of the series, but he does not let that stop him from continuing



MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Junior second baseman Edwin Rios is one of the leaders already for this Panthers team and will be relied on heavily in the coming season with the departure of catcher Aramis Garcia to the MLB.

to push forward and improve as a player.

"I feel good about winning the series but we wanted that sweep. It was important to us. We're going in good ways right now. We're winning a lot of ball games and we just

want to keep that track. We hit a little bump in the road but you just have to keep going. It's tough but you have to look past it and just get ready," Rios said.

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COLUMN

Lone senior Boha gone, but new talent coming in

COLUMNIST



JAHREL FRANCIS

This recent season had the Panther's tennis team drop out of the 2014 Conference USA tournament in the second round to the Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles. The Eagles received their 4-2 victory to the Panthers to go on to lose in the quarter finals to No. 3 seed North Texas.

With the end of the tournament, it indicated the end of



JAHREL FRANCIS/ BEACON FILE

Giulietta Boha was the only senior roster for the Panthers last season. The team will be without a senior for the 2014-2015 season.

Giulietta Boha's Panther reign. The only senior had the best record of 25-4 in singles and 15-2 in doubles. Her record and team dedication implicate what sort of loss the Panthers have to endure through.

Testing the water for the new conference was not taken for granted. Carlotta Orlando and Boha alike earned All-Conference USA honors.

Orlando concluded her sophomore year with receiving her Second-Team All-C-USA honors selection while Boha received Third-Team All-C-USA honors selection.

Orlando's longest win streak of 6 straight matches, to end the season, included her undefeated 3-0 record in the C-USA Tournament. This ending season concludes her second for the Panthers and is returning for next year.

Competition in the next year will be without her strongest teammate Boha and three incoming true freshmen players.

Orlando may have to be called into a leadership position and step up to lead the team to be a tough team and contend throughout the C-USA tournament. With three incoming players that may fill the team roster and have some to

better set up doubles matches with more strategic duos. The 2013-2014 season was a team of six just able to fit in all six positions.

With the possibility of having the five undergraduates return along with the new Panthers, players won't have to play through injury as the last year.

There is also a lot less chance of injury and exhaustion allowing different rotations in practice, resulting in higher development in skills and well rounded experience.

Head Coach Katarina Petrovic announced the signing of Nerma Caluk, Andrea Lazaro and Monika Stanikova to National Letters of Intent.

Caluk of Bosnia and Herzegovina was a top four finalist in a series of competitions under World Tennis Association and International Tennis Federation. Lazaro of Barcelona, Spain earned a series of singles and doubles championship titles under WTA and ITF. Stanikova of Trencin, Slovakia also found experience in a series of competitions as a finalist for WTA and ITF.

News came out on June 2 that the recruiting class for Petrovic was ranked No. 17 in the nation by tennisrecruiting.net. FIU is one of two Conference USA schools

INCUMBENT IN COMPETITION



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Junior quarterback E.J. Hilliard is the only quarterback with collegiate playing experience on the Panthers roster. He will compete with freshmen Alex McGough and Bud Martin for the starting position.

in the top-25 as Rice University landed spot No. 12.

New talent and experienced Panthers will come under Petrovic to a hopeful season. They all will be together for the start of program of the fall semester. Continuing the trend of Euro-

pean players the Panthers have the potential to serve up fresh and improved results.

Rhys Williams contributed to this article.

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FEATURE

FIU hosts inaugural celebrity softball game

PATRICK CHALVIRE
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU Baseball Stadium played host to the first annual Jimmy Wilson's Celebrity Softball Charity Game, June 14, to benefit the Above .500 Foundation.

Wilson teamed up with the foundation and came up with the idea of a softball event as a new way to give back to the community.

"I wanted to put one on, something that will help the kids," Wilson said.

He is a four-year safety with the Miami Dolphins.

The afternoon included meet and greets with players, a Home Run Derby competition and the softball game. Teams were split between Teal and White, with the Teal team winning 7-6.

Above .500 Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated

to using sports and education to encourage middle and high school students to lead positive lives.

Wilson has faced adversity since his time at Montana University. Before his senior year with the Grizzlies, he was arrested for shooting his aunt's boyfriend to death during an argument back in June of 2007.

Once Wilson was acquitted in 2009, he faced what seemed to be another ending to his football career. In August of 2010, Wilson was accused of biting a woman's leg while they were in a car with friends after a night out. He pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, a downgrade from misdemeanor assault and was suspended for one game.

Despite all the negativity that has occurred in his life, Wilson has taken his role as a NFL player and has used his life lessons to educate the youth on being smart and sticking to their goals.



MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Junior second baseman Edwin Rios (left) is one of the leaders already for this Panthers team and will be relied on heavily in the coming season with the departure of catcher Aramis Garcia to the MLB.

"To be able to bring some professionals to these schools and let them see professionals that been through similar situations as them," Wilson said. "Whether it be the circumstance or whatever, kids don't make it to their full potential."

For the inaugural event, Wilson

was joined by family and several teammates, including Mike Pouncey, Brent Grimes, Lamar Miller, Jamar Taylor, Olivier Vernon, Dion Jordan, Reshad Jones, Jason Fox, Koa Misi and others.

"I'm just glad I got the support of my teammates, they're like my

brothers, we're together every day so it's good to see them out here and having fun," Wilson said.

Several local celebrities were also invited to the event, including FIU alum and WSVN-7 Sports Reporter Donovan Campbell.

"Anytime you get a chance to come back to FIU for anything, I'm always honored and blessed and this is my alumni," Campbell said.

"Anytime you can do a charity event it's great and when you get a chance to get invited as a reporter to come and play with them, the Dolphins, a team you cover, that's always a great feeling," Campbell added. "I think I was one of two media members to be invited so you gotta feel honored and blessed to be a part of that."

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COLUMN

A look into the 2014 World Cup from Brazil

COLUMNIST



REBECCA CHARUR

From trading stickers to watching the games live, soccer fans at FIU and around the world are witnessing the culture of a truly global sport in action.

A few years ago in 2003, FIFA appointed Brazil to once again host the FIFA

World Cup and all the pride and culture that accompanies it.

Today, hundreds of thousands of people, including myself, have traveled to the region in the hopes of experiencing this unique atmosphere.

The Brazilians are a proud people with their national flag hanging at every corner. Even in passing the poorest of neighborhoods one could look down the smaller streets and see a flurry of green and yellow banners hanging from building to building.

It seems as if the different neighborhoods of Brazil have at least momentarily buried their struggles to celebrate the sport and their country.

This pride was displayed in the first game of the knockout rounds against Chile. It only took one game to restore a complete assurance (if they even needed any) that they could raise the golden trophy at the end of the tournament.

One of the first things I noticed upon arriving to the match was the stadium itself. The stadium did not match the photo on my World Cup app; in fact, the exterior appeared somewhat bare and incomplete.

Rumors had circulated of unfinished stadiums but I had expected it to be less noticeable. Still, this did not affect the liveliness and emotion within the stadium.

The game was played and watched with a level of emotion that remains unparalleled to anything I have ever seen.

Throughout, there was a bombardment of prideful Brazilian chants and creative obscenities directed towards the players and referees, telling them to put certain things in certain places.

When the game turned to penalty kicks, the emotions only heightened. Grown men turned away from the field, unable to bear the suspense, while others bent to the floor.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARCELLO CASAL, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Brazilian fans can be seen cheering their national team at the 2010 World Cup that took place in South Africa.

It was later reported that even a 69-year-old Brazilian died of heart failure while watching the penalty shootout in a bar nearby.

Neymar Jr. himself spent the majority of the shootout bent on his knees in prayer.

After making the final penalty kick for Brazil and Gonzalo Jara's failed attempt, the mostly Brazilian crowd exploded in celebration. Beer and men were being thrown around as the relieved players hugged their fellow teammates.

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CLUB FEATURE

FIU Water Polo Club is making a big splash

JAMES PROFETTO
Contributing Writer

A University of Florida opponent towered over Andy Rodriguez, Sept. 14, kicking and punching him in the water, but Rodriguez locked into the match mentally, fending off blow after blow for 32 minutes. During the post-match handshake, Rodriguez's opponent didn't return the gesture.

"He didn't shake my hand and I thought, 'Wow, it must suck to know that a kid my height, my size, is giving you trouble,'" said the junior biology and psychology major.

The second-year player, who covers both offense and defense, brought the Panthers' character and focus to that match — a team short-handed but full of heart.

Founded in 2008 by alumnus Chris Arias, the FIU Water Polo Club attracts players who are looking for a competitive edge in their everyday lives. Up to a dozen students can fill a roster, but the Panthers do not have the luxury of a full team. This club accepts anyone willing to play, amateurs and veterans alike.

Edward Weller, senior economics major and team captain, invites anyone to play

and said that the club is never "intimidating."

All of the universities that compete on a club level are a part of the Collegiate Water Polo Association. Competitors include University of Miami, Florida Atlantic University and Florida State University, each with a unique strategy.

"You get teams like FSU, who will try to swim on you. Then, you get UM, who will try to tire you out," Weller said.

Although the odds are against a club that doesn't have a large roster, the Panthers managed to finish in a two-way tie with FSU for second place. Both teams went 6-2 in conference play and 8-3 overall.

Unfortunately, the Panthers fell to the Hurricanes in the tournament.

The departure of Carol Vaughan leaves the coach spot unfilled; Weller has assumed the responsibilities.

Twenty-year-old Rodriguez finished his first season, but has seven years of water polo experience. He's only 5 feet 6 inches tall, but that doesn't stop him. Rodriguez sums up the club's controlled, ruthless attitude.

"Size isn't a factor. Everyone is the same height in the water," Rodriguez said. "I

see myself as unpredictable."

On land, these athletes dedicate their time to school. The club brings its determined attitude into the classroom, but without the kicking and yelling.

"Right now, I'm working on getting my real estate license," Weller said.

At one point, Rodriguez said his team was "full of scholar-athletes."

Opportunities after college for water polo players are tough. Intramural athletes take their career path in their field of study, but Weller says there are chances for those who want to continue sharpening their craft.

"There are overseas clubs where athletes can play, but none of that is guaranteed," Weller said.

Rodriguez himself is considering an open team after graduation.

In the meantime, Weller and his team concentrate on the training ahead, which takes place from August to September.

With a smirk Weller jokingly said "There's an old saying by some Latin philosopher that says, 'Don't start none if you don't want none.'"

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Panther Sports Talk Live

WRGP Radiate FM 88.1, 95.3, and 96.9

Monday/Wednesday 9 - 10 a.m.

Friday 8 - 9 a.m.



Student aquanauts lived underwater for 17 days

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
Asst. News Director

Six miles off the coast of Key Largo, University students Adam Zenone and Andrew Shantz spent 17 days living in the Aquarius Reef Base, the world's only operational underwater research habitat.

They participated in a 31-day mission led by ocean explorer and filmmaker Fabien Cousteau, grandson of oceanographer Jacques Cousteau.

From June 1 to June 17, the students studied how predators affect the behavior of reef fishes by using model predators and high resolution imaging sonars.

They also accessed the impact of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution from fertilizers and sewage outfalls on, for example, coral reefs. The pollution stimulates the growth of harmful algae on the corals.

To study these figures under sea was a dream-come-true for both scientists.

Zenone, a graduate student, said he has always loved the ocean since he was a child.

"I knew that I wanted to be a marine biol-

ogist, and I followed that, and here I am," said Zenone in an webcam interview with Student Media while stationed at Aquarius.

On the other hand, Shantz, a doctoral student, said he had never imagined that he would choose this career path until he started scuba diving a couple of years ago.

"I started diving and said, 'This is awesome and I want to keep doing this and see where it takes me'," he said.

Shantz, who was stationed in Aquarius last November, said that becoming an aquanaut at the reef base was on his list for things to do in life.

During night dives, the term 'aquanaut' truly takes meaning for Shantz, since he said it feels like he is in space.

"It's the most cool, surreal feeling in the world to see this underwater space capsule-looking habitat all lit up in the middle of the night," he said. "It's amazing."

Like in any missions, sometimes things go awry, like an air conditioner malfunction.

SEE AQUARIUS, PAGE 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW SHANTZ

Andrew Shantz, a PhD candidate, descended into the Aquarius Reef Base, off the coast of Key Largo, for a second time this June. The first time he lived in the underwater laboratory was last November, with a group of FIU student researchers.

Multiple BBC council appointments pending

ALEXI CARDONA
Staff Writer

The Biscayne Bay Campus' Student Government Council has four appointments pending for new members.

Both the senate meeting on June 23 and the general meeting on June 25 did not reach quorum. The council could not conduct formal meetings, discuss the day's agenda or appoint new members.

If this week's meeting reaches quorum, the council will appoint a new comptroller, who will assist in overseeing the SGC-BBC's finances, a senator for the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, a marketing coordinator and an International Student Services coordinator.

SGC-BBC's main goal for the summer is to fill all senate positions so they can discuss and pass legislation and start

updating the constitution. The council cannot update the constitution until they have senators representing students in each college.

Senators are needed to represent the schools of journalism, hospitality management, education, arts and sciences, nursing and health services and the Broward Pines Center.

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More shuttle times for Summer B, now with Wi-Fi

REBECA PICCARDO
News Director

The Department of Parking and Transportation recently announced shuttle service updates for Summer B, which will offer students more opportunities to commute between Modesto A. Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus.

Beginning on Monday, June 30, the department has added two additional departure times to the summer shuttle schedule, which ends on August 1.

Also, smaller internal buses will be servicing the route, according to Travis Stokes, events coordinator of Parking and Transportation.

In the new schedule, the last route covered by the Golden Panther Express,

which seats 55 passengers, will be at 6:30 p.m.

After that, the CATS shuttle, which are usually used to take students to and from the Engineering Campus, will service the route to BBC at night.

"The routes scheduled from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m. will be covered by FIU's very own 25-passenger CATS shuttle," Stokes said in an e-mail.

These shuttles are now equipped with Wi-Fi.

The pickup and drop off stop for MMC is in Lot 3, next to the Gold Parking Garage. The pickup and drop off stop for BBC is located in front of AC1 Building.

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GPE Schedule Change:

Smaller Internal CATS shuttle to BBC start Monday, June 30 until Friday, August 1.

Departs from BBC /Arrives at MMC

7 p.m. /8 p.m.
8 p.m. /9 p.m.
8:30 p.m. /9:30 p.m.
9 p.m. /10 p.m.
10 p.m. /11 p.m.
10:30 p.m. /11:30 p.m.

Departs from MMC /Arrives at BBC

7 p.m. /8 p.m.
7:30 p.m. /8:30 p.m.
8 p.m. /9 p.m.
9 p.m. /10 p.m.
9:30 p.m. /10:30 p.m.
10 p.m. /11 p.m.

For more updates visit <https://parking.fiu.edu>

Online registration for kayak and paddleboard events comes at a cost

SOFIA GALIANO
Staff Writer

Water recreation enthusiasts now have a reliable way to enroll for kayaking and paddleboarding after the Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation Center introduced online registration last month.

On April 29, the BBC Rec Center announced, due to the growing success of Adventure X programs which include day and night kayak and paddleboarding events, participants must register online at Active.com prior to attending—ditching the old first-come, first-serve enrollment.

Although the new system saves students like Christopher Sapienza, a senior economics major, a commute from Broward County and hours of waiting in line without being guaranteed a seat, registering online comes at a cost.

Students have been able to kayak and paddleboard for free since the Rec Center first offered daytime kayaking trips six years ago, but now students have to pay \$5 each time they register.

"We don't want to charge," said Elie Bardawil, director of Campus Recreation at BBC.

According to Bardawil, the fee is so students can secure their seats and confirm they will attend.

He said pre-registering without a fee resulted in frequent no-shows in the past, and while the department considered charging students

\$3, they decided some would still bail on their reservations for that amount.

Bardawil also said because the Rec Center is operating on the same base budget as they were three years ago, student fees will provide funding for new life jackets, paddles, maintenance and the online registration service.

"I don't mind paying the \$5 because I know it would save me the \$20 in gas," said Sapienza.

He said he participated in Kayak After Dark after making several attempts, but the hassle of enrolling on a first-come, first-serve basis discouraged him from attending future events.

When the Rec Center posted on social media that reservations will be available, they received over a dozen "likes" and several friend tags between their Instagram and Facebook page.

Both Bardawil and Recreation Administrator and Adventure X Programs Specialist Jonathan Torrey said students have responded favorably since online registration was implemented earlier this month.

However, participants must now scramble to register online or be left ashore.

Torrey said registration for each Adventure X program opens up the day after an event, giving participants up to a month in advance to secure their seat and three chances to reschedule their reservations.

But Sapienza said although the online registration is an improvement, he said in a Facebook message that the new system is "subject to similar waste and frustration with the old system."

"Already sold out!?" wrote Melany Magrone on a Rec Center Facebook post advertising the next Kayak After Dark, which Torrey said is the most popular event.

Torrey said because the night kayaking event on May 15 was cancelled due to a tornado warning and flood advisory, several students rescheduled for the following trip on June 19.

But not only is the next nighttime kayaking event fully booked, so are both trips of the next Kayak Day on the Bay on May 24 and all three trips of Panther Paddle on June 7.

The only event still accepting participants is the night paddleboarding event on June 12.

Bardawil said the department requested special funding to purchase eight more kayaks this past year, which would allow 16 more participants per trip, but the funding was not granted.

He said the Rec Center will request special funding again during the next budget cycle.

Instead of buying more kayaks, Sapienza suggested they offer more trips. Torrey said the Rec Center plans to do both.

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