

Student Academic Support Center to hold key University departments

BRYAN PALACIO
Staff Writer

Dealing with unforeseen complications is important in any business matter, especially when there's \$30 million on the line.

That's the situation the University faced when they started their plans to bring an all-inclusive Student Welcome Center to the Modesto Maidique Campus.

The Student Academic Support Center is a 74,000 square foot building labeled as one of the most important projects to get underway at FIU by Academic Affairs, even if you have no idea what it is.

"The goal is to try and have one place where students can go where the majority of their questions can be answered," said Jeffery Gonzalez, vice provost for Planning & Institu-

tional Research.

Soon, students and visitors will no longer need to trek across school grounds from one department to another to resolve all their academic and financial matters.

The SASC building will house all the main departments, so students can conduct all University business from recruitment to graduation in a single location. One-Stop enrollment services help bring units together for easier access as well as promote collaboration.

The SASC will include the front office of all Enrollment Services including Registrar, Financial Aid, Bursar's Office, Student Financials and Advisement. Some of the other additions to the building are the Honors Program, Graduate School, Career Services, Inter-

SEE SASC, PAGE 2



South East Perspective View

COURTESY OF JOHN CAL

Rendering of the Student Academic Support Center by architectural firm Gould Evans. SASC will house the honors college, the University graduate school offices, enrollment services, student financials and a the University's largest auditorium classroom, with 750 seats.

County sets deadline for Youth Fair relocation site

JUNETTE REYES
Editor-in-Chief

Members of the University community gathered in the Graham Center's piano room lounge early on July 17, united under a common goal: to show support of the continuous effort to expand through the acquisition of the fairgrounds.

A group that included SGC-MMC President Alexis Calatayud traveled together in a shuttle to the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, where the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners gathered to discuss the issue.

"We're just excited to see the University expand and offer more opportunities to the community," said Calatayud. "We're looking forward to students playing a role in voicing their opinions on what really affects them and what really affects their fellow Miami-Dade County

residents."

Working towards this expansion was the



DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

SGC-MMC President Alexis Calatayud (center) was one of several members of the University community to attend the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners meeting on Thursday, July 17.

topic of interest at the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, which was brought forth for discussion by Commissioner Juan C. Zapata of District 11, within which the fairgrounds are located.

"I'm fortunate to have FIU in my district but at no point have I ever felt this is something particular to District 11. FIU is truly a public university that serves this entire community," said Zapata.

Despite the unanimous support for the expansion of the University, it was expressed that the needs of both the Youth Fair and the University must be taken into consideration.

"We obviously want to be fair to the Youth Fair but we're gonna have to really make some tough decisions on where they should go or at least be able to identify some locations for them to go," said Zapata.

A total of 24 different sites have been analyzed thus far in hopes of finding one suitable for the relocation of the Youth Fair. Recently, Tropical Park has been added to the discussion and is the latest site under consideration.

"It hasn't been studied at all. That one, to me and to almost everyone I've talked to, seems very promising," said Calatayud about Tropical Park.

Of the 24 sites recommended, a total of three sites have been studied by the fair and the University, with the fair having shown favoritism towards a site west of Miami Lakes.

Bob Hohenstein, the president and CEO of the Youth Fair said he was still open to the idea of relocation.

"We will gladly collaborate to the assessment

SEE FAIRGROUNDS, PAGE 2

State approves, adjusts performance funding

REBECA PICCARDO
News Director

When the Board of Governors' Performance Funding Model went to the Florida legislature for approval, the model received more overall funding, which allowed the University to get a bigger piece too.

The model, approved by the legislature and signed by Governor Rick Scott, totaled \$200 million—twice the amount of the originally proposed model, according to Kenneth Jessell, the University's chief financial officer.

This means that the state gave \$100 million, and the Universities had to match the amount, putting more money in, but those with the higher performance funding points—like the University has—would be getting a larger amount of new funding than originally planned this year.

"FIU was one of the four highest scoring, so we would get a piece of the money that our president identified as 'blood money'," said Provost Emeritus, Douglas Wartzok at the June 10 faculty senate meeting.

At third place, the University was eligible for almost \$8 million in funding with the proposed model. In the new model, the University received about \$18 million in new funding, according to Wartzok.

"The [Board of Governors] will say we got \$25 million dollars or something, but 7 million of that is what we put in," Wartzok said.

In the originally-proposed model, universities earning 26 points or higher out of 50 would have their base funding restored and be eligible for new funding.

Currently, FIU is tied in third place along with the University of Central Florida, each scoring 34 points out of 50. the University of Florida is in first place, with 42 points and the University of South Florida stands in second place with 37 points.

However, universities that score 25 points or less would risk losing a portion of their base funding, which would be reallocated for the use of the higher-scoring, thus higher-performing, performing universities.

"Their immediately punitive approach of taking money out Universities base budgets was not very accepted by the legisla-

ture," said Wartzok.

With the \$200 million total budget for the model, \$100 million will go into new funding, \$65 million into base budget reductions and \$35 million in redirection of existing Gap Analysis and Performance Funding, Jessell said in an e-mail to Student Media.

This means that unlike the proposed model, which would cause the three lowest scoring universities would lose 1 percent of their appropriated base budget, the legislative adjustments will give universities the chance to save their base funding.

"In the Legislative model, the three lowest scoring universities have the opportunity to develop and present a plan for improvement and, if approved by the BOG, regain the funding they lost in the base budget reduction," Jessell said.

Future state funding will depend on the University's improvement on the 10 metrics of the Performance Funding Model.

The model includes eight measures common to all Florida state universities: employment rate, wages, the cost of degree, graduation rate, grade point average, the number of Pell-grant

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WORLD NEWS

Putting names, faces to Malaysian Airlines victims

Around the world Friday, friends and loved ones gathered to mourn the passengers and crew who lost their lives Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, including a student from Indiana, a prominent AIDS researcher, teachers, tourists and those just going home. President Barack Obama on Friday identified the first, and so far only, known American citizen aboard as Quinn Lucas Schansman, who had Dutch and American citizenship. A Facebook profile appearing to belong to Schansman indicates that he was living in Amsterdam as of April, and attending the International Business School at Hogeschool van Amsterdam. A photo posted by a woman who appears to be his girlfriend included numerous condolences from friends. The Boeing 777 was carrying 298 people when it went down Thursday in eastern Ukraine, sending shock waves around the world from Malaysia to the Netherlands. The dead were from at least 10 countries with the majority, 189, Dutch.

Eight family members are buried in Gaza as death toll passes 330

The bodies were carried from the Jabalia hospital morgue on orange stretchers, hoisted above the shoulders of a large group of mourners. Before dawn Saturday, eight members of the Abu Jarad family, including four children, were killed in an Israeli barrage on Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip. About 200 men accompanied their bodies and that of another unidentified victim from the morgue to a nearby mosque shouting, "God is great." The bodies, wrapped in bloody white sheets and covered with the yellow flags of the Palestinian faction Fatah, were laid out in front of the mosque while the men gathered for quick prayers. There would be no mourning at the family home. There were no survivors, mourners said. Instead, the bodies were brought directly to a cemetery. The mourners climbed a sandy hill at the far end, where fresh graves had been quickly dug.

Nearby, small mounds of sand covered the most recent victims of the conflict between Israel and the militant Hamas faction, making it hard to distinguish one new grave from the next. Local medical officials say more than 330 Palestinians have been killed since Israel began an offensive July 8 in Gaza, the small but densely populated coastal enclave where Hamas has held sway since 2007. Three Israelis, a soldier and two civilians have also been killed.

SASC building ready to break ground after five years

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national Student and Scholar Services and the Study Abroad program.

It is also scheduled to have classrooms and become the main location for things such as orientation and academic seminars, as well as boasting the University's largest auditorium.

"The integration of having career services and study abroad next to registration and advising, we want students to take time to think about their opportunities; the kind of internships or jobs that are available to them," said Elizabeth Bejar, vice president of Academic Affairs.

"We are trying to create synergy."

The University originally received funding back in May 2010, when it was granted \$21 million from the Florida Legislature with the remainder of the funding to be provided in the following academic session.

But three years later, even with the projected deadline for the building having come and gone, FIU was still searching for the answer to their budget woes because of cuts to Public Education Capital Outlay funding. PECO funds are generated through taxes on utilities and are used to accomplish fixed

capital outlay projects of educational building and scale it down somewhat and

"When it was clear we weren't going to get any more money from the state, we tried to rework the building and scale it down somewhat and figure out how we could build it for less money."

John Cal
Vice President
Facilities Management

institutions.

"This project was envisioned to be a \$30 million dollar building and we only received \$21 million," said John Cal, vice president of Facilities Management. "When it was clear we weren't going to get any more money from the state, we tried to rework the

figure out how we could build it for less money."

Foreseeing impending cuts, the University was able to reevaluate its plans and reduce the project's total cost to about \$28 million, requiring only \$7 million to complete funding, according to Cal.

Part of this reevaluation included relocating the SASC from its original spot at the FIU Stadium, as part of FIU Stadium's Phase III construction plan, to its new location just southeast of GC near lot 3.

FIU was finally able to receive the balance of \$7 million from this year's legislative session, allowing them to move forward with plans they began several years ago. The hope is to break ground soon with hopes of having it up and running by late Fall 2015.

And, by then, most students will have heard of it.

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County adds to State approval for fairgrounds acquisition

FAIRGROUNDS, PAGE 1

of any potential site and we reaffirm our pledge to continue to work cooperatively with the county and FIU in this effort," he said.

The result of the meeting set a deadline for all parties involved to present a final recommendation for the fair's new site by Sept. 3, when the Board will congregate once again for a meeting.

Additionally, the relocation of the fair will be presented in a countywide voter referendum during the General Election on November 4.

Throughout this entire process, it has been emphasized that the expansion of the University and the relocation of the fair shall come at no cost to the county.

"I hope we can accommodate everything, but our job is to protect the taxpayers of Miami-Dade County, and if we fail to follow the legal steps that we have to

follow, then the responsibility will be on us," said Commission Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa of District 6.

As previously reported, the University has been negotiating with the Miami-Dade County Fair & Expo for several years now. Most recently, the State legislature granted \$10 million in funding to the University towards the acquisition of the 86 acres that the Youth Fair has on lease until 2040.

Overall, what came from this meeting was support on all levels, which solidified the importance of moving forward, as did the gathering of the small portion of the University's students and staff that congregated in support of progress.

"Students believe in this project, so they have to take ownership of supporting it," said Calatayud.

"Students should be the spearhead force for this project because it directly affects us and our community. Faculty and administration also are extraordinarily invested in

the community and the future of FIU for students, [but] that's exactly it— it's for students," she said.

A final agreement might not have been reached just yet, but all parties present have expressed interest in working towards a solution.

"We want to thank the Miami-Dade County Commission and Mayor Carlos Gimenez for their support of our efforts to work with county and fair officials to identify an appropriate site to relocate the fair at no cost to the county so that FIU can make use of the 86 acres adjacent to our campus," said President Mark Rosenberg in a statement to Student Media. "This is about more and better jobs and educational opportunities for our community. We look forward to making significant progress to find a win-win-win solution."

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State legislature gives \$100 million in performance funding

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recipients, the number of bachelor's degrees in STEM and the number of graduate degrees in STEM.

Two additional measures unique to each university make up the 10-metric system. For FIU, these measures are the percent of bachelor's degrees without excess hours and the number of bachelor's degrees awarded to minorities.

As the University prepares

for the second year of performance funding, with full implementation, Rosenberg

"The [Board of Governors] will say we got \$25 million dollars or something, but 7 million of that is what we put in."

Douglas Wartzok
Provost Emeritus
FIU

said that the focus is shifting into output and outcomes rather than headcount.

"If we are to get [future] funding, it will be based on, not who we admit, but who we graduate; not how we graduate them but the timeliness in which we do graduate them," said Rosenberg at the Board of Trustees meeting on June 3.

However, according to Wartzok, these adjustments in performance funding allow Universities to have some flexibility because the actual

score doesn't matter, just that you in the top four threshold.

"In the end the score didn't make any difference, because the percentage distribution was based on each school's base SUS funding," Wartzok said.

"Let's do well enough so we know we'll be safely above the threshold, but lets invest our resources into things that we think are important for FIU as well."

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Depression Doesn't Care: My struggles and triumphs

GISELLE BERMAN
Staff Writer

They say that you need to love yourself before you can worry about loving someone else, but Depression doesn't care. In fact, Depression doesn't care about anything you're trying to accomplish.

Depression gets to be capitalized here because it is personified as part of a sufferer's personality. Though I can only speak for my own experience, unmedicated Depression butts its head into everything life has to offer and makes all of it more difficult.

Being in love and trying to deter Depression from making it a polygamous relationship isn't easy.

Every tiny argument seems like it's the end. "We can't take this anymore. Why does he treat us so badly? We can do so much better," says

Depression. And, a few hours later, "Why did you do that? He deserves so much better than you. It's all your fault."

The worst part is that the arguments really are tiny. Depression has changed your mood from decent to terrible in .10 seconds and you can't do anything about it. The

Depression doesn't care how hard you're trying to make yourself feel better. It tears you down harder — but at least it can make you more intuitive to others' similar feelings.

Seeing a loved one go through something even the slightest bit negative is

usually attractive one day to love someone else.

Depression may not care, but the depressed person does. It takes everything in me to gather up the energy to do basically anything, and that's what makes our time together count. If you can make me forget about my chemical-imbalance-induced issues, then I will do everything in my power to make you equally happy.

Somehow, we all find someone to curl up next to us on the floor while we cry. That's the best part — that although I can't wish away Depression, it can't beat the feelings I carry in my heart for my loved ones.

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“Depression doesn't care how hard you're trying to make yourself feel better. It tears you down harder.”

undesirable volume coming from the television is reason enough to throw a tantrum. It doesn't occur to you until hours later that there might be better ways to deal with such minor problems.

Well, with so much self-hatred, everything seems to be your own fault.

enough to have me all over them with flowers, chocolates and tears. I never want anyone feeling what may resemble my low point. And knowing just how low my lows can get, I could never be more appreciative of those who stick by me.

I don't have to feel partic-

Golden Panther Express summer schedules are poorly put together

ARIANA KHOSRAVANI
Contributing Writer

Having now come to the end of the Summer A Semester and having been subjected to riding the bus back and forth between Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus multiple times a week, I can say most assuredly that the bus system sucks.

I am not a stranger to the coming and going of FIU's bus. Having ridden it all of the previous Spring semester as well, it is a cycle I have gotten used to.

Pack my bag, leave the dorm, ensure that there are at least five dollars on my FIU One card, wait until we are allowed onto the bus some five minutes before departure, the drive, arrive and repeat.

While it is never a pleasant experience, for the handing over of even more of my money to FIU is painful, it is a necessary thing that I have accepted well enough.

However, the summer bus system has shown a whole different face of the bus ride.

While I could rage on endlessly about my issues with the bus I will focus on my main problem, the hours the buses run are ridiculous and inconvenient.

While during the regular fall and spring semesters there are 26 options for coming and going between the two campuses, there are only 12 during summer.

Along with that, the 12 allotted times seemed to have been chosen at random for they are at the least helpful times possible. For example, my earliest class at BBC is at 9 a.m.

The options given me by the bus schedule are to leave MMC and arrive at BBC by 6:45 a.m. or by 8:15 a.m. If I were to take the earlier of the two, I would arrive at BBC at least an hour before my class were even to start. If I were to take the later of the two,

“I fail to see why the bus schedule could not have been put together in a more logical and helpful way.”

given Miami traffic, I would arrive late for class.

Can it please be explained to me why it is that a bus cannot leave the school around 7:30 a.m.? On a few occasions, I have driven myself to BBC at this time and have arrived with some 20 minutes to spare.

Furthermore, another class I have at BBC ends at 9:30 p.m. Now, luckily, this teacher is quick and sensible and finishes class around 8:30 p.m.

Sadly, that still means that I have to wait an hour and take the 9:30 p.m. bus. But, say

the class were to end on time, I would then miss the bus — meaning I would have to wait until 10:45 p.m. for the next bus.

Whatever the outcome, I am left sitting in the dark for roughly an hour. As a woman of less-than-average height and small build I do not feel remotely safe being in that situation.

I can imagine there are fewer students on campus during the summer. I can also imagine there are fewer classes offered too. Still, I fail to see why the bus schedule could not have been put together in a more logical and helpful way.

If I am paying to live in the University's housing, paying to take the classes and paying to take the bus, how come more attention could not have been paid to putting together the bus schedule in a more effective way?

The buses could run more in sync with the start and end of classes. And, fine, maybe the current system is as close as possible. I still firmly stand by the fact that bus pick-up hours should at least be closer together as night comes and the campus gets darker. This is an issue that the school and the bus company need to look into — if not now, then certainly by next year.

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THE BEACON | Editorial

Graduating in four years is so high school

Students that find themselves still in college after four years shouldn't fret about not walking across the stage sooner.

Not only do the majority of college students in the United States not graduate in four years, according to an analysis by FindTheBest as cited in the Huffington Post, but college students who delay graduation may benefit more in the future.

The University's initiative — a direct result of the Board of Governor's new performance funding model — is to have students graduate within four years. In that time, University officials maintain that students will apply their knowledge through internships and other job opportunities, increasing their chance of a post-graduate job.

While only about 28 percent of college grads in Florida get their diploma in four years, more than half do within six years.

Completing a four-year program throughout six years can be attributed to numerous factors.

"Many of our students work. They take longer to graduate because they work," said Stephen Sauls, vice president of Governmental Relations, in an interview with FIUSM.

University students work part-time and even full-time jobs, not just to cover living expenses, but to pay for school — and employers value this juggling of responsibilities.

No matter if a student works at CVS and studies something unrelated to retail or medicine, employers and peers alike will respect a person with a strong work ethic and ability to budget their funds to pay for school, more than a "straight A student" whose greatest achievement is graduating college within the anticipated four years.

Some students have families to look after, which makes studying full-time a challenge or not an option. Others put off graduating to complete internships in their respective fields — opportunities sometimes only available to them because they are enrolled at a university.

The idea is that students are better off taking longer than four years to complete a four-year program so they have time to gain experience in their fields and leave college with more than a diploma in hand.

However, that isn't to say students can't get in and out in four years with decent grades and several internships under their belts.

The altered ranges of graduation times are reflected in our own e-board.

Sofia Galiano, editor for At the Bay, graduated high school in 2011 and will be graduating fall 2015 — within the four years. Meanwhile, Opinion Director Diego Saldana-Rojas also expects to graduate in 2015 and was in the high school graduating class of 2010. Editor-in-Chief Junette Reyes also shares the same issue as Saldana-Rojas.

In the end, it's a matter of what you are willing to sacrifice: time or money. Just make sure the time spent in college will pay off by propelling you into the workforce.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

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'Planet of the Apes' exceeds its predecessor

REEL TO REEL



RAFAEL ABREU

"Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" builds upon its predecessor and exceeds it, in terms of visuals and themes.

While "Dawn" is not a perfect film and may be basic in its morals, that doesn't make it a bad film or one not worthy of praise.

I may have sat there, nodding when a certain plot device or trope happened, but what usually matters is that the film does what it aims to do well, even if the audience has seen it before.

In the case of "Dawn", we have Caesar, played by Andy Serkis, the leader of the San Francisco apes who he helped escape in the previous film.

It's been ten years since the apes ran amok and the virus that made them intelligent has now spread across the world; the apes themselves haven't seen humans in the past couple years.

Enter said humans: Malcolm,

played by Jason Clarke, knows that the dam near the apes' home is the only remaining power source they have and need for survival.

Malcolm knows the apes — for the most part— can be reasoned with, as well as understand them.

The main leader of the remaining humans, who are living in the ruins of what was once San Francisco, Dreyfus, played by Gary Oldman, is weary to trust the apes, especially since he is the head leader and views the apes as incredibly dangerous.

On the apes side, Koba (Toby Kebbell) also sees the humans as a major threat, himself having been a victim of "human work" via experimentation in labs.

"Dawn" deals with the issues of trust among supposed enemies, as well as the usual "I don't trust them" types of characters and situations that never have pleasant results.

The film does a fine job at presenting these problems and characters, even if they don't surprise me. Of course there will

be humans that don't trust the apes; of course there will be apes that don't trust the humans.

“

The human characters were fine, but it seems 'Dawn' might possibly suffer from 'the human characters are boring,' which tends to happen in films where the main spectacle are the effects.”

Even if some of the other elements of the plot are predictable (to a degree), the film never presents them as tired or rehashed. In fact, the film has many moments that surprised me, as well as just doing a good job at managing some of these usual tropes and making them seem fresh.

While there is a good story in there, at its core, "Dawn" is about characters, as well as visuals.

It's the special effects that bring these apes to life; it needs to be said that the effects are unbelievable.

The standout "visual" to me is Maurice, the orangutan, who I would swear was a real life animal and not a computer generated image.

In these times of overexposed CGI, it's nice when I'm able to see a film that depends so much on CGI still blow me away and impress me.

Sure, there were times when I saw the apes and knew it was all CGI, but there are so many other times where I completely believed it all.

It's more impressive that I completely bought these characters, especially Caesar and Koba, acting as foils to one another; the motion capture acting of the ape characters was most impressive and successful in achieving believability.

The human characters were fine, but it seems "Dawn" might possibly suffer from "the human characters are boring," which

tends to happen in films where the main spectacle are the effects.

I didn't fall in love with "Dawn" and it definitely isn't my favorite summer film (at the moment).

It is, however, one of the best films I've seen this summer, if not all year.

It does have some of the best visual effects I've seen in a long time and it is incredibly well directed (Matt Reeves, using the wider-on-the-top-and-bottom aspect ratio of 1.85).

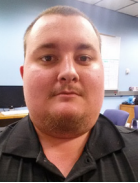
Bringing up themes of humanity, showing us the emotional turmoil of both the humans and apes, and displaying wonderful scenes of action and scenery, "Dawn" succeeds as a heartfelt and well intentioned summer blockbuster, enticing one with excitement for more "Ape" films.

Reel-to-Reel is a column that looks into the latest box office release out in theatres.

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Megabus worth more than the dollar you pay for it

COLUMNIST



RHYS WILLIAMS

Recently, I needed to travel to Orlando and a very cheap amount.

Just a week before my hopeful departure date, there was a table near the GC Pit being used to help promote something that I had never heard of before: Megabus.

I was confused at first, as the mascot looks like a giant - and creepy - puppet to go over but once I saw that tickets starts at a dollar I was intrigued enough to

“

I am not a short fellow so at 6-foot-0, it was weird having to duck down to get off the bus. I advise anyone over 5-foot-6 to sit on the lower level if possible.”

take a look.

I saw that tickets, if bought far enough in advance were only \$1 with no additional charges being added on.

The fact was that the closer you got to the departure date, the cost went up so when I looked just a few

hours later about the trip the cost had gone up, since it was getting closer, to \$3.

However, when I got clearance to buy the ticket and that someone in Orlando would be able to pick me up from the stop, it had gone up to \$5 by the next day.

The actual trip

I got to the stop, which is at Miami International Airport in between departure terminals No. 5 and No. 6 about 30 minutes prior to departure in the middle of the day, which was dangerously hot.

Getting on the bus was okay but the line was slow as each person had to check in their luggage with the driver, who was also the only attendant on the bus as well as he put it, the clean-up crew.

A nice enough fellow, he seemed to enjoy his job, which made the trip more

pleasant for everyone.

The top level of the double decker bus, which I sat on, was nicely placed. The bus overall, was a bit crowded but I ended up with the middle seat of the back row which had five chairs.

There was no one in the seats directly next to me but someone in each window seat.

The top level, however, had its one flaw as being very short at the top. I am not a short fellow so at 6-foot-0, it was weird having to duck down to get off the bus.

I advise anyone over

5-foot-6 to sit on the lower level if possible.

Overall

In the end, it was a worthwhile experience and it actually arrived 17 minutes before the estimated time that was on my ticket so it travels pretty well.

I would recommend it to anyone needing to travel that has a way to be picked up.

The stops following Miami are only Tampa and Orlando.

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Wynwood hosts monthly ladies night

CAITLIN HOGAN
Contributing Writer

Wynwood -- Miami's art district-- is shining the spotlight on some of its local artists with The Social Lubricant, quarterbacking the initiative. The goal: a monthly night for female artists to showcase their talents called "Blend the Femme."

The first "Blend the Femme" was held on Thursday, June 26 at The Social Lubricant.

"The philosophy behind BTF is having a space for artists to create, perform and collaborate where they otherwise may not get the opportunity," said Krystle Rios, an FIU Alum and Marketing Coordinator for BTF.

The event was hosted by poet, artist and model, Segovia Amil.

The event featured a lineup of talented

local artists and performers, including DJ JessiO, Drea (Poet), A Dandelions Waltz (Folk/Jazz/Blues Band), Nate (Spoken Word), Rune (Poet), Womanmay (Blues/Folk Band), Jennie (Percussionist), Rach Larralde (Singer/Beatboxer/Guitarist), Dashiur Clay (Rapper), Dama Vicke (Singer/Guitarist/Percussionist), and Bianca Morales (Poet/Model).

Also present were Live Painters Luna Love, Indigo Child, Jessio and Marisabel Lavastida, and Vendors Recycled Jude (Bottle Art), Ingot (Cosmetics) and Nativazul (Healing Stone Jewelry).

Headlining was local DJ Zehno Entertainment, who kept the crowd engaged with a wide range of Indie Dance, Urban Electro and Trap music.

Featured community organizations of the evening were SAVE Foundation, LadyFest Miami, R.Y.P.E (Reclaim Your Power and Equality), Aqua Founda-

tion for Women, and Operation Helping Hands, all of which support critical change for Miami.

The Social Lubricant was a delightful venue to house the event, as it was spacious and had an outdoor bar and lounge space in close proximity to the stage.

Miyazaki films were projected on the wall, guests walked around viewing the painters' work and vendors' original products, and others spent most of the evening dancing.

The next BTF will be held on Thursday, July 24 again at The Social Lubricant at 167 NW 23rd St., and all are encouraged to come out to support your community and local artists, give back and be inspired through music, art and poetry.

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Looking back at "Strange Days"

CULT CLASSICS



RAFAEL ABREU

Retro-science-fiction thriller made only about one-sixth of its budget back, making it a commercial failure, though it was well received by critics and was nominated for five Saturn Awards, winning two for Bassett and Bigelow respectively.

However, this

So why is it that I never hear anyone talk about "Strange Days"? Why was it a major commercial failure? With Bigelow and Cameron behind the scenes, why is it rarely, if ever, brought up when

SEE FILM, PAGE 5

The ‘photographs and memories’ of Jim Croce

A FOLKING REVIEW



LUIS SANTANA

You Don't Mess Around with Jim (abbreviated as YDMAWJ from this point on) is a fusion of soul, folk and blues woven together masterfully by Jim Croce.

His first album, while signed with ABC records, is very close to being a masterpiece spawning five singles while still maintaining honesty and depth in his signature brand of music.

The album begins with the song “You Don't Mess Around with Jim,” a blues and gospel

song that mixes the self-referential nature of rap music while Jim admonishes any attempts to mess with him.

It's a fun song altogether most likely spawned by Croce's past work as a welder where he'd hear stories to not mess with those in his same line of work.

The fifth song on the album “Photographs and Memories,” one of the album's more beautiful songs, dives into the melancholia of a relationship that has gone and left.

“Memories that come at night; take me to another time; back to a happier day, when I called you mine,” Croce says. The verse

recounts the morning walks and bedroom talks the song's couple had and how Croce “used to love you then.”

Everyone has felt this way about someone dear to them when its all over and Croce sings the message to us in a way so personal that you know he has felt the pain as well.

“Time in a Bottle,” a song that perfectly embodies a sentiment that we all have felt: not having enough time for that person or thing that we love.

“But there never seems to be enough time to do the things you want to do once you find them,” Croce sings and we are enraptur-

ed. The song has an almost dream like quality from the guitar intro to the child piano creating this cute and eerie chirp in the back ground.

It's unfortunate that only a year after the inception of this album, Croce passed away in a plane crash.

Alas, his death has done nothing to destroy the beauty of the album. I think it enhances it. It makes us wonder what other beautiful songs he could have crafted given more time in this world.

YDMAWJ is an album everyone should give a listen to. Whether you like soul or folk,

you'll find a place for both in this album. And whether you want to feel happy or sad I'm sure Jim will find a story to tell you. But do take care to remember that, “You don't pull the mask off that old Lone Ranger, And you don't mess around with Jim”

Rating 4.2/5

Luis Santana is the host of Don't Give A Folk on Radiate FM frequencies 88.1, 95.3, or 96.9. Drop by for a spell Tuesday nights from 8-10pm and let the music do the talking.

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“Strange Days,” the 1995 box office fail re-examined

FILM, PAGE 4

speaking about them?

For whatever reason theorists and critics may come up with, “Strange Days” is a film that barely seems to get recognition by most people, and that's too bad, since it is definitely not a bad film. In fact, I would rank “Strange Days” among the best films that take place “in the near future.”

Sure, it has a generally pulpy plot, somewhat predictable twists, and a feeling that it never wants to be more than what it is ('90s cyberpunk sci-fi), but its set design, technical

proWess and atmosphere make it a very excellent science-fiction film.

Set in Los Angeles, 1999, and only a couple days before the end of the century, “Strange Days” tells the story of Lenny Nero (Fiennes), a man who sells a device (called SQUID) that records and can play back events via the wearer's cerebral cortex; Mini-Disc-like “decks” allow people to view and experience these recordings.

Soon enough, Nero comes into contact with a recording that depicts a very disturbing scene, leading him into a conspiracy involving the LAPD (which

he is a former member of) and a music industry mogul (Michael Wincott), who just so happens to be courting with Nero's ex-girlfriend (Lewis), who he's still not over.

The POV shots are extremely well made, essentially being done in one shot (or at least gives the impression of being all one shot); the sound design and overall visuals are also extremely well made.

For the most part, while the story might be imperfect, this film excels at looking great and presenting its audience with a then plausible look at the future.

Speaking of plausible: The film's future, which would have been only half a decade away when the film first released, is one of its most impressive aspects, mainly because it sticks to staying incredibly realistic, featuring only minor advances in technology while emphasizing the greater social problems that, in the years following the 1992 LA riots, has made the city (and possibly the world) a lot more crappy.

We see the streets featuring riot police and tanks, showing us the police state that is 1999 Los Angeles; we see screens that, in text, leave messages

for people when they can't answer the phone; and we see, of course, the once secret pieces of technology being the black market drug of choice.

“Strange Days” does manage to bring about topics concerning racism and corruption, principally racism against the African-American community and corruption in the LAPD. While these are not themes that are solely of the time period, the film still is a product of its time.

James Cameron says that the verdict and aftermath of the Rodney King trial is what brought about the film's story, and in

the context of a city and country coming out of that, it's understandable if the future looked like things would only get worse.

Ultimately, “Strange Days” is a successful cyberpunk film that decides to keep the futurisms and sci-fi to a more subtle volume, attempting to materialize a future that, in the mid-'90s, did not seem so improbable.

Rafael Abreu's “Cult Classics” column re-explores movies of the past, and scrutinizes its poor box offices performance.

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FIU LIFE: SUMMER FEST LUAU POOL PARTY



PHOTOS BY DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

Social work major Tiany Hernandez (left) and biology major Michael Ulloa, both freshmen, jump in the housing quad pool at the Luau Pool Party.



(Center) Hospitality senior Jane Rodriguez gets her hair braided by Jennifer Charles, an elementary education senior, at the pool party. The pool party is part of Summerfest, a collection of events all leading up to the Color Party on July 30. (Right) Charles (right) takes a picture for other students at a luau themed display.

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VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball set to spike the Conference USA competition

ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE
Contributing Writer

After losing in five sets against the No. 3 Tulsa Golden Hurricane in the quarterfinals of the Conference USA Championship, FIU's women's volleyball team is determined to redeem themselves and make a greater impact in the Conference USA. The team is now entering their second season in the CUSA and is optimistic of how they will do and how far they will go.

To help a young squad, Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett added Tim Edfors to the volleyball staff as an assistant coach. This is a great acquisition to the team because Edfors brings 30 years of experience that includes 10 years of collegiate coaching experience. He is known to bring the best out of his players and can teach new volleyball techniques and training methods to the team.

Now with the coaching staff in place, the team is ready to embark on a long journey to success. Some

people have questioned the fact that the team only has one senior on the roster, Martyna Gluchowicz, which they believe can affect the team negatively, as they do not have that abundance of veteran presence and leadership that other teams have. The volleyball team has responded to those remarks obviously by adding Edfors to the coaching staff who brings all his knowledge of the game and will share it to the players. The coaching staff has not worried much about having only one senior on the roster because the same young team proved to them that they can compete and win against older and more experienced teams.

This showed in the CUSA Tournament when they surprised the whole conference by making it to the quarter finals. Not many people expected FIU to make it that far but FIU feels unsatisfied by the results of last year and are hungry to win and spin heads again.

The first step to the CUSA Tournament starts off at the Radisson UCF Invitational in

Orlando. The Panthers will play against Western Carolina, Northeastern, Eastern Kentucky and the University of Central Florida. FIU stays on the road for back to back tournaments, at the University of South Florida and South Dakota State University.

The big game to circle on your calendar is the home opener on Sept. 17. What makes this game even more exciting to watch is that it will be played against in-state rival Florida Atlantic University. From there, they will play in their last out of town tournament in Tuscaloosa, Alabama to finish off September. October will be a long stretch of key games played against other teams in their conference. The bulk of the season will be played in that month and FIU will see firsthand who will be their competition in the CUSA Tournament. This month is very crucial for the team because they want to bounce back and improve their conference record from last year. Last year they had a record of six wins and eight

losses. If they can change that to a winning record this season, they will be a force to be reckoned with in the CUSA Tournament.

The volleyball team is very young, but they display an immense amount of talent. Be on the lookout for one the younger players on the squad, Anabela Sataric. As a freshman last year, she made her mark on the team as a key offensive weapon. She led the team in hitting percentage of .333 on the year, posting 16 kills against four errors in 36 total attempts and she was third on the team in assists with 230. She ended her freshman year with 79 digs, eight blocks and eight service aces. This is just a small sample size of what the whole team can bring to the game. With all these young players, it looks like all the pieces are coming together for a strong future and a fun and exciting season to come.

Buck-Crockett and the rest of the coaching staff are staying positive and are confident that the FIU Women's Volleyball Team can compete, play hard, win



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Sophomore setter Anabela Sataric and the rest of the volleyball team at FIU will begin their season against West Carolina University in Orlando at the Radisson UCF Invitational.

the Conference USA Tournament and are here to stay. At the end of the day, who doesn't love a true underdog story?

Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett was unavailable for comment.

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FIRST TO POUNCE



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Senior forwards Caroline Hernandez (No. 11) and Ashleigh Shim (No. 9) will lead Women's soccer, who have the first game in any sport for the Panthers for the 2014 - 2015 athletic year when they play the University of Arizona Wildcats on August 22 at 7 p.m.

CLUB FEATURE

Badminton hoping for recognition throughout all of South Florida

REBECCA CHARUR
Staff Writer

Every four years, the Olympics brings a flurry of beloved and exotic sports alike to our TV sets.

In flipping through the channels, we often encounter certain intriguing competitions that may not necessarily be a routine sport in our neighborhood parks.

One of these sports that we may encounter is badminton, a timeless sport that FIU students are embracing.

The badminton club has provided a unique outlet for students to enjoy the game and improve their skills for over a decade.

"It has been here for along time, since I first came to FIU," faculty supervisor Xiaotang Wang said.

Throughout these years, the club members and coaches have encouraged participation in the sport and have taught students the various dimensions of the game.

Among the thirty-five members that stand today promoting and supporting the growth of the club are its president, vice president and treasurer.

Together, they work towards increasing the popularity of the sport and further strive to reach the larger goal of turning the club into an official NCAA sport.

Badminton involves a significant

amount of mental strategy while also requiring a certain level of energy and physical fitness.

Because there are no more than two players on the court at a time, the points scored are dependent on the athleticism of the individual.

“It is a sport that requires extensive movement.”

Xiaotang Wang,
Faculty Supervisor
FIU Badminton

“It is a way to exercise and keep you in good shape. It is a sport that requires extensive movement,” Wang said.

Students are also given the option to play with a partner and compete in doubles matches.

This competition not only requires athleticism, but also teamwork and chemistry with one's doubles partner.

Although members rarely compete outside of FIU, they often hold competitions or scrimmage among themselves.

Other badminton clubs from universities in Florida have even reached out to FIU club members

inviting them to compete in tournaments.

The badminton season is a year-round event with practices scheduled on Fridays and Sundays. On Fridays, practices are held from 5 to 7 p.m. and Sunday practices are held from 2 to 6 p.m.

The practices are normally held in FIU's University Park Campus recreation center. The good news is nothing but an appreciation for the game is required for the club. Whether you are a beginner, intermediate or advanced badminton player, there is a spot available.

"We welcome anyone with any background of the sport," Wang said.

This also includes people who are not students of FIU. If you are not a student and are interested in the club there are multiple ways of becoming involved. For one, there is the option of playing \$5 for the entire day.

Another way to become involved is by joining the Alumni Association and then subscribe to the gym for the semester.

The club also provides the necessary equipment such as the rackets and shuttlecocks in the case that members do not own their own gear.

This article originally appeared on fiusm.com on May 29.

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SOCCER

New season, new confidence and full hearts for women's soccer

JAMES PROFETTO
Contributing Writer

A new season for Women's Soccer at FIU is looming for one head coach and a roster of 24 athletes with full hearts. For those who may not know, FIU Women's Soccer plays in the East division within the Conference USA. This season's schedule has 10 conference opponents, starting on September 26 against Old Dominion. With August 22, the beginning of the regular season, near, Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt is adamant about getting off on the right foot this regular season. What better way than to do it than here in Miami?

"Starting with the very first game against Arizona, it's a game we have in our cross-hairs that we want to win," said Chestnutt.

Arizona is a team that FIU is familiar with. Last season's opener and home opener saw a matchup between these two. Unfortunately for FIU, a 4-2 loss was the result. But that was last season and things have changed from August 23, 2013 to now. One aspect of this team's character remains, though.

"We have a good group of hard-working kids, who are talented," said Chestnutt.

This year's schedule is accompanied by a strong

seven-game homestand, starting Sept. 3 and ending Sept. 28. With teams like FGCU, Oregon State and Long Beach coming to town, the opportunities for a successful season lie ahead.

"Being at home for a period of time is fantastic for the players. They [will] have a consistency in their schedule... and having three weekends in a row [here at home] will be great for them, certainly when we are building our first phase of the team," said Chestnutt.

Out of each of the seven opponents FIU will face

“

Starting with the very first game against Arizona, it's a game in our cross-hairs that we want to win.

Thomas Chestnutt,
Head Coach
Women's Soccer

here at home during that stretch (FGCU, Murray State, Oregon State, Stetson, Long Beach, Old Dominion and Charlotte), this women's soccer team was outscored 13 goals to eight last season, with the biggest disparity coming against Oregon State (7-0).

The formula in preseason stays the same

according to Chestnutt, who has reached at least 11 wins in four out of the last five seasons with the FIU Women's Soccer program.

"We work hard on our mentality and discipline. It's just getting them on the same page and in the same direction. It's a season. We don't want to be playing our best ball in August—we want to be playing our best ball in October," said Chestnutt.

The preseason begins August 5 and only lasts two weeks. This short preseason leaves little room for error, but plenty of room for grooming and becoming a cohesive unit. This offseason brought along eight new student-athletes (Nevena Stojakovic, Paula Quintero, Kiley Porter, Courtney Phillips, Ryann Ramirez, Sophia Serrano, Daniella Oleyek and Gabriella Bovo) in the recruitment process. Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt feels confident with his new group of athletes.

"It is a good group. The biggest key is how things come together. I think the leadership on this team, and in the returning players in general, have a good mentality in terms of a 'team first' mentality. They're very welcoming of the young players and bringing them along. They understand that the quicker they get comfortable and can express themselves,

the better off the team will be," said Chestnutt.

There's definitely an influx of new talent with nine new players along with eight freshmen accompanying the roster. The solidified talent already on the roster will help develop these unseasoned players, but just because they're not as experienced doesn't mean they'll sit down and watch for two halves of soccer.

"As coaches, if we don't have freshmen that are starting or playing, we didn't do our job as coaches [in] recruiting," Chestnutt said. "The players that have done the things in their control will play."

On whether there will be a marquee game this season, Chestnutt had this to say:

"We feel like we have the ability to be a top 25 team in the country this year. In order to do that, we have to get results against every team we come up against. The next game will always be the biggest game."

August 22 at 7 p.m. against Arizona here at FIU is game one of this 19-game journey for the FIU Women's Soccer program, with the season ending on Oct. 30 against Marshall here at home.

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Falcao, AS Monaco taking on Atletico Nacional tonight



MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Soccer superstar Radamel Falcao (left) practices with his team, AS Monaco FC on the FIU soccer field. Monaco will take on Colombian club team Atletico Nacional tonight at Marlins Park.

RHYS WILLIAMS
Sports Director

Early in the afternoon of July 21, French soccer team AS Monaco took to the pitch of the FIU Soccer Stadium to practice for their match tonight at 8 p.m. in Marlins Park. AS Monaco had some help from both FIU men's and women's soccer players including senior forward Ashleigh Shim.

FIU Women's Soccer team Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt and first year FIU Men's Soccer Head Coach Scott Calabrese also watched the team.

"I think whenever you have the opportunity to watch top-level professionals I think it is a really good educational experience for [the soccer players of FIU] with an opportunity to see how they train, how they carry themselves and how they interact with the media," Calabrese said. "Ultimately, these are the players that we want to emulate. Not just in the way they play, but there are other reasons why they have reached this level and I think it is important that these guys take in that whole experience."

Calabrese also admitted to always learning more about his coaching style and bringing in information he learns by watching the staff and the team.

"I am always watching top-level coaches and I take whatever I can from training sessions, whether it be a specific detail or the whole training session overall with whatever topic that they are focusing on. The ability for me to watch the coaches of the top-level is an educational experience," Calabrese said.

The team, which is led by superstar forward Radamel Falcao Garcia, will take on Atletico Nacional to begin the Copa Euroamericana.

The 28-year-old Falcao received a key to the city from Mayor Tomas Regalado at a press conference following the team's practice on Monday. According to an official press release Falcao has been cited among the top of his position in the world. He surpassed the record of 15 goals set by current US Men's National Team Head Coach Jurgen Klinsmann by getting 17 in a single annual club football European competition UEFA Champions League campaign in 2011.

AS Monaco is one of many prestigious clubs to take part in the second edition of the Copa Euroamericana from both South America and Europe. Others include Atletico Madrid and Fiorentina.

The Copa Euroamericana consists of eight "all-or-nothing" games where the winner will be decided by penalties if need be.

The winner of each game will be awarded one point and the continent with the most points at the end of the competition will be named champions of the tournament.

AS Monaco was - at the time of production - also the home of 2014 FIFA World Cup Golden Boot winner James Rodriguez, who, according to a report by The Guardian where at the time of production Real Madrid was closing in on the signing of Colombia forward James Rodríguez.

Look to fiusm.com for the post game report following tonight's match.

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Soccer slowly gaining popularity

COLUMNIST



JORGE CORRALES

If you've lived in the United States for a while, you've probably heard the following phrase: "Soccer will never make it here."

Americans have been rooting against the beautiful game for as long as I've been a sports fan. They cite lack of scoring and slow paced matches as reasons.

In reality, American's distaste for soccer can be traced back to one thing; lack of winning.

As conceited as it sounds, Americans have always been winners.

But, unfortunately, the United States Men's National Soccer Team has not followed suit.

The US finished 3rd in the 1930 World Cup. Since then, they have won only one knock out game (a 2-0 victory against Mexico in 2002.) And although the nation showed strong support for the USMNT during this World Cup, Americans may soon forget about soccer for another four years.

But the beauty about living in Miami is that we don't adhere to what the rest of the nation does. Watching FIU students catch

the World Cup fever was one of the most amazing things I have experienced in my time here.

Every June day, students donned their jerseys in support of their respective teams. On game days, the the GC hallways looked more like a sports bar than a University.

Students flocked to the GC Pit to try and catch the games on the mounted TV screens.

Those who were lucky enough got to use some of the few seats that were set up. But lack of seating wasn't stopping anyone. For big matches, groups of students would stand or sit on the floor just to be a part of the experience.

"I did not stay to watch any full games there, but it was very cool to see a crowd of students gather up to support their favorite teams," said Mario Santos, a senior sports and fitness major. "The World Cup seems to bring people together; everything else gets pushed aside."

With the World Cup now over and the Germans holding the trophy, it's time to see if the soccer craze at FIU will continue.

The FIU men's soccer team kicks off their season on August 29 as the Panthers will face the Michigan Wolverines in Ann Arbor. The Panthers look to improve on a

6-10-1 season in which they also lost their head coach.

The Panthers will have eight home games including: the home opener against Stetson on September 5, and games against interstate rivals UCF and FAU in October.

The Panthers will be led by incoming Head Coach Scott Calabrese as they face a daunting schedule that features 6 teams that competed in last year's NCAA tournament.

The hope is that students will carry their passion for soccer from the World Cup into Panthers' home games.

"I think I will attend a couple of games this year," said Devin Parra, a grad student majoring in higher education administration. "I definitely think that the World Cup has given the FIU community a soccer craze, just going by how many people sit to watch the matches in the Graham Center. So I definitely think support for the FIU soccer team will grow, in part due to the popularity of the World Cup."

It's no longer a question of whether soccer can make it here. This World Cup has shown us that soccer has arrived. There is just one lingering question— is it here to stay?

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Journalism professor publishes new book exploring racial prejudice in the media

RUBEN PALACIOS
Asst. News Director

After five years of intimate research and interviews, journalism professor Robert Gutsche Jr. turns his Ph.D. dissertation into a book.

The book, "A Transplanted Chicago: Race, Place and Press in Iowa City," inspects the way the press covered a predominantly African-American area in the southeast side of Iowa City.

"The purpose of the book is to capture a moment in time," Gutsche said. "I have built my time and my interests around talking about larger issues of race, and press coverage of race, and geography in this community."

The community members he writes about were moved to the westside of the city, yet the same poor coverage followed them from one neighbourhood to the next.

Gutsche's book discusses how the press played a role in oppressing the people of Iowa City.

"It's important to talk about forced migra-

tion of underserved community members no matter where it is," Gutsche said.

Though the book focuses on the midwest, Gutsche said the occurrences discussed can be seen across the country, Miami included.

"Wynwood is talked about immensely as this up-and-coming hipster place, until there's a black Overtown kid shot in the neighborhood and then [the media] calls it a crime-plagued area," he said.



ROBERT GUTSCHE

Gutsche said the press skews the narrative of a situation to convey the message they want the public to believe, not necessarily what is.

The unreliable press coverage in Iowa City, similar to cases in Miami, Gutsche said stems from reporters wanting to fit in with popular opinion.

"I want to look at A, B and C and come up with an explanation that you will be happy with," he said. "I don't want to come up with a completely different interpretation or I'll be ostracized."

As Gutsche also discussed in his book, reporters who covered Iowa City made the mistake of writing about an area they never set foot in, let alone experienced, themselves.

“Wynwood is talked about immensely as this up-and-coming hipster place, until there’s a black Overtown kid shot in the neighborhood and then [the media] calls it a crime-plagued area.”

Robert Gutsche Jr., Ph.D.
Asst. Professor
Journalism and Broadcasting

Accountability is one way Gutsche said reporting crises as the one of Iowa City can be avoided.

However, he also said traditions in journalism should be altered to benefit the product being published.

"There is this idea that journalists aren't

the story and that they shouldn't be part of the story," said Gutsche. "We should probably think about throwing that mindset away and we should make journalist's be comfortable being more self-aware and self-reflexive."

Gutsche said he uses his publications and findings in the classroom to help aspiring reporters avoid the mistakes he uncovered while researching for his book.

He said the school of journalism is a platform for social issues to be discussed.

"We have so much power in how we explain to the world everyday life that we should be comfortable in having a bit of uncomfortable conversation," he said. "We have so much power that we need to be held accountable."

All of Gutsche's author royalties from the book will go to a charity in Iowa City.

"I sat with people who didn't feel welcome in that community and they shared their stories with me. It felt wrong for me to take money off of somebody else's story," he said.

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BREAKFAST ON THE GO



NATALIE REYES/THE BEACON

Students, faculty and staff lined up for Breakfast on the Go in Academic II at BBC on Tuesday, July 15 for breakfast sandwiches and coffee, on behalf of Campus Life.

New members join SGC-BBC

ALEXI C. CARDONA
Staff Writer

Four new members were appointed to the Biscayne Bay Campus' Student Government Association last week.

On Monday, July 14, senators welcomed a new director of internal relations, marketing coordinator, justice and international student services coordinator.

"I know all the clubs on campus and the people in them, so this position is perfect for me," said Michema Lafontant, a public relations sophomore, who was previously a lower division senator and now the director of internal relations.

Nadia Bryham, a senior majoring in recreational therapy, was appointed marketing coordinator.

Bryham said she wanted to get a feel for marketing, a study she is considering for her Master's degree.

Carlos Burgos, a graduate student at the The Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management, was appointed international student services coordinator.

"As an international student, I would like to help my peers navigate a little easier everything that has to do with the International Student and Scholar Services office," Burgos said.

Ruth Roa, a senior journalism major, is the new justice. She is applying for a Fulbright scholarship program to study communications in Taiwan and is part of the Chinese culture club.

The council at BBC is still recruiting members to fill seats in the senate.

Representatives are needed for the College of Education, the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the Broward Pines Center.

Plans to update the constitution are underway.

The Student Government Association needs to form a constitution committee

consisting of four members from each council — two executive branch members and two senators from both the Student Government Council at SGC-BBC and Modesto A. Maidique Campus — to start discussing updates.

During a meeting earlier this month, Allhan Mejia, a business administration major and speaker of the senate, volunteered to be one of the senators in the constitution committee and Gloria Valencia, the Honors College senator, volunteered to be the second senator.

Two weeks ago, the council moved to hold senate meetings every two weeks for the remainder of the summer.

During this week's meeting, they will appoint a new comptroller and propose a bill that would make it possible for Broward Pines Center senators to join the council.

Mejia is the author of the bill. He wants to change the requirements for senator membership at the Broward Pines Center, which is represented by SGC-BBC.

Requirements for SGC-BBC senators include: having half of their classes at the Biscayne Bay Campus, attending general meetings and fulfilling office hours.

Mejia said he is concerned that students taking one class or multiple classes at various campuses will be unable to meet the requirements.

He also wants to incorporate video chat so senators can virtually attend meetings.

"Right now, you can't Skype in on a meeting," Mejia said. "I'm hoping they can Skype in for two of the meetings."

Last year, SGC-BBC did not have a senator for the Broward Pines Center. For this reason, Mejia is working so Broward Pines can better represent their students.

The first reading for this bill was held on Monday, July 21.

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