

Students get a head start in Peace Corps

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With a semester left to graduate, Shirley Silva went to the Career Services office for advice on her future.

"I'm about to graduate and I don't know what's the next step," said the senior religious studies major.

Career Services pointed her towards the new Peace Corps Prep program at the University that just launched this fall. Students who enroll in the program can graduate with Peace Corps recognition which



VINCENT RIVES/THE BEACON

South Florida Peace Corps recruiter Steve Hunsicker talks to students about opportunities with the Peace Corps at the Career Fair on Oct. 2.

helps their application process to serve as a volunteer abroad. "All I ever wanted to do with my life is travel, meet new people from other

cultures," said Silva. "The whole program is very attractive to me and I've looked into it. It seems like something that I should do."

The FIU Peace Corps Prep program, managed under the Office of Global Learning Initiatives, is the first of its kind in Florida and 15th in the nation, according to South Florida recruiter Steve Hunsicker.

Students that enroll in the program must take four language courses, four global learning courses and do an 80-hour community service project by the time they graduate.

Eric Feldman,

What: Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet, "The Role of the Environment in Global Development"

When: Friday, Oct. 10, 2014

Time: 1:30-3:30PM

Where: GC 140

coordinator at the global learning office, said that it is hard to define what counts as community service, since this is a new program.

"If they've done something substantial that didn't take up 80 hours, maybe they can do another project as a supplement," he said.

The University has a long history with the Peace Corps, counting 200

alumni that have served and 11 currently serving.

About 70 students enrolled into the program this semester, some which are undecided about they want to do with the Peace Corps, but think the program is worth completing.

Take Abby Cheeseman, for example. As a freshman international relations

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TEDxFIU presents 2014 event 'Fearless Journey'

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Charles Bleiker created a pilot math program to help at-risk preschoolers in Little Havana that will soon be found in classrooms across the nation.

Bleiker, a professor in the College of Education, is one of 10 University members who will be presenting their work at TEDxFIU.

One of the most highly anticipated events of the year, the third annual TEDxFIU will take viewers on a "Fearless Journey" in November through the lives of some of the University's front-running experts and pioneers in research.

"This is much more than a 500 person event. It's a spread of ideas worldwide."

Eduardo Merille
Event Coordinator
TEDxFIU

TEDxFIU is the University's independently-organized series of presentations, known as "talks," modeled from the national TED Talks event.

Applications for TEDxFIU opened shortly after last year's event to University students, faculty and alumni.

The speakers had three to four months to plan and perfect their talks at the University's Communication Arts Lab.

Bleiker's talk focuses on his preschool math program NumberWays, a series of games designed to make learning numbers fun for children.

Bleiker said he saw TEDxFIU as a way to expand his research from his small test field in Little Havana classrooms to audiences and parents around the world.

He said understanding numbers is like understanding the alphabet, and he believes learning math it is just as important

SEE TEDXFU, PAGE 2

Homecoming incorporates new events this year

EZITA RODRIGUEZ
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Alfred Vizcarra said attending FIU Homecoming is in his senior year bucket list—he doesn't want to graduate without knowing what it's like.

"This is my last semester at FIU and I want to go—this is my last chance," said Vizcarra, a senior broadcast media major.

The University Homecoming Day is Saturday, Oct. 18, with the annual parade and tailgate before the Panthers take on the Marshall Thundering Herd at 7:30 p.m. in the Alonso Field at FIU Stadium.

Events leading up to the big day include a talent show, a comedy show, a lounge event, a beauty pageant and the Panthermonium concert.

Vizcarra is planning on attending the homecoming events with friends or classmates, and looks forward to the this year's concert performance by Tiësto on Sunday, Oct. 12.

"I've seen him before at the Ultra Music Festival, I'm looking forward to the concert," he said.

Two new events this year are Midday Madness and Panther

Reggae Fest.

Midday Madness is a spirit day to gear up for the upcoming week of Homecoming events, said Taylor Hall, assistant director of communication for the Homecoming Council. The event will include free food, games and giveaways.

"It's a day to unleash the spirit of FIU," she said.

The event begins at noon on Friday, Oct. 10 in the Betty Chapman Plaza at Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

Panther Reggae Fest, on Tuesday Oct. 14, will be a performance on the lawn by the bay at the Biscayne Bay Campus. Kes the Band will be performing from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Students at BBC will have their own spirit day to gear up for Homecoming on Monday, Oct. 13 with the Kickoff By the Bay event from noon to 4 p.m. in the BBC lawns. The event will include food, music and kayaking.

Some homecoming staples students look forward to every year are the comedy show and talent show.

This year artist DL Hughley and Eddie Griffin will headline the Panther Prowl comedy show. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. on

Wednesday, Oct. 15 at the FIU Arena. Panthers Got Talent begins at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday Oct. 16.

Lauren Gottlieb, a senior journalism major and part of Alpha Omicron Pi, said she looks forward to the Saturday Oct. 11 "Unleash the Crown" beauty pageant.

The Homecoming Duke and Duchess will be announced at the pageant, after the contestants showcase a talent, answer University trivia and present themselves in formal attire, among other things.

"I'm definitely going to attend and support my sorority sisters as well as the rest of the Greek community," said Gottlieb.

The Prince and Princess will be announced at the LXV Lounge Homecoming Dance event on Friday, Oct. 17 at the BBC Ballrooms. The event begins at 7 p.m.

The Homecoming King and Queen will be announced at the Homecoming football game on Oct. 18.

Gottlieb said the tradition of Homecoming is important to FIU. Since the University is typically a commuter school, she believes events like Homecoming create a peak in school spirit.

"I think all of FIU appreciates and



MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Chelsea Yarzabal (far right), a sophomore in accounting performs with the Golden Dazzlers at the 100 days to homecoming event.

enjoys it. I think FIU is probably the only school I know that invites such well-known artists to their concerts," Gottlieb said.

Previous performers include Lifehouse, Lupe Fiasco, B.O.B, J.Cole, Zedd and Kaskadee.

The Homecoming Day Parade, which features different student organizations, floats, performers, dancers and the marching band, begins at the parking lot behind the College of Law and will stretch past

Parkview and into Tamiami Park, where students can begin to tailgate.

The parade will begin about three hours before the 7:30 p.m. football game. At half-time, the Homecoming king and queen will be announced.

Voting for Homecoming Court begins on Oct. 8 and 9 at the computer labs in the Graham Center, at the BBC Academic Center One Atrium or accessed remotely through the MYFIU website.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

GEORGIA COLLEGES REPORT MORE SEX ASSAULTS

The September 2013 case detailed in a campus police file reviewed by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution is one of dozens of sexual assaults Georgia college campuses reported this week to federal education officials. The new statistics show reports of sexual assaults have jumped at most of Georgia's larger universities, including UGA, Georgia Tech, Kennesaw State and Georgia Southern. School officials attribute the rise to better outreach, leading to more students coming forward.

The White House has launched a campaign, pressing universities to do more to keep students safe.

THEY'D HAVE TO RUN THE TABLE, BUT DEMOCRATS COULD HOLD SENATE

Despite being written off already, the Democrats could retain control of the Senate this November if they can steer the debate to local matters, generate an epic turnout, and paint Republicans as dangerously extreme. And keep President Barack Obama away. Analysts already rate the chances as excellent that Democrats will lose the majority control, with Republicans already safely ahead in three states and needing just three more.

U.S. HELICOPTERS RETURN TO COMBAT IN IRAQ

The United States sent helicopters into combat against Islamic State targets west of Baghdad on Sunday, the first time low-flying Army aircraft have been committed to fighting in an engagement that the Obama administration officials has promised would not include "boots on the ground."

Until Sunday, U.S. airstrikes in Iraq have been limited to fast-moving Air Force and Navy fighter aircraft and drones. But the use of the relatively slow-flying helicopters represents an escalation of American military involvement and is a sign that the security situation in Iraq's Anbar province is deteriorating. Last week, the Islamic State militants overran numerous Iraqi bases and towns and were becoming a widespread presence in Abu Ghraib, the last major town outside of Baghdad's western suburbs.

MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

University partners with Peace Corps for new program

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major, she isn't sure if she'll end up joining the Peace Corps, but thought it would be good to do the program just in case.

"I'm looking forward to learning a language, maybe Spanish or Portuguese," she said.

Some students say that Peace Corps experience can help with different endeavors.

Marquele Brown, a junior public relations major, transferred to the University this year. While moving into the dorms, she found out about

the program from her resident assistant and signed up immediately.

Brown thinks that joining the Peace Corps after graduation will give her the tools she needs to meet her ultimate goal—to start her own non-profit organization.

"When I found out about the program, I knew I made the right decision coming to this school," she said.

The majority of Peace Corps volunteers help in education, health, the environment, community economic development, youth in development and agriculture abroad.

The majority of volunteers serve in Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe or Central Asia.

To formally launch the program, the Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet will visit the Modesto A. Maidique Campus for a ceremony with Provost Kenneth Furton from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 10.

Hessler-Radelet, who served in Western Samoa from 1981 to 1983, will give a lecture of the role of the environment in global development.

TEDxFIU highlights University's experts and pioneers in research

TEDXFIU, PAGE 1

as learning to read.

"In the 21st century, math is becoming more important in anything we do," said Bleiker.

Nicole Ruggiano said giving a TED talk didn't occur to her at first; but, she realized it could help bring the topic of aging adult health care to the main discussion.

Ruggiano, an assistant professor in the School of Social Work, researched how elderly people tend to feel like they've lost control over their lives and their own health care.

"My research was based on looking at older people as being experts in their own lives," said Ruggiano.

Bringing her grandparents to their doctor's appointments and seeing how they were shuffled around the office sparked Ruggiano's interest in aging adult health care in college.

Ruggiano said she believes it's time to change the general fear people have of aging, and the idea that aging means you will no longer be able to function independently.

John Dufresne, a writer and professor in the University's Creative Writing master's program, said he saw TEDxFIU as an opportunity to end the misconceptions people have about being a writer.

"Writing is not romantic," said Dufresne. "Every story, in a sense, is a failure."

Dufresne's talk is about how to think like a writer.

He said a 13-minute talk is nowhere near enough time to explain everything a beginning writer needs to know, so his focus is mainly on how to develop plot.

Dufresne, who has 12 published books, a screenplay, a full-length play and many more short stories,

said he doesn't go out much. So he is looking forward to watching the other talks as well, and he is excited to observe other's ideas and broaden his horizons.

Tickets for TEDxFIU 2013 sold out in one day, and the event's coordinators, Deborah O'Neil and Eduardo Merille, expect the same for this year.

Students and staff who did not get tickets can watch a live stream of the event at the Graham Center Pit and the Wolfe University Center. Streaming is also available online from computers and mobile devices.

Last year, more than 1,500 people tuned into the live stream.

The talks are also

recorded and uploaded to the national TED Talks YouTube page. Since the start of TEDxFIU two years ago, FIU talks have accumulated more than 250,000 views around the world.

"This is much more than a 500 person event," said Merille. "It's a spread of ideas worldwide."

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Pro: FIU to be recognized worldwide through pageant

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What better way to be “Worlds Ahead” than to have the Miss Universe pageant hosted and aired at the University?

From countries like Venezuela, Ukraine, Canada, Brazil and Nicaragua, 75 sparkling contestants will travel from across the globe to step foot at our U.S. Century Bank Arena at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. Not to mention that the pageant would be broadcasted in over 190 countries along with a commercial of our University.

Besides all the glitz and glam, Donald Trump stated last Thursday that he is granting \$150,000 in scholarships to first generation students. He will also provide internship opportunities to the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

With national recognition of its Food Network South Beach Wine and Food Festival and a partnership with Carnival Cruise Lines, hospitality and tourism management students are sure to continue to profit.

“I’m delighted that having the pageant on campus will also make it possible for our first generation students to receive scholarships and young people all over the world to be exposed to FIU,” said President Mark B. Rosenberg in an Oct. 2 press release.

As the University aims to expand its grounds over the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition, Inc., there is no doubt that FIU wants to grow its student population, especially international students.

The University has already partnered with Shorelight Education in the hopes of attracting foreign students. They are to establish a 12-month undergraduate program for these students

to help provide specialized English-language instruction besides their academic coursework.

With a worldwide transmission of the University, more students from outside the country are sure to be lured towards the fast-growing institution and the city of Miami, a major international hub.

Last Thursday, mayor of Doral, Luigi Boria, commented that he is proud to have FIU as a community partner. This opens the

possibilities for the University to host more major events like the pageant.

Even though all other events are to be held in Doral, the University has the greater venue to host this year’s 63rd Miss Universe pageant.

THE BEACON | Editorial How dense is the issue?

As we have all most likely heard by now, the University will be serving as the host for the 63rd Annual Miss Universe Pageant in January 2015. As an E-board, we are choosing to not claim a side either in favor or against the University’s decision in hosting the beauty pageant on our campus. We believe claiming a stance does not give the full picture of this decision. This is why we have decided as an E-board to have individual writers on our staff to present both sides of the story in the form of pros and cons. It is only then that we can properly assess the situation as a whole and present the FIU community the advantages and disadvantages we believe will come from this event being hosted on campus grounds.

PICTURE BY ALAN TAYLOR, VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

Con: Miss Universe eclipses major issues of interest

JUNETTE REYES
Editor in Chief
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In a matter of a few months, FIU will find itself in the center of the universe. Come January, the University will serve as the host of the 63rd Annual Miss Universe Pageant.

Since its announcement, all that is being focused on is the good that this will bring to the University and its community. However, it is important to note that there are also some issues to take into consider-

ation when moving forward as the host of the Miss Universe Pageant.

The first to consider is how this event can relate to the objectification of women’s bodies, or the treatment of women as objects. Given the recent sexual assault incidents with the campus proper, would it really be smart for the University to host an event that is known for its emphasis on the hypersexualization of women’s bodies and how it relates to their worth?

Supporters of beauty

pageants might claim these events also focus on the personality and intelligence of the women, as well as how well-mannered and cultured they are. The Miss Universe Pageant website itself states that these are women who are “savvy, goal-oriented and aware.” They assess this not only with their poise and how they present themselves but also with the personality portion of the contest in which they are judged. But this portion comes in at the very end of the pageant, with the whole cere-

mony mainly focusing on how well they look in a bathing suit and evening gown. Even with its inclusion in the pageant, one comment on current affairs alone does not fully assess the intelligence of these women or how cultured they are. For all we know, these are topics these women are previously coached on in anticipation of providing the crowd-pleasing answer.

As ridiculous as the incident with the campus proper might come off as, it is still a serious issue we’re dealing with. Regardless of how the

University will benefit from hosting this beauty pageant, it should also take into consideration what message is being sent to its community. In participating in this event as the hosting venue, are we saying that it’s ok to treat women’s bodies as trophies, as something to ogle and judge based on attractiveness?

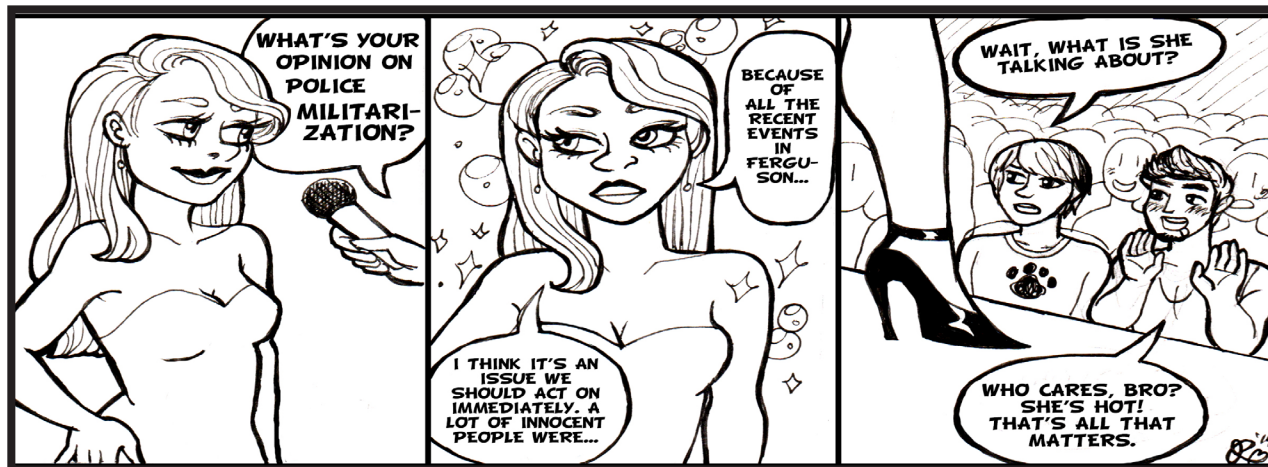
Several of the community’s members were quick to overlook the proper incident and even made a mockery out of it. Serving as the host of the beauty pageant might simply reinforce the repulsive belief that women are nothing more than a body that can be taken advantage of.

Besides the message being sent, the University should also be concerned with how the pageant can possibly interfere with traffic on campus and whether we have sufficient space to act as the venue in which it will be hosted in the first place. The 62nd Annual Miss Universe Pageant was held in the Crocus City Hall in Moscow, Russia, which can hold a maximum capacity of

7,233 in one of their many floor schemes. According to the Athletics website, the FIU U.S. Century Bank Arena only has a maximum capacity of 5,000 seating. This could become an issue when considering how many people will need to be accounted for throughout the pageant. In regards to the on-campus traffic, it would be concerning if any hype leading up to the event as well as the event itself would interfere with students and faculty trying to get to their classes. It is taking place on a Sunday but surely, it will take time beforehand for rehearsals and preparations. For a production this big, that might mean that the event organizers and everyone involved will be working on campus for quite some time.

Aside from all the business, opportunities and publicity this will bring in, bottom line is that there are still some concerns to address. They are not enough to stop the event from being hosted in our University, but they are still serious enough to be taken into consideration when moving forward.

MESSAGES FROM URANUS



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

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School of Music host concert in remembrance of Maya Angelou

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On May 28, people all over mourned the loss of an iconic woman. Many know Maya Angelou as a major civil rights activist, an actress, a singer, a dancer and the author of the famous book “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.”

The School of Music will be celebrating Angelou’s life and legacy on Oct. 8 by presenting “Travelogue: France A Tribute to Maya Angelou” at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center. Brenton Alston, who was recently appointed conductor of the Wind Ensemble and Chamber Winds and is also Assistant Professor of Wind Studies and Conducting, is the man behind this major event.

Alston had been planning on putting on a French themed concert for awhile, but he realized immediately after Angelou’s death that it was important he put on a concert dedicated to her.

“She is an amazing influence

on what I do,” Alston said. “I remember in school I read ‘I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings’. In a lot of her poetry, it sounds like music. There’s a cadence, a rhythm and a connection. I’ve admired Angelou from a very young age.”

Alston is putting on this concert as the beginning a concert series that will focus on music and poetry from various regions such as France, New England, China, Japan and England. The concert dedicated to Angelou, as with the other concerts in the series, will engage the audience by infusing music and literature.

“I try to do things that can involve as many different types of experiences as possible because when most people hear about a classical concert, they immediately think of the best nap of their lives, so I try to involve something else that can keep the experience fresh,” Alston said.

The evening will begin with a video presentation of Maya Angelou speaking and end with students in the Department of

Theatre each reciting one of her poems. The concert will go back and forth between songs and poems.

“The concert will start and end with her words,” Alston mentioned. He also explained that wind, brass, and percussion groups will play during the concert and that there will be no double parts in the ensemble.

“Because of this, the responsibility and the clarity of the orchestration is immense,” Alston said. He also said that the group will operate like a large chamber ensemble and will be very flexible musically and dynamically.

“There will be moments of hushed quietness to moments that are like explosions,” Alston said.

In honor of Angelou, President Mark Rosenberg will be sharing his thoughts and remembrances of her during the concert.

Maya Angelou came to FIU twice — once in 1995 during the University’s black history month celebrations, and once in 2005 to

“She is an amazing influence on what I do. I remember in school I read ‘I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.’ In a lot of her poetry, it sounds like music. There’s a cadence, a rhythm and a connection. I’ve admired Angelou from a very young age.

Brenton Alston
Assistant Professor
Wind Studies and Conducting

speak to a crowd of 2,000.

The day after Angelou passed, Rosenberg wrote about her in an email to the FIU community on May 30. In his message, Rosenberg said,

“Sadly, this week we join Angelou’s family, friends, and admirers in mourning her loss. But we take comfort in the fact, that for all of us Maya Angelou was a bright, powerful star who touched all of our lives and whose light will never be extinguished.”

The concert will be a celebration of Angelou’s life and who she was. Alston hopes that

audience members will walk away from this concert with a better understanding of who Maya Angelou was and how her work impacted the world.

“If you don’t know much about Maya Angelou, please read her work,” Alston said in regards to the importance of knowing who she was.

The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. and tickets can be purchased at wpac.fiu.edu.

Ball & Chain: ‘I hope it figures itself out’

COLUMNIST



ALFREDO SOCORRO

When most people think of Little Havana, late night jazz jams, musty bars and English speaking club patrons are not exactly the first things that come to mind. Indeed, the Ball and Chain initially reads as an anomaly, oxymoronic even. The newly opened venue offers signature

Cuban-fusion cocktails and tapas, live entertainment, local craft beers on draft, and a trendy lounge environment complete with an open patio, all situated right across from El Parque De Dominó and up the street from the infamous motel section of Eighth Street.

The Ball and Chain has a long, convoluted history — a history proudly documented and flaunted on the walls and on the website. Originally opened in 1935, this locale has seen its fair share of action. Pre-Artwalk upstarts, pre-cocaine cowboys, pre-Castro, the area was known as Shenandoah: a sleepy but seedy, strongly Jewish southern-town outpost. Calle Ocho was “the trail,” the route by which produce trucks would bring products into the market.

Over the years, the Ball and Chain — like so many other jazz clubs — went through numerous changes in name and ownership, was involved in dubious business activity and eventually closed due to financial difficulty. One newspaper advertisement pulled from the Ball and Chain archive

“

Over the years, the Ball and Chain — like so many other jazz clubs — went through numerous changes in name and ownership, was involved in dubious business activity and eventually closed due to financial difficulty.

”

reads “Tonight! See the original ‘Amateur Striptease Contest.’” This environment is where a notable number of internationally renowned artists performed.

Billie Holiday was a regular. After long nights of entertaining to stay during times of segregation, he snuck in through back entrances to the Tower Hotel.

Chet Baker and his quintet played here during one of their most influential periods, right between the release of the classic albums “Chet Baker Sings” and “It Could Happen To You.” Even legend Count Basie and his band had a steady gig here, ironically bankrupting the club in 1957 after a payment dispute ended in a lawsuit.

Today, reprinted black and white photographs of “the greats” hang like medallions on the classic, deep-green paint of its carefully decorated interior, a

lá Village Vanguard, as if to assure us of the clubs authenticity and importance for existing.

The Ball and Chain experience is nothing if not eclectic. In the four hours I spent enjoying the relaxed atmosphere, I sipped on a “Calle Ocho Old Fashioned” prepared with aged rum and tobacco bitters and complete with tobacco leaves. I also scarfed down a fried variation on a media noche sandwich dubbed a “Cuban Spring Roll,” and tried my luck with a glass of Wynwood Brewery La Rubia beer, all of which were exceptionally delicious and served by competent and amicable staff.

I heard Frank Sinatra, Buena Vista Social Club, Calle 13 and deep lounge music pumping through the sound system between a young, straight-ahead jazz trio performance and an electronic music DJ set.

Sure the décor and refreshments are a bit gimmicky and in no way cheap, but there’s undeniable quality to be found in everything here. And when your neighbors include Azucar Ice Cream Company, The Tower Theater, Casino Records music store and the Calle Ocho theater district, there is many a good memory to be made here.

The only problem lies in Ball and Chain’s identity integrity, its impossible promise of being everything to everyone. Live music, good food, great location and agreeable service in a spacious venue should be a sure deal for any city explorer.

Unfortunately, not as a rich man, but as a music loving college student, it’s easy to feel decidedly, disappointingly out of place. With a crowd of mostly 30-something-year-olds and hipper nightlife crawlers small talking, taking photos and not clapping for the musicians relegated to a corner of the space, it seems like Ball and Chain may be a bit lost in reflections of its own history.

Then again, maybe it just hasn’t taken off the ground yet — after all, it was opening day. In any case, Ball and Chain is an exciting, new prospect in a truly one-of-a-kind Miami community. I just hope it figures itself out and does what it is completely capable of: becoming a center for unique nightlife in South Florida.

life@fiusm.com

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Hidden jewel offers a taste of Central America

THE FOODIE



NICOLE ZUMMAR

Owned by a family from El Salvador, El Centro Americano rests on 155 SW 107th Ave. It is a hidden jewel I came across thanks to a Salvadorian friend who, thankfully, decided to share it with me.

As an international student, I miss home and Hispanic food a little more than Miami-born-and-raised Latinos. Of course, you'd think with all the Cuban food around that I'd come to the right place; however, it wasn't until I uncovered this restaurant that I realized the void I felt for my Central American food.

Having come across this restaurant several weeks ago, I've visited more than a few times and been able to order a variety of things—everything from breakfast and coffee to dinner and horchata, a typical Central American drink that goes great with cinnamon.

For breakfast, El Centro Americano serves a variety of plates. Eggs are a main ingredient in the majority of the servings, ranging from scrambled to sunny side up.

I ordered scrambled eggs with a cortadito, also known as Cuban coffee. The eggs were good and so were the beans and plantains that came with them. It was a breakfast that reminded me very much of home. The cortadito was delicious; it's a good rival to the University's Café Bustelo.

Another good breakfast is the desayuno especial, which includes a six-ounce piece of meat or chicken to go with the eggs and beans—also a pretty good option.

“

If you're Central American and don't mind a little rundown appearance, you'll love this place. And if you're not, don't worry, you will too.

”

As appetizers, El Centro Americano serves the famous Salvadorian pupusas as one of their options. A tortilla with cheese and/or fried pork in the middle, it is a great dish to satisfy a mid-afternoon's craving. You can also go with the chicharones; small, fried pieces of pork.

But before the appetizers, El Centro Americano offers a bowl of chips with a savory, pink house specialty sauce.

For lunch and dinner, there's a large variety of options to choose from. Some of my usual orders include the pan con bistec, or steak sandwich; the parrillada, a mix of various meat cuts, pork and chicken; and the chuletas de cerdo, or pork chop.

The pan con bistec is a favorite of mine. The meat is very flavorful, although sometimes a little tough, and it comes with lettuce and substantial amounts of mayonnaise.

The parrillada is a good plate for a good price. It brings a reasonable amount of food—almost enough for two—and it's not even the larger one, the parrillada para dos. What I usually do when I

go with someone is order an appetizer and share the small parrillada. This is not only a less expensive option, but it also allows you to try more than one thing. The meat does not necessarily hold the best flavor around, but for its reasonable price I find it satisfies you well enough.

On the other hand, the chuletas de cerdo are very well spiced up, and although sometimes they might come out a little drier than you'd like, they still hold the flavor well. They are accompanied by your choice of gallo pinto—rice and beans—or white rice.

Additional to the large selection of foods, El Centro Americano holds a bar with a reasonably varied selection of beers and specialty drinks. This restaurant also houses Regia, a Salvadorian beer recog-

nized for its larger volume—approximately 20 ounces more than the usual 12-ounce beers.

The waitresses are great help and the service is usually pretty good—except at the time of the check; they take an exceptionally long time to bring it to the table. As for the locale, it looks somewhat rundown. It gives the idea of an old bar, and while that might be the look they were going for, it could use a little more scrubbing and polishing.

The thing you are not going to be a fan of is the bathroom. I can't speak for the guys, but as far as the ladies' restroom goes, it definitely could use some good old cleaning.

Apart from that, in terms of food and service, I don't have true complaints. If you're Central American and don't mind a little rundown appearance, you'll love this place. And if you're not, don't worry, you will too.

nicole.zummar@fiusm.com

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SOCCER

Panthers return home to taking on Conference Rival South Carolina

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After losing to No. 17 University of Alabama at Birmingham and a long road trip to the No. 23 University of New Mexico, the Panthers will have a chance to capitalize on home turf when they face off against the University of South Carolina Oct. 8.

Before the 2 consecutive

losses to UAB Blazers and UNM Lobos, the Panthers entered with two consecutive wins against San Diego State University and Florida Gulf Coast University.

After encountering a tough rival in New Mexico, coming up short 2-0, the Panthers hope to raise their conference record by defeating the South Carolina Gamecocks.

A victory would potentially boost the Panthers' chances of

winning their respective Division of C-USA, and a better chance of participating in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament.

With an overall record of 5-4, the Gamecocks will prove to be interesting opponents.

Head Coach Scott Calabrese will look to seize the opportunity to improve the chemistry within his team, while hopefully being able to pick up a victory against what will look to be a competitive game.

Inside Look at the Gamecocks

South Carolina has proven to be a powerful opponent from the beginning of the season.

In fact, the Gamecocks have played nine games overall this season, and five out of the nine games have drifted into overtime.

With the tenacity both teams have, it would be no surprise to see this game move into extra time.

The Gamecocks have been consistent, but not exactly the way the team would like. While the season started on a three game winning streak, a three game losing streak followed

it. With a devastating overtime loss to Marshall one week, and an uplifting win against Georgia State in overtime the next, it's safe to say that South Carolina had a roller coaster of a season as well.

With only six freshmen on the current roster, the Gamecocks expect veteran leadership from their returning players.

The stability and experience must be proven on the field when pitted against any rival.

A lot will be at stake for the Gamecocks and their head coach, Mark Berson. The key word here is consistency.

Chemistry, The Formula for Winning

Having to face a ranked opponent in New Mexico before facing off against South Carolina will not be an easy task, but if the Panthers look to become better, they must play against the best.

After losing senior defender Sean McFarlane and sophomore midfielder Josue Espana for the game against the UAB Blazers, the Panthers are hoping to finally get back into rhythm with all players finally available to Coach Calabrese.

McFarlane has been an essential part of the team, especially on the defensive end, and his absence was felt at the UAB match.

Espana is also a pivotal piece in the midfield, a player that provides creativity and touches off and on the ball.

After winning two out of their last three games (before encountering the University of New Mexico), the Panthers need to bounce back both in Conference play.

After have received Honors for Offensive Player of the Week for C-USA play, senior striker Quentin Albrecht expects to continue providing firepower and work cohesively with his teammates.

The playing field is set, and it's up to the Panthers to step up to the plate and walk out victorious.

After this game, the Panthers will travel to Charlotte, North Carolina.

Here they will face the No. 7 University of North Carolina at Charlotte 49ers (8-1-0,2-0-0) at 7 p.m., Oct. 11.



SERGIO JIMÉNEZ / NEW MEXICO DAILY LOBO

Sophomore midfielder Nicholas Midttun gains possession of the ball during the Saturday game in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Panthers fell to New Mexico 2-0.

FIU ties; keeping still in Conference USA

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A win is a win and a loss is a loss. The Panthers and Florida Atlantic University were reminded that ties do happen as well, on Sunday, Oct. 5. The important match was slated to take place Friday evening on Oct. 3, but the weather did not permit.

Coming into the 0-0 tie, both teams had plenty to play for. With a win and three points, either team would have attained a step ahead of the other. Both teams were 1-1 in Conference USA play, while FAU held a 6-5-1 record compared to the Panthers' 6-5-0.

Being rivals, both teams had their aggressiveness on display early. Between the universities, they combined for 31 fouls and four yellow cards. Redshirt junior defender Sara Stewart was the only recipient of a yellow for the Panthers, while the Owls were assessed three.

The most costly foul came at the 48th minute. Senior midfielder Johanna Volz found her way into FAU's box and was fouled hard, resulting in a penalty kick for the Panthers.

Volz, 1-2 on penalty kicks before Oct. 3, stared down FAU goalkeeper Sydney Drinkwater. Unfortunately for Volz, Drinkwater made the save, adding to her four saves on the night.

An early flurry of pressure in the first half came via FAU, but the Panthers' stout defense (recording their sixth shutout

kept chances from reaching the back of the net. FAU didn't allow a shot in the first 45 minutes, but that pattern did not last. The second half presented more opportunities for the Panthers as redshirt senior Chelsea Leiva rocketed two back-to-back shots, the first in the 58th minute. Leiva finished with four shots, three on goal.

As overtime loomed, desperation for a goal was present on both sides. Sophomore midfielder Alyssa Robinson launched a shot that flew wide of the goal, keeping Drinkwater at bay for the time being.

The University's freshman goalkeeper Nevena Stojakovic made quite possibly the most important save of the match in the 72nd minute, denying FAU's Sammy Lujan's shot on goal.

After 90 minutes, both teams prepared for overtime.

The Panthers saw their first bit of overtime action this season on Oct. 5, but acted like they had been there before. In the 93rd minute, the Panthers were given a corner kick, taken by sophomore midfielder Madlen Weinhardt.

Inching closer and closer, Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt and his team were knocking on the door of victory. The first 10-minute half concluded with a whopping four fouls for FAU.

The last minutes of the match were all-or-nothing for the Panthers, and Volz proved she wanted to give everything for a goal. A cross into the box found the head of Volz, but the attempt was blocked

by Owl defenders. The Panther offense generated three corners in the 10-minute period. One final push was left in the tank of Leiva in the final 60 seconds. Drinkwater, once again, stifled any chance at late-game heartbreak for FAU and saved the true header by Leiva.

110 minutes later and a tie became the result of the intrastate rivalry. Each school was awarded one point, proving that FAU and the Panthers will continue to stay close to one another until next weekend's matches.

The Panthers are now sitting in seventh place, with the Owls right behind in eighth, both with 1-1-1 conference record. FAU sees Middle Tennessee State University next, while the Panthers face the University of Alabama at Birmingham, third in Conference USA. The importance of a win for either team has now escalated after the recent result.

The Panthers (6-5-1,1-1-1) look to gain higher ground on the competition Friday, Oct. 10, against UAB in Birmingham, Alabama.



BRIAN TRUJILLO/THE BEACON

Junior defender Nikki Rios (right) passes the ball to midfielder Scarlet Montoya (left) during a game against University of North Carolina at Charlotte on Sept. 28

VOLLEYBALL

Panthers snap losing streak in win over Blazers

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After dropping their 10th straight match Friday against Western Kentucky, the volleyball team finally put an end to their losing ways and got their first win in Conference USA play against the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Sunday afternoon.

Going into Sunday's game, Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett simply had one thing to address to her team before the game, "Today is your day and we need to make a change." The team responded the right way by winning the match three sets to one. It was the team's first win since Sept. 6.

Leading the way for the Panthers, which you wouldn't normally see at the top of the box score for FIU, was freshman Jennifer Ene, who posted a match high of 13 kills and had a .381 hitting percentage. Not only was this a good game for Ene, but for another freshman on the team as well, setter Kiona McSwain. She had a terrific game with 38 assists and averaged 9.5 assists per set. This was a new career high in assists for McSwain, who also added a match high of nine digs.

Expect to see more of Ene and McSwain in the lineup as Buck-Crockett mentioned that there will be a few lineup changes.

"We made a few changes in the lineup. We just have to keep working with that to see if that does make a difference, and if it does then we will stay with the lineup, but we have to keep building our players

because we are very young."

Youth has been a problem to deal with this season, but it did not show Sunday, as two freshmen led the way for the team's win and there were three freshmen in total in the starting lineup.

There were also lineup changes that had to deal with one of the team captains, Lucia

focus on offense."

This new strategy played in favor for the Panthers and it's important that it worked because they have been struggling with their offensive game lately.

"This past week we finally found what wasn't working and we were able to bring the new energy in a new lineup to today's

The new energy Castro mentioned was quickly shown from the very first serve as they jumped out to an early lead against the Blazers. The Panthers had a hitting percentage of .476 in the set and had 12 kills with only two errors against 21 attacks. FIU had the lead the whole set and easily won 25-13.

The second set was completely different though, as it was a back and forth game early in the set that had five ties and two lead changes in total. Unfortunately though, UAB was able to win the second set 25-18. The third set was crucial for both teams as the match was tied going into that set. The Panthers were able to come out of a close one winning 25-23. Even though they had the lead the whole set, there were still three ties.

In the fourth and final set, the Blazers were no match for the new and improved Panthers' offense as they finished UAB off with a 12-5 run to take the set and match.

With Sunday's win, it improved the Panthers' record to 4-13 and 1-3 in Conference USA play. The team is now in the second half of the season and from here on out, the bulk of the conference games will be played during this stretch.

"We finally saw again how it felt to win and we are definitely going to use that and just keep winning from here on out," Castro said.

Up next, the Panthers will be on the road for two games, the first on Friday, Oct. 10 against Charlotte and the second on Sunday, Oct. 12 against Louisiana Tech.



BRIAN TRUJILLO/ THE BEACON

Sophomore setter Anabela Sataric (right) sets the ball for junior utility Tina Toghiyani (left) during the game against the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers on Friday, Oct. 3.

Castro. Buck-Crockett said that this was an important key to Sunday's win.

"We are having Lucia not play so much in the back row so she can come out and

game ... I'm also in a funk right now so I am trying to not hurt the team and if I am not hitting well I just have to focus on other things to try to get the point," Castro said.

FEATURE

Hundreds attend the Benjamin Dash to fundraise for charity

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On Saturday, Oct. 4, Benjamin Dash came to the Biscayne Bay campus, attracting hundreds of runners to the start line to raise money for charity.

The event had food trucks, free massages, and even free energy drinks for any runner who felt that they needed a quick boost.

With 10 waves of up to 50 people in each, the action was intense all day as the 5k course seemed intimidating to even the veteran runners.

"It was really hard, but we enjoyed the water obstacles that cooled us down. I joined the race for charity, and it was the only reason I ran so hard," said Kenny Johnson donating participant of the dash.

Dashers were to grab as many yellow flags from the course as possible, who were then given a monetary value based on how tough the hiding spot was. These flags were then given to a Benjamin Dash employee who could turn these into cold hard cash, or if the runner wanted, money for a charity of their choice.

"I gave my money to Breast

Cancer Awareness of Miami" said Johnson. "With such a great cause, it is no wonder so many came out to support local charities and foundations."

Included in the obstacle run was a tire hill, tire flipping, wall climbs, as well as a 15-foot inverted wall that runners had to pull themselves up on.

The inverted wall seemed troublesome to almost all participants, as the creators of the event knowingly left it to be one of the last obstacles.

With all their energy sapped from the earlier obstacles, runners seemed more than content to stand on the side and pay the penalty for not finishing an obstacle.

The race also featured a waterslide, as well as mud pits in which participants had to crawl through under barbed wire to get to the finish line.

Not a soul passed the finish line clean, but lucky for them, the Benjamin Dash set up showers for all runners to cool off and clean up after their strenuous experience.

"I think the event was perfect," said former FIU graduate student Erica Chang. "They really focused on bringing help to the surrounding area in a fun way.



SAMUEL COHEN/ THE BEACON

Participants of the Benjamin Dash crawl through the mud with the hope of receiving money on Oct. 4

All the obstacles were challenging and the food was great. We had a lot of fun."

For their second run ever, Benjamin Dash is looking

to expand to new areas, and hopes to add an even longer race for more participants who wished for a more challenging course.

Panther team outswims Owls

DIVE, PAGE 8

The Panthers were also strong in the relays, winning both on the day.

In the 200 yard medley, senior Klara Andersson, junior Karin Tomeckova and sophomores Jennifer Alfani and Jennifer Deist posted a time of 1:45:96 to not only win the title, but was also the seventh fastest time in school history.

"We've done a lot of work, and put [in] a lot of effort. We went on an Academy of Leaders retreat, as well as many team-building games and activities, to bring these girls together as one unit.

Randy Horner
Head Coach
Swimming and Diving

Alfani was able to put points on the board later in the day as well, winning the 50-yard freestyle as well.

Arguably the top performer of the day was senior Johanna Gustafsdottir.

She set a Conference USA record in last year's 200 yard individual medley.

Gustafsdottir won two

events on the day.

In the 200 freestyle, she posted a time of 1:53.24.

Over in the 200 breaststroke, she bested her top career time, as she earned a mark of 2:18.53, moving her into fifth place in school history in that event.

When asked about how the team has bonded this year, Horner was quick to give praise to his swimmers.

"We've done a lot of work, and put [in] a lot of effort," Horner said. "We went on an Academy of Leaders retreat, as well as many team-building games and activities, to bring these girls together as one unit."

FIU's next meeting will be Oct. 18, with the Homecoming Alumni Intr Squad.

New library space to officially open later this month

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The unveiling of a one-stop-shop for students academic needs is happening this month.

The Glenn Hubert Library will officially welcome the Academic Skills and Knowledge Center on Thursday, Oct. 30, located on the second floor.

The ASK! Center will provide students with tutoring services, tech support and library assistance all in one place.

“As an incoming freshman, you get sent around to a lot of places and students don’t have that kind of time anymore,” said Gustavo Arauz, criminal justice senior and office manager of the library. “By having everything in one location, we can try to avoid that.”

The newly renovated area will offer quiet study spaces for students, and will provide all of the assistance needed for class assignments, projects and the like.

The ASK! Center will feature state-of-the-art Windows and Apple computers, cell phone charging stations, numerous outlets, and energy-efficient lighting.

Arauz said the new digital viewing stations and Blu-Ray DVD racks make it easy for students to watch videos and find digital content for projects.

Columns with reading material based on specific University programs will be displayed around the center, as well as an information desk for research and writing tools.

“Libraries are changing, they’re becoming more digital,” Arauz said. “We want to make it easier for students to spend their day here.”

Bryan Cooper, associate dean of technology and digital services at the library, said the new center will help students interact with others and will provide a chance for students to get exposed to new resources.

“It was a highly collaborative process and the University is committed to students’ success,”

FRESH BREW



NATALIE REYES/THE BEACON

Starbucks barista Jorge Gatica attends Assistant Food Director Lorvin Ramirez and hospitality junior Bryanna Cooper on the opening of the Biscayne Bay Campus Starbucks on Oct. 8.

said Cooper, who hopes that the changing library scene will be a trend sustained in the future. “This is an important start to revitalizing the larger spaces in the library.”

The ASK! Center will feature artwork from the winners of the International Student Photo Contest over the past eight years. Students can also expect new furniture to use reference books at.

Ashley Kearns, public relations junior, thinks the new center will give students better access to research tools, but could also make the library more crowded.

“I like to get in the zone when I study, but by attracting more students, there will be more traffic,” Kearns said.

Other students believe the new center is conducive to students’

academic success.

“Any time the University increases capacity, they increase student efficiency and recruitment,” said B.J. Chiszar, a grad student studying public administration.

“The new center is just one piece in a comprehensive strategy to take this school to the next level,” Chiszar said.

University forming global citizens through celebration of National Coming Out Day

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Edwin Serrano, graduate assistant for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer and Allies initiative, said the gay community is making history.

To celebrate the communities achievements, the office of Multicultural Programs and Services will host a National Coming Out Day event today, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Biscayne Campus in Panther Square.

Likewise, the day will be celebrated at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus in the Graham Center Pit from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will encourage and praise people openly declaring their sexual orientation, as well as LGBTQA legal victories.

“We want people to come see what the hype

is all about,” said Serrano.

Last year, the Federal Supreme Court removed a section of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which denied federal benefits to same-sex couples.

This year, the State of Florida’s gay community and civil rights activists fought for transgender rights in the workplace, and judges are ruling the Marriage Ban unconstitutional.

Kathleen Hernandez, a public relations freshman and student ambassador for LGBTQA, is surprised by the level of support and activism in Miami.

“It’s cool -- there’s so much going on that I didn’t know about in my backyard,” Hernandez said.

Serrano said he expects people to be more open about their sexual orientation now that it’s legally accepted. However, he doesn’t want to

focus on politics on this day.

One of the highlights this year is a surprise lip-sync performance, according to Serrano, who hopes will attract a larger crowd.

Serrano said he wants the event to be centered on the lives of LGBTQA students and hopes that more international students participate.

According to FIU student population data, Hispanic and minority students make up 69 percent of the University’s student population.

Serrano said due to their conservative background, international students don’t come to these events much.

“It’s really rare to receive international students coming and asking for support,” said Serrano, who said that if they end up attending an event, they think its only for gays.

He said the day is for everyone to come together and accept each other’s differences.

Testimonials from different LGBTQA members will be shared as a way to help educate those in the gay community.

The is a darker tone to this day according to Serrano.

Some attendees have been bullied into admitting their sexual orientation, while others experienced rejection and neglect from close relatives and the public.

Yet, Serrano said lessons can be learned from these negative stories. He said the event will benefit both straight and LGBTQA students, as it will help them become more aware of their surroundings.

“LGBTQA is also open to straight folks who are our allies and supporting their friends,” Serrano said. “By exposing them to progressive thinking and an open society, it does let them learn a little about being a global citizen.”

Man died on Carnival cruise trying to see sunrise

MCT STAFF

Police identified the man who fell to his death from a cruise ship mast earlier this week and are continuing the investigation into his death, which appears so far to be accidental.

Miami-Dade police named Kendall Wernet, 20, as the man who climbed the forward mast of the Carnival Ecstasy at PortMiami and fell about 20 feet onto the deck. No foul play is

suspected, according to police.

“Everything points to it being an accident,” said Miami-Dade police Detective Alvaro Zabaleta.

The mast area is restricted and has signs warning passengers not to enter, said Carnival spokeswoman Jennifer de la Cruz.

Wernet, a Clemson University student, was on the cruise, along with 130 of his colleagues, as a reward for being among the top achievers of the painting

company he worked for, Steve Acorn, the owner of Student Painters, told WYFF.

Acorn told the news station that Wernet, who he has known for three years, was not drinking at the time of the fall. According to Acorn, Wernet and four others wanted to climb the mast. While everyone was lying down on the platform atop the mast, Wernet was standing or sitting up when a radar dish suddenly started to rotate, knocking him off.

Wernet suffered a severe head injury and lost consciousness after falling onto the running track on the deck, Acorn told WYFF.

“He was the kind of guy, that if you had a daughter, you’d want him to marry her,” Acorn told the news station.

The Ecstasy had just returned to Miami from a voyage to the Caribbean on Monday morning when Wernet plunged to his death. The ship left port again Monday

afternoon on its next trip, which is a normal turnaround time for Carnival ships, de la Cruz said.

“We are deeply saddened to learn of the tragic death of Clemson student Kendall Wernet, a junior management major from Arden, N.C.,” said Shannon Finning, Clemson University dean of students, in a statement. “Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends, and we stand ready to help them through this difficult time.”