

New health building houses public health and social work

JUNETTE REYES
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A new building is joining the family of Academic Health Centers at Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

As of Thursday, Oct. 9, Academic Health Center 5 is now open to the University community.

The AHC-5 Ribbon Cutting ceremony was held outside the entrance of AHC-5 on Thursday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to welcome the new home of the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, the International Hurricane Research Center, the Extreme Events Institute, Behavioral Health Labs, and the Department of Earth and Environment at FIU from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Before AHC-5, these departments were dispersed throughout the campus.

The Department of Earth and Environment was previously split between the Engineering and

Computer Science building as well as the Charles Perry building. The International Hurricane Research Center was previously located within the MARC Pavilion building. The Robert Stempel College had its programs located within AHC-1, AHC-2, and the Steve and Dorothea Green Library.

“It’s just more difficult for people to act with each other. It just makes things more difficult,” said Acting Dean Mark Williams of the Robert Stempel College in regards to what the programs had to deal with before.

The building is of especially significant use to the Robert Stempel College, because it will house the entire academic department of the college in the same place for the first time.

This includes the Departments of Biostatistics, Dietetics and Nutrition, Environmental and Occupational Health, Epidemiology, Health

Policy and Management, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, and the School of Social Work.

“[This is] the first time in the history of the college that all the faculty have been together in one building and we think that is going to encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration among the groups that are in the building, not just within the college but also with the programs from Arts and Sciences that are there,” said Williams.

“That’s the real significance of it, I think. Having the students and faculty all together in one building. It’s just going to help increase research, increase inner collaboration,” he said.

Located right across from Parking Garage-5, ground for the \$45 million building was first broken in a ceremony on July 11, 2012. Construction since then produced a 121,400 square-foot complex with space for classrooms, laboratories, and offices.

CLEAR THE HAZE



VINCENT RIVES/THE BEACON

Psychology and sociology major Lauren Valdes (left) and theatre major Lyllette Borrajero (right), both freshmen, attend an Amendment 2 rally in the Graham Center Pit on Thursday, Oct. 9. Amendment 2 would legalize medical marijuana in the state.

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER 5

1st Floor

131 Nutrition Lab
133 Food Science Lab
145 Academic Advising Center

2nd Floor

201, 203 & 212 Classrooms
Extreme Events Institute
International Hurricane Research Center

3rd Floor

360 Department of Earth & Environment
305A Department of Dietetics & Nutrition
355 Department of Environmental & Occupational Health

4th Floor

460 Department of Biostatistics
490 Department of Epidemiology
455 Department of Health Policy & Management
405 Department of Health Promotion & Disease Prevention

5th Floor

505 Office of the Dean
570W1 School of Social Work
539 FIU-BRIDGE

Student government offers \$100K in scholarships

ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA
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Monica Alarcon, a sophomore finance major, was troubled by her financial situation when she wasn’t awarded any scholarships at the beginning of the semester.

“I applied for a couple scholarships, but I wasn’t fortunate enough to get them,” said Alarcon. “I had to settle on loans.”

But now students like Alarcon can get a second chance.

With an extra \$100,000 in their hands, the Student Government Association has decided to put the money towards providing scholarships for students.

The money comes from accumulated interest from the Activity and Service fee, a \$12.87 per-credit-hour charge taken from student tuition, according to Jose Toscano, director of Campus Life.

Available to both undergraduate and graduate students, the scholarships range in categories and amounts.

For example, students can apply for scholarship awards between \$500 and \$1,000. Some SGA scholarships are the Excellence Scholarship, the Patriot Scholarship, the International Scholarship, the Law Student Scholarship and the Medical Student Scholarship.

One scholarship is specifically for single parents, a fact that Toscano attributes to the

University’s uniqueness.

“It’s just a different population that we have here [at FIU],” said Toscano. “And I just think it’s a great opportunity to address that need.”

This idea dates as far back as two year ago, according to Michelle Castro, assistant director of Campus Life and SGA Advisor, when past SGA leaders noted the need to award merit- and need-based scholarships, and insisted on the categories that are available this year.

While some of the scholarships have very particular requirements, some just require your name and a reference; others require official documentation or a supplementary personal statement.

Undergraduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours and maintain a grade point average of at least 3.0 and graduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of 9 credit hours and maintain a minimum GPA of 3.3.

Although the scholarships are being sponsored by SGA, members of the organization will not be evaluating applications.

After the Wednesday, Oct. 15, deadline, a committee composed of around 45 faculty and staff members appointed by the deans of the University and directors of different

SEE SCHOLARSHIP, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Could Latino voters decide Kansas' elections?

Kansas may not be considered Latino country, but the small, albeit growing, Hispanic community across the state is emerging as a potential threat to shake up the political landscape.

The state's approximately 121,000 Latino voters make up just 6 percent of the electorate, but experts say they could make a difference in the tight races for governor, U.S. Senate and secretary of state.

Few US states preparing for climate change, study says

Fewer than half of American states are working to protect themselves from climate change, despite more detailed warnings from scientists that communities are already being damaged, according to a new online clearinghouse of states' efforts compiled by the Georgetown Climate Center.

Fourteen states have plans to prepare for the effects of climate change. California, New York and Maryland are among those that have made the greatest progress toward the dozens of goals their plans set forth, such as cutting statewide greenhouse gas emissions, improving infrastructure, securing water supplies, battling wildfires or coping with rising sea levels. Even those states have much work ahead of them, though.

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Oct. 10, 2014, on page 3 the comic titled "Parking Impossible" should have been credited to Jasmine Romero.

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

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SGA to offer student scholarships

SCHOLARSHIP, PAGE 1

departments, will meet to evaluate the applications, according to Rebekah Schulze, director of the Office of Scholarships and Fellowships.

The committee has three weeks to evaluate applications.

In reviewing the applications, members of the screening committee make use of a rubric that ranks various components of the application, including GPA, students' leadership potential, and personal statements, according to Schulze.

Once all of the applications have been reviewed, the committee will convene before the end of the semester to vote, discussing the qualitative aspects of the students' applications.

"[The committee members will] start to bring in the human side, and their perspective of what they think

"I applied for a couple scholarships, but I wasn't fortunate enough to get them. I had to settle on loans."

Monica Alarcon
Sophomore
Finance Major

makes the applicant a good recipient for the scholarship," Schulze said.

When it comes time to vote, the student who receives the majority of the votes cast will receive the scholarship for which he or she applied.

In the unlikely case of a tie Schulze will hold the final decision.

Students who receive the scholarships will be able to make use of the money during the following spring and summer semesters, an opportunity that isn't common.

According to Schulze, most scholarships don't offer money to cover expenses for the summer semester.

Students who aren't able to apply for this round of scholarships may apply for the University-wide scholarship, which opens in February 2015.

Students may apply for the SGA scholarships by the Oct. 15 deadline by visiting fiu.academicworks.com and entering 'Student Government Association scholarships' in the search bar.

Defibrillators: missing from campus

RAUL HERRERA
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Three university automatic external defibrillators have disappeared in the past month. The devices were originally purchased by the University to be accessible in the case there is a heart attack or another related emergency.

A defibrillator was reported missing to FIU Police Department on Tuesday, Sept. 16, by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety in Owa Ehan. The third was reported missing on Wednesday, Oct. 1, in the MARC Building.

Investigation is ongoing for one of the incidents, which University Safety Officer and Assistant Director of the University Department of Health and Safety Wilfredo Alvarez said occurred in the Vierdes Haus building.

Alvarez told Student

Media that none of the individuals who reported the incidents had seen suspicious activity prior to the disappearances, but that the department would be reviewing camera footage for possible leads.

The defibrillators are part of an FIU initiative, known as Policy Number 1150.004, that aims to make them readily available on campus should an emergency occur.

Alvarez, who is also a PantherERS Squad facilitator, said that the University has committed itself to "putting one AED in every single one of our occupied buildings."

According to police reports, the Physio Control LIFEPAK 1000 defibrillator missing from Owa Ehan cost the university about \$2,395. The one in the MARC Building, a LIFEPAK 1000 AED, cost \$2,399.

While commenting on the occurrences, Alvarez noted their uniqueness.

"This was the first time since the inception of the AED program, which is almost three years old, that we lost any of the devices," he said.

He added that he was still uncertain of whether or not the devices were stolen, as there was a lack of evidence to suggest that. However, FIUPD has decided to treat the incident in Owa Ehan as larceny/grand theft, and the incident in MARC as "theft from structure with public access."

According to the Occupational Health and Safety Administration, using AEDs "within three to four minutes can lead to a 60 percent survival rate" in heart attack victims.

In light of these incidents, Alvarez said the department is looking to place an alarm on the devices to improve security.

"We're purchasing some high piercing alarms that will be attached to the devices," Alvarez said. "We're also looking

"We're purchasing some high piercing alarms that will be attached to the devices."

Wilfredo Alvarez
Assistant Director

Department of Health and Safety

at marking them in very specific ways. There's a thing called SmartWater that illuminates under ultraviolet [light]."

The SmartWater, he said, may assist in tracking an AED back to the university should it be found.

Ultimately, Alvarez believes that student awareness can go a long way.

"We should all take some responsibility for keeping an eye on them in order to ensure that they're there, in case of an emergency," he said.

Nursing student aids terminal children in pilot program

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The University teamed up with the Mathew Forbes Romer Foundation to create a pilot nursing program where students provide in-home care to children with terminal genetic brain diseases.

Yarelis Alicea was the first nursing major to complete the University's program.

The MFRF, a South Florida-based organization that raises awareness and funds for research on terminal genetic brain diseases, placed her in the home of a child with Tay-Sachs disease last year.

Tay-Sachs is a rare hereditary

disease in which fats build up in a child's brain, causing loss of bodily functions. It can lead to blindness, paralysis and death.

The Romer family, whose son died of Tay-Sachs in 1998, founded the MFRF because of a lack of nurses available with the correct training and compassion necessary to provide the extensive amount of care a child with a genetic brain disease needs.

Alicea provided in-home care to the child as a supplement to his mother's care and what their insurance provided them.

Alicea spent a total of 30 hours with the family during her last semester at the University. The program counted as her clinical requirement for the field training

portion of the community course at the end of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

Maria De Los Santos, a professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Alicea's supervisor, said Alicea's help came just in time for the family.

As the family's mother was in the last few months of her pregnancy, the care Alicea provided to their ill son was key in a hectic time in their lives.

The MFRF places only one or two FIU students into homes at a time, so this new program is very competitive.

To qualify, students must be in the RN-to-BSN program in the College of Nursing, as a licensed nurse seeking a bachelor's degree. A background in pediatric care is preferred.

Love Your Body Week gets unnecessarily vulgar

PAIGE BUTLER
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It's not every day a personified clitoris ambles about Campus Life Hallway, posing for pictures with Biscayne Bay Campus students. Monday, Oct. 6, the first day of Love Your Body Week, marked this rare occurrence that made me and other students blurt, "Ew!"

Besides the chintzy quality of the vulgar getup — it looked like a gutted sardine garnished with wilted rose petals — what's most distasteful about this exhibition is its lack of foresight.

Sure, it could make you chuckle at first, but is it worth the tuition, tax dollars or credibility spent?

There's a lot about the Center for Women's and Gender Studies that disgusts me (its culture of perpetual victimhood, short-sighted or misguided political stances and ironically exclusive nature), but nothing irks me more

“Of course, they're not as flashy as a two-legged vagina, but if the Women's Center wants to be taken seriously, boiling their members down to body parts should not be an option.”

than this errant display.

Last week, the Student Government Association appropriated slightly less than half of the requested funds for Love Your Body Week. Now, I'm thinking, 'that was too much.'

As a Biscayne Bay Campus Lower-Division Senator,

I am appalled that I unwittingly approved such a tacky publicity stunt that harms the image of the University and, most particularly, its female students.

Not a cent of involuntary funds should go towards an institution that claims to promote female leadership and academic excellence, yet flaunts sex, shock-value and simple-mindedness in place of intelligent advertising.

At least the Trojan Man at last year's Sex Carnival was wrapped up and promoted safety. The Feminine Faux Pas is just the harbinger of lazy thinking and second-wave Feminist hypocrisy: We don't wanna be objectified, but let's sell sex because creativity could break a nail!

What would've been wrong with a bowed diploma mascot, or handing out Venus symbol stress-balls?

Of course they're not as flashy as a two-legged vagina, but if the Women's Center wants to be taken seriously, boiling their members down to body parts should not be an option.

Twenty-two candles on a cake of uncertainty

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Recently having turned 22 years old has made me look back at my life and see that coming this far has been no great feat — I've lived but a mere portion of my expected lifetime. I look back with a hint of disappointment, as well as uncertainty for my future, when I realize how inexperienced I am in life; or as someone recently said to me, how "unexposed" I am.

With every year that passes by, I jokingly state that I'll forever be "x" age, claiming that I'll start lying about my age as early as possible. Although I initially mean it as a joke, a small part of me genu-

inely fears growing older because of this sense of inexperience.

Admittedly, this "inexperience" is all based on standards I hold myself to in terms of what I think I should have accomplished by now. But they are stan-

“Admittedly, this 'inexperience' is all based on standards I hold myself to in terms of what I think I should have accomplished by now.”

dards that I create by comparing my experience to what is presented to me socially.

My mistake, of course, is comparing my experience to anyone else's.

Still, I do it.

I am inexperienced because I am still dependent on my parents and I live with them at the age of 22, when the both of them became independent individuals around the same age. I am inexperienced because I still have to depend on others for means of transportation. I am inexperienced because, up until this point, I never knew what it meant to work for a paycheck. I am inexperienced because my daily activities usually don't extend beyond my home and school campus. I am inexperienced because I have yet to be a part of a serious relationship with a significant other.

There is so much more I can say in regards to my inexperience, some of which I'm too ashamed to even mention. A lot of it has been due to my upbringing, one that can be called a privileged and sheltered one.

It is only now, at age 22, that I'm trying to catch up with everything I think I'm supposed to have done and assert myself as an independent individual that is constantly learning from the ups and downs that life has to offer.

I'm just afraid that having taken so long to get to this point means I'll never be quite as experienced as I should be. I'm afraid anything I've expected to happen at this point that still hasn't happened yet never will. Which is why, come the next birthday, I'll forever be 22.

Self-entitlement: You are owed nothing

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If you are currently living your life believing that you are entitled to something, let me tell you now that you are so, unmistakably wrong.

This is especially true if you believe you are entitled to something without putting any effort into achieving or obtaining whatever that something may be.

Even if that were not the case, simply believing you deserve a certain outcome or have a right to this certain outcome does not always mean you are entitled to it.

You are not owed

anything from anyone regardless of whatever misfortunes or sense of self-importance you believe justifies your sense of self-entitlement.

as if you deserve more than anyone else in this world, because you do not deserve either any more nor any less than anyone else in this world. You are only

“You should never hold yourself to a higher esteem as if you deserve more than anyone else in this world, because you do not deserve neither any more nor any less than anyone else in this world.”

Your needs and desires are no more significant than the person next to you. You should never hold yourself to a higher esteem

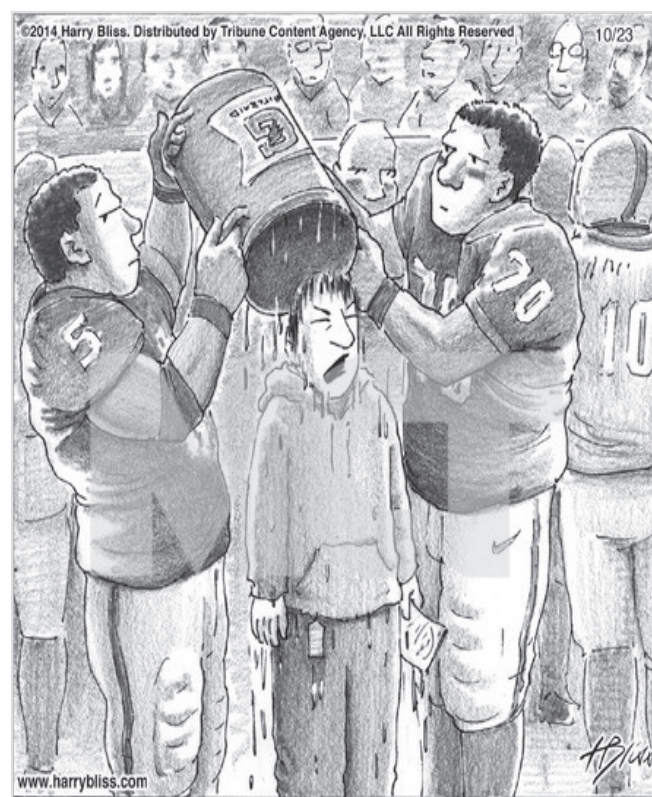
human after all, just like everybody else.

You get out of life exactly what you put into it.

Respect others, live passionately and spread kindness — the same will hopefully be returned if you surround yourself with the right people. But never do so with the expectation that it will be returned or with the belief that you deserve to have it returned. Do so because it is the right thing to do.

At the very least, what everybody in this world deserves is to be respected, to be treated fairly and to live a peaceful and just life.

And you do not have the right to take this away from them with your self-entitlement.



“You idiots ... we lost!”

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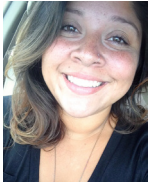
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A Golden Occasion: the men of Alpha Phi Alpha bring awareness to FIU

COLUMNIST



MARLISA PONCE

In a world full of chaos, Alpha Phi Alpha has taken time to find a fun and interesting way to give back.

Whether you know someone directly fighting the battle with cancer or not, you may secondarily be linked to someone who is fighting.

The men of Alpha Phi Alpha have taken note from the rich and famous and have created their very own charity ball, the ninth Annual Golden Occasion.

On the evening of Monday, Nov. 17, Alpha Phi Alpha will be holding a banquet at the Graham Center Ballrooms. With a fun idea, these men of Alpha Phi Alpha are

hoping this fundraiser will help bring awareness to a great cause that has consistently helped families not only in our communities across the nation but around the world as well.

The American Cancer Society is a health organization that has consistently been helping to eliminate cancer as a major health problem for many years now.

Alpha Phi Alpha is a fraternity that encourages and promotes ambition to their members, amongst other things. They have been a positive influence on our community, and have found a way to inspire the act of kindness for the students of FIU.

"ACS has joined Alpha Phi Alpha in an attempt to raise awareness among the members of the organization and their friends and families," said Tashaun

Williams, chair of the event.

Helping everyone look forward to milestones in their lives, such as birthdays, is what this partnership is fighting for.

Rather than just a dance, this idea gives students the chance to put on their finest and attend what essentially is a charity ball.

With doors opening at 7 p.m., and the event starting at 8 p.m., there will be a few things to anticipate if you're expecting to attend. There will be dinner, live entertainment and a speaker, all before busting a move on the dance floor.

There will also be an award ceremony during the night in efforts to honor those who are currently fighting cancer, who have passed away from cancer, or the families of those individuals.

There will be three types of

awards that are up for nominations: the Recognition Award, Black Award and Gold Award.

Outside of any ticket purchase, you may nominate an individual for the Recognition Award if a donation between \$5-\$20 is made; \$21-\$50 grants you access to nominate someone for the Black Award and if you want to nominate someone for the Gold Award, a donation over \$50 allows you to do so.

Ticket sales are currently set at \$10 per ticket with an option for purchasing a table for \$90.

Keep in mind, this isn't a high school dance. The men of Alpha Phi Alpha are aiming to exceed expectations and standards of last year including everything from the food to the entertainment, even to the general ambiance of the night. With a formal night ahead of them,

they have shown in the past that this event can and will exceed all expectations.

If you're still on the fence about a charity ball for whatever reason, think about the effects of cancer. More often than not, you know someone who is courageously fighting a difficult battle, and with your donations, research and resources are made more readily available.

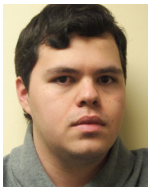
It's a breathe of fresh air to see an organization take pride and personal time to bring awareness to such a needy cause.

If you decide to donate and attend this event, remember this: together we'll stay well, get well, find cures, and fight back, according to ACS.

life@fiusm.com

'Gone Girl' gives different perspective on marriage

REEL TO REEL



RAFAEL ABREU

There is an interest in the scandalous, the wrong and the shocking. People love tales of sex, violence and horrible people, and their reasons for being attracted to these types of stories can vary from entertainment to reflection.

When put to paper, a story about a couple, a jealous spouse or a repressed individual can either be well regarded or considered disposable. It takes skill to pull off and get away with such a good story, regardless of the subject matter.

That's "Gone Girl." Directed by David Fincher and written by Gillian Flynn, author of the best-selling novel, this story about a modern marriage starring Ben Affleck and Rosamund Pike is all kinds of trashy, surprising and hilarious.

"Gone Girl" benefits from the viewer not knowing a thing about the story, so in the spirit of that attitude, I will do my best to not bring it up.

The marketing for this film does a good job at not revealing any twists and only giving the viewer the set-up. However, after seeing the film, I feel that even that was too much.

I feel people should only know the bare basics at maximum, but there are things here and there that might paint a different picture than what really goes on. This is equal parts good as it doesn't reveal the film's true nature and bad as it presents opposing expectations. On the flip-

side, knowing about the film's ending might also be beneficial to understanding the film better, but the right phrase for that is "repeated viewings."

"Gone Girl" is the type of movie I would see again for a variety of reasons, such as to see the film after all of my revelations. A story can be different once you know all that's been hidden, and "Gone Girl" is no exception.

Marriage is what "Gone Girl" deals with and what it's really about. We see two modern-day people who are not perfect and are as flawed as can be. While there is a mystery in it, too, the film uses this mystery to analyze the relationship between Nick and Amy Dunne. Even before seeing this film, I was aware that the "mystery" was not our main importance.

It's a good thing Affleck and Pike are so phenomenal, since it's a story about them. The mystery of a disappearance reveals the flaws in their marriage and themselves as characters.

While Pike is amazing, a word I use rarely, props must also be given to Affleck. Both actors play characters that try to keep up appearances and have oh-so-many secrets—the type of secrets you wouldn't want anyone to know about.

The supporting cast is excellent too, with Tyler Perry as the highlight: high-price, never-losing lawyer Tanner Bolt. He provides the film's most laughs.

What's that? You didn't expect such a serious-looking movie like "Gone Girl" to be funny?

Well, depending on how you look at it, this film is either a dark thriller with comedic bits, or a hilarious satire/meta film. There are many lines, actions and facial expressions that bring about laughter. Some of the comedy is either hilarious on its own or very funny in a dark kind of way.

I'm not saying that "Gone Girl" is a comedy, but you could very much see it that way. It has enough comedic moments that you could label the film as at least partially a comedy, but then that might undercut the more serious and grim aspects. Yet, even with the darkness, the film manages to find laughs.

Honestly, I'm not sure whether that's because the film is self-aware or because Flynn is just fond of comedy. Again, if you see this film as a satire or self-aware film, then it makes more sense; otherwise, it's just dark comedy, but with

more laughs than expected.

What one might take from "Gone Girl" varies, but I knew its tale on marriage was at the center of it all; marriage as a metaphor, marriage as an examination, marriage as a piece of satire.

The film's initial mystery brings about commentary regarding not only marriage, but the media, the people around us, secrets, lies and

even melodramatic stories. In different hands, "Gone Girl" could have been terribly mediocre at best, but Fincher, the master that he is, makes it so much better than that, crafting a well-made thriller that has a lot to say and a lot to leave with its audience.

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WERTHEIM LIVE



CLINTON WALKER/THE BEACON

TOP: Jazz Trombonist Chad Bernstein performs at the The Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, Oct. 7.

RIGHT: Known as the "Trombone Doctor", Bernstein performs the music from his record "Suite for 2nd Lieutenant," which was written for his brother as he was deploying to Afghanistan as an infantry officer in the United States Marine Corps.



“The film's initial mystery brings about commentary regarding not only marriage, but the media, the people around us, secrets, lies and even melodramatic stories.”

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RUGBY

CLOSER ON THE SCRUM

Laphitzondo brothers bond through some Rugby

VERONIKA QUISPE

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Family time is a vital part of most people's lives. For Agustin, Jose and Santiago Laphitzondo, it is everything: FIU Rugby just reinforced that.

Although they immigrated to the United States four years ago, some may feel these brothers have adapted and progressed very quickly. "Getting accepted to FIU was a huge deal for my entire family," says senior Agustin Laphitzondo.

The Laphitzondo brothers were the first in their family to attend college in America, and Agustin Laphitzondo was the first one to join the FIU Men's Rugby Club, paving way for his two younger brothers. "It was a tough struggle not doing high school here and applying to a state university, but I fought through it," says Agustin Laphitzondo.

Junior Jose Laphitzondo followed suit a year after. By then, he had already met the team and the transition was easier. Lastly, sophomore Santiago Laphitzondo put on the blue and yellow jersey and joined his brothers at the scrum.

"Last year was my first year; however, I

wasn't a rookie. People already knew me [and] my name already meant something," Santiago Laphitzondo said.

Rugby granted the Laphitzondos the opportunity to play alongside each other. In Argentina, they never would've gotten the chance due to different age divisions.

"It was the best— I can't explain it. Having them there on the field was incredible. I'm really close with my brothers so our communication when we played together was amazing. Whenever you see one of your brothers catch a ball, you just get so excited," Jose Laphitzondo said, wiping away tears of joy as he reminisced on last season's games.

The Laphitzondo family focused on rugby growing up, unlike most in their country who preferred soccer. "We would always play rugby on Saturday mornings," Agustin Laphitzondo said.

"I've always loved to kick. When we were kids, our backyard had two trees we would use as goal posts," Jose Laphitzondo said. "If you punted over, it was one point. If you drop kicked it, it would be three points."

FIU became a home away from home for them. With long practices and a team full of men



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/ THE BEACON

Sophomore Santiago Laphitzondo prepares to kick the ball during an afternoon practice on Thursday Oct. 9.

who are willing to be a helping hand, it was easy to make new friends.

"Without FIU rugby I would definitely be the lonely guy walking in [Graham Center] and sitting down by myself to eat. These guys are my family — they're home," Santiago Laphitzondo said.

"FIU can be a university that you go to class and then go home. If you don't find a club, sport or activity that allows you to be social with people, it's going to be difficult to enjoy your college experience," says Agustin Laphitzondo.

Although rugby plays a huge role both at home and at school, Jose Laphitzondo decided to take a different field this year and tried out for the football team in spring. After some effort, he is now one of the starting kickers for the Panthers.

"At first, I was really nervous being on the field," Jose Laphitzondo said. "Back in Argentina, I never thought I would be playing football in a stadium in Alabama. I told the coach I never in my life thought this would happen. It's amazing."

Rugby and football have a long history of being almost exactly the same. However, now that Jose Laphitzondo has played both sports at a collegiate level, he sees that they are very different.

"Football hits are a lot harder; people who don't have the ball still get hit and that's crazy for me. But, for rugby, you need a lot more conditioning and you're a lot more versatile. You have to make a thousand decisions a time," he said.

Recently, another Laphitzondo has stepped out of the rugby field, but into the sidelines. At the beginning of the season, backs captain Agustin Laphitzondo injured his already-damaged ACL during rugby practice, making it unsafe for him to continue playing. However, he will not leave the team.

"What I will take from FIU Rugby is the sense of family. Even if I won't be playing, I can't leave. I'll be on the sidelines helping out and cheering," Agustin Laphitzondo said.

Santiago Laphitzondo is the only one left on the team but has no intention of leaving. "I love playing this sport. The morals found in it and the friends I've made is something great," he says.

From the bleachers to the rugby sidelines, this family has



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE LAPHITZONDO FAMILY

TOP: Santiago (left), Agustin (middle) and Jose (right) pose for a picture with their youngest brother Marcos Laphitzondo before a rugby game.

MIDDLE: The Laphitzondo brothers Agustin (left), Jose (middle) and Santiago (right) were born in Argentina and moved to the U.S. four years ago.

BOTTOM: Jose Laphitzondo plays rugby in Argentina as a child. The three brothers preferred rugby to soccer and played in their backyard.

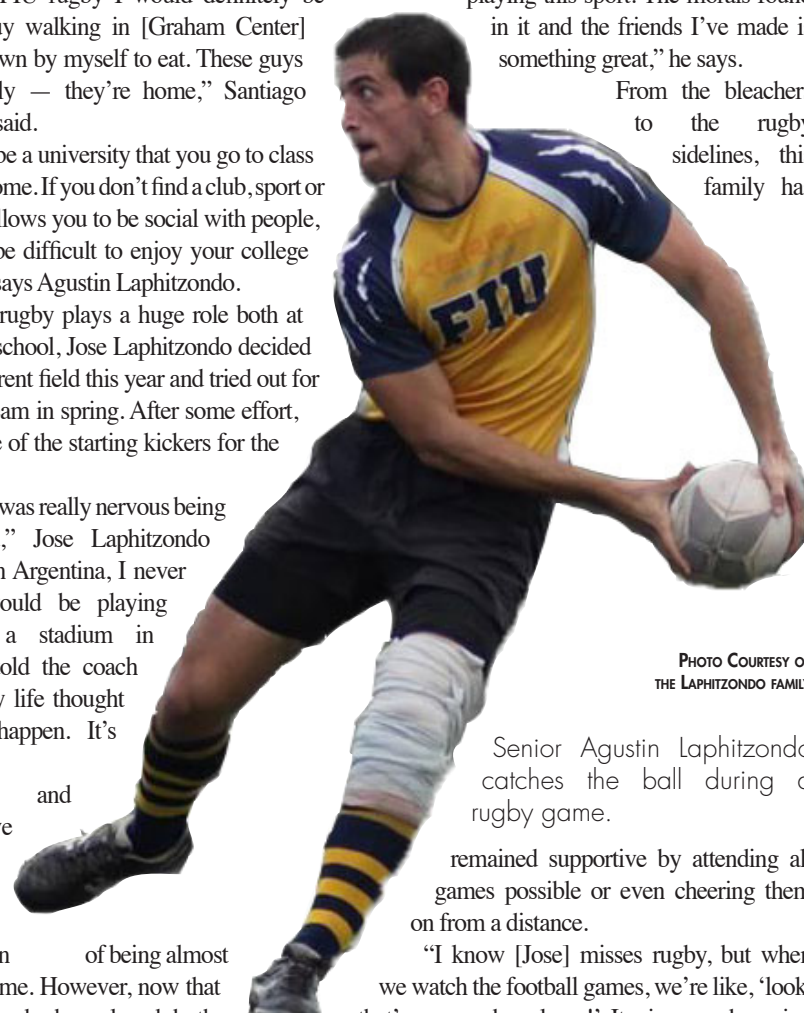


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LAPHITZONDO FAMILY

Senior Agustin Laphitzondo catches the ball during a rugby game.

remained supportive by attending all games possible or even cheering them on from a distance.

"I know [Jose] misses rugby, but when we watch the football games, we're like, 'look, that's our rugby player!' It gives us bragging rights," Santiago Laphitzondo said. "It's a huge sense of pride and he also promotes this unpopular sport."

Like most brothers, they argue sometimes, yet they are brought together by their two dogs and unhealthy interest in "League of Legends."

"We're very close because we're the only family we have here in the U.S., but we're also very different. They're backs [while] I'm a forward," says Santiago Laphitzondo.

Agustin Laphitzondo will be graduating in the spring with a major in international relations. Jose Laphitzondo is the only football player in the FIU Honors College and will be pursuing a career in finance. Santiago Laphitzondo is just starting out, but he is persistent in his passion for engineering.

For the Laphitzondos, there is nowhere to go but up, and there is no other way to do so than together.

FOOTBALL

Leonard exemplifies Panthers' lockdown defense

JORGE CORRALES

Staff Writer

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In their three wins of 2014, the Panthers have relied heavily on defense, much credit owed to cornerback Richard Leonard.

It wasn't long after Leonard started playing football at Miami Killian Senior High School that he became a highly touted recruit committed to FIU since September 2009. He competed in the annual Miami-Dade versus Broward All-Star game and was rated a 3-star cornerback by recruiting website Rivals.com.

From there, Leonard received offers from the University of South Florida, Western Michigan University, and was watched by University of Florida and the University of Georgia, but ultimately decided to stay local.

"It's closer to home," said Leonard when asked why he chose to become a Panther. "I just really wanted to play in front of my family and build this program."

Leonard entered the program in 2011 and made an immediate impact. He appeared in all 13 games as a freshman and recorded three interceptions – one of those coming in the Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl against Marshall University.

"It was a good feeling to be

able to get out there right away," said Leonard. "I had the trust of the coaches and stuff. It was good to start the first game and just get the feeling of it. It's paying off right now."

Leonard continued to shine in 2012, his sophomore year. He started six games as a cornerback and appeared in all 12 while recording 55 tackles. Leonard posted a 29.15-yard kickoff return average, good enough for second in school history. He also set a Panther record with a 100-yard kickoff return for a touchdown against Florida Atlantic University.

"I was waiting all season to break something," said Leonard. "It finally happened at a key point of the game so it felt real good."

For Leonard, 2013 was supposed to be a breakout year. Coming off two impressive seasons, he was set to be a regular starter and big contributor. He entered the year with 33 kick returns for 902 yards – both marks good enough for fourth in school history. However, off-field academic issues kept Leonard on the sidelines and out of the record books.

"It really humbled me," said Leonard when asked about sitting out a year. "It made me appreciate football. Just take care of business

first. If you don't take care of business, then you can't play and do something that you love. It got me on the right path and I'm feeling good now."

Leonard came back in 2014, hungry to pick up where he left off. Through six games, Leonard is ranked second in the nation with four interceptions. He's returned two of those interceptions for touchdowns and he's also taken a fumble back for a score.

Leonard was named Conference USA Defensive Player of the Week in two consecutive weeks for his efforts against University of Alabama at Birmingham and FAU. He's also contributing on special teams, netting 199-yards on only six kickoff returns. Although Leonard excels in the return game, it's not his favorite



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Top: Junior cornerback Richard Leonard runs the ball during the game against the Louisville Cardinals on Saturday, Sept. 20.

Left: Cornerback Richard Leonard catches his breath after running a 100-yard fumble return for a touchdown at the game against Florida Atlantic University on Thursday, Oct. 2. His performance tied a set school record, and earned him his second consecutive Conference USA Defensive Player of the Week honor.



BRIAN TRUJILLO/THE BEACON

part of being on the field.

"I like playing corner because I get to lock down my receiver and shut him down," said Leonard.

Leonard anchors a defense that leads all of college football with 21 takeaways. This year's Panther defense is allowing an average

20.9 points per game; far better than last year's defense, which gave up an average 37 points per game.

"We're playing with major confidence. Just having fun out there and trusting one another," he said.

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Decorated swimmers show promise

SAMUEL COHEN
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The Women's Swimming and Diving team have a lot of weight to carry on their shoulders this season.

Holding second place in last year's Conference USA Championship tournament, they are looking to finally come in first place as a strong core of last year's team.

The tables were turned on the Panthers as they were defeated by the Rice University Owls at their last meet.

The Owls defeated the Panthers by 260 points with a final score of 1000-740, with the emphasis on relays as the Owls were able to sweep those five for five.

However, a powerful class of freshmen make their way to the swimming pool for payback.

FIU swept top honors in the 2014 Conference USA Swimming and Diving Specialty Awards as seniors Sonia Perez Arau and Sabrina Beaupre were named Swimmer of the Year and Diver of the Year.

Arau became FIU's first swimmer to receive All-American distinction when she finished 13th in the 400 individual medley at the 2014 National Collegiate Athletic Association Championships. With a time of 4:10.17, the second-fastest mark in school history, Arau was the lone

C-USA swimmer to score at the NCAA Championships, earning four points for the Panthers.

Returning this year from the powerhouse 2013-2014 team is senior Johanna Gustafsdottir, who won the 200-yard individual medley (1:57.94) at the C-USA tournament last year.

Also expected to make a major impact this year is senior Klara Andersson and sophomores Jennifer Deist and Jennifer Alfani.

Alfani came to FIU with an extraordinary swimming background as a previous member of the French National Team for the European Championships in 2012.

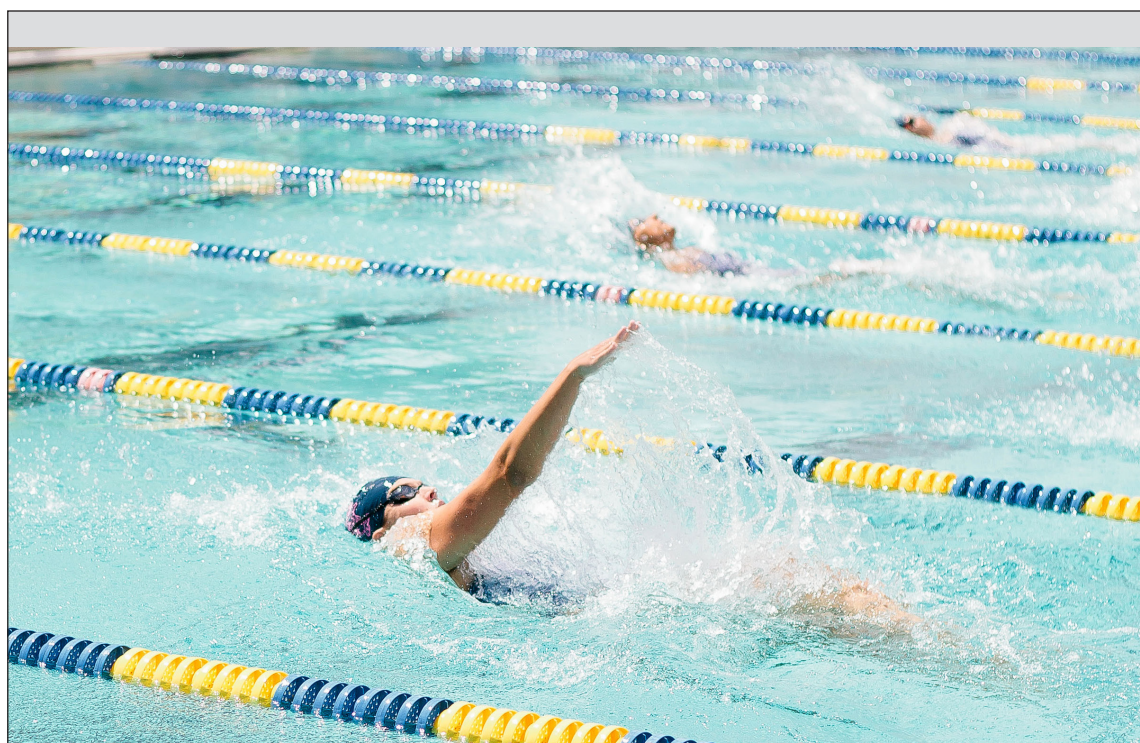
She was able to earn a medal in that championship, and she brings a winning attitude to this team.

Head Coach Randy Horner has had great things to say about Alfani.

"[Alfani's] experience at the European Championships representing the French national team will be valuable to her success in the NCAA," Horner said. "Jennifer is used to winning and success at the highest level."

Deist comes in with her own top honors having won three state medals – the most ever earned for swimming at Edwardsville High School in Illinois.

"[Deist] is an exciting addition to our team," said Horner. "She is improving constantly and I feel she is the type of swimmer



JEFFERY PIERRE/ THE BEACON

Senior Johanna Gustafsdottir swims freestyle at the Saturday, Oct. 4, meet against Florida Atlantic University. Panthers' swim team began their season strong with a win against the Owls.

that has untapped potential. She will be a significant contributor right away for us."

Andersson proves to be a consistent team player for the Panthers, returning for her senior year.

As the current school record holder in the 50 freestyle, posting a time of 23.24 seconds at the Sun Belt Conference Championships in 2012, the Swedish native is also an important part of many of the relay teams.

She will be called upon early and often by the FIU coaching

staff to pave the way for a top finish.

Leading the way for the Panthers this year will undoubtedly be Gustafsdottir, as the Icelandic native is already part of 10 FIU school records.

Five of those records came in individual events (100, 200 freestyle, 100, 200 Backstroke, 200 Medley), as the other five came in relays (200,400,800 Freestyle, 200, 400 Medley).

Gustafsdottir came to the Panthers with great swimming history as an Icelandic National

Champion 43 times and holding 25 Icelandic national records from 2004 through 2011.

The Panthers' most important matchups will be at the Mizzou Invitational from Nov. 20 through Nov. 22, the Winter Classic on Thursday, Dec. 18, and the dual meet against their local rivals at the University of Miami on Saturday, Jan. 31.

The C-USA championships will be held Feb.18 through Feb. 22.

Reggae Fest makes debut at Homecoming

KARLA REYES
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This week, Homecoming kick-off events will be held at the Biscayne Bay Campus, consisting of traditional celebrations and a new one.

Kickoff by the Bay and the Homecoming Dance return this year, while Panther Reggae Fest makes its debut appearance.

The kickoff will be Monday, Oct. 13, from noon to 3 p.m. on the lawns behind the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Center, followed by Panther Reggae Fest on Tuesday, Oct. 14, between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on the same lawns by the bay.

The dance, which was hosted at the

Kovens Conference Center last year, will be held in the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms on Friday, Oct. 17, at 7 p.m.

According to Maria Barajas, assistant director of development on the Homecoming Council and council member for three years, the council's budget this year required the addition of a new event at BBC.

Barajas said the council wanted to add the Panther Reggae Fest at BBC because it would foster more school spirit during homecoming week.

"We'll try it out to see if we're going to make it a tradition," said Barajas.

The events at BBC during Homecoming week use the open spaces on campus, which are not offered at the Modesto A.

Maidique Campus.

Kelly Ibarra, assistant director of operations of the Homecoming Council, said the scenery is part of the reason why Kickoff is traditionally held near the Biscayne Bay.

"We like to have them there because it's really beautiful," said Ibarra.

Barajas said students will be able to kayak on the bay during the Kickoff and Reggae Fest. A jet pack show is also scheduled for later in the day.

In addition to kayaking, there will be bounce houses, free food and games.

The Kickoff will resemble a carnival with different student organizations offering giveaways.

"It's just celebrating the start of

homecoming," said Ibarra.

The LXV Lounge will be the only event indoors for its Las Vegas theme.

Menissa Rijos, a senior majoring in religious studies, said hosting the Kickoff at BBC is great way to attract students from MMC and other University campuses.

"It's nice that they thought of students who don't go to the main campus," said Rijos.

Vincent Taylor, a junior studying psychology, said it's a nice effort, but the events at MMC overshadow the ones at BBC.

"I hear a lot about the Panthermonium Concert, but not much about the other events," he said.

BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY, OCT. 13

HOMECOMING "KICKOFF BY THE BAY"

WHEN: 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.
WHERE: Lawns by the Bay

SPC DANCING WITH THE WOLFE: SALSA AND BACHATA

WHEN: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
WHERE: Rec Center

TUESDAY, OCT. 14

HOMECOMING "PANTHER REGGAE FEST" FEAT. SOCA/REGGAE ARTIST KES

WHEN: 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
WHERE: Lawns by the Bay

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15

HOMECOMING "BLUE & GOLD PRIDE - ICE CREAM BASH"

WHEN: 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
WHERE: Panther Square

THURSDAY, OCT. 16

ROARY'S BIRTHDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

WHEN: 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.
WHERE: Panther Square

WRITERS ON THE BAY READING SERIES: ROBERT OLMSTEAD

WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: BBC Bookstore

FRIDAY, OCT. 17

SPC DANCING WITH THE WOLFE: HAITIAN KOMPA & MODERN DANCE

WHEN: 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. & 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
WHERE: Rec Center

HOMECOMING DANCE "LXV LOUNGE"

WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: WUC Ballrooms