

FIU partnership raises faculty concern

MADISON FANTOZZI
Asst. News Director

Faculty are raising concern and criticism over the University's proposed contract with Academic Partnerships to market a new program that will offer online degrees to students abroad.

Faculty are questioning the procedure – or lack thereof – that was undergone to select the company for partnership, which was neither competitive nor voted upon.

The new program called FIU Global will help the University bring in the financial benefits of the increasing popularity of online learning with the help of AP's marketing and recruiting services.

Provost Douglas Wartzok wrote in an email to Student Media that marketing is not the University's "core competency" and Dean of University College Joyce Elam said the company will perform non-academic activities that are important to the success of the program.

AP is not a new acquaintance of the University, with its first contract signed in 2009 that not only created the online Corporate MBA program, but also faculty concern.

Mathematics Professor Enrique Villamor, who was chair of the Faculty Senate's online committee when the initial contract was signed, said faculty was not informed of the contract.

"If someone is going to teach, they should be involved or at least informed," said Villamor.

The Faculty Senate proposed a recommendation.

"Be it further resolved that the University shall neither renew its contract... nor enter into any other such contract to offer any FIU degree in partnership with any other private company without first consulting with the Faculty Senate," the recommendation says.

Villamor said the Faculty Senate was told "vaguely" that administration looked into companies but AP was the best choice.

"We were told FIU was not capable of recruiting on its own and that the company had the capability of recruiting students from out of the region to the MBA online program," said Villamor.

The Miami Herald reported, however, that the company was responsible for recruiting 100 students for every entering class, but has only met this goal once.

"Administration came back to the same company although results are not good," said Villamor. "If you look at the numbers, they fall short and are declining."

Wartzok wrote that this is one of the points being discussed with the company before moving forward with the new agreement.

"The goal is 100 students but 80 is acceptable," said Elam. "I don't look at the numbers anymore but I am satisfied with the enrollment [AP] has generated."

The Miami Herald also reported that the company was initially receiving 70 percent of tuition revenues. According to Elam, AP receives 45 percent of the tuition generated from the online program.

"Faculty think Academic Partnerships gets too much of tuition revenue," wrote Wartzok. "Some faculty prefer not to have a public-private partnership in the delivery of academic programs."

According to Wartzok, faculty has "complete control" in determining the curriculum and development process of academic programs, and can decide whether or not they want to teach in the programs.

Elam said the University will be in control of the academic development of FIU Global, while the company will be responsible for marketing and recruiting for the program.

AP's activities will also include setting up a call center and student services, staffing these services and translating courses into the languages of prospective students.

"We don't have the capital or translation materials to do this on our own," said Elam.

Another concern of faculty is the lack of a competitive process.

"If at any point our General Counsel determines that a competitive process is required, we will move to such a process," wrote Wartzok.

While a formal process is not required, Elam said alternative companies were considered but AP provides the most services at the lowest price. Wartzok wrote that FIU Global and its relationship with AP will enhance the university's international reputation and further the development of the Worlds Ahead Strategic Plan.

According to Elam, FIU Global and its partnership with AP is in an early stage of discussion.

-madison.fantozzi@fiusm.com

Eat up!



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Erika Guyon, nutrition and dietetics major (right), serves Hoisin-Glazed Short Rib Steamed Buns during the SOBE Wine & Food Festival. The steamed buns were the creation of Todd English, a renowned chef, restaurateur, author, entrepreneur, and television star based in Boston, Massachusetts and New York City.

Gov. Scott pushing for 'Finish in Four' program

MARIELLA ROQUE
Staff Writer

Amid the chaos of the economy, Florida Governor Rick Scott is trying to bring back some sanity to the education system.

On Jan. 31, Scott announced his \$74.2 billion budget proposal, focusing primarily on K-12 and higher education.

"We appreciate the governor's recognition of the importance of higher education and his support in funding higher education," said Steve Sauls, vice president of Governmental Relations. "What we're asking the legislature to do is keep

the promise to restore our funding because we would have some serious challenges maintaining what we're doing now if that money is not restored."

Following last year's alleged "one-time" \$300 million cut to the State University System budget, Scott's proposal vows to keep that promise and restore the money in general revenue. This increase includes \$118 million for operating expenses, \$167 million for performance funding and \$15 million for the University of Florida to achieve a national ranking in the top 10.

"I think the governor

will get some of the things he wants, but ultimately the legislature will work out all the details," Sauls said. "In addition, the Board of Governors is asking for \$118 million for performance funding."

The BOG has submitted its SUS operating request to the state legislature. The executive summary contains projects for the University including \$1 million in renovations for the Wolfe University Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus, \$22 million for an expansion of the Graham Center at the Modesto A.

SEE SCOTT, PAGE 2

FIU Health adds branch in Broward County

ALYSSA ELSO
Contributing Writer

For more than a year, FIU Health physicians have provided state-of-the-art, comprehensive care to patients at the Modesto Maidique Faculty Group Practice. Now, the practice is moving on up – to Broward County.

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine's Faculty Group Practice has expanded into Broward County with its second practice at the Broward Health Medical Center.

In partnering with Broward Health, the University is expanding access to health care and increasing the learning opportunities for its medical students.

Feb. 15, 2013 marked the grand opening of the new practice, which is initially focused on providing outpatient psychiatric services to children, adolescents and adults through the diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric disorders.

"The practice currently has two doctors, who specialize in child, adolescent and adult psychiatry, as well as substance abuse," said Dr. Daniel Castellanos, professor and founding chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health. "We also have a licensed clinical therapist on staff, and hope to add specialty group therapy in the future."

According to Castellanos, in April,

the practice will add family medicine services.

Board certified psychiatrists, Dr. Leonard Gralnik, practicing psychiatrist for twenty years, and Dr. Christopher La Riche, who specializes in adult psychiatry, are both faculty members at the Wertheim College of Medicine.

Along with Katie Santana, licensed clinical social worker, the trio are currently physicians at the FGP in Broward.

With its main clinical practice located at MMC, FIU Health-Broward, Castellanos said, "Serves to provide to the Broward County community, as its location is more accessible to residents of Broward and North Miami-Dade."

FIU Health-Broward will not only treat patients, but also serve as an educational venue for third year medical students, who will soon begin their rotations within the practice.

"Medical students will rotate through our practice as part of their third year psychiatry clerkships," said Gralnik.

"Our department uses the Broward Health Medical Center as a training ground for medical students," said Gralnik, as FIU students have been receiving clinical training from physicians in a variety of specialties at Broward Health for the past three years.

"In the future we will expand to

also provide primary care services to serve as an integrated provider of multidisciplinary medical care for our patients," said Gralnik. "We also expect to grow and expand our psychiatry staff."

Among the practices most commonly treated conditions are: attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, reckless behavior, school difficulties, depression, anxiety, bipolar disorders, alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, and psychotic disorders including schizophrenia.

Appointments are currently available Monday through Friday.

-news@fiusm.com

WORLD NEWS

Cuba's Raul Castro mentions possible retirement

Cuban President Raul Castro has unexpectedly raised the possibility of leaving his post, saying Friday that he is old and has a right to retire. But he did not say when he might do so or if such a move was imminent.

The Cuban leader is scheduled to be sworn in to a new five-year term on Sunday. Castro urged reporters to listen to his speech that day.

"I am going to be 82 years old," Castro said at a joint appearance with visiting Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. "I have the right to retire, don't you think?"

Indian police search for evidence in bomb attack

Indian police are investigating whether a shadowy Islamic militant group was responsible for a dual bomb attack that killed 16 people outside a movie theater and a bus station in the southern city of Hyderabad, a police official said Friday.

The group, the Indian Mujahideen, is thought to have links with militants in neighboring Pakistan. India's recent execution of an Islamic militant is being examined as a possible motive for the bombings, said the official, an investigator who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to reveal details of the probe.

Russian lawmaker quits parliament in property row

A senior lawmaker from the pro-Kremlin party resigned his seat in parliament on Wednesday after an anti-corruption campaigner alleged that he owns properties in Florida worth more than \$2 million. Vladimir Pekhtin, chairman of the State Duma's ethics committee, told the parliament that he is stepping down to protect his party from the scandal.

The lawmaker became the center of the scandal last week when the anti-corruption crusader, Alexei Navalny, published copies of deeds and other legal documents indicating that Pekhtin and his son own two condos in Miami Beach and a villa in Ormond Beach, Florida.

For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.

Twitter used in hiring process more

KATHRYN DEL RINCON
Contributing Writer

In today's world, you can know everything about a person if you have five minutes and a smart phone in your palm.

The new process of recruiting and hiring employees through Twitter is becoming more popular. The use of social media is endless and provides ample opportunity, but some students see using a couple simple tweets to land a career as taking it too far.

"It is unfair to those who put in a lot of time and effort to build their resumes," said freshman criminal justice major Andrea Madrazo. "An employer does not know if the applicant has a college degree and that's unfair to those who do."

According to a recent USA Today article by Bruce Horowitz, several companies have adopted Twitter as their hiring process, replacing interviews and resumes. Some companies now look at a potential employee's tweets to determine whether or not he or she is right for the job without a traditional interview or reading a resume. The USA Today article described a chief marketing officer for a tech firm who refuses to look at resumes, basing his

decision for a six-figure social media strategist job solely on the candidate's tweets. These "Twitterviews" can be considered a 140-character job application. Although it does seem like an unorthodox hiring method, the number of companies using Twitter to recruit employees is increasing worldwide. It seems this may become the new standard for companies seeking tech-savvy employees.

A report by online job search expert Susan P. Joyce for job-hunt.org lists the top 50 companies using Twitter as their hiring process. AT&T, Hyatt Hotels, MTV Networks, and the U.S. Department of State were among the many included.

Surprisingly, the social media craze does not have many students convinced. Even though it would seem young adults would be excited about this new hiring process, some still feel it is unfair method of hiring.

"Twitter is meant to be social, not a job application," said Julian Pinero, a freshman business administration major. "It may make for better insight on a person but it shouldn't go to the point of replacing the resume and face to face interview."

On the other hand, some see the bene-

fits from "Twitterviews." People who would have been looked over can now land an interview that he or she may not have otherwise. For candidates with less education and/or experience this hiring method gives them the opportunity to compete in the job market and also a possibility to share their knowledge that in other circumstances would have been lost.

"Social media is a new way of connecting and [in some ways] can give more than a resume," explained Melanie Adams, a graduate assistant at Career Services. "We educate students on how to use LinkedIn and company's websites. I don't think [Twitterviews] is a bad idea, it is another option."

Fair or unfair, it seems using social media as a hiring process is not merely a fad.

Ten years ago it was rare for a company to have an updated and functional website, while now it is unheard of for a company not to be online. This in mind, the process of recruiting and hiring employees via Twitter could easily become standard in the next decade.

-news@fiusm.com

New budget proposal in Florida could raise teacher salaries

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Maidique Campus and \$4 million for the Student Academic Support Center at MMC.

"There's a certain amount of gamesmanship in the legislature, they may hold some things hostage," Sauls said. "It will be up to the legislature to decide how much to provide and how to allocate it and sometimes the devil is in the details."

In Scott's budget, \$10.7 billion in state contributions is allocated to Florida public schools, a feat he touts to be the highest in history, the most significant increase being \$480 million to increase teachers' salaries by \$2,500 apiece.

"A lot of governors do this, they want to be the education governor," said Kathryn DePalo, senior lecturer in politics and international relations.

"Governors can budget for anything."

DePalo explained that her worry lies in the funding of the budget, her guess being it might come from the public universities.

"It's not a zero-sum game, it's not as if K-12 teachers win, then universities lose, but it does seem that universities' budgets are easier to cut than elementary schools," DePalo said.

Sauls, however, emphasized that K-12 and higher education are not mutually exclusive when it comes to funding.

"Pre-K education is important right through Ph.D.," Sauls said. "A strong public education system is in our interest, not an either-or, but public higher education needs to be a priority, too."

Another major higher education initiative Scott is pushing for is the Finish

in Four program, offering students flat tuition rates the first four years of their university education, an incentive he hopes will motivate students to graduate quickly.

"Students have a stake in the outcomes because the legislature provides money that funds access, quality improvements and tuition policy," Sauls said. "We want to be very positive about what we can do ourselves and we don't want to complain, but we do want to try to make the case about how higher education is important to the economic development of our community."

Sauls encourages students to contact their representatives and ask them to keep the University in mind when voting on legislation.

"Scott's budget will likely not stay the way it is," DePalo said. "The legisla-

ture has to play bad cop and say 'we don't have that kind of money available or where are we essentially cutting?' That is the big question."

In an effort to promote university student interests, on April 2 and April 3, the University's Student Government Association is holding Rally in Tally, when SGA, in collaboration with the Florida Student Association, takes students to Tallahassee for free to meet with state senators and representatives and lobby their cause.

"It's a great experience, this is my third year participating," said Alex Castro, vice president of the Student Government Council at MMC. "Student presence is very important in order to share emotional and logical ideas with our legislators so that they vote for more university funding."

-mariella.roque@fiusm.com

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 348-2709
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
philippe.buteau@fiusm.com

Advertising:
(305) 348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

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At SOBEEWFF, students learn the ropes

FESTIVAL, PAGE 1

"The students here working on site love it, they are so energetic," said College of Medicine Dean John Rock, as he prepared to enjoy one of the dishes.

Working with chefs in a culinary event such as the SOBEEWFF is a great experience for students, according to FIU alumnus, Allen Susser, who characterized himself as a culinary chef working with tropical ingredients.

"It's fun because with the students, especially in an event like this, they get to see how people enjoy the food and that's really amazing," said Susser. "When you have the professionals, sometimes they lose sight of it and they just work, work, work, but I think the kids really get the

value of connecting the food with the smiles of the guest." Students like Suzy Delgado, senior hospitality major who has volunteered at the festival twice, enjoyed the fast and busy pace of the festival as well as working with the chefs.

"They are very awesome. They're very down to earth people and they are very friendly," said Delgado.

The events that had the most prominent FIU student presence were Moët Hennessy's The Q, which launched the festival, followed by the Amstel Light Burger Bash, Grand Tasting Village, Fun and Fit as a Family, Trucks on Midtown and Guy Fieri's Roadshow and Reggae.

-bbc@fiusm.com

Making stranger conversations more common

MIGUEL MARTINEZ-VIERA
Contributing Writer

A simple act of kindness is not what I'm talking about. Nor a kind word; nor helping out a friend. What I'm talking about is having a meaningful, unexpected interaction with a complete stranger.

Does this sound like an odd thing to you? Well, that's because it probably is.

Our society has been gradually isolating itself more and more over the course of this past generation. We've been using Facebook to stay in touch with friends far away, and tweeting to "Twitdiots" we don't even know. We share intimate details and pictures of our day-to-day lives with who-knows-who, and we've come to accept these things as normal and acceptable.

We praise how interconnected the world is while we tap away at our cell phones and fail to notice the human being sitting just a few feet away from us.

We've traded meaningless distractions for meaningful interactions.

When's the last time you had a spontaneous conversation with a person you'd never met before? A conversation that left you feeling different about

your day? A conversation that made you question something you believed or simply made you reflect on your own life?

"I think truthful and general kindness should happen more often," Caitlyn Lincoln, a junior theater major believes. "It can be a smaller world than we think it is, and I think some of the most profound moments in my life have happened via a random conversation with a stranger."

Somewhere along the way, the majority of the population forgot that what had made our species so special was our ability to communicate in a singular, meaningful way with almost anyone else.

Anyone else. Including a complete stranger.

And that may seem daunting, but at the same time, it's really not. If you're sitting around campus, you could start a conversation with anyone; you already have attending FIU in common.

I'm not saying it should be forced, that would probably be awkward for everyone, but it should be a little uncomfortable. You'd be breaking down that social barrier that so many of us put up. It might just be easier to post on their wall, or comment on a picture

of them nearly naked, giving a "Like" and a suggestive comment. It would probably be more welcome than you inquiring how their day was going, or what was on their mind.

And that's exactly the problem.

It seems so simple, put down your phone, only use it when you have to make a call or truly need to send a text and interact with those around you.

It seems simple because it is.

But so many feel the need to immerse themselves in their iPhone, hiding away in a cyber space, whenever they're surrounded by 'strangers'.

I don't want this to be taken as just a rant against social media in all its forms, I do believe it has its merits in some instances, but I do want this to be something that makes you stop and think, then limit the amount of time you spend disconnected from your present surroundings.

Next time you have a moment to spare, spark a conversation with a stranger. Who knows what might come from it. As Lincoln so sagely pointed out, "everyone who means something to me, at one point or another was technically a stranger."

-opinion@fiusm.com

Updating ourselves, not our statuses

DIANA ANAYA
Contributing Writer

There is not one catch-all answer to explain why suicide rates continue to rise for university students. The new environment, the masses of students, the pressure of doing well, and the cost of attendance is enough to make anyone crack, but these are only some of the possible causes.

The Counseling and Psychological Services office is open to walk-ins and have a variety of help groups for students to attend, although they could use brighter decorations and overall look so the building doesn't feel like a ward.

I think what has been contributing to the rise in suicides in universities is our increased dependence and faith in technology.

The end of high school is heartbreaking for many reasons, but the standout reason is the loss of relationships. You're yanked out of an environment that helped foster friendships and form tight knit groups, left to face a reality that your friendships may wither away.

When you attend university, you can create new relationships that ease the pain of the loss of friends and family, especially if you move to a new city or state. But technology has stifled the desire to make new friends, which is difficult enough in a commuter school such as FIU, where no one even dares to make eye contact. And if you're attending a university away from family and friends, it can take a serious toll on your psychological health.

We're fooled by the illusion that emails, texting, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Skype and the slew of other social platforms can replace real life relationships. Keeping friendships going just through these forms of communication requires a level of dedication from both parties that quickly becomes a chore, and that's not even mentioning long distance relationships.

The truth is that nothing can replace having someone right there next to you, seeing them every day or a few times a week.

Social networking sites are a joke—few people really use these websites to communicate with one another, posting silly updates and wishing someone a happy birthday when the reminder pops up.

In fact, most of our 'friends' on Facebook constitute people we know but don't really talk to. But we buy into this myth, allowing ourselves to be consumed by it. And when our high school friends begin to text less and less, meet new people and move forward with their lives, we're left alone with no real, live human being to talk to.

I'm sure everyone has heard of the no-social-media challenge, where for either two weeks or a month, depending on the challenge, you don't use any form of social media. This is a nice idea, but I believe it can be taken further. Make this a lifestyle choice: limit yourself to a certain amount of instances in which you can check in to each of these social media sites per day. Look around every once in awhile when waiting for a class to start or when sitting outside; hell, even smile at someone!

Obviously this is not the sole reason suicide rates have gone up for university students. But the loneliness of a campus filled with unfriendly, technology obsessed students could be the tipping point.

-opinion@fiusm.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Dream Era

February 26, 2012 is a night that haunts many. On this night in Sanford, Fla., Trayvon Martin was walking home when he was confronted and fatally shot by George Zimmerman. Florida's Stand Your Ground law allowed Zimmerman to be released on bail and has yet to be charged.

This tragedy marked the beginning of new ideas and a stand for equality by an unlikely group – our youth. Students across the state began to rally in the wake of Trayvon Martin's death and created an organization called Dream Defenders.

We have been planning and building our collective power to build a movement to speak for our underrepresented communities to protect them and bring in an era of change.

The Dream Defenders is a young organization, but have been hard at work presenting

the issues affecting our communities.

One such issue is the school to prison pipeline, a method in which kids are being channeled from schools into the criminal justice system.

This pipeline is criminalizing our nation's children instead of educating them. There are even juvenile facilities that are being shut down across the state, leaving children as young as eight-years-old to be forced into adult prisons, for disruptive behavior such as arriving late to class or throwing objects in the classroom.

Instead of the school staff handling the children's misconduct, schools are relying on police officers to take kids out of an educational environment and put them in a system that will cause more harm to them.

When these children grow into adults living

through the never ending incarceration process, they lose the chance to be educated, to have careers, and to really reach their full potential.

This greatly contributes to the fact that America has the largest incarceration percentage in the whole world. One in four of the world's inmates are Americans and since the 1970s the incarceration rate has tripled in the United States.

On March 5th, Gov. Rick Scott will deliver his State of the State Address, a speech that shows Florida's status as a state.

On this day, on the steps of the Old Capital of Florida, the Dream Defenders will also be delivering a special "Welcome to the Dream Era" speech and a Community State of the State Address with speakers addressing a number of issues affecting our communities. Such issues include:

voter suppression, immigration, Stand Your Ground laws and the School to Prison Pipeline.

We welcome you to the Dream Era. Join us. We are the future. We are the answer; we are the change that we have been waiting for.

We will demand everything that was promised to us, while laying the foundation for a new nation created in our image.

America is changing, it is shifting. It is an era propelled by black and brown youth who spent their formative years criminalized, marginalized, tossed to the side and forgotten. We found beauty in the dark; we found strength in our struggle and determination through despair.

Paula Zamudio Dream Defenders FIU President
Paula@dreamdefenders.org

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

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Relay for Life to raise money for cancer research



HEATHER LEIPHART/AP IMAGES

Relay for Life is the largest non-profit fundraising event that takes place in over 20 countries with more than 4 million people involved.

JESSICA VALERIE RODRIGUEZ *Staff Writer*

Cancer, the heartbreaking reality that makes people feel powerless, the illness that traumatizes not only the people who suffer from it, but their loved ones as well.

Students are contributing to the fight against cancer by putting together the annual Relay for Life event on March 1 at 6 p.m.

Relay for Life has been in existence for nine years at the University and has raised thousands of dollars for the American Cancer Association.

People who have been affected by cancer and those who are just paying their respects, join forces to relay and reach a cancer-free world. This year the committee's goal is to raise \$91,000 for cancer-related services.

Relay for Life is an organization well known throughout the country and the world.

There are 5,100 relay communities and more than 4 million people in over 20 countries participating in this inspirational fight against the life changing effects of cancer, according to cancer.org.

Twenty-six students make up the committee in charge of

planning and coordinating the relay. Sofia Sanchez, a junior double majoring in public relations and marketing, is one of these students. Sanchez decided to join Relay for Life because she wanted to get involved while being a part of a philanthropy. She states the committee has been working extremely hard since fall and mentioned the theme, Disney, is the key to success.

"We believe the theme will make it easier for the teams to come up with creative ways to fundraise and hopefully it will make the event more enjoyable since it is overnight," said

Sanchez.

Everyone's reason to relay is unique. For freshman biology major Patricia Padron, it was her parents' fight against cancer that drove her to become a Relay for Life delegate for the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority.

"I thought that being directly affected gives me a different view and appreciation. I wanted to help the organization while showing the victims that there is hope," said Padron.

The memory of her father and the celebration of her mother's survival has made her determined to "reach out, embrace reality and participate" for Relay

for Life. Padron has set up a team that will compete to raise the most money through activities and other fundraisers.

Rebecca Reyes, a junior majoring in clinical psychology, has a different story. Reyes participated in last year's event not because of a family member, but because of her manager's father, who passed away due to cancer.

For Reyes it didn't hit home as much, so her inspiration was drawn from the good times with her co-workers. "[I realized] it was about raising awareness and funds for those suffering from the incurable," said Reyes. Her experience opened her eyes to a world where the small everyday problems didn't matter.

Aside from the upcoming relay, students were able to donate their hair at the "Look Good, Feel Better" event on Monday, Feb. 18. Freshman biology major Heidi de Marchena was among the many that donated. She decided to donate because her sisters inspired her to. She describes the involvement as "an incredible experience."

"It made me feel great giving my hair to someone who really needs it," said de Marchena.

-life@fiusm.com

FIU RELAY FOR LIFE

When: Friday, March 1
at 6 p.m through Saturday,
March 2 at 8 a.m.

Where: MMC Ryder Business
Building Circle

UNICEF@FIU to raise awareness about global poverty

VICTORIA RIVERA *Staff Writer*

There are 1.4 billion people in the world right now living in extreme poverty. Every 3.6 seconds, starvation kills someone, usually children younger than 5, according to the United Nations Children's Fund.

UNICEF, which was established on Dec. 11, 1946 by the United Nations General Assembly, is an organization that provides humanitarian relief to developing countries in order to eradicate these startling statistics.

UNICEF at the University shares this mission through the Global Poverty Project, a movement that raises awareness of extreme poverty in the world and prevents its cycle.

"UNICEF gives you a venue for making a difference in the world. The organization advocates for issues that affect children, whether it be malnutrition, immunization, AIDS prevention, hunger and education," said Shirley St. Pierre, master's student in public administration and president of

UNICEF@FIU.

In September 2008, with the teamwork of several world leaders, the Global Poverty Project began in New York at the United Nations High Level Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, according to the Global Poverty Project's website.

Today, the Global Poverty Project has reached several nations such as Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, as well as the United States.

One of the major issues that concerns St. Pierre is vaccinations.

"We take that for granted here. We get our vaccinations prior to going to school, but some countries don't have that. Some of the reasons for this are lack of medication supply, lack of funding and lack of awareness," she said.

On Thursday, Feb. 28, UNICEF will host an event in the Graham Center Pit at the Modesto Maidique Campus to raise awareness about global poverty, human trafficking, education and the Tap Water Campaign.

Almost 800 million people do not have

safe, clean water to drink, and 2.5 billion people live without a sanitary toilet, according to UNICEF's website. Through the Tap Water Campaign, UNICEF@FIU hopes to beat this statistic.

By raising awareness of global poverty and all of the issues that it brings, UNICEF@FIU also hopes to expand students' global connections.

"Inspiring even just one person to help will make a difference. Awareness will turn into engagement [with other nations],

"Inspiring even just one person to help will make a difference.

Lorraine Apolis
Secretary
UNICEF@FIU

which emphasizes the 'International' in FIU," said Lorraine Apolis, sophomore political science/international relations major and secretary of UNICEF@FIU.

On March 1 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., supporters of the Global Poverty Project will speak in room 125 in the School of International and Public Affairs.

One of the speakers, Brittany Aubin, is a Peace Corps volunteer at Zambia. On April 5, 2012, she wrote in her blog: "I have found through Peace Corps, friendships deeper and richer than anyone could ask to be blessed with.

Whether we were crossing the width of the African continent together, or just passing the time in someone's hut, I have never known such a diverse, interesting and loving group of people. I have no doubt that they will play a significant role in all the years of my life, just as they did in the last three."

For more information, students can go to unicef.org or look up UNICEF@FIU on orgsync.com.

-life@fiusm.com

Professor aims to raise awareness on the importance of macroalgae

KARLA REYES
Contributing Writer

Marine botanist and professor, Ligia Collado-Vides, has devoted her research to the ecology of tropical macroalgae – otherwise known as seaweeds.

An upcoming exhibition at the Murray E. Nelson Government and Cultural Center in Key Largo, titled “Macroalgae: Hidden Colors of the Sea,” features a collaboration by Collado-Vides and the Tropical Botanic Artists, a Miami-based art group dedicated to creating environmental art.

The exhibition is an effort to raise awareness about macroalgae communities and their importance to marine ecosystems. But students may wonder, “Why macroalgae?”

“We want to show people and help them understand [macroalgae’s] usefulness,” said Collado-Vides. “We use it every day.”

Although most students – and most people, for that matter – are unaware of the presence of macroalgae, it can actually be found in food, medicine and fertilizer. In addition to having practical usage, researchers are also beginning to look to macroalgae as an alternate source for biofuels.

“Most of the biofuels we use now come from corn, which causes a lot of harm to the environment and takes away from our food sources,” said Collado-Vides. “[If

macroalgae would be used,] we won’t be taking away any food sources.”

With an increase in the amount of nutrients being dumped into the waters and an increase in fishing, the ecosystems and the macroalgae seem to be changing – and not in a good way.

“A bloom in the macroalgae can affect the seagrass, which then affects the whole ecosystem,” said Collado-Vides. “It will become a problem.”

Collado-Vides started the collaboration with the Tropical Botanic Artists to raise awareness to the issue by drawing the public in with the hidden beauty of macroalgae, which is the reason why she was drawn to the seaweed. For the exhibition, she will do her part by presenting a lecture aimed to give people a different awareness about macroalgae and hopes that their awareness will drive them to participate in making changes.

“Many things are happening to the environment and it is our responsibility to preserve it,” she said. “I wanted to work with something that would be good for the community and I find that algae is the most beautiful to work with.”

The “Macroalgae: Hidden Colors of the Sea” is currently open at the Murray E. Nelson Government and Cultural Center in Key Largo.

-life@fiusm.com



Love or lust?

Dear Nick,

Q.

What goes on in our bodies or mind when we find someone we are attracted to and how do we know if it’s love or lust?

E.P.
Junior
Marketing Major

Dear O.P.,

The first stages of attraction to a romantic partner are special and sometimes overwhelming. There may be feelings of excitement, joy, and hopefulness. According to Dr. Helen Fisher, an anthropologist at Rutgers University, the chemical in our brains called phenylethylamine is often the reason behind the

A.

phrase, “Love is a drug.” Dr. Fisher elaborates that when you are in the beginning excitement stages of romance, your brain produces phenylethylamine, which stimulates dopamine production, a natural stimulant, and sends it out to many brain regions when one is in love. This is the same region affected when you feel the rush of other stimulants. So it’s no surprise that we sometimes feel “crazy in love” which can be interpreted as “lust.” Dr. Fisher adds that this feeling can last from 18 months to 4 years until eventually your body becomes accustomed to the “love drugs.” This information can be helpful to understanding what is driving our new budding romance. So, before you book the ticket to Vegas, with the plan to get hitched, get to know your love interest. Take the romance one date at a time, let the friendship grow and build trust and respect into your relationship. With time, this will serve you well as the “love rush” will eventually wear off. Become best friends with your new love, enjoy his/her company, allow the excitement to become the fuel to get to know the person and overtime the romance will grow. Good luck with your new love!

Be Well,

Nick



Nick Scheidt, M.S. is a Doctoral Psychology Intern at FIU Counseling and Psychological Services. He is a Clinical Psychology Doctoral Candidate from Carlos Albizu University. Once he completes his internship at FIU, Nick plans to work as a Psychologist, Writer, and Professor. *Do you have questions you would like to Ask Nick? Send an email to: Nscheidt@fiu.edu*

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY / BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS



AFFAIR
OF THE **ARTS**
WEEK

FEB. 25TH - MARCH 1ST, 2013

SPC **FIU** **FIU**
STUDENT PROGRAMMING COUNCIL Student Government Association Campus Life at Biscayne Bay

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Presented by the Student Programming Council at Biscayne Bay Campus. Funded by SGA. Qualified individuals with a disability requesting an accommodation to attend this event must make the request no less than five working days in advance by calling 305.919.5804 or TTY via FRS 1.800.955.8771. FOOD IS BASED ON FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED. For additional event information please call 305.919.5804 or visit WUC 141.

AFFAIR OF THE ARTS 2013 SCHEDULE

MONDAY, FEB. 25TH GRAND KICK-OFF

FLEXIBLE COMEDY WITH JONATHAN BURNS & CUPCAKE DESIGNING - 12 PM to 2 PM | Panther Square
Born with the gifts of flexibility, curiosity, and goofiness Jonathan now uses these talents to entertain audiences around the world.

SGA PRESENTS: CARL HIAASEN - 6:30 PM | WUC Theatre
Bestselling novelist and journalist Carl Hiaasen will show you his America: absurd, seedy, and oddly beautiful.

TUESDAY, FEB. 26TH TRIP TO MOCA

FREE TRIP TO NORTH MIAMI'S MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (MOCA)
Shuttle buses will be provided back and forth. You must sign-up in Campus Life (WUC 141). Buses will leave at 11 AM, 12 PM, 1 PM, & 2 PM

INTERNATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST RECEPTION - 4 PM to 6 PM | WUC 157 (Sponsored by ISSS)
Enjoy pictures from around the world along with free refreshments!

DANCING WITH THE WOLFE SERIES: SALSA - 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM | Panther Square
Learn salsa with FIU's favorite instructor: Mambo Yoll!

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27TH SQUARE DAY

KALEIGH BAKER & CERAMIC PAINTING - 11 AM to 2 PM | Panther Square
Hailing from a small valley in Western New York, Kaleigh Baker has risen to Central Florida prominence as a jazzy, blues-rock powerhouse. Kaleigh Baker serenades audiences wherever she goes!

DANCING WITH THE WOLFE SERIES: BELLY DANCING - 7 PM to 8 PM | Rec. Center
Learn belly dancing with expert dancer Kira!

LES MISERABLES - 8 PM | Adrienne Arsht Center
Tickets available at the Campus Life Office (WUC 141) for only \$10.00 (first come, first served). Transportation will not be provided.

THURSDAY, FEB. 28TH DRIVE-IN MOVIE: BREAKING DAWN

DANCING WITH THE WOLFE SERIES: TANGO - 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM | Panther Square
Learn Argentine Tango with Radu & Erika!

THE TWILIGHT SAGA - BREAKING DAWN (PART 2) - 8 PM | Overflow Parking Lot (FIU-BBC)
Free Admission. Parking begins at 7 PM. Parking lot located between ACII and Kovens Center.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST NIGHT OUT AT THE WOLFSONIANFIU

FIU WOLFSONIAN MUSEUM TRIP - 6 PM | South Beach
Free admission & transportation! Sign-up in Campus Life (WUC 141)



AFFAIR
OF THE **ARTS**
WEEK

Two-sport athletes enjoy non-stop competition

RHYS WILLIAMS
Contributing Writer

Dedication, hard work and perseverance by high school athletes to a sport sometimes lead to opportunities to play at the collegiate level. For athletes who play multiple sports in high school, a vast majority of them end up focusing on the one that they believe will give them the best chance to get to the next level.

A few however, get the chance to continue with more than one sport that they love.

Freshman Michael Montero is both an offensive lineman for the football team and a thrower for the track and field team at FIU competing in both sports as a walk-on athlete.

"It wasn't a hard decision for me and it is one I made as soon as I knew that I was coming here to FIU," Montero said. "I knew that I wanted to continue each sport to the highest level while also studying and obtaining a degree

here."

The challenges of being a multisport athlete are nothing new to Montero seeing as he juggled several sports during high school.

"I played three sports in high school which were football, wrestling and track and field so playing multiple sports is nothing new to me," Montero said. "I won the state title in shot-put with a throw of 57 feet 1 inch, which was also my personal best and threw 169 feet 7 inches for my personal record for discus."

The implements, as expected, are also heavier than they are for high school level of competition. With an increase from 12 to 16 pounds, the shot has the biggest change in weight, whereas the discus increases from 1.6 to 2 kilograms.

Montero is not only on the team but is putting up high marks this season while setting some personal and school records. The two-sport athlete is putting up gaudy numbers for FIU in track and field. He has a 50 feet mark

“

It wasn't a hard decision for me...I knew that I wanted to continue each sport to the highest level while also studying and obtaining a degree here.

Michael Montero
Two-sport athlete

in shot-put and 172 feet in discus, which landed him fourth in the Sun Belt Conference.

Montero's football teammate and fellow freshman Chris Sullivan is also getting involved with Panthers track as a high jumper. After being sidelined during the 2012 football season with a broken finger, the receiver planned on trying to prove himself somehow this offseason.

"I played football and basket-

ball during high school along with running and jumping for my school's track and field team," Sullivan said. "I was a majority offensive player at both wide receiver and quarterback, with a little bit of time at the safety position for football, a pretty good offensive player in basketball with being able to dunk the ball from time to time."

Sullivan is no stranger to the track, having put up some

personal records of 6 feet 7 inches for high jump and a 52-second 400-meter dash time.

Coming into FIU in the summer of 2012, Sullivan had a preferred walk-on spot to the football team, but he had a feeling that he was going to try and run or jump for the Panthers track team during the offseason for football.

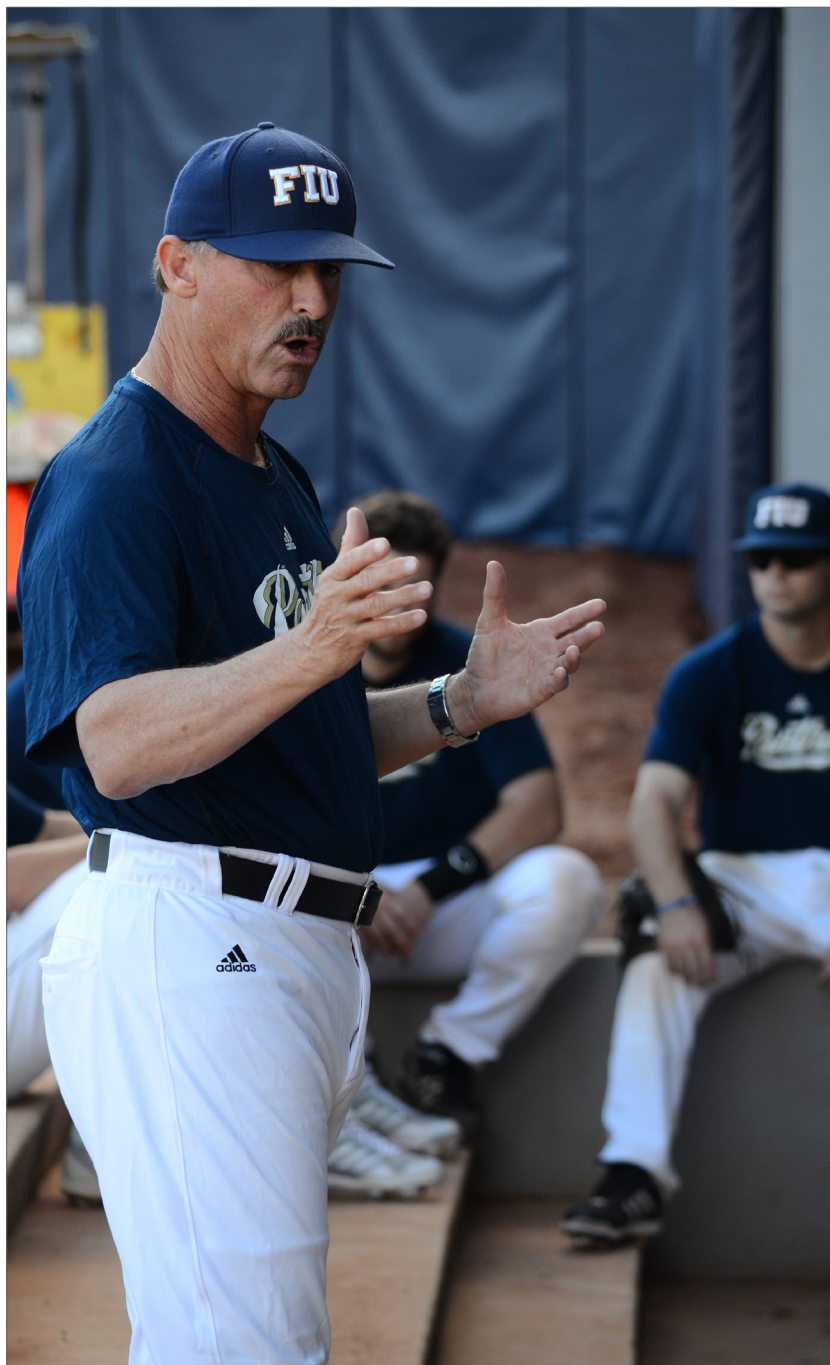
"I was on edge about trying to walk-on to the team because I didn't think I was good enough to be involved at the collegiate level. I ended up going for it and now I am going to the conference meet to high jump," Sullivan said.

Both athletes are currently competing at the indoor conference meet that is being held at Arkansas State University, which ends tomorrow.

The next meet for some of the members of Panthers track and field would be for those who qualify for the NCAA Indoor Championships which begin on March 8, 2013.

-sports@fiusm.com

FIU baseball sounds off on lack of pride



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

FIU baseball Head Coach Henry Thomas believes that players should not worry about getting injured because if they do, it's bound to happen.

PATRICK CHALVIRE
Contributing Writer

Every four years, the U.S. team in the World Baseball Classic falls into the same predicament.

The World Baseball Classic was first introduced in 2006 when the International Olympic Committee removed baseball from the Olympics. Played every four years, it features 16 baseball teams, each representing a country that play in a bracket style to determine the best baseball country that year.

More importantly, the WBC is a way to show pride and support for one's country rather than just another game to earn a paycheck. This display of pride has been dominant in countries, but players in the U.S. aren't overwhelmed by pride.

Mike Franco, starting pitcher for the FIU baseball team, says he'd jump at the chance to play for the U.S.

"It's an honor to play on that team," Franco said. "I would not let anything shy me away from playing and showing the pride I have for my country."

Countries such as Japan and Cuba have never had a problem showcasing their home-grown talent. The U.S., on the other hand, hasn't had such success in that department.

This year, some of the game's biggest stars are absent from the U.S. roster, choosing to decline invitations. Starting pitcher Justin Verlander, the 2012 Cy Young winner, opted not to play, claiming he was tired from last season. Pitcher Clayton Kershaw, the 2011 Cy Young winner, dodged the event, too.

The No. 1 concern for big name stars in the majors playing for Team USA has always been the risk of injury. Players and especially team owners are worried about a star player getting hurt prior to the season starting.

Turtle Thomas, head coach of the FIU baseball team, says the concern for injury should never be in a player's mind.

"You can't play this game of baseball

worried about getting hurt," Thomas said. "If you worry about getting hurt, that's probably the time you will get hurt."

Thomas doesn't seem to think that playing in the WBC increases the risk of injury. The coach remembered an instance where a young man tore his anterior cruciate ligament by doing something everyone does day in and day out.

"There was a kid, literally getting in bed one night, and twist his knee and tore his ACL," Thomas says, "You can even walk across the street and get hit by a car."

According to Jayson Stark of ESPN, 73 players were on the disabled list in 2009 once the season started. Only two of them on the list had played in the WBC. Rick VandenHurk was a pitcher, and Ichiro Suzuki, who was on the disabled due to an ulcer.

If that was not enough, players who did not participate in the WBC in 2009 were twice as likely to be on the disabled list. By the end of the season, 11 of the 115 players who made the WBC roster that year were later on the disabled list.

The choice is ultimately up to such player. Whether or not a decision is made due to injury or pride or whichever the case, the final choice falls on the glove of the player himself.

"That's somebody's individual preference what they want to do," Thomas said. "Everybody has a reason why they would or wouldn't, and you have to respect their decision. Their not just saying they don't want to play. They're out in spring training everyday anyways so they don't have to spend extra time. They're playing."

Tyler Hibbert, outfielder for FIU, believes being asked to play in the WBC should never bring any concern or doubt.

"If you get an invite, you have to take it," Hibbert said. "You never know if you get the chance again. What if you don't get injured and you do something great? You're going to be remembered for that."

-sports@fiusm.com

Alpha Kappa Psi advances one step closer to championship

ALEXANDRA SABALIER
Contributing Writer

In a game that went down to the wire on Feb. 22, business fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi defeated Theta Tau 66-62 in co-recreational basketball game.

Alpha Kappa Psi kicked off the game with excellent team chemistry between Steven Miro and Gabriel Noboa.

The two were in sync with each other, delivering quick passes that led to easy points.

The game was a close one; Romel Rodríguez, Betzaida Ramirez, Amanda Valero, and Andrew Castillo from the Theta Tau in their performance in the game as they scored more than 40 points combined.

Despite the loss, Theta Tau member Betzaida Hernandez was confident in her team.

“It’s been a really close game, we’ve been practicing for the season and with this being our third game I think we’re doing really good.”

Both teams gave an excellent performance and had the crowd at the edge of their seats the entire game.

“I knew we were doing well, we’ve practiced and we came prepared to win. The only big factor we had in disadvantage with Theta Tau is that we only have two girls in our team and they had to play the whole game,” Noboa said.

It may have not been the results Theta Tau players were expecting after so much practice and preparation. But Theta Tau member Andrew Castillo said they’re ready to come back stronger again.

“It was a well fought game,” Castillo said. “Some of the calls didn’t go our way but we pushed through them. We just got to come back and win the next one, work harder, practice harder.”

SUPINATORS FALL TO NO LIMIT

In the FIU Rec Center, No Limit dominated the basketball court and won an intense match against the Supinators 51-46.

No Limit fell victim to fouls, leading to easy free throws for the Supinators. No Limit member Yordan Ascansio teamed up with Eduardo San Jorge to carry the team to the victory.

Unfortunately Supi-

nators’ San Jorge left the court after the first half of the game for a foul against him that he claims was not a good call.

His absence greatly affected the performance of the Supinators the rest of the game, with No Limit taking advantage of the situation to win the 30 minute game. Ascansio wasn’t discouraged though.

“We have a lot of experience, and as a group we have a lot of chemistry and that makes us a strong team,” Ascansio said.

The Supinators know they have to regroup after this loss, while No Limit continues riding the wave to the championship.

“We have a good team and we’re prepared to go to the championship and win it,” said No Limit team captain Akil Shabazz.

On Feb. 28, No Limit will have its next match and according to team member Charles Earl they’re ready to win it too.

“It was a great team effort, we pulled out the win, and both teams played hard,” Earl said. “We’ll be back even stronger next Thursday.”

-sports@fiusm.com

History in the making



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Head Coach Richard Pitino won the team’s 15th game of the season on Feb. 21, guaranteeing a winning record for the first time since the 1999-2000 season when the team went 16-14 under Shakey Rodriguez.

Pistorius granted bail pending murder trial

CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
JON GAMBRELL
AP Staff

A South African magistrate allowed Oscar Pistorius to go free on bail Friday, capping hearings that foreshadow a dramatic trial in the Valentine’s Day killing of the star athlete’s girlfriend.

Pistorius’ family members and supporters shouted “Yes!” when Chief Magistrate Desmond Nair made his decision after a more than 1 hour and 45 minute explanation of his ruling to a packed courtroom.

Radio stations and a TV news network in South Africa broadcast the audio of the decision live, and even international channels like the BBC and CNN went live with it, underscoring the huge global interest in the case.

Nair set the bail at 1 million rand (\$113,000), with \$11,300 in cash up front and proof that the rest is available. The magistrate said Pistorius must hand over his passports and also turn in any other guns that he owns. Pistorius also cannot leave the district of Pretoria, South Africa’s capital, without the permission of his probation officer, Nair said, nor can he take drugs or drink alcohol.

The double-amputee Olympian’s next court appearance was set for June 4. He left the courthouse in a silver Land Rover, sitting in the rear, just over an hour after the magistrate imposed the bail conditions. The vehicle, tailed by a motorcycle with a TV cameraman aboard, later pulled into the home of Pistorius’ uncle.

The magistrate ruled that Pistorius could not return to his upscale home in a gated community in the eastern suburbs of Pretoria, where the killing of Reeva Steenkamp took place.

Pistorius’ uncle, Arnold Pistorius said: “We are relieved at the fact that Oscar got bail today but at the same time we are in mourning for the death of Reeva with her family. As a family, we know Oscar’s version of what happened on that tragic night and we know that that is the truth and that will prevail in the coming court case.”

Nair made the ruling after four days of arguments from prosecution and defense in Pistorius’ bail hearing. During Friday’s long session in Pretoria Magistrate’s Court, Pistorius alternately wept and appeared solemn and more composed, especially toward the end as Nair criticized police procedures in the case and as a judgment in Pistorius’ favor appeared imminent.

Nair had banned cameras from Friday’s dramatic bail hearing and complained about cameras constantly “flashing” in Pistorius’ face the previous three days of hearings, saying the spectacle made the athlete look like “some kind of species the world has never seen before.”

Nair said Pistorius’ sworn statement, in which he gave his version of the events of the shooting during the predawn hours of Feb. 14 in a sworn statement, had helped his application for bail.

“I come to the conclusion that the accused has made a case to be released on bail,” Nair said.

Pistorius said in the sworn statement that he shot his girlfriend — a model and budding reality TV contestant — accidentally, believing she was an intruder in his house.

Prosecutors say he intended to kill Steenkamp and charged him with premeditated murder, saying the shooting followed a loud argument between the two.

Sharon Steenkamp, Reeva’s cousin, had said earlier that the family wouldn’t be watching the bail decision and hadn’t been following the hearing in Pretoria.

“It doesn’t make any difference to the fact that we are without Reeva,” she told The Associated Press.

Despite the bail decision, prosecution spokesman Medupe Simasiku said: “We’re still confident in our case,” outside court.

Pistorius faced the sternest bail requirements in South Africa because of the seriousness of the charge, and his defense lawyers had to prove that he would not flee the country, would not interfere with witnesses or the case, and his release would not cause public unrest.

Nair questioned whether Pistorius would be a flight risk and be prepared to go “ducking and diving” around the world when he stood to lose a fortune in cash, cars, property and other assets. Nair also said that while it had been shown that Pistorius had aggressive tendencies, he did not have a prior record of offenses for violent acts.

He criticized Hilton Botha, the previous lead investigator in the case, for not doing more to uncover evidence that the Olympian had violent tendencies.

“There is ample room and ample time to do that by looking at the background of the accused,” he said.

But while Nair leveled harsh criticism at former lead investigator Botha for “errors” and “blunders,” he said one man does not represent the state’s case and that the state could not be expected to put all the pieces of its puzzle together in such a short time.

Anticipating the shape of the state’s case at trial, he said he had serious questions about Pistorius’ account: Why he didn’t try to locate his girlfriend on fearing an intruder was in the house, why he didn’t try to determine who was in the toilet and why he would venture into perceived “danger” - the bathroom area - when he could have taken other steps to ensure his safety.

“There are improbabilities which need to be explored,” Nair said, adding that Pistorius could clarify these matters by testifying under oath at trial.

WANT TO WRITE?

If you want to become a part of the sports team at The Beacon, email:
sports@fiusm.com

Triumph or tragedy? Students weigh in on Carnival's future

STEPHANIE MASON
Staff Writer

Lawsuits have already begun to pile up after the misadventure of the Carnival Triumph cruise ship.

Deyon Callender has never been on a cruise but she would still be open to going on a Carnival cruise.

"I still think they have a future, I mean, accidents happen, everything is not perfect," said Callender, junior in hospitality management.

With several horror stories of sewage leaks, food supplies having run short, and all communication cut off, the cruise's passengers were forced to go from vacation mode to survival mode when the Carnival Triumph lost all power on Sunday, Feb. 10 after a fire ignited in the ship's engine room.

All 3,000 plus passengers did make it safely to land, however, this was after eight days of being stuck on the ship. With much at stake for Carnival, the question now is how will this affect the long-standing cruise company?

Another student in hospitality

management, sophomore Marlene Hidalgo, also feels that Carnival will recover from this incident.

"I think they'll be fine. They'll go down for a little while but they'll just go back up because that only happens once in how many years," said Hidalgo.

Hidalgo said her sister worked for Carnival and said although she hasn't been on a cruise, she has toured several Carnival ships which she described as perfect.

"I just think Carnival's awesome, like really they are from what I've seen, personal experience," said Hidalgo.

Business senior, Yash Ramchandi said, "It's one out of a thousand so it's not really going to affect their business that much."

On the opposite side of the fence about the Carnival incident, hospitality management senior, Stephanie Moss, said she doesn't think Carnival will recover.

"I think it kind of will hinder the cruise line industry, but especially Carnival," said Moss.

Moss said she goes on a cruise every year but not on Carnival. "Me personally, I never liked Carnival," said Moss. "I just never

liked the food, the environment."

Moss said she believes that the mishap with the Carnival Triumph will serve as a setback for Carnival for about 10 years due to not only this incident but also to another one they had about a year ago with the Costa Concordia.

As the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management has its own Carnival student center located on the Biscayne Bay campus, regardless of the effects Carnival receives, this will not affect the center at Biscayne Bay Campus.

According to an email from Dean of CSHTM, Mike Hampton, "There is no relationship at all between the mishap and the Carnival Student center."

Dean Hampton was unavailable for further comment before time of publication.

Alejandra Laitano, senior in Hospitality Management, said, "Carnival will recover...just because they're such a big corporation. I do believe that it's going to give them a bad reputation for now, for the next couple months, but at the end of the day there's only several companies right now

I work out



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

On Feb. 22, the Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation Center hosted a Sports and Fitness Day to let students know of the several activities available for them to stay fit and live a healthier lifestyle. Joclyn Joissin and Justin Sterile, seniors studying physical education and interns for the Rec Center, sat in Panther Square to give more information on all the events and classes such as kayaking on the Bay, yoga and Get Fit Bootcamp.

who do cruises."

Laitano said, "I've spoken to a lot of people just of Carnival itself and they actually all really don't like Carnival, they prefer other lines."

Laitano said she has been on a Carnival cruise before and personally didn't like it.

Junior in hospitality management, Geoffrey Leroux, said he thinks there will probably be less people traveling on cruises in general.

"For sure Carnival will go down but, in general...obviously the whole cruise industry."

Although he thinks Carnival will initially get a bad reputation for the Triumph incident, Leroux said he thinks that Carnival will definitely recover.

"More people are traveling now through cruises so this is going to be a little setback if anything," said Leroux.

-stephanie.mason@fiusm.com

Students prepare for an 'Affair' by the bay

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer

A week of art appreciation awaits students who attend Affair of the Arts sponsored by the Student Programming Council at Biscayne Bay Campus, Student Government Council-BBC and Campus Life-BBC.

For Tashuan Williams, president of SPC-BBC, Affair of the Arts is a way to pay attention to and gain newfound respect for the arts because it's something that isn't incorporated into everyday life as much anymore.

Affairs of the Arts originally began as a three-day event that has been extended to a week, for the first time this year, with new surprises and activities geared to offering students a fresh, interactive experience in a variety of art forms such as visual art, spoken word and music.

"They've formed a week of art where each day is going to focus on a different type of art and give students more than one new thing to experience daily," said Kaytien Franco, public relations assistant at Campus Life-BBC.

The week will kick off with the Flexible Comedy Show with Jonathan Burns, a comedian contortionist who will entertain the crowd with doses of goofiness and incredible feats of flexibility.

A new fixture during the event will be a cupcake-designing table where students who attend will be able to design and eat their own cupcakes.

"They added it so that students could get a more hands-on experience," said Franco. "This way they are able to get a first hand appreciation for the arts."

"It's one thing to have students go and be in the audience, but then it's another thing to have them interact," said Williams. "We're trying to bring more art appreciation and you appreciate yours more because you did it. When students get involved they are able to say that they contributed to the maintenance of art and will enjoy that they were able to express themselves."

On Wednesday, Feb. 28, students will get a second chance to get creative as Kaleigh Baker serenades students with her jazzy,

blues-rock while they paint ceramics.

Aside from student interaction, two museum trips have been added to the list of events, a new stable this year, where students who sign up in Campus Life will be able to visit North Miami's Museum of Contemporary Art on Tuesday, Feb. 26 as well the Wolfsonian-FIU Museum on Friday, March 1. Both trips are free of charge and shuttle buses will be provided for the trip to and from the museums.

Students who have always wanted to learn an exotic dance will also get a chance to, as Mambo Yoli will teach salsa on Feb. 26, Kira will teach belly dancing on Feb. 27 and Radu and Erika will teach the Argentine Tango on Feb. 28.

"I think art is everywhere in music dancing in everyday life and most people disregard it...we want to bring awareness to students," said Emmanuel Jerome, treasurer for SPC-BBC who has attended Affair of the Arts for the last two years.

The final surprise in Affair of the Arts will be anything but miserable, as students will

be able to see Les Miserables at the Adrienne Arsht Center on Wednesday, Feb. 27 for a discounted price of \$10. Tickets can be obtained in Campus Life and will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

"It's one of my favorite Broadway musicals, so I'm most excited for this one personally," Franco said.

Other events will include an International Photo Contest Reception on Feb. 26 and an old fashioned drive-in movie on Feb. 28 as Affair of the Arts screens Breaking Dawn Part 2.

Franco hopes students come, see and appreciate the opportunity that is given to them and are able to enjoy the art and the programming of events that have been set up for them.

Williams suggests students come with an open mind, come to have fun and really gain something from the experience.

"They should come ready to build their own appreciation for the arts."

-alfredo.aparicio@fiusm.com

The South Beach Wine and Food Festival starring students

STEPHAN USECHE
Asst. News Director

A garden of chocolate covered strawberries was one of the innovative food creations FIU students took part in last weekend at the South Beach Wine and Food Festival. Chefs from New York, California, Kentucky, Texas, Georgia and Miami worked with FIU students to prepare dishes that represented the flavors of each state.

"Well, we hit off to a big bang with the festival," said Dean of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management Mike Hampton. "We have more events taking place

this year than ever before, and we have over 1250 student volunteers that are working in all types of roles throughout the festival."

According to Hampton, there were more than 4,600 shifts that students were covering while working at the festival.

"So, the exciting part is getting around and seeing the students so engaged, and having a good time and learning a great deal while they are here," said Hampton.

Each student was assigned to a chef according to his/her knowledge and background.

"We evaluate what their credentials are, what backgrounds they may have, so if they are going to be assigned to a chef,

they have to have some culinary experience, or they have had to [go] through our food production process," said Hampton.

The festival accommodated students of different interests and majors, and it provided them with the opportunity to help in different areas of the festival.

"I helped set up and just basically accommodating any of the chefs, if they need anything, any refreshment, backups," said Daniela Mena, junior in management and human resources, who volunteered at the festival during the four days.

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