

## Audit reveals protected data at risk in College of Medicine

ALYSSA ELSO  
*Contributing Writer*

The Office of Internal Audit's 2012-2013 report of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine reveals flaws within the Information Systems Security Controls, which has set the college's protected data at risk of inappropriate disclosure.

According to the administrative controls section of the audit, which is responsible for managing the conduct of personnel in relation to the protection of data and the maintenance of security measures to protect sensitive data, the College of Medicine's Department of Human Resources recruitment and termination process was in need of improvement.

In fall 2009, the College of Medicine's Information Technology Department consisted of five staff members. In 2011-2012, with an approved budget of over \$1 million, the staff grew to nine employees.

Human Resources, in the recruitment process, must ensure that background checks are performed on all candidates, ensure that they meet the necessary skills listed to perform job duties and take prudent action in regards to employee

termination.

During the termination process, Human Resources failed to expediently disable account access and file employment separation checklists within a timely manner of the employee's effective termination date.

Of the 22 terminated employees, 12 had separation checklists, a form used as a guide for actions to be taken once an employee quits or is terminated. Ten were created after 12 days of termination and two were created after 28 and 75 days, respectively, of their effective employment termination dates.

Many of these checklists also failed to reflect whether items such as ID cards and computer equipment were collected from terminated employees.

After termination, the disabling of user accounts, handled by University Technology Services, should have also been completed within a timely manner, yet six of the 22 former employees were still enabled in the system's active directory at the time of the audit.

Human Resources Director for the College of Medicine Ana Poveda and Office of Internal Audit Director Allen Vann were unavailable for comment.

such as creating more hands-on programs, allowing students to take the Bar exam two years after law school, instead of the conventional three, licensing technicians, freezing tuition costs and admitting more students they wouldn't usually accept.

FIU's College of Law is no stranger to this regression. According to the FIU Law Viewbook and fact sheets provided by the College of Law, in 2010, the University had admitted about 19.68 percent of their applicants, in 2012, they accepted about 22.15 percent. In 2010, in-state tuition for day students was \$14,203.

In 2012, the tuition became

\$18,463.

There is an abundance of lawyers who work in the corporate world, and a demand for lawyers for those outside the corporate and wealthy world, who usually need more legal advice and help than corporations, but can't afford to pay them.

These tend to be the poor, the low-income, and sometimes middle-class people and families.

"The lawyers aren't evenly distributed. If you're wealthy, or if you're a business or a corporation, you can easily pay for legal help, but if you're somebody who's middle-class or low-income or poor, you often don't have access

following with University policies, rules and regulations.

The report found that IT controls were in need of improvement to reduce the risk of data breaches and increase the confidentiality of sensitive data. Of the 42 activities tested, 25 needed improvement to effectively function.

To improve the function of these systems and decrease the risk of unauthorized disclosure of protected data, the Office

of Internal Audit recommended that security awareness training be established, provided to staff members and periodically evaluated to ensure that it is effective and up to date.

In response to findings and recommendations reported in the audit, management responded with a plan of action to improve IT controls.

According to the audit, Human Resources completed a background

check on the director of IT in August 2012. In June 2011, they created one standardized separation of employment checklist. They have been working to ensure that employees' access are disabled within a regular schedule as well as creating various security training programs that are available to staff and will continue to work to improve the protection of sensitive data.

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ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

On Friday, Feb. 15, the Modesto Maidique Campus was drenched with rain and students, such as the one above, were forced to wait for the rain to stop before heading out of the Graham Center for class.

## Law school applications at a 30-year low nationally

VICTORIA RONDEROS  
*Contributing Writer*

This year, according to the Law School Admissions Council, law school applications have hit a 30-year low. In 2004, there were 100,000 applications, however, this year, the LSAC predicts that there will be about 54,000 applications to law schools in the country.

The University of Oregon, Stanford, Northeastern, the University of Southern California and the University of Akron have already responded to this call; they have changed their curriculum in ways to make students more interested in law school,

to a lawyer," said Peggy Maisel, a law professor and the director of the Clinical Program of the College of Law.

Maisel's program helps those in need. Those who cannot afford lawyers usually seek legal advice and representation with law clinics, which are located in many law schools.

Clinics have become a relatively new part of the legal curricula in the United States, creating hands-on training for students, which benefits students, the public and law firms seeking new employees with experience.

Law students and professors run them and they provide free

legal advice and representation to those in need.

"Students want to be able to make a living and students have different things that they want to do, but my experience is that, most law students coming into law school really want to help people, so through the clinics and the legal work they're doing, they're learning a tremendous amount, but they're also really helping. They're representing people who wouldn't otherwise be represented, which I think an awful lot of law students really want to be doing," said Maisel.

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## WORLD NEWS

### Meteor explodes over Russia; about 1,100 injured

A meteor streaked across the sky and exploded over Russia's Ural Mountains with the power of an atomic bomb Friday, its sonic blasts shattering countless windows and injuring about 1,100 people.

The spectacle deeply frightened many Russians, with some elderly women declaring that the world was coming to an end. Many of the injured were cut by flying glass as they flocked to windows, curious about what had produced such a blinding flash of light.

The meteor — estimated to be about 10 tons — entered the Earth's atmosphere at a hypersonic speed of at least 54,000 kph (33,000 mph) and shattered into pieces about 30-50 kilometers (18-32 miles) above the ground, the Russian Academy of Sciences said in a statement.

### Gays in Belarus face reprisals for activism

Police in Belarus are going after gays, raiding their clubs and locking up clubbers overnight, and summoning gay activists for questioning. One activist accuses police of beating him during questioning, while others say they were interrogated about their sex lives. The leader of a gay rights organization was stripped of his passport just ahead of a planned trip to the United States.

That is the government's response to a decision by gay activists across the country to try in January to legally register their rights organization, GayBelarus. It marked a more resolute attempt to emerge from the shadows after being slapped down repeatedly by the authorities.

### Photos of Hugo Chavez shown after 2-month absence

The world got its first glimpse of Hugo Chavez since he underwent a fourth cancer-related surgery in Cuba more than two months ago, with photos released Friday showing the Venezuelan leader alongside his daughters in Havana.

Along with images of the puffy-faced Chavez came a government explanation for why no one has heard from the longtime president since his surgery: He's breathing through a tracheal tube that makes speech difficult.

Chavez's government described his condition as "delicate" and said he continues to undergo "vigorous treatment for his fundamental illness." The images and new details filled a vacuum of information about Chavez's condition that has spurred rampant speculation in Venezuela. Government officials say Chavez has been recovering in Cuba since undergoing cancer surgery on Dec. 11.

### Fla. fugitive caught after 26 years on lam

A banker and attorney on the run for 26 years after his conviction in a major South Florida marijuana smuggling case has been captured in Mexico.

The U.S. Marshals Service reported Thursday that 61-year-old Manuel Lopez-Castro was arrested this week in Cancun, Mexico, and is back in Miami to face justice. Lopez-Castro fled in 1986 rather than show up at a Florida prison to begin serving a 27-year sentence for marijuana smuggling and other convictions.

Authorities say Lopez-Castro was captured after officers including Mexican Federal Police did a staged traffic stop.

For more world news, check out [www.FIUSM.com](http://www.FIUSM.com).

# 43 reported thefts on campus since beginning of spring semester

**JONATHAN JACOBSSKIND**  
*Staff Writer*

Students may think twice about leaving their valuables unattended. According to the FIU Police Department crime logs, there have been a total of 43 reported theft crimes since the beginning of the semester.

Out of the 43 reported theft crimes thieves have had a preference for electronics as 10 laptops were reported stolen along with seven iPhones and one iPad. Other notable reported theft crimes ranged from textbooks and wallets to a bicycle and someone's identity.

As for the electronics, Chief of Police Alexander D. Casas spoke about several recent reports of laptops, cell phones and other electronics being reported stolen around

densely populated places around campus such as the Graham Center, Green Library and the Recreation Center.

"It's not the increase in enrollment. It's not that we have more students this time, since it's typical that at the beginning of spring we'll usually get a rush," Casas said. "It's [that] people are just leaving their stuff around. It's an opportunistic crime where someone will go use the bathroom and leave their laptops and stuff like [that]."

With 63 officers on the force and more than 44,000 students, the chance is drastically slim that a thief will be caught in the act.

Casas believes there is an answer to that solution, noting that students should be more responsible and even though it may be a hassle, they should

consider taking all their belongings with them at all times.

Whether it's a two-minute bathroom or coffee break, students should never leave their valuables unattended.

Despite thieves taking advantage of students leaving their stuff unattended, junior and psychology major Melissa Garrison does not buy into the need to be so overprotective with her stuff and trusts the students in her vicinity.

"There are so many people around that if something were to happen, someone would tell me who stole my stuff," Garrison said. "I feel like people are also too much into their own things like studying or doing homework to steal someone's stuff."

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## Player arrested for marijuana

**BRYAN PALACIO**  
*Contributing Writer*

On Feb. 6, a University attendant couldn't help but notice a marijuana odor coming from a suspicious package in the University Park Towers mailroom.

The package was labeled to former FIU football player Caylin Hauptmann from a sender with the same last name in Beverly Hills, Calif.

PRINCE MATT



The attendant quickly alerted Resident Assistant Francis Copeland who then called the FIU Police Department to investigate. One of the officers observed the same smell emanating from the package.

According to the completed investigation, FIUPD sent two officers to Hauptmann's dorm. When the two officers arrived, they noted the

handle on the door had been dislodged. Fearing a burglary, they received clearance from the RA to enter, finding Prince Matt, a redshirt freshman offensive lineman on the football team and resident of the dorm, in the common area of the room.

FIUPD entered Matt's room and once inside found five marijuana stems in plain view. Matt immediately admitted to possession of the marijuana stems and was placed under arrest. He was booked at 3:24 a.m. on Feb. 7, on \$1,000 bond. The case was later settled for \$50 and closed the same day, according to Miami-Dade public records.

The same day, Caylin's father, George Hauptmann, called FIUPD and advised that his son was going to pick up the package but expressed concerns that it might have been a package sent by Caylin's mother addressed to Caylin.

George Hauptmann was then informed of the situation. Caylin Hauptmann never reported to FIUPD to retrieve his package.

On Fri. Feb 8, George Hauptmann called FIUPD on behalf of his son, Caylin, and said that Caylin did not want the package because it was tampered and that he did not want anything to do with the package reference, fearing it'll hurt Caylin's chances of being drafted in the NFL.

The package contained the following: five bags of potato chips, two photos, a card, a check from Bank of America in the amount of \$575 from his father's account, and one gram of medical cannabis.

The sports information department would not comment on Matt's status on the team, referring Student Media to their Feb. 7 statement of not commenting on incidents still under investigation.

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## CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 24, Issue 63 in the article titled "New generation of players set to open baseball season" On page 6, the story incorrectly writes that the FIU baseball team was 32-36 in 2012, but they were 32-26.

Also, The LeBron James photo on page 7 incorrectly associates Alan Diaz with The Beacon. He is an Associated Press photographer.

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

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## Fighting fire with firearms

BRIAN ANDERSON  
Contributing Writer

In light of the recent school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut—and other shootings in Colorado, Arizona and Texas there have been changes initiated in gun laws, legislation and rules for the purchasing of firearms and ammunition.

Other issues have prevailed.

A New York newspaper, The Journal News, was highly criticized for publishing names and addresses of gun owners.

Some view this as a necessity. Others view it as a violation of the Second Amendment as well as a violation of their privacy.

But when your actions begin to infringe on the freedoms and safety of others, it becomes a problem.

Another issue of grave concern related to gun control is the issue of whether or not to allow teachers the privilege of carrying firearms in schools. Again, the opinions on this vary greatly.

According to M. Alex Johnson, a contributor to NBC Nightly News, more than one-third of states already allow teachers to carry guns in school without approval from law enforcement. More specifically—of all 50 states, 18 have such legislation in place. Among these states are Texas, California, New York, New Jersey and Wyoming. At times, all that's needed is a note from the prin-

icipal or an administrator.

Though Florida is not included on this list, it is among the states considering such laws.

There seems to be a conflict of interest. The Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990 prevents anyone from having a firearm in a school zone. Yet, this doesn't apply if the weapons are "approved by a school in the school zone."

However, there are those who vehemently oppose such legislation and would do anything to curb the passage of such laws.

Mahmoud Diallo, environmental health graduate student, disagrees with the concept. "The problem with gun control will not be solved by giving teachers access to guns."

According to Diallo, stricter laws and background checks are needed before any real change can take place.

Diallo is not the only one who shares this perspective. According to a recent poll by the Connecticut Education Association, of 400 teachers, only 3 percent of educators favored arming teachers with guns, while 85 percent opposed. Within the same study, 98 percent of educators favored extensive criminal and mental health background checks for all gun purchases.

This debate prompts one to ask—what kind of country have we become when we are even considering arming teachers with guns for the protection of pupils?



ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIAN SPENCER/THE BEACON

Just a generation ago, the only mention of guns in schools was for police to escort and protect students of different ethnicities on school grounds. Now, must teachers be stressed with this additional responsibility?

Simply arming instructors with guns will not address the crux of the problem.

"Training teachers in ammunition [gun] use is not a solution to the problem at hand," said Martha Barantovich, professor in the College of Education. "There are plenty of teachers that already have training and know how to properly

use guns."

According to Barantovich, there needs to be a collective, thoughtful discussion on how to address the many issues that are present in our society that led up to the massacre of children.

This is not a simple question and does not have a simple answer.

"Let's increase the background checks, counseling to students, etc. along with banning assault weapons," said Associate Professor Janvier Gasana in the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work.

In addition to the stricter gun

laws alluded to before, it starts with the children at home.

What is the underlying cause of these children becoming violent? Does it stem from violent media exposure? Playing violent video games? Do these children have behavioral problems or come from violent/broken homes? Perhaps proper counseling would suffice.

What is certain is that arming teachers will not solve the problem. We cannot combat violence with violence. It must begin with compassion.

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### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Teaching our school about transparency

The campus hall looked different.

Last summer, I saw one vendor selling jewelry on the hallway of Wolfe University Center. Things have changed. Now, I see at least three to four different vendors dominating the area in the middle where the crossing halls intersect. I was hoping the vendors would have some philanthropic purposes, but I found no affiliation with charity or other causes. It was purely for profit.

It raised a little concern. I had a notion that our campus seemed too commercial than in the past. Sure, there is campus store selling office supplies and food for students' convenience. But the kind of cheap accessories we see at Bayside marketplace? I'm not sure what purpose it serves to students' welfare or academic growth.

So I knocked the door of Division of Student Affairs to find out what is happening by inquiring some basic information. Coordinator Esther Propis was the one in charge. She

conducts interviews with possible dealers, and makes the final decision.

I brought up my concerns to her and asked for more information.

There were so many details in veil.

What can/cannot vendors sell? Are there any guidelines or safety instruction given to protect students from possible hazard? How did the division obtain the funds before we had outside vendors? Do students have rights to know how the funds get distributed?

The cold door was shut.

The faculty was clearly disturbed by my inquisitiveness. She was wondering why I even cared. And when I inquired about more information, the coordinator said she did not have any brochure or handout citing information regarding this matter.

I asked if it's possible to receive it via email or if she knows the estimated time in which the department might have it ready. The only response was again, "No."

I obtained her card before leaving the office. Ms. Propis, then, demanded my name and phone number.

"For what?" I said. She said it is only fair since I took her business card. Furthermore, she wished to give my information to whomever it might concern to know.

The moment left me speechless.

All I found out was that the building is underfunded and these vendors pay "lots of money."

According to the faculty, it is possible that students' personal information can be distributed to third party with or without students' consent.

Though the visit to WUC 110 left such bitterness in my mouth, I am now more determined to "know" and further investigate. I feel like I'm an accidental watchdog who experienced the best and worst.

I think we, the students, deserve transparency in school policies. The incident surely

provoked my critical thinking.

Educational institutes contribute to the society through their students, who are learning necessary skills. Without its exercise of knowledge outside of classrooms, a school means nothing but a factory generating mundane "college graduate" labeled products.

I would rather be a thriving individual than a well-packaged item.

I wish the same for my fellow students. Perhaps, my intentions were the core values of FIU: "truth" in the pursuit and application of knowledge and "freedom" of thought and expression.

We must not stop questioning and fighting for our basic rights. It shall happen in the moment of "now" and the place called "here."

JiSun Summer Yoon  
Digital Media Studies  
Class of 2014

### 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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## Professor studies climate change on Amazon rainforest

**DANIEL URIA**  
*Staff Writer*

The Amazon rainforest, a place imagined to be lush, wet and full of vegetation, is beginning to dry out.

Kenneth Feeley, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, is involved in studying how the vegetation in these forests is acclimating due to climate change.

Feeley has worked as an assistant professor at the University since 2009, but apart from his work at FIU, he has also participated in extensive research of vegetation in the Amazon.

“All of my research is focused on trying to understand the effects that humans have on tropical forests,” he said.

Feeley and his team have spent time periodically tracking changes in trees near the slopes of the Andes Mountains in Peru.

“We set up plots in the forest where we measure everything we can about the forest. We measure how big the trees are, what species they are and where they occur,” he said.

Through this process, Feeley has found that climate change is in fact affecting the vegetation in the area.

“We found some results that trees are growing



Dida Sampaio/AP Images

The Amazon rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world, covering 1.4 billion acres.

slower than they used to. In some species, individual [trees] are dying faster than they used to,” he said.

However, Feeley explained that one of the most interesting developments was where the trees were growing along the slope of the mountain.

This phenomenon is known as species migration. “This doesn’t mean that a tree has picked up and moved” Feeley said. “But the next generation of trees is growing higher and higher on the mountain.”

How long these trees will be able to sustain

this behavior before either falling victim to the increase in temperature or no longer having the ability to acclimate all depends on a point called the timberline.

“What we’ve found is that [the] timberline, that point where the trees stop growing, might be the key to all of this. If it stays where it is right now, then we predict losing tons of species,” he said. “If, on the other hand, that barrier moves with the warming, then species can actually spread out. And, in some cases, species can actually benefit under climate

change.”

Feeley credits his interest in environmental studies from a longstanding love of the outdoors.

“Even before going to college I was really interested in nature,” he said. “And even more than nature just being outside.”

While studying abroad in Costa Rica as an undergrad, Feeley fell in love with the field due to the pure beauty of the tropical ecology. “I was looking at it not so much as we were going to save the world, but it was going to be an enjoyable experience.”

But soon Feeley found that he couldn’t ignore that deforestation and climate change had eliminated the concept of a pristine rain forest, which caused his focus to working to reverse these effects.

While the natural beauty of the rainforest is what drew Feeley into this study, he stresses that the devastation being caused by climate change has far further reaching effects.

“We’re losing lots of species. We’re seeing increasing food scarcity, we’re seeing all kinds of problems playing out.”

The rainforest also

provides several valuable ecosystem services “The forest produces timber, filters water, acts as an air purifier and creates its own weather,” he said.

Feeley stressed that the loss of these services particularly the effects on weather can have global effects. He warned, “You’re foolhardy to think that we don’t need to care about weather in other places because it is all connected.”

Feeley admits that many of these threats have already been set in motion and that it would take drastic steps to incur change but he provided some solutions to the climate change problem. “We need to lower our individual carbon footprint. Which means driving less, being less consumers and eating lower on the food chain, so eating less meats or no meats.”

But ultimately, to really improve the world’s climate situation, a large-scale group effort is required.

“We need to push as individuals to lower our community footprint. We need to push the administration to make [FIU] a greener university and we need to vote for people that will make it a greener community.”

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## Frost raising money to conserve a sculpture

**ALFREDO APARICIO**  
*Staff Writer*

The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum is launching an S.O.S campaign to save “Journey’s End, 1985:” a sculpture by New York-based artist Ilan Averbuch. The piece has been at the University for 16 years since being donated by the Miami-based art collector, Martin Z. Margulies, in 1997.

The piece, made from the granite of demolished New York City buildings, draws inspiration from the city of New York itself and brings to mind the idea of death as the ship symbolizes the human rib cage as well as a coffin.

The campaign, entitled “Save Our Sculpture,” came about after an assessment in 2009 by an art conservator who indicated that the sculpture was in need of conservation. The piece’s condition has only worsened, suffering from decay and falling timber because of its exposure to South Florida’s unforgiving elements.

“When Alexander [Garcia] heard the work was damaged, he became aware of the fact that we could fix it,” said Carol Damian, director and chief curator at the Frost.

It was then that the Frost decided to take action by starting a fundraising and awareness campaign that could raise the \$60,000

needed to conserve the sculpture.

“It has always been a priority,” said Digital Archivist Alexander Garcia, who has led the campaign from its inception. “When the timber fell a month before Art Basel, that’s when we took the initiative to raise awareness and do something immediately because it became a public safety issue. People visiting the sculpture could be injured if a piece were to fall on them.”

The fundraising campaign will take place during the Frost’s revamped after hours program, De-Frost After Hours, which came about after Target’s sponsorship became unavailable this year.

The idea sprung from various meetings between staff members at the Frost as they searched for an event that would be educational and attractive to the student body, as well as the faculty and staff.

“We don’t have the funds to conserve it ourselves so it seemed like an opportunity that would benefit all those involved,” Damian said.

For Garcia, the event’s networking opportunities will serve as a big incentive for students attending the event. “We are going to have the strong, professional presence of the staff and as a junior or senior, about to graduate, it will be a chance to meet people and to see how those who work in the Univer-

sity got to where they were or are.”

Throughout the event, guided tours to “Journey’s End” will be available for those in attendance, where the history of the sculpture will be talked about, as well as its need for conservation and a few fun facts.

“I wanted the event to be linked back to our University community. We should do our best to conserve and care about it.”

Alexander Garcia  
Digital Archivist  
The Frost Art Museum

“I wanted the event to be linked back to our University community,” Garcia said. “We should do our best to conserve and care about it.”

The event will also feature music from

Radiate FM, food from A&G Burger Joint, who reached out to the University after their recent opening, as well as Beck’s brand beer and wine, an aspect of the event that draws inspiration from other social events at museums around South Florida, like History-Miami’s “Wine Down Wednesdays” and the Lowe Museum’s “LoweDown Happy Hour.”

“We never served alcohol in Target Wednesdays, but it’s an existing formula around the city and we are trying to give the FIU community the same experience,” said Garcia. “For students it will be a chance to learn how to have a drink and hold a conversation. A lot of events for young professionals have a liquor aspect so it’s about learning how to not go overboard and just have one drink the whole night while networking.”

Besides being a pun on the Frost’s name, the title of the event – De-Frost After Hours – makes it approachable for those who have never been to a fundraising event before or a museum.

“It’s a fresh, new and exciting title but, after thinking about it, it shows the event is something casual and accessible for those who’ve never been to a museum or if they have, it will offer a new way to enjoy the experience,” Garcia said.

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# Land Art/Earth Art class introduces yarn bombing

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*Contributing Writer*

Graffiti art doesn't always come out of a spray can. This year, graffiti art is coming to the Biscayne Bay campus – in the form of yarn.

According to Associate Professor Pip Brant, yarn bombing is a type of temporary graffiti that started in 2004 – temporary meaning that it's not permanent or destructive because it can be removed from the land or object it is covering.

People started crocheting with yarn and wrapping it with objects to symbolize repairing. Brant explained that there is a comfort quality in the material of yarn that makes yarn bombing a metaphor of comfort.

Andrea Wolverton, a senior and physics major, has been yarn bombing for over two years and is contributing her work to the University through Brant's Land Art/Earth Art class.

Brant's Land Art/Earth Art class was introduced last year and started in spring 2013. It is not exclusively for art majors and Brant's class consists of all kinds of majors.

Wolverton explained that land art is anything that interacts with or changes with the environment and the land; it's "ecoventional."

"Yarn bombing does that," said Wolverton.

"Our class' goal is to make art sustainable, or make art that makes the earth sustainable for itself. It's beneficial towards the environment," said Brant.

When Brant told Wolverton that yarn bombing would be acceptable in her Land Art/Earth Art class, Wolverton enrolled in it, which led to Wolverton's Yarn Bomb Kit Project.

Brant mentioned that all of her other students

are involved in separate projects that involve yarn bombing because Wolverton taught the rest of the class how to crochet with a guest artist.

Wolverton's latest yarn bombing project is covering the four guard poles at BBC in yarn.

Wolverton added that a project like this usually takes three to four months to complete because there are so many colors and patterns that need to be utilized.

"I'm working really fast to get it done [within this semester]," said Wolverton.

Wolverton recalled her first time yarn bombing in the University, voluntarily. It took place two years ago on the Modesto Maidique Campus, where she yarn bombed the Chemistry and Physics building with crocheted hearts on Valentine's Day.

Wolverton was surprised and happy to see students walk off with the hearts and take them home, which encouraged Wolverton to continue yarn bombing.

"There is this excitement that comes with it and also anticipation because you want to see the looks on people's faces when they pass by a public area that was unexpectedly yarn bombed," said Wolverton. "I feel accomplished when I get it done and people get to see it. I enjoy it and I hope that the people that come across it enjoy it too."

Brant adds that land art is fun and livens up the place. According to her, it makes you aware of the spaces surrounding an individual.

"Land art has a utilitarian purpose and sometimes you don't notice it. Using crochet adds a little bit of awareness to objects that you don't tend to notice before," said Brant.

-life@fiusm.com



## Roommate Troubles



Dear Nick,

I have been having issues getting along with my roommate, what can I do about it?

S.H.

*Sophomore  
Engineering Major*

Dear S.H.,

Conflicts with roommates can happen, especially when you are new to living away from home because college is a new environment. Effective communication strategies and interpersonal problem solving can improve outcomes for you and your roommate. Avoiding conflict builds resentment, so addressing the problem when it arises is the best approach. If you hold it in, chances are you will feel worse about the situation and when you confront the roommate they might have forgotten all about it. Begin by clarifying your thoughts and potentially making a list of items to discuss. I suggest inviting your roommate to the conversation when they have free time i.e.; not between classes. That way they are able to talk calmly and with sufficient time to address your concerns. Start off the conversation by emphasizing a positive aspect or element of the relationship. Confidently and respectfully state your concerns and explain how the problem makes you feel. Be sure to stay on topic and not deviate onto unrelated topics, this will help both of you stay clear. Close by emphasizing that you are excited for the opportunity to work through the problem, and most likely this obstacle can be an opportunity for growth for both of you. Learning effective communication skills can take time and effort but once you master them, you will reap the rewards for a lifetime.

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*



# SGA BUDGET HEARINGS & DELIBERATIONS

**Deliberations at BBC: University Wide**  
Feb 19 / 2:00pm to 8:00pm / WUC 221

**Hearings: MMC Campus Specific**  
Feb 20 / 9:00 to 5:00pm / Meeting in GC 241A

Tentative  
**Deliberations at MMC: University Wide**  
Feb 23 / 8:00am to 1:00pm / GC 1235

**Deliberations: MMC Campus Specific**  
Feb 27 / 12:00pm to 6:00pm / GC 211A

## Sand volleyball kicks off season in less than two weeks

**DANIEL BREY**  
*Contributing Writer*

With sand between their toes, a pair of sunglasses, and the first ever sand volleyball schedule now at hand, Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett and the team have their eyes set on what Buck-Crockett feels is the first serve of many to come for the optimistic future of sand volleyball.

"Our number one goal is to start a positive winning tradition here at FIU," Buck-Crockett said. "The ultimate goal however, is to bring home a national championship."

The inaugural season is set to begin on the road March 8 as Panthers take their talents to Los Angeles, Calif. in a duel against Grand Canyon University.

GCU, also digging into their first year of sand volleyball competition, is led by GCU indoor volleyball legend Head Coach Kris Naber.

"I am not familiar with the career Naber has had, however, I do hold a great deal of respect for all coaches in their first year of competition," Buck-Crockett said. "Along with our program, these first year teams will surely help the [sand volleyball] game."

On March 9, the Panthers will travel west to the white beaches of Malibu, Calif. to battle defending AVCA Collegiate Sand Volleyball National Champion, Pepperdine University, in what can only be described as a David versus Goliath match.



JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Head coach of the sand volleyball team Rita Buck-Crockett, left, and assistant coach, Marrita Royster-Crockett, Rita's daughter, watch on as the sand volleyball team practices. Their first match is an intrasquad game on March 1.

Pepperdine currently holds five players that stand six feet or taller, which is double that of FIU's roster.

The question of whether the Panthers will be able to compete

with Pepperdine is not a concern for Buck-Crockett.

"I feel we will be able to match-up with Pepperdine," Buck-Crockett said. "We have some very athletic players who

can cover a lot of ground which will make up the lack of height," she said.

The road will not get any easier for FIU when they go against last year's national runner-up, Long Beach State, on March 13.

"We want to play against the top teams," Buck-Crockett said. "What better way of knowing where we are as a team than to compete with schools like Pepperdine, Long Beach State and Hawaii."

FIU will continue their west coast trip when they travel to the Aloha State on March 15 to take on Hawaii.

On March 16, the Panthers will get a taste of tournament play when they face Hawaii, along with Chaminade and Hawaii Pacific, in the Hawaii tournament.

With just four full days of rest leading up to the tournament, fatigue will not play a factor for the Panthers, according to Buck-Crockett.

"Our training staff has done a marvelous job of keeping the team in shape," Buck-Crockett said. "I do not think fatigue will play a factor in our performance during that stretch of the season."

After the tournament, FIU will travel back to Miami to host Webber International University in what will be the first sand volleyball match ever played at FIU.

The match will be played on March 23 at 9 a.m. on the sand volleyball courts, located

between the Panther Parking Garage and the tennis courts at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

The Panthers will host the first annual Surf and Turf Tournament featuring some of the nation's top teams such as Pepperdine, Tulane, Florida Atlantic, and Georgia State starting March 29 through March 31 on the sand volleyball courts.

All games played on March 30, however, will take place at a location yet to be determined.

The Panthers play their final home game on April 6 at 10 a.m. against Florida Gulf Coast, and will then travel to Siesta Key, Fla. to compete in the 2013 Fiesta on Siesta Key Tournament held from April 13-14.

A scrimmage against Stetson on April 27 will mark the final chapter in the historic inaugural season for FIU unless they qualify to compete at the 2013 AVCA Collegiate Sand Volleyball Championships in Gulf Shores, Ala., which begins on May 3.

Before the inaugural season kicks off however, Coach Buck-Crockett and the sand volleyball team will host the first ever Blue & Gold Intrasquad Tournament on March 1 at 9 a.m. at the sand volleyball courts.

The tournament will feature the top five duo teams that will compete in the season opener at GCU, and a post-game autograph session.

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## FIU wrestling in serious need of revamp

**RHYS WILLIAMS**  
*Contributing Writer*

The FIU wrestling club is a fraction of what it once was.

The club has spiraled from 25 participants last year to having three to six members show up to meetings this year.

The only person left over from last year's squad isn't even from FIU. Frank Mora, who was unavailable for comment, is from Miami-Dade College.

The club has been trying to get back to last year's status with the help of freshman Jahrel Francis, a former two time all-state wrestler from Celebration High School in Kissimmee, Fla.

Francis turned down multiple offers from prestigious wrestling schools like Duke University, Drexel University and Appalachian State to wrestle in college for those who knew him to imagine his involvement with anything to do with

wrestling when he got here to FIU.

"I knew that I wanted to have a life in college and I knew if I went to a school to wrestle I wouldn't really have one," Francis said. "Everyday it would be wake up, practice, class, practice, sleep and repeat. I wanted to continue wrestling but not make it my entire life."

With a lot of skill in the sport, Francis brings experiences from some large tournaments.

"I went to the national meet in Fargo, N.D. last year and didn't do too spectacular," Francis said. "However, when I competed in a tournament in Puerto Rico I had a lot of fun, met people from around the world and brought home some hardware when I came in third place."

Next fall, Julian Valhuerdi will hopefully be attending FIU. He is on the second year of a wrestling scholarship in Itasca Community College in Grand Rapids, Minn.



RHYS WILLIAMS/THE BEACON

Freshman Business Administration Major Jahrel Francis, right, is in the middle of pinning Miami-Dade College's Frank Mora during a practice at the FIU Recreation Center on Feb. 11.

"Wrestling as a sport is very different than other sports. It challenges you mentally and physically. It changed my life and helped me become more of a man, made me disciplined and a lot more mature," Valhuerdi said. "It has helped me see places I never would have seen and gotten me through the first part of my collegiate career."

Valhuerdi hopes that he can help continue the growth of the FIU wrestling club when he arrives in the fall.

"I will be doing it when I get back down there to Miami, and helping it grow as much as I can," Valhuerdi said.

Some of the members who are newer to the club are glad to be adding on, but

are questioning how long it can last without some changes.

"It was great to get back into it after being out of the sport for a while," said Christian Viera during his first day on Feb.11. "There is a pretty high chance that I will go back again and I hope that it continues to grow because I love wrestling. I just hope the group

gets more organized and bigger so it can be challenging and let me get as much enjoyment out of it that I did when I was competing."

"No one has really been spreading the word about it. I know that I am going to tell all my friends who have any idea about wrestling to come by," said another club member, Jose Arrastia. "Anything we can do to make it more exciting is fine by me."

These men are in it for the sport, but they all have the same passion.

"It is just you and another guy out on the mat," said Valhuerdi. "When you have so many people watching you, it gets crazy and your blood starts pumping. You get a high and it is one of the greatest feelings in the world."

For more information on the FIU wrestling club, contact Jahrel Francis at jfran147@fiu.edu

-sports@fiusm.com

# Free of injuries, Panthers cruising to the finish line

**RUBEN PALACIOS**  
*Staff Writer*

The women's basketball team is back on cruise control after a two-game losing streak.

After consecutive conference losses to Middle Tennessee State University and University of Louisiana at Monroe that dropped them to 13-9 and 7-6 in the Sun Belt Conference, the Panthers find themselves on a three-game win streak and have improved to 16-9 (10-6 SBC).

After a home victory against rival Florida Atlantic University on Feb. 6, the Panthers hit the road and traveled to the University of North Texas and faced off against a familiar conference foe. FIU lost to North Texas in mid-January, but this time FIU got the best of the Mean Green and pulled out a 72-63 victory on Feb. 9.

The Panthers then traveled to Troy, Ala., where they picked up their third consecutive win with a 56-39 victory against the Trojans. The Panthers put on possibly their best defensive performance of the season in the win. Troy entered the contest averaging more than 72 points per game, but on this night FIU held them to nearly half their average.

"We are doing a really

good job on the boards," Head Coach Cindy Russo said. "And we are holding teams to a very low percentage and we have started to play really nice defense."

## BACK IN ONE PIECE

It is not a coincidence that the Panthers' win streak started when seniors Finda Mansare and Diamond Ashmore returned to the squad after missing a number of games because of injury.

"I was concerned with getting my team back healthy," Russo said. "And now we got our troops back."

Mansare, a preseason Second Team All-Sun Belt Conference selection, has shot 45 percent from the field since her return to the team and has provided help on the front line that became awfully thin when she and Ashmore went down.

Ashmore has been playing superbly since her return. In her three games back, Ashmore shot an astounding 66 percent from the field and has snatched an average of seven rebounds per game. Ashmore also led the team in blocks in all three games since her return.

## LONELY AT THE TOP

Junior Jerica Coley still remains the leading scorer in the nation as of

Feb. 15. The All-American candidate is averaging 25.4 points per game, a mark that sits two points per game higher than her closest competitor.

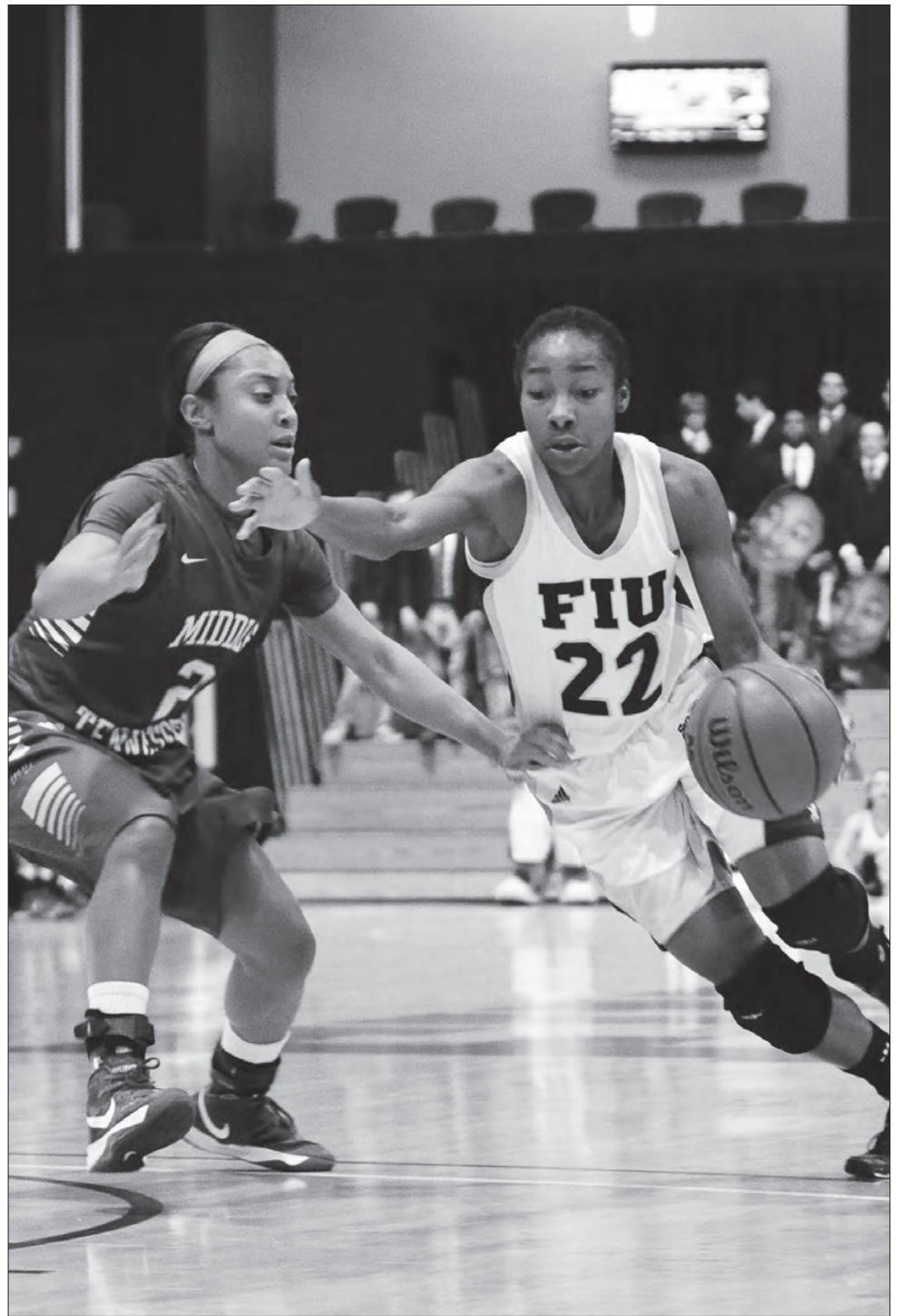
Coley is on quite a hot streak, even by her standards. She has scored in double-figures in 23 consecutive games and in 81 of 91 career contests. Through the first 25 games of the season, Coley registered at least 20 points on 16 occasions.

Coley's scoring is reaching monumental levels within the FIU ranks. With a 25 point performance against Troy on Feb. 14, it put her career point total at 1,931, a mark that ranks third all-time at FIU. Coley's career scoring average of 21.2 points per game ranks second of all-time at FIU.

"It's always good when you have Jerica Coley on your side," Russo said. "She can win you some games."

Coley is responsible for over more than 41 percent of FIU's total offense this season, and is responsible for over 34 percent of FIU's total points over her entire tenure at FIU.

The team has only three games left in the season and the next will be the last home game on Feb. 21 against the University of Little Rock Arkansas.



JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

-sports@fiusm.com

Junior Jerica Coley, right, is still number one in the country in points per game at a 25.4 mark.

# Stanton says he's past anger over Marlins purge

**STEVEN WINE**  
*AP Staff*

Miami Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton tried to show discipline as a hitter Friday, choosing a diplomatic description of the franchise's latest dismantling.

He called the offseason "interesting."

Irate fans have used even more colorful adjectives, and shortly after the Marlins' blockbuster trade last November that culminated their purge of players, Stanton tweeted he was angry about it.

On Friday, as the downsized Marlins prepared for their first full-squad workout of spring training, Stanton said he's ready to turn the page.

"You're not going to linger on something and cry about it all day. You let it be known how you feel and push forward," he said.

"There's no reason to be mad. I'm healthy. I'm ready to play and be part of the team. All the other nonsense, let it be what it is. There's not going to be any pouting."

The comments about the trade were Stanton's first to the South Florida media since All-Star shortstop Jose Reyes and four other players were dealt to Toronto. The deal left Stanton as one of the Marlins' few established players, and there were offseason questions about whether he might soon join the exodus.

He declined to say whether he would be willing to sign a long-term contract with the Marlins.

"I haven't been offered one, so that decision isn't ready yet," he said.

## Student Government Association Biscayne Bay Campus Lecture Series 2013

# An evening with Carl Hiaasen

*Bestselling novelist and journalist Carl Hiaasen is among South Florida's most vital natural resources. His comic style - Hiaasenesque - combines thrilling plot lines, blunder-prone schemes, headstrong men and women, corrupt politicians, and a loving nod to the natural landscape of South Florida. In his hilarious keynotes, Hiaasen shows you his America: absurd, seedy, and oddly beautiful.*

**FEBRUARY 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**6:30PM - WUC Theatre**  
**FIU - Biscayne Bay Campus**



**FIU** Arts & Sciences  
*School of Environment, Arts and Society*  
**FIU** Student Government Association  
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Division of Student Affairs

Presented by Student Government Association at Biscayne Bay. 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. For additional event information please call 305.919.5680 or visit WUC 301.

## Organization targets shrinking economy, youth unemployment

**NYESHIA GARLAND**  
*Contributing Writer*

Students are feeling the sting of a nonexistent income and the desperation that comes with looking for alternative means of living.

Jobs for college students, like sophomore business major Jorge Vazquez, are sporadic. Vazquez believes that it is unfair that young people have to compete with more experienced applicants.

"I believe that the job market has been stabilizing, not really getting better nor worse," Vazquez said.

Generation Opportunity, a non-partisan organization, announced in early February that youth employment for 18-29 year olds for January 2013 increased to 13.1 percent, compared to 11.5 percent in December 2012 and the current national average – 7.9 percent.

This does not include the 1.7 million youth who have dropped out of the workforce, because of frustration and lack of jobs, making it 16.2 percent, according to Generation Opportunity.

The study also shows that the youth unemployment rate for 18-29 year old Afri-

can-Americans for January 2013 was 22.1 percent, 13 percent for Hispanics and 11.6 percent for women.

As a result, a large number of young people are not able to apply skills from their education toward a job, leaving the age group on the outside, looking in.

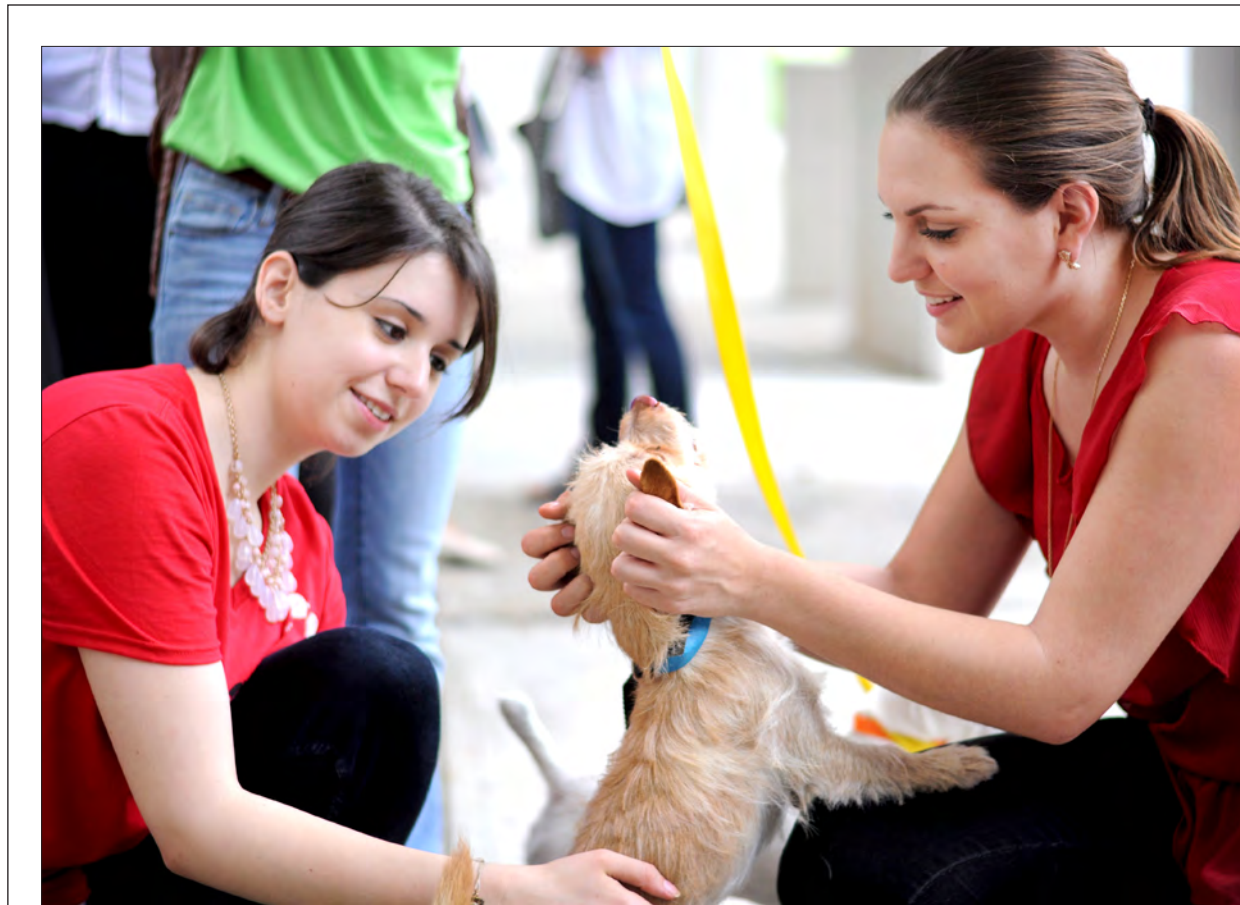
According to The Palm Beach Post, "Employers added 157,000 jobs last month, and hiring turned out to be healthier than previously thought at the end of 2012 just as the economy faced the threat of the 'fiscal cliff.'"

However, hectic schedules and classes make it incredibly difficult for students to snag a job, when older job seekers do not necessarily face that issue.

As a result, young people are in stiff competition for jobs, internships and entry level jobs. And temporary, summer jobs are even harder to come by.

"My generation is suffering disproportionately," director of national and state policy at Generation Opportunity, Terence Grado said in a press release.

"President Obama says America should be 'investing in the generation that will build its future,' yet four years of his



SANA ULAH/THE BEACON

On Feb. 14, FIU's Public Relations Student Society of America hosted Puppies By The Bay where they brought puppies from the Humane Society to the Biscayne Bay campus. Sarah Veran, a junior in public relations, and Luciana Padula, a senior, represented PRSSA outside of the Wolfe University Center as they asked students to support the Humane Society of Greater Miami. Students were able to play with a puppy for a \$5 donation and all proceeds would help the shelter and contribute to the proper care for animals in need.

government-driven economic policies have left us with record youth unemployment and an economy that is literally shrinking," Grado said.

Sophomore biology major George Lacs has experienced the race for a job first hand when he wanted an internship with a lab. However, his age and lack of experience made him an "automatic reject," he said.

Grado believes that "instead of staying the course and doubling down on failure, we need a new strategy that encourages the private sector

to grow, invest, and provide real opportunities for the millions of young people who have great skills, are ready to contribute and have waited long enough."

Generation Opportunity is asking young people to take action by sharing their personal stories on its flagship Facebook page, Being American by GO, which has collected over 1,500,000 fans.

On the page, anyone can read the latest news affecting young adults, read forums, and meet people.

This effort, called Tell Us

About It, will reveal the real faces behind the statistics, giving young people a forum to dialogue about the impact of historically high youth unemployment in everyday life.

Anyone wanting to increase their impact, and make their voices heard regarding the battlefield of jobs, can also sign up to read Generation Opportunity training guides.

Entailed are step-by-step instructions which show students how to be effective leader and activist against job losses, at town hall meetings

and talk shows. Information is available at [www.generationopportunity.org](http://www.generationopportunity.org).

Lacs thinks that it may be an incredible opportunity for him to become a speaker against the issue and a good asset to put on his resume. He plans to motivate his friends hoping to cause a powerful domino effect.

The organization aims to challenge young people with the question: "Why just read the news, when you can make it?"

-bbc@fiusm.com

## Cruise passengers became comrades on trip home

**JAY REEVES AND BRENDAN FARRINGTON**  
*AP Writer*

When their cruise ship lost power, passengers aboard the Carnival Triumph could have been selfish and looked out only for themselves and their loved ones. Instead, they became comrades in a long, exhausting struggle to get home.

As ship conditions deteriorated, travelers formed Bible study groups, shared or traded precious supplies and even welcomed strangers into their private cabins. Long after they've returned to the everyday luxuries of hot showers and cold drinks, passengers said, they will remember the crew and the personal bonds formed during a cruel week at sea.

The tired passengers finally reached land Friday and gave a glimpse into the intensely uncomfortable journey they had endured.

Sandy Jackson, of Houston, was fortunate to have an upper-level room

with a balcony and a breeze that kept the air in her cabin fresh. Rooms on the lower decks were too foul or stifling, so Jackson took in five people, including four strangers.

"We knew one, the others we're very good friends with now," Jackson said. "Everyone was very cordial in sharing supplies. What you had and they didn't have, everyone shared as much as possible."

Brandi Dorsett, of Sweeny, Texas, said people were antsy and irritable at times, and there was tension. But it never got out of hand.

"People were bartering. Can I have your cereal for this? Can I have your drink for that?" she said. "We had one lady, she was begging for cigarettes for diapers. There were no diapers on the boat. There was no formula on the boat."

The ship left Galveston, Texas, on Feb. 17 for a four-day jaunt to Cozumel, Mexico. An engine-room fire early Sunday paralyzed ship, leaving it adrift in the Gulf of Mexico until tugboats towed the massive

14-story vessel to Mobile. It arrived late Thursday to cheers and flashing cameras.

"Sweet Home Alabama!" read one of the homemade signs passengers hung over the side.

Many of the more than 4,200 people aboard were bused to New Orleans to catch a flight home or to the ship's home port in Galveston. And as if they hadn't suffered enough, one of the buses broke down during the two-hour ride to New Orleans. Passengers on a different bus reported losing their luggage.

But that was nothing compared to life on the crippled cruise liner. To pass the time, Joseph Alvarez said about 45 people gathered in a public room on the lower deck for Bible study.

"It was awesome," he said. "It lifted up our souls and gave us hope that we would get back."

Because many passengers were sleeping on the outside deck, Dwayne Chapman of Lake Charles, La., used his pocket knife to cut decorative

ropes to make tents out of bed sheets. At first, other passengers told him they thought he was going to get in trouble, but later, everyone wanted to borrow his knife to do the same thing.

"I really think we've made some lifelong friends going through this ordeal," Chapman's wife, Kim, said.

When it was over, many passengers were just grateful for some simple pleasures. After days of warm drinks, Cheryl McIntosh and her husband were glad to see coolers full of ice.

"The first thing we did was open up those Diet Cokes and we drank some," McIntosh said.

Tugs pulled the ship away from the dock Friday, moving it down a waterway to a shipyard where it will be repaired. Carnival spokesman Vance Gulliksen said the damage assessment was ongoing.

The cleanup seemed daunting. Passengers described water-logged carpet, sewage seeping through the walls, overflowing toilets and a stench so bad people choked when

they tried to endure it.

But by most accounts, the crew did as much as they could, using disinfectant and picking up plastic bags of feces after toilets stopped working.

David Glocker, of Jacksonville, Fla., praised the crew's efforts to help passengers and recognized the conditions for them were worse than for most passengers because their quarters were on the lowest part of the ship.

"The conditions down there were horrible. They all had to wear masks," he said. "They worked their butts off trying to get us food."

Dorsett praised a voice over the ship's public address system that she knew as "Jen."

"Jen was fabulous. I can remember her saying 'Everything is brilliant!'" Dorsett said. "One day, she was just talking and she said, 'I know, folks, it just really sucks.' So she was even letting go. She would try to keep that happy spirit, but yet sometimes you could hear tension in her."