

## University Technology requests fee proposals

**MARIA BRITOS**  
*Contributing Writer*

Last week, a University-wide email was sent to students on technology fee proposals asking to take part in the “mission of building an excellent physical and technological infrastructure.”

The University technology fee is currently accepting proposals to help maintain and improve technology in the University.

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to send proposals on software, computer labs, classroom technologies, and online learning via the technology fee website, [techfee.fiu.edu](http://techfee.fiu.edu).

The applicants will need to submit the proposals

with all the project’s information and estimated cost; and in order to be evaluated, it must be approved first by a director or dean of the department, college, or school that the proposal will take part in.

“I think this is an important duty as a student to be able to contribute to this proposal and be able to voice our opinions as well,” said Cesar Jara, junior english major.

Since March 2009, the University’s Board of Trustees approved the collection of a technology fee in order to enhance the resources for students and faculty. According to the guiding principles estab-

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### WHAT’S UP



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Junior Andres Luzardo, sports and fitness major (left), conditions and trains for parkour, also known as freerunning. Practicing alongside him is incoming student Jonathan Giraldo (right).

## Law professor awarded grant from Harvard Law School

**VICTORIA RONDEROS**  
*Contributing Writer*

The world is constantly on the move, but many people in Asia are without protection when they migrate.

Harvard Law School has awarded Law Professor Cyra Choudhury the Santander & Institute for Global Law & Policy Doha Collaborative Research Grant.

This grant will help enable Choudhury to support her research initiative, “Avenues of Legal Reform of Transnational and International Labor Laws in the Gulf and Saudi Arabia.”

Choudhury is from Bangladesh, located east of India, and has been

passionate about this issue for quite some time.

“I spent part of my growing-up years in the Middle East, and my father was a diplomat, and so he dealt with a lot of these labor issues on a day-to-day basis,” said Choudhury. “It’s been an ongoing problem.”

With the grant, her research initiative strives to create a legal reform proposal to help regulate migrant laborers who travel from South Asia to the Middle East, specifically in countries such as India, Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia.

“It’s always been interesting to me; [the] aspiration is to go, and, you know, make a better life for the people at home,” Choudhury said.

Benjamin Smith, an international relations professor and a member of the Middle East studies faculty, said that the labor migration situation in South Asia and the Middle East has been occurring since the 1970s.

“There was suddenly a big increase in oil, and suddenly these countries in the Gulf region [had] a lot more money. They decided to develop their economies, and they [didn’t] have enough local people to do it, so they [started] importing labor,” said Smith.

Choudhury plans to first visit Bangladesh and India.

“There’s a number of countries to choose from; I could’ve picked any number of places, but Bangladesh is

where I come from,” said Choudhury. “For logistical reasons, it’s easier to go to a place you know when you’re starting off a new project than some place that you’ve never been before.”

Besides the research initiative, Choudhury has also published articles regarding the correlation between gender and religious identity for Muslims in South Asia and international human rights theory.

She received her bachelor’s degree in political science at the College of Wooster, received her master’s degree in comparative politics at Columbia University and received her law degree at Georgetown University.

Choudhury has been a part of a network of scholars through the Insti-

tute for Global Law Policy, which is supported by Harvard Law School. Its focus is on international and transnational law and policy.

“It’s a travel grant, so it’s actually quite modest. But it’s enough to get me there, get me into offices and get some contacts [to] do some field research,” said Choudhury. “Right now, this is very preliminary research. Hopefully a paper will come out of it, and I’m hoping that there will be funding for a conference that comes out of it.”

Choudhury plans to begin her travels and research this upcoming spring.

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## Pope’s resignation shocks local Catholic community

**CHELSEA KLAIBER**  
*Contributing Writer*

In an announcement last Monday that shocked the world, Pope Benedict XVI announced he was stepping down from his position.

Pope Benedict XVI is the first pope to resign in nearly 600 years, the last being Gregory XII in 1415.

“I think everybody was shocked just because it’s so out of the ordinary,” said Erik Larson, associate professor and chair of the Department of Religious Studies.

Although being pope is usually considered a lifetime position, Benedict XVI cited his advanced age and declining health as the reason for his resignation.

“It’s typically a job for life, and a call from God, but

if you’re feeling that you’re not mentally and physically equipped to do the job, I think it’s in the best interests of the Catholic church to resign,” said Katie Pals, a graduate religious studies student.

Though Benedict XVI did recently have surgery to replace the battery in his pacemaker, Albert Wuaku, a Religious Studies assistant professor, suspects there is something the public hasn’t yet been told.

“My sense is that there might be more to it, and maybe with time we’ll get to know a little bit more about what his condition is really about,” he said.

Evelyn Arhin-Sam, a religious studies graduate student, believes the pope’s German upbringing is a

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“There is something good that may come from all of this.”  
Erik Larson  
Associate professor and chair  
Religious Studies

## WORLD NEWS

### Journalist freed but may face charges

A Somali journalist was freed after being detained without charges for more than a week for speaking out against the imprisonment of a fellow reporter.

Daud Abdi Daud was released but he said Wednesday that the Somali government wants to charge him in court with “offending the president’s wife.” Government officials declined to comment on Daud’s claim that he will be charged.

Daud, a Radio Kulmiye reporter, said he was released Tuesday after more than a week in custody, though authorities treated him well.

He said his arrest stemmed from an incident last week when a Mogadishu court handed down one-year prison sentences to a woman who said she was raped by security forces and a reporter who interviewed her.

### Struggling Caribbean islands selling citizenship

Hadi Mezawi has never set foot on the Caribbean island of Dominica, has never seen its rainforests or black-sand beaches. But he’s one of its newest citizens.

Without leaving his home in the United Arab Emirates, the Palestinian man recently received a brand new Dominican passport after sending a roughly \$100,000 contribution to the tropical nation half a world away.

“At the start I was a little worried that it might be a fraud, but the process turned out to be quite smooth and simple. Now, I am a Dominican,” said Mezawi, who like many Palestinians had not been recognized as a citizen of any country.

That passport will help with travel for his job with a Brazilian food processing company, he said by telephone from Dubai.

Turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa has led to a surge of interest in programs that let investors buy citizenship or residence in countries around the world in return for a healthy contribution or investment.

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

# Technology fee proposals open for student contributions

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lished for the program, the fee will be used to help improve the technology in student and faculty facilities, which will support instruction and learning.

Once all applications are submitted, the process to approve and pass a proposal includes a daylong meeting with Robert Grillo, vice president of Information Technology and chief information officer; the Technology Fee Committee, the dean of University Libraries, and SGA’s student representatives from the Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus.

“Maybe we should have more up-to-date laptops that are in better conditions because some of them are

messed up and really old,” said Chantal Aleman, a sophomore in biology.

According to the Audit of University Technology Fee, in 2011, the Technology Fee Advisory Council approved 58 projects totaling around \$5 million and rejected 39 projects.

In a previous interview with Student Media, Grillo said 5 percent of the student tuition goes to the technology fee, which ranges from \$7 million to \$8 million a year.

In order to provide a better technology service at the University, the technology fee committee highly encourages students’ input for the proposals.

“They actually enjoy proposals that come from students because most of the proposals come from the library,” said Sergio Pantoja, a junior

computer science major. “If they had proposals that came from students they will consider it more strongly.”

Pantoja was one of SGA’s student representatives present in last year’s technology fee evaluation meeting. He also mentioned that because part of student tuition goes into technology, it is important for proposal projects to mainly benefit students as well as the University’s technology abilities.

“One good proposal is to have more computer labs, not just at MMC but in BBC,” said Nadua Silva, sophomore journalism major. “I will probably send a proposal on better Wi-Fi as well.”

Grillo was not available for comment on this story.

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# Dean’s Dialogue to address healthcare and technology

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The Dean’s Dialogue is also meant to give the audience members – which include students, faculty, and staff – insight to the board members’ specific fields since they give presentations on the theme using their experience. For example, the inaugural presentation of the Dean’s Dialogue explored the theme of “Future Now: Innovations in Healthcare, Technology and Training,” with MorseLife, a health care provider for seniors, and additional Board members having presented on the topic.

The theme itself is typi-

cally chosen by the ability to group several board members together each time.

According to Robertson, generating awareness and interest amongst the students is important for the EDU-LAB.

“We try to get as many students as we can to come because there is a particular interest with the board members in terms of helping to build their future employees, if you will, by creating internship and job opportunities for students,” said Robertson. “Students are very busy, of course, and there is a lot of competition for their time, but it helps if

you’re doing an event that is explicitly sort of designed for their success, particularly in terms of giving internships and jobs.”

Student involvement will go beyond the audience in this upcoming event. The hour between the EDU-LAB meeting and the Dean’s Dialogue will exhibit a poster session in which the top undergraduate researchers will have their work featured for the Board members.

“We try to select undergraduates who are doing research in areas that are of interest to the board members, again trying to make that link between employers and

students,” said Robertson.

Board members will also have tables set up so that students can approach them afterwards to learn more about any possible opportunities.

EDU-LAB members will commence the board meeting at 2 p.m. and it will last until 4 p.m. The poster session will take place after the meeting in the lobby outside the Graham Center Ballroom, followed by the Dean’s Dialogue from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Graham Center Ballroom East; President Mark B. Rosenberg is slated to open the Dean’s Dialogue.

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# Church hopes to have new pope in place by Easter

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contributing factor to his resignation.

“If Germans feel they are unable to perform, they will let it go for someone else. I think that influenced the pope’s resignation because he is fragile, ill - he feels he’s incompetent,” she said.

Vatican officials are hoping to have a replacement by Easter. The New York Times identified a few early front-runners to take Benedict XVI’s place coming from Ghana, the U.S., Canada, Argentina, Austria, and Italy.

“I’m from Ghana, and I hear there’s a Ghanaian potential candidate. Nationally, it’s a symbol of pride,” said Wuaku.

Benedict XVI, stepping down at the age of 85, gives opportunity for someone younger to be chosen.

Mark Sweeney, a 24-year-old grad student, believes youth is important for the new pope to have.

“It’s not just him being young, but him looking at the future generations of Catholics, not just the seniors and the older

adults,” he said.

Benedict XVI, known for being an intellectual pope, was considered by some for being even more conservative than his predecessor, John II. Since he took the title of pope in 2005, his reign has been littered with criticism regarding his handling of sexual abuse incidents within the Catholic church as well as his butler leaking private documents to an Italian journalist.

“I think everybody recognizes they need somebody with a lot of personal charisma. Pope John Paul is remembered as somebody who could bring people in and make the message of the church relevant for today, so people would like that again,” said Larson.

Larson believes that this may set the trend for future popes to step down if they feel they are not able.

“There is something good that may come from all of this,” he said.

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## An age to experience: exploring FIU's options

**JUNETTE REYES**  
*Staff Writer*

The beauty of being a college student is the many new experiences and opportunities that we can be exposed to. The opportunities themselves are almost always there; it's just a matter of taking the first step towards them.

Be it your first semester at FIU or not, doing so can, admittedly, be quite terrifying at times.

Sometimes such a sense of fear can even be quite hindering and paralyzing when attempting to take advantage of the full college experience.

And as difficult as it may be, it is in our best interest as youths in such an institution to let go of that fear and make our time spent here worth-

while not only in the classroom, but beyond the classroom as well.

Once you slowly start to let go of that fear, as mild or severe as it may be, then you might realize how easy it becomes for you to step outside of your comfort zone and open yourself to new experiences, many of which FIU does not lack.

So go ahead and apply for an organization of your choice, be it something new or something you want to expand on. It could probably even be an organization that helps you with some type of characteristic you want to improve on, such as leadership skills or communication and social skills.

Or it could possibly even be an organization that concentrates on your discipline, which could in turn

help you meet more people with similar interests.

Explore classes outside your major when possible. Perhaps take an art course, music course, writing course, or anything else that intrigues you.

The first thing I ever tried was out of my comfort zone and I had no previous experience in the area.

I tried to join The Beacon.

Writing was always a personal thing to me, so it was a very intimidating idea to present my written work to such a vast audience. The first time I tried joining, I was never called back for a writing position. I did not let that stop me, and came back the following semester. And I've been here ever since.

My second experience was joining the research studies in the Legal Psychology depart-

“It is in our best interests as youths to let go of that fear and make our time spent here worthwhile.”

ment. I was intrigued because I am a psychology and criminal studies major. The first study I joined was accepted for the flagship American Psychology-Law Society conference this March.

But it doesn't have to be something relating to your studies. If Greek life is for

you, go for it, even if only for the experience of going through rush.

Go beyond simply attending on-campus events and try to even take part in them by volunteering in whatever capacity you might be needed.

Collegiate-level sports can

certainly be intimidating and if you simply want to join a team or set one up for fun, the Intramural Sports provided by the Recreation Services is for you.

The important thing to do is to fully explore and take advantage of the opportunities and new experiences FIU provides for its students. Do not be afraid to approach unknown territories.

Sometimes, the best way to enjoy yourself, and possibly even learn, is to go outside of your comfort zone.

You don't even need a New Year's resolution to do so.

Simply make it your personal goal. And above all else, do not let rejection stop you from continuously going forward.

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## 21 and over: the myth about having fun in Miami

**ASHLEY VALENTIN**  
*Contributing Writer*

It's no secret that Miami is a party city.

The beaches are lined with clubs and lounges and every other person is a promoter, a DJ, or a bartender. In a city catered to adults looking to have a good time, it's understandable that people under the age of 21 feel a little left out.

Miami seems unfriendly towards 18 to 20 year olds, but does that mean that the popular cry, "There's nothing to do if you're not 21" is justified?

If you're looking at the club and

bar scene, then yes; it's very difficult for someone underage to have a good time in this city.

I can't even begin to count how many times I haven't been able to get into a club or bar and stood looking in from the outside like a hungry beggar child.

And let's not talk about how many times my over 21 friends have gone out and had to un-invite me because they were going somewhere a youngin' like me couldn't get into.

For guys, however, it's worse. A lot of clubs advertise themselves as "Girls 18 and over. Guys 21 and over." So while girls get

to go party, guys are left on the sidelines.

But saying that there's nothing fun to do in Miami unless you're 21 is a little bit of an exaggeration.

And it's also relative to your idea of fun.

I personally can't go out clubbing all the time. As much as I love twerking to a Swedish House song surrounded by sweaty drunk people on a Saturday night, it gets tiring very fast. I'd rather be somewhere where I can actually hear my friends talk.

"Between [ages] 18 and 21, you should be going to house parties and crazy adventures, not club-

bing every weekend," said senior Alex Rodriguez. "Miami is not so bad. Not as bad as the fresh-out-of-high-school emo ducklings make it out to be!"

Outside of bars and 21 and over clubs like LIV, Miami is home to a thriving art scene in Wynwood, has skateparks, and music hot spots like The Vagabond, The Stage, and Grand Central.

Miami is full of 18 and over clubs like Club Space, and awesome arcades like Odyssey for the days you want to own your friends in Super Smash.

Plus there are plenty of beaches for parties and drum circles.

Karaoke bars like Studio that don't have an age limit — so long as you buy something cheap like a glass of water at the bar.

And let's be honest, most people under the age of 21 drink at family parties or a friend's house anyways, so it's not like anyone is really missing out on being able to drink.

Miami is full of things to do, but you have to know where to look.

And really if you can't think of anything to do other than drink at a bar or go to an over 21 club, you might just be a little boring.

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## Valentine's Day spurns some students

**SELIMA HUSSAIN**  
*Staff Writer*

Yesterday, girlfriends and boyfriends celebrated Valentine's Day by writing each other love notes, exchanging cute gifts, like gigantic stuffed animals and chocolate, and simply enjoying each other's company.

While couples enjoyed the festivities this Valentine's Day had to offer, the rest of the "forever alone" population silently suffered.

The "forever alone" population, made popular by social media memes, makes up a rare demographic of students who feel as though they will never have anybody to love — ever.

On holidays like Valentine's Day, the loneliness some students may feel is intensified.

They endure the sight of happy couples on campus, ignore sappy chick flicks, and disre-

gard red and pink advertisements plastered all over campus. It's not a simple feat.

But students have to be strong and indifferent. They have no other option.

Maybe it's time for society to be a little more sympathetic to the single people of the world on Valentine's Day. Not everybody has a significant other. Not everybody can go out on cute mini-golf dates and moonlit strolls on the beach.

I feel like Valentine's Day has just become a huge scam by corporations to make money by taking advantage of people in successful relationships. I guess that's the positive side of being "forever alone," not being the victim of these money-hungry companies.

At the same time, there are some people who think that the term "forever alone" has been blown out of proportion.

"It's how you perceive it," said Marcus

Stevens, a sophomore majoring in hospitality. "You can be single and not be alone."

Sofia Bodniza, a freshman majoring in hospitality, agrees.

"I think it's dramatic. Love yourself first, and then you'll be able to love others," said Bodniza.

Then, there are those who simply see the comical value behind the "forever alone" label.

"I just take it as a joke," said Johnatan Jenson, a sophomore majoring in computer science.

Some students may see the "forever alone" title as a source of humor, but the underlying issues for someone who seriously believes they are "forever alone" can be a matter of low self-esteem.

Or it could just be unrealistic expectations. "I don't think it's forever alone," said

Tashaun Williams, a junior majoring in finance and marketing. "It's more like forever-not-with-the-person-you-want-to-be-with."

That may actually be worse.

So the point is, if you considered yourself to be "forever alone" this past Valentine's Day, then maybe you should start ignoring those lovey-dovey couples that seem to sprout out of nowhere.

Resist the urge to watch romantic comedies that will just make you feel sorry for yourself, and learn to embrace and love who you really are.

Just because you didn't have someone to share Valentine's Day with this year doesn't mean you have to be depressed about it.

But, thank goodness it's over.

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### 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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## Coconut Grove Arts Festival to bring music, food and art

**ALFREDO APARICIO**  
*Staff Writer*

What began as a promotional stunt by Charlie Cinnamon, who hung artwork on clotheslines outside the Coconut Grove Playhouse in order to create the feeling of a Parisian street fair, has become one of South Florida's most successful cultural events with an estimated 150,000 expected to attend throughout its three day run.

In fact, the original concept was so popular that the following year it was turned into an event in its own right: The Coconut Grove Arts Festival.

This year, as the festival celebrates its 50th anniversary, it only strives to get better. Attendees will experience culinary cuisine, live music and the artwork of 380 artists all on display and available for purchase.

"We're already a large festival," said the president of the Coconut Grove Arts Festival, Monty Trainer. "We don't strive to get bigger, but better."

This year's poster artist, Romero Britto, first collaborated with the festival in 2007 by creating its official poster, "Coconut Grove Bay" inspired by Miami's natural beauty and serenity. This year, he has created "PARAISO," inspired by the festival's ability to bring art to the masses.

At the festival's inception, posters were artistic flyers



COURTESY OF THE COCONUT GROVE ARTS FESTIVAL

The 50th Annual Coconut Grove Arts Festival will be taking place on Feb. 16, 17 and 18.

offering details such as who, what, where and why. In 1983, however, Eugene Massin's "People" poster was sold as a collector's piece. Vintage copies have been available in the Festival store ever since.

Poster artists are selected by the Board of Directors, via nomination, and undergo an auditioning process in which they send in a few concepts. From those submissions as well as various conversations, the presi-

dent selects the final choice.

"He was chosen because he's such a local Miami icon and one of the most well known artists," Trainer explained. "After we commissioned three or four meetings where we discussed the color and what best represented the festival, he embodied what we wanted to accomplish in our minds. He is always giving back to the community and represents Miami really well."

Pop artist Chris Cab, a local

artist who grew up in Miami and began his career at the age of five, will headline for the festival's musical performances on Monday, Feb. 18. Cab was brought to Trainer's attention after his series of videos on YouTube gained widespread attention, with his cover of Wiz Khalifa's "Black and Yellow" reaching 100,000 views in the first week of its release. Cab has been featured in the commercial spots for the festival and his first

full-length album, "Echo Boom," was released in 2012.

"When I first heard him I thought he was kind of catchy," said Trainer. "He has a young following and I'm confident his presence would introduce a younger audience to our festival. We put his performance on Monday because school's out and we will get some of the crowd from there as well. He's up and coming but I'm sure he'll do great things."

The festival will also feature six to seven chefs from Miami-Dade's Miami Culinary Institute, who, with the help of students from the school, will serve all the food on Monday, Feb. 18.

"They're one of the leading culinary programs," said Trainer. "Everything I like to do this year is local."

The festival plans to elaborate on the Visiting Artists Program, which began in 1986 and will feature 75 artists who will visit 110 schools in South Florida, either before or after the festival. The artists will work towards establishing the building fund that will fund a future permanent, large-gallery space, building location.

"They have donated their time to go to the school and work with the students in art classes," Trainer said. "As we move forward we hope to branch out into new programs."

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## Suicide on the rise in university students

**ASHLEY OROZCO**  
*Contributing Writer*

Two things top the list for the causes of death among college students. The first is obvious accidents, be they drug and alcohol-related or of the automobile type. The second is suicide.

It is undeniable that today's undergraduates are under a great amount of pressure and stress.

Entrance into good graduate programs is becoming more competitive, tuition is rising yearly, and getting a job after graduation has become more and more difficult.

All this while trying to juggle five or more classes at a time in order to maintain a scholarship or stable GPA has really taken a toll on undergraduates and graduates alike.

Depression and anxiety are the most prevalent mental health issues students report, according to a 2012 study by the American College Counseling Association.

Jeremy Pettit, an associate professor who specializes in

the study of depression and suicide in adolescents, said "suicidal thoughts [often] develop following a stressful life, events or circumstances among students who are already battling mental health issues such as depression and anxiety."

Fact is, both accident-related deaths and suicide can stem from mental illnesses such as these.

Suicide accounts for about 1,100 deaths per year on campuses nationwide, and 15-18 percent of undergrads have seriously considered it and of those, 40-50 percent have reported having multiple episodes of suicidal thoughts, according to USA Today. Suicidal thoughts do not stop in the classroom.

"No one is immune to [them]. Suicidal thoughts are more common among students who feel socially isolated and/or like a burden to others," says Pettit.

In the past year, the University has been fortunate enough to not have had any cases of successful suicides. This can be attributed to the fact that

more and more students are seeking out help and getting the necessary guidance they need.

That does not mean, however, that students are not having suicidal thoughts.

"Suicidal thoughts are extremely common," said Counseling and Psychological Services Psychiatrist Annie Khan. "Here at the office of Counseling and Psychological Services, we incorporate coping strategies and, depending on the severity of thoughts, we get the proper resources needed."

Low severity would simply be having the thought, "What if I don't wake up tomorrow?" High severity would be attempts of self-infliction or suicide that may or may not have led to hospitalization.

So, what can students do to prevent these thoughts and help out those who might be having them?

CAPS offers many services that could help a student who is having suicidal thoughts, one of them being short-term

"No one is immune to [them]. Suicidal thoughts are more common among students who feel socially isolated and/or like a burden to others."

Jeremy Pettit  
Associate Professor  
Specializes in the study of depression and suicide in adolescents

psychotherapy.

Short-term psychotherapy addresses concerns such as self-esteem, anxiety, depression, grief and bereavement, stress management, relationship issues, and much more.

CAPS also has a workshop feature on their website for less serious issues. They also accept emergency calls after hours at (305) 348-2277.

"Depending on the student's income, we can also 'bridge' them to obtain the appropriate service needed should it not be available at our offices," says Khan.

If a friend confronts you

about suicidal thoughts, it's best to listen and be supportive. Pettit advises that, "discussing suicidal thoughts can be uncomfortable, but it is important to let your friend know you are willing to listen and help

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### COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

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**Tues. from 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Thurs. from**  
**8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**  
**BBC Walk-in: Mon., Wed., Fri. from 9 a.m. -**  
**3 p.m.; Tues., Thurs. from 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

# Radiate Reviews: Oaks' 'Field Beat' extended play

**HECTOR MOJENA**  
*Columnist*

With a sound indebted to the Super-Fuzz enhanced palate of indie rock bands past, Oaks' latest extended play often plays like an elaborate game of "spot the reference."

As such, you would be forgiven for confusing their take on hazy, shoegaze atmospherics for the very bands they're referencing.

The Minneapolis two-some have never been shy about aping their influences on previous releases, and their latest, "Field Beat," is no different in that regard, providing food for the nostalgic that very nearly approaches outright theft.

Take the first track "All Mine," for example. Those weaned on the likes of My Bloody Valentine and The Jesus and Mary Chain will immediately find a common element in the heavily textured mesh of guitar noise that dominates the track, all underscored by the troglodytic 4/4 stomp that passes for a beat on almost every track.

And, of course, what would all this navel-gazing be without the girlish yelp of vocalist Erica Krumm sitting serenely atop the vast sonic maelstrom?

As far as first impressions go, "All Mine" basically acts as the band's

thesis statement.

It completely encapsulates the duo's aesthetic and establishes a formula from the which the next five tracks seldom deviate.

At times, listening to the album necessitated the making of a mental checklist to catalog the band's own peculiar and far-reaching definition of "homage."

With each successive track, I found myself recalling swaths of 90s indie rock bands that I didn't even realize still occupied prime real estate in my mind.

To that end, Oaks references some of Ride's epic romanticism on the title track, which features a chord progression reminiscent of the that band's enormously affecting single "Vapor Trails" while asserting a far harsher wall of guitar noise that recalls oft-forgotten shoegazers Bleach at their most vicious.

Penultimate track "Falls" meanwhile plays as a four-to-the-floor piece of fuzz pop that manages to recall Ladytron and Lush in equal measure without ever approaching either bands' efficiently hook-laden pop smarts.

Closer "Some of Them Do" represents the band's biggest break from their general aesthetic, featuring a smattering of reverse-looped guitar notes and

haunted ambience that perhaps signals the band's desire to extend their reach beyond the genre pastiche they so reliably present here.

Still, pastiche is very much the band's trade on "Field Beat." To say that the members of Oaks wear their influences on their sleeve would be an understatement; their music often sounds like the most unabashed form of hero-worship.

Kevin Shields and the dozens of imitators his band spawned are exalted to the level of demi-gods in this duo's music, resulting in an enjoyable, if ultimately undistinguished, set of tracks.

Oaks' brand of fuzzed-out pop exercises then are of particular interest to those looking for a nostalgic fix.

Within that framework, "Field Beat" represents the band's most enjoyable collection to date, presenting a refined set of songs whose flag waving won't detract from the modest pleasures this band can often conjure.

It is perhaps Oaks' intention that their music transport you back to a time in which mono-syllabic band names and foppish haircuts were a guaranteed ticket to NME stardom.

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## Air Jordan 1s to be released for third time since 1985



**JOSE MENA**  
*Contributing Writer*

They say fashion repeats itself, as does history. Today, a great piece of history that is making a reappearance on the shelves of sneaker stores worldwide. Making its first debut in 1985, Michael Jordan wore the Air Jordan 1 on the hardwood floors of the NBA. Even though Jordan received fines every game for wearing the notorious sneakers, Nike paid the fines and encouraged Jordan to continue wearing them as a means of promotion.

This royal blue colorway of the Air Jordan 1 was last re-released in 2001. Junior Antonio James, a business major, proudly wears his 12-year-old pair of royal blue Air Jordan 1s. Not many pairs hold up this well over the years,



PHOTOS BY JOSE MENA/THE BEACON

but with good care and love for your sneakers, they can last quite a while.

Don't be disappointed if you weren't able to get your hands on a pair of these iconic sneakers in 1985 or in 2001, as they will be making an appearance very soon. As of now, they are scheduled to return to the shelves on Feb. 16. So if you're not certain of what to get your significant other for Valentine's day, then this is the perfect answer – even if it's a couple of days late.

-life@fiusm.com

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2013

### FRIDAY, FEB. 15

#### DEVELOPING A KILLER BUSINESS PLAN

WHEN: 8-11 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free Registration  
Fee: \$50; Register at <http://entrepreneurship.fiu.edu> or by calling (305) 348-7156.  
WHERE: MMC CBC 151

#### SPC MOVIES: PERKS OF BEING A WALL-FLOWER

WHEN: 5 and 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC GC 140

#### BACKING UP YOUR PC FILES

WHEN: 10-11:15 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Register at <http://profdev.fiu.edu>  
WHERE: BBC AC1-378

#### PHOTOSHOP: POPULAR TOOLS

WHEN: 10-11 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free to FIU registered students.  
WHERE: MMC PC 414

#### JOURNAL CLUB: READINGS IN EPIDEMIOLOGY

WHEN: 1-2 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC AHC 2 - 556

#### WIND AND PERCUSSION ARTS SERIES: FESTIVAL OF BANDS 2013

WHEN: 4-9 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC WPAC 157

### SATURDAY, FEB. 16

#### WIND AND PERCUSSION ARTS SERIES: FESTIVAL OF BANDS 2013

WHEN: 9 a.m.-9 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC WPAC 157

#### GRACE POTTER & THE NOCTURNALS

WHEN: 8:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$26.50  
WHERE: The Fillmore Miami Beach

#### SWAMP STOMP

WHEN: 4 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$10-\$15  
WHERE: Tobacco Road

### SUNDAY, FEB. 17

#### AN AFTERNOON OF BEETHOVEN & DEBUSSY

WHEN: 4 p.m.  
WHERE: The Wolfsonian

#### KITE DAY KITE FESTIVAL

WHEN: 12-5 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Haulover Beach Park Marina

#### STEVE MILLER BAND

WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$55-\$85  
WHERE: Hard Rock Live

## JOIN OUR STAFF!

The **BEACON** is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don't be shy.

Stop by one of our offices located in MMC GC 210 and BBC WUC 124.

To have your event featured, email us at [calendar@fiusm.com](mailto:calendar@fiusm.com)

## New generation of players set to open baseball season

**FRANCISCO RIVERO**  
*Staff Writer*

Several things in baseball always stay the same – the smell of freshly cut grass, the sounds of bats hitting balls during warm ups and the cheering of hometown fans rooting for their favorite team. However, there is one small difference for this year's Panthers team: 19 new faces suiting up for the season opener today.

After losing power bats such as third baseman Mike Martinez and outfielder Jabari Henry, FIU looks to revamp its team with fresh, young faces. Right-hander Mike Ellis, one of the few returning players, knows how important these new faces are to the program.

"What we had going for us last year was that we had experience and had guys who had been to a regional before and now the team had to re-invent itself a little bit," Ellis said. "It's really a chance for us to start new traditions and I feel it's a really strong building block for the program with all the new faces."

However, Ellis isn't the only one that feels this team is ready to win right off the bat. Junior transfer pitcher Mike Franco and third baseman Josh Anderson, both new to the team, feel that age isn't a concern.

"Coming into this season, our rank class for this year was pretty high in the national polls," Franco said. "But

as practice started to get going and we started to get to know the players. We finished to become more of a team."

"We're looking really good. In fact, we're looking really scrappy," Anderson said. "We got a lot of young talent mixed in with some veteran leadership and I feel that we are setting up to have a really nice season."

Franco was right in saying that FIU comes into this season with a high ranking; the Panthers were picked to finish second in the preseason Sun Belt Conference poll behind Florida Atlantic University.

The Panthers are coming off a 32-36 (15-14 SBC) record in 2012 where they finished third in the conference. Their hitting, a long-standing staple of this program, remained top-tier as FIU finished top three in batting average, slugging percentages, on-base percentage, hits, triples and home runs. A lot of that damage came from Henry and Martinez, who were near the top of the conference in most of those categories.

Last year's pitching, led by Ellis, was tops in the conference in strikeouts and lowest batting average against. The two glaring areas of improvement come in the walks and errors department, where FIU found itself last.

Along with a second-place prediction, Ellis and sophomore catcher Aramis Garcia were chosen as part of the preseason All-SBC Team.

The honor of being named to the



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

With 19 new players on the team, the baseball team will rely on newly-formed chemistry to succeed throughout the season en route to the top of the Sun Belt Conference.

All-SBC Team and given the official title of Ace for this year's Panther team is one that Ellis is very much appreciative of.

"I'm really honored to have that role especially with the amount of talent that we have on this team," Ellis said. "I think it's going to be a really good challenge for me."

A question of chemistry arises with this baseball team, more specifically how to build it among all the new players, but Anderson said in the fall players would take trips to the beach to hang out and learn how to

mix together as a team.

Ellis, a team captain, understands that building team chemistry is a must for any team to have a successful year.

"It's pretty easy. With our schedule, we don't really move around too much and it's just bound to happen," Ellis said. "We're a pretty good team and a good group of guys so it didn't take long to build that chemistry."

As the Panthers prepare to face visiting Stony Brook University today in their season opener, Head Coach Henry Thomas understands that his team is one that is filled with both

great players but also has areas that should not be overlooked.

"We have a lot of good individual players but again, we have 35 guys coming from 35 different programs that you have to put together in one bonding type program," Thomas said. "You don't get used to the level of competition until you play that competition. We have a lot of good individual players, a lot of good pitchers, defenders and hitters but then everything has to come together."

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## Tennis team enjoys mix of international athletes



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

One of the adjustments Magali Holt made when playing tennis in the U.S. was focusing on playing for the team and not just herself.

**STEVEN ROWELL**  
*Contributing Writer*

The players on the tennis team put the "international" in Florida International University.

Out of the nine players on the roster, all

but two players hail from outside the United States, marking it as the most international team in FIU. Two walk-on freshmen, Michelle Sabado and Natalie Navarro, make up the domestic portion of the roster. The internationally dominant roster has been welcomed by the players.

"It was pretty much why I came here," senior Magali Holt said. "Every player that comes from a different part of the world has their own ability. If you have a person from Latin America, they usually have a very high spin ball, and so every player has their own style and it makes us more difficult to play against because you never know what you're going to get."

When transitioning into FIU, some of the players had to change their mindset when it comes to competitiveness.

One of the differences senior Rita Maisak noticed between playing in the U.S. and in her native Belarus was the emphasis on playing for the team as opposed to herself.

Holt echoed the same thoughts.

"Every player has to adjust to make sure that you do what's better for the team, rather than yourself," Holt said. "In Canada, it is more competitive because you are playing for yourself, and you are trying to make a name for yourself."

Out of the non-domestic players, the diversity is present. Even though six players are European, no two players come from the same country. Holt, a Canadian, is the only non-European foreign player.

"During my freshman year, when I came on my official visit, there were people from everywhere," Holt said. "I'm pretty much used to only being with Canadians and Quebecers, so coming here and seeing all these different cultures is pretty cool."

Head Coach Katarina Petrovic, a native of Serbia, is not in unfamiliar territory when surrounded by international players. Petrovic had her share of international

players during her tenure at South Carolina. In her last year at USC, more than half her team was from outside the U.S.

When Petrovic is not coaching matches or having practices, the head coach is working on recruiting. That includes the pursuit of players from outside American soil which poses its own set of challenges.

"It is really tough to get a top American student-athlete to commit to our university, and in order for us to do that we have to win matches and get back in the rankings," Petrovic said. "International recruiting is three times more hard than domestic girls because we have to worry about amateurism, high school credits, and SAT requirements that FIU has. Recruiting isn't just a nine to five job. It's a 24/7 kind of job."

Petrovic recounts times she has to wake up in the middle of the night to speak with recruits and parents. Earlier this month, she spoke to a mother of a recruit on the phone for two hours to set up an official visit.

"That's the beauty of recruiting," Petrovic said. "You might have to wake up in the middle of the night to make a call to China."

Petrovic has welcomed the idea of being a team represented by players from different countries. However, eventually she'd like to have a team that is more Americanized.

"The easiest job for each coach is to recruit domestic kids, based on compliance and all other issues. I will be more than happy to have all American girls on the team if possible," Petrovic said. "And still win."

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# FIJI dominates, TKE falls to Alpha & Kappas

**JOLSON DIAZ**  
*Contributing Writer*

“Ankles! Ankles! Ankles!”

That was the only comeback chant Sigma Chi’s crowd could muster after a superb crossover move by Tony Morales on Phi Gamma Delta’s Devonte Jones that left him lying on the court. But despite that lone shining moment for Sigma Chi, the team suffered a 62-14 loss against FIJI at FIU’s Rec Center on Feb. 12.

FIJI showed dominance defensively on the court early, starting the game with six straight steals thanks to Adam Villar and Ivan Garcia. It took 15 minutes for Sigma Chi to make its first two points of the game, which were two free throw shots by Morales.

FIJI continued to show off its defense, forcing Sigma Chi to

commit 11 turnovers during the first half. A solid block shot from Noel Allen got the FIJI crowd roaring, as FIJI finished the first half up by 33 points.

“It was exciting seeing my guys play hard defense, that’s one thing I always want to see out of them,” said FIJI’s Head Coach Wilver Almarales. “Sigma Chi is a great team and we want to show them respect by playing hard the whole game and not taking anything for granted.”

Sigma Chi players did not let the large deficit affect their confidence, starting the second half with a layup from Morales and a three-point shot from Jose Garcia. Another block shot by Allen got FIJI back in pace as it took control of the game, making 12 straight shots.

FIJI’s dominance cut the

game short five minutes when the 48-point deficit proved too much for Sigma Chi to comeback.

FIJI remains undefeated keeping it in first place and will go onto face Lambda Chi Alpha next week on Feb. 19.

## **TKE NOT ABLE TO COMEBACK AGAINST ALPHA & KAPPAS**

Alpha & Kappas staved off a couple of close comebacks by Tau Kappa Epsilon to take the 60-32 victory on Feb. 12.

Despite the final score, TKE and Alpha & Kappas started the game neck and neck. A layup on one end of the court led to a layup on the other. Alpha & Kappas started showing its athletic ability as Charles “Chew” English slammed down a hard dunk and Alfonso Davis sent a

block shot across the court.

“We are a really athletic team,” Alpha & Kappas’ Andrew Philatre said. “We were able to outrun them on certain plays since we’re big guys and we always play hard.”

Alphas & Kappas continued to go on a tear. Three-point shots from Harold Torbert and Davis kept their offense in sync, while McKinley Allen and Sorrel Stewart got the defense going forcing TKE into numerous turnovers.

Relying on team chemistry proved vital for Alphas & Kappas players because they didn’t have time to practice during the week.

“We usually have no time because of school to get together during the week to practice,” Philatre said. “We are all fraternity brothers so we’re all real

close. Our team chemistry is a huge reason we play so well.”

However, Alphas & Kappas’ lack of practice together showed from time to time. The team’s five turnovers cut the deficit to nine points, but that was as far as it would go for TKE as Alphas & Kappas strong offense kept their momentum up.

Sanford Barbiee, Stewart and Allen all contributed to sealing the deal for Alphas & Kappas during the latter half of the second quarter. The game would end with about two minutes remaining as it was clear TKE was not coming back from this one.

Alphas & Kappas remain undefeated keeping it in first place and will go onto face Theta Chi next week on Feb. 19.

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# LeBron on a roll unlike any in NBA history

**TIM REYNOLDS**  
*AP Staff*

When LeBron James first heard about this streak of games with at least 30 points and 60 percent shooting, he did not immediately think about who was on the list.

He thought about who wasn’t.

Wilt Chamberlain? Not there. Michael Jordan? Not there. Shaquille O’Neal? Not there, either. In NBA history, only Adrian Dantley and Moses Malone had put together five straight 30-point, 60-percent efforts — that is, until James joined their super-exclusive club.

And now, he stands alone.

James scored 30 points on 11 for 15 shooting to get into the NBA record books, Chris Bosh scored 32 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, and the Miami Heat wound up beating the Portland Trail Blazers 117-104 in a wild, momentum-swinging game Tuesday night.

“It kind of blew my mind,” James said. “To see how small the list was and for me to even be a part of the list, to start off, it’s like, ‘Wow.’”

“Wow” doesn’t even come close to summing up how he’s been in the last six games. He’s shot 66 for 92 — and take away a “slow” 6-for-12 start at Toronto on Feb. 3, he’s made 60 of his last 80 field-goal tries, a ridiculous 75 percent success rate. He’s scored either 30, 31 or 32 points in all six of these games.

His latest brilliance came in Miami’s 1,000th regular-season win. But the only history anyone will remember was what James accomplished.

“I’m at a loss for words,” James said. “Like I say over and over, I know the history of the game. I know how many unbelievable players who came through the ranks, who paved the way for me and my teammates.

“And for me to be in the record books by myself with such a stat — any stat — it’s big-time.”

Dwyane Wade added 24 points for Miami, which wasted a pair of 14-point leads — then put the game away with a 14-0 run in the final minutes. Ray Allen added 14 for Miami.

Damian Lillard had a game-high 33 points for Portland, which got 29 from LaMarcus Aldridge and 20 from Wesley Matthews. Just like the Heat, the Blazers also saw a 14-point lead slip away in the game, and then simply got shut down late by a stretch of airtight Miami defense.

“That was typical Miami Heat stuff,” Lillard said. “Transition, finishing strong around the rim, and LeBron picking defenses apart.”

Pretty good assessment from the rookie. For as great as he was, it was James’ night.

“That’s why he is who he is,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “The best player in the game.”

Added Wade: “Obviously, he is doing something that is amazing and special.”

And on a night when the teams took turns putting together big runs, it was the Heat who had the last rally — ultimately, the last laugh as well.

With the game tied at 99, James drove baseline on former Cleveland teammate Sasha Pavlovic for a two-handed slam that he punctuated with a long scream.

The Heat immediately responded. Matthews made a 3-pointer on the next Portland possession to give the Trail Blazers their last lead. Miami scored the next 14 points, and when James got loose for a dunk with 2:38 remaining, the 30-point mark — and history — was his.

“He played a very good basketball game,” Spoelstra deadpanned afterward. “That’s all you’re going to get out of me right now. He competes. He loves to compete. He loves close games. ... And he’s leading us, not just with his talent.”

Bosh made a jumper with 1:55 left to end the run and seal the win, Miami’s sixth straight overall.

Miami next plays Thursday night in Oklahoma City, an NBA Finals rematch before heading into the All-Star break. The Heat topped the Thunder in the first meeting of the clubs this season, winning in Miami on Christmas Day.

“It’s a game we’ll look forward to,” Wade said.

A glance at the halftime boxscore — Portland 59, Miami 58 — would have suggested the opening two quarters were closely contested, back-and-forth basketball.

Not exactly.

Miami started with a flurry, hitting its first seven shots and doing so with James collecting five assists in the game’s first 3:52. The Heat led 14-5 after that burst, and were still shooting 75 percent with a minute to go in the opening quarter.

They also were trailing at that point. The Blazers were doing anything they wanted on the offensive end.

“I thought it was a good effort by our team,” Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. “Miami’s one of the best if not the best team



ALAN DIAZ/THE BEACON

After Wednesday’s performance, LeBron James is the only player in NBA history to score 30 points with at least a 60 percent field goal percentage in six straight games.

in the league right now and they are playing at a high level. We matched it for about 44 minutes.”

More than matched it for a while, too.

Aldridge went on a personal 13-0 run over a stretch of nearly four minutes midway through the half, single-handedly seeming to turn what was a 29-24 Portland deficit into a 37-29 Portland lead. And another quick burst, this time a 10-1 run

by the Blazers, gave the visitors what was their biggest lead, 57-43 with 4:48 left in the half.

Take away Miami’s sizzling start, and the Blazers outscored the Heat 52-29 over a huge swath of the first half. Miami answered with a 34-12 run, rebuilding a 14-point lead midway through third.

And after Portland had one more rally, it was all Miami in the final minutes.

## RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR



SONG LIU/THE BEACON

On Feb. 11, Chinese students hosted a party in which free traditional Chinese cuisine was served in honor of the Chinese New Year. Dumplings, noodles and fried rice were just a few of the items on the menu. Some of the students dressed in traditional clothing and distributed a "red packet" to each guest. The "red packet" is a Chinese tradition that brings good luck into the new year. From Feb. 10 to Feb 25, there are several festivities to celebrate the 15-day long holiday. The year 2013 is the year of the snake.

## Students to voice opinions at town hall meeting

VINSON PRESSLEY  
*Contributing Writer*

It's time for students to voice their opinions and share their thoughts about how to improve FIU.

On Feb. 18, the seventh annual town hall meeting with University President Mark B. Rosenberg will take place in the Wolfe University Center 221 at 3:30 p.m.

Students will have the chance to have an open dialogue with Rosenberg and discuss issues and topics concerning FIU and the community.

Students have strong opinions on a variety of topics.

The cost of goods and services at FIU is a topic of concern.

"Prices should go down," said Desiree Dexter, junior criminal justice major.

Dexter, who does not mind representing her University's colors and apparel, says the cost of clothes that have the letters F-I-U on them are simply too expensive, especially for someone "balling on a budget."

Some students are concerned about rules and regulations not being enforced or executed properly.

Jacqueline Feliz, a junior psychology

major, is not a fan of having to inhale cigarette smoke while on her way to class. Although the University became a smoke and tobacco free campus in January 2011, not all students abide by the smoke free regulations.

Feliz is also concerned about the lack of security at FIU and believes that more security guards should be present to ensure safety is maintained.

Other students assert that FIU does not have enough opportunities and options for certain majors.

Melissa Ortiz, a senior anthropology major, is concerned that the school does not provide enough opportunities for her to enhance and develop her skills and knowledge in the field of anthropology.

According to Ortiz, we need seminars related to certain majors to train students.

Steven Russi, a sophomore biology major, is concerned about overcrowded classrooms and the limited number of courses that fill up quickly because it is a requirement for a major.

"We need more openings for classes so students can get the classes they need," said Russi.

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## Dean's Dialogue strives to create awareness and sustainably

JUNETTE REYES  
*Staff Writer*

The second meeting of Dean Douglas Robertson's Undergraduate Education Leadership Advisory Board will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 19, this is also the second in the series of Dean's Dialogue.

The EDU-LAB is an advisory board for undergraduate education that focuses on topics of students' success across all of

the colleges and schools at FIU.

The Dean's Dialogue will explore the theme of "Jobs and Opportunities: Building Your World Sustainably."

The board members presenting include Robert Lepore of Architecture, Engineering, Consulting, Operations and Maintenance, Timothy Kuebler of Titan Cement America, and Scott McIntyre of Solar Energy Management.

Respondents from the University include Dean of the College of Engi-

neering and Computing Amir Mirmiran, Dean of the College of Business David Klock and Professor of the College of Architecture and the Arts, Marilyns Nepomechie.

"We have created an advisory board for Undergraduate Education which invites community leaders to participate as board members to help give us advice on good directions to go, particularly from the point of view of employers," said Robertson.

The Dean's Dialogue follows fall and spring board meetings as an "intellectual event," according to Robertson, that board members can participate in after conducting the business of the EDU-LAB in order to give insight of their particular field to the audience of students, faculty and staff.

Faculty members are chosen as panelists to respond to these presentations.

SEE DEAN, PAGE 2

## Lecture to be held on the impact on South Florida's bird life

JOSEFINE GYLLENSPORRE  
*Contributing Writer*

Canadians and New Yorkers are not the only ones that fly south for the winter.

South Florida plays an important role in bird migration, and on Tuesday, Feb. 19, University students, faculty and alumni will migrate to the Luna Star Café for urban ecologist John Withey's lecture, "Urban environments: a bird's eye view."

Withey has been teaching ecology and zoology at the University since spring 2012 and his lecture is coordinated by the School of Environment, Arts and Society.

"Dr. Withey's work focuses on how we can better adapt our city designs to preserve habitats and create spaces for our avian visitors to South Florida," SEAS Coordinator Elaine Pritzker wrote. "This

is extremely important especially in light of the large migratory populations that call Miami home at least part of the year."

This area of the country works as both a temporary home for migrating birds, but also as an ecosystem rich with different species.

"A lot of species or a lot of individuals either pass through South Florida on their way to wherever they're going to spend their winter and then there are quite a few species that actually do spend the winter here," Withey said.

The lecture will cover how birds can adapt and thrive in urban environments. Withey said that this will challenge the conventional way most people think about wildlife as being mainly rural.

Withey will speak about the importance of developing and

“

Even though the economy is down there is pressure for continued development of small parks.

John Withey  
Ph.D.  
Urban Ecologist

”

maintaining such urban areas as city parks, in order to keep birds close.

According to Withey, balancing development and growth with ecological responsibility is a must. However, this is not the sole message he wants to convey. There is also value

and possibility in being close to nature, even in an urban setting.

"Having wildlife in the city is kind of nice to have that kind of connection with nature, you can have that with trees in your backyard too but I think it's really valuable to have that as part of the urban system," Withey said.

Though he does not describe himself as "anti-development," Withey sees the importance in investing in the nurturing of wildlife within city limits not solely for aesthetic purposes, but also as a nesting place for different species.

"Even though the economy is down there is pressure for continued development of small parks," said Withey. "It's not just that it's nice to have some trees around but birds and other species really use them; they are important. If they disappear completely it would be a big loss for people to be able to see these species."

Withey's lecture is part of the Eat Think and Be Merry series sponsored by SEAS through the National Science Foundation. These events are all free and open to the public.