

SGA

## SGC-MMC still without comptroller

BRANDON WISE  
*News Director*

The Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus is without a comptroller and has been since November of last year – a situation that has the potential to derail hearings for the distribution of student fee money.

The comptroller is in charge of overseeing SGC's expenditures and accounts.

Alex Castro, vice president of SGC-MMC, has never experienced a situation such as this one in his three years as a member of the SGC.

At the most recent senate meeting, four candidates applied for the position, three of whom were rejected.

According to Alex Castro, if there is no SGC-MMC comptroller within the next two weeks, it might delay budget hearings, which are set to take place in the next two weeks.

Presidents, in this case SGC-MMC President Laura Farinas, nominate and senates confirm comptroller candidates.

"The ball is in her court [Farinas']," Alex Castro said. "Whatever she decides to do."

While Farinas was unavailable for comment, Freddy Juarez, her chief of staff, said that not having a comptroller is "unacceptable."

According to Juarez, SGC-MMC is working on a contingency plan that will be released Monday at their meeting, which is the last chance to nominate and confirm a candidate.

"Pushing back deliberations is a last resort," Juarez said.

Alex Castro insisted the impasse will not affect the current fiscal year's budget for the departments and organizations that petition for student fee money, but could potentially cause a problem in fall 2013.

According to Juarez, even though there has not been a comptroller in place since November, there has been monitoring of each organization and its funds throughout the semester.

Assistant Director of Campus Life Michelle Castro, no relation, noted that

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CHARLES VILLARD/THE BEACON

The expansions to dining services at the Modesto Maidique Campus this year included moving Einstein Bros. Bagels (above) and Sushi Maki to make space for Almazar. Dining services is planning even more expansions in the coming year.

CAMPUS DINING

## Panther Dining brings new flavors to the University

JOSEFINE GYLLENSPORRE  
*Contributing Writer*

Forget the typical college foods of Ramen noodles and microwaveable meals.

In an effort to introduce new cuisine to University students, faculty and staff at the Modesto Maidique Campus, Panther Dining is spicing up the dining options, literally.

This new year brought new flavors. Almazar, a Middle Eastern infused restaurant, is currently the newest addition to the University's wide range of dining services; and it's located next to Chili's Too, in Sushi Maki's former spot.

Patricia Williams, marketing director of Panther Dining said the goal is to provide a diverse and exciting dining experience.

"Bringing Almazar on

campus allowed us to expand the variety of dining locations into a new cuisine, Middle Eastern," Williams said.

Some University students are already familiar with the restaurant because of its other location on Southwest 107th Street.

"I haven't been to Almazar on campus yet, but the one across the street is really good," said Yaunek Délan Murray, a senior philosophy major.

Owner of Almazar, Iyad Georges, said his first semester at FIU is going great. He sees the partnership with Panther Dining as an opportunity for growth.

"A better future, and a better business," said Georges, in regard to the move.

His vision for the restaurant includes other Almazar locations sprouting up in areas

around Miami.

However, Almazar is not the only name currently on students' tongues. By taking Einstein Bros Bagels' old location in the Graham Center, Sushi Maki has expanded. Williams said the additional square footage is reflected in new dishes this semester.

"We realized that in a larger space they would be able to broaden their menu to include hot entrées in addition to the items that they were already carrying. This benefits the FIU community by providing more choice," Williams said.

Students have responded well to these adjustments and Murray sees the improvement.

"Sushi Maki is really good now, I've been there a few times and I like the new open

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FINANCE

## Students turn 'sugar babies' to pay for tuition

ALFREDO APARICIO  
*Staff Writer*

The struggle to pay the staggering debts of a college education continues and the uphill battle is only getting steeper. In recent years, however, the ways in which a college education can be bought are no longer narrow enough to include scholarships, loans or working three jobs but also a "sugar daddy." A sugar daddy is an independent, financially successful man who offers money or gifts in exchange for companionship from persons at least 20 years their junior.

One website in particular that has taken off in the past few years has been seekingarrangement.com, where "sugar" providers are 99.53 percent male, according to Brandon Wade, a Michigan Institute of Technology alumni and the site's founder, and 95.6 percent identify as straight. In Florida, four of its universities—University of Central Florida, University of Southern Florida, Florida International University, and Florida State University—rank in the Top. 20 with the FIU ranking No. 7.

Xack Lester, a sophomore English major, believes that the Miami lifestyle, and Florida in general, have contributed to a materialistic need to maintain appearances that goes beyond obtaining money to pay for school.

"Florida is hyper-sexualized and we are right in the middle of it. I go here [FIU] so there's a little bit of a shock, but sex is a driving force down here, so is the glitz and glamour. We place too much emphasis on material things and for some it becomes a matter of survival to keep up appearances, which can lead them down dark paths," said Lester. "Our city is a tourist attraction, so what attracts people to our city? The nightlife, the beaches, the women; I don't think something like this would happen in the Midwest as much if at all. There are different values in place."

Lester, whose girlfriend has a friend who has a sustained relationship with a sugar daddy, who visits her twice a year in exchange for a Brickell apartment and living expenses, also considers the double standard when it comes to "sugar daddies" to play a more crucial role in a woman's reputation than a man who gets involved with a "sugar mamma."

SEE SUGAR, PAGE 4

GUN CONTROL

## Proposed gun control laws still unclear among students

CHARLES VILLARD  
*Contributing Writer*

Student opinions of President Barack Obama's latest gun control efforts are mixed following a press conference on Jan. 16, where Obama and Vice President Joe Biden announced their proposal, as well as 23 executive actions aimed at improving federal gun control measures to Congress.

While these proposals and actions were created in light of the shootings in Newtown, Conn. and Aurora, Colo., the announcement preceded sepa-

rate shootings at a California high school and a Texas college less than two weeks apart. Despite these events, many gun rights supporters feel certain details of these efforts – the reinstatement of an assault weapons ban in particular -- would be history repeating itself.

"This country, for whatever reason, always gets stuck with feel-good legislation," said Omelio Ramirez, firearms instructor and former FIU student, in an interview following Obama's announcement. "We had an assault weapons ban back in 1994, and that came because of another similar shooting and that was supposed to stop.

The FBI proved that did absolutely nothing. All the FBI reports on the assault weapons ban and every other report that has been done through other government agencies have shown that it did absolutely nothing for crime. It had no impact whatsoever."

One of four key features outlined in Obama's proposal called for Congress to restore and strengthen the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban. Signed into law by former president Bill Clinton in 1994, it banned 19 different firearms by name as well as listed several features that, if present on a single firearm, would make it an

"assault weapon."

In an updated executive summary on the ban published in 2004, the National Institute of Justice, part of the United States Department of Justice, found that "the ban's success in reducing criminal use of the banned guns and magazines has been mixed."

According to the report, declines in the use of assault weapons were offset by the increased use of high-capacity magazines, an issue attributed at the time to the exemption of magazines manufac-

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## FINANCE

# Florida's minimum wage increased 12 cents in the new year

**ALYSSA ELSO**  
*Contributing Writer*

As minimum wage has increased in the new year, students may find a few extra dollars on their next paycheck, but it still will not be enough to afford them that dinner and a movie.

Jan. 1, 2013 marked a new year and a new minimum wage in Florida and nine other states: Arizona, Colorado, Washington, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island and Vermont. This new increase in minimum wage is a result of the cost-of-living adjustments that account for inflation.

Throughout these 10 states the

increase ranges between 10 to 35 cents.

As the new minimum wage will be a benefit for some states, Florida's students will not be reaping much of a benefit from the minimal 12 cent increase, and small businesses will not be feeling much of an effect either.

While Washington will remain the state with the highest minimum wage at \$9.19 per hour, Florida is only receiving a slight 12 cent increase to \$7.79 per hour as opposed to the previous \$7.67 per hour.

Student employees at the University are not seeing a significant difference in their bank accounts, however.

In a 40-hour work week, the

increase will amount to 96 cents a day or \$4.80 weekly.

"The increase makes a difference, but not by much. I can only really afford to pay for necessities like food and gas," said Michelle Garcia, Recharge U employee and freshman criminal justice and psychology major.

However, some students can hardly make these ends meet.

"Though it adds a bit of money to my paycheck it is still not enough for me to survive on," said Stacey Rubio, Starbucks barista at the University's bookstore and criminology and psychology major. "Sometimes I can't even afford enough gas to get from my house to school and have to stay with a

friend that lives on campus."

As the minimum wage increase has an effect on student employees, it also has an effect on small businesses.

As a large university, FIU can afford to have many employees working at various locations throughout campus, while small businesses that operate on a much smaller scale, can only afford to pay a limited number of employees.

When the minimum wage increases significantly many small businesses may find themselves affected and forced to reduce the number of staff in order to make up for their increased income.

While this may ring true for some

of the states that have received a significant increase, Florida's minimal raise will not affect most small businesses.

Subrageous, located near the Modesto A. Maidique Campus in the shopping plaza across SW 107th Street stands as a prime example.

"None of the employees nor the shop have been affected by the wage increase," Nicholas Guirado, an employee at Subrageous said. "It hasn't gone up significantly enough to make a difference, and we all make a little bit more than the minimum wage already so it hasn't been a problem in the sense of having to let any employees go."

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## Asian food demand rising

### DINING, PAGE 1

grill," Murray said.

According to Carlos Lacarda, director of strategic partnerships at Sushi Maki, the demand for Chinese-Japanese foods on campus is evident.

"The response to the freshly-made favorites has been fantastic and we're excited to continue to bring great varieties of options and value prices," Lacarda said.

Lacarda said the restaurant has seen a steady growth over the past year. The newly

installed kitchen equipment, including a wok station, are recipes for success.

"[The wok station] allows us the flexibility to bring freshly-cooked Japanese and Chinese comfort foods to GC citizens," Lacarda said.

Panther Dining plans on growing with the University. The ever-changing landscape of MMC awaits a new building this year between the Law School and CBC. New dining options will accommodate the facility, providing a blend of retailers to satisfy anyone on a

budget.

"When MANGO, Management and New Growth Opportunities, opens, there will be new Panda Express, Starbucks, and Taco Bell locations. We are really looking forward to all three additions," Williams said.

While students are generally satisfied with their current food options, some, like Murray, would like to see a change in the open hours.

"FIU has pretty much everything, but the places should be open longer," Murray said.

Dining services show no sign of struggling, however. Indeed, the variety seems to satisfy most college gourmands.

"The food places on campus are very diverse, it's kind of FIU's theme," said Michael Vasconez, a psychology and criminal justice junior.

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## Budget hearings could be pushed back

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there is still some time for the issue to be resolved, but they are looking into the possibilities of not having a comptroller in the position in time.

"We are in the process of resolving what that will look like and what are the possible ways to move forward," Castro said. "But we need a comptroller."

Pablo Haspel, president of the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus, noted that the president, vice president, speaker, and comptroller of each campus are needed to compose the University wide budget committee.

"Our terms are coming to a close in three months so I think the reality of getting things done is going to outweigh the political nature of the appointment," Haspel said.

Alex Castro also noted that the University cannot step in and help because SGC is a student run organization.

Haspel said he was aware SGC-MMC lost its comptroller two to three months ago, but did not know they were unable to fill the position since then.

*Additional reporting by Jacqueline Rosado and Philippe Buteau.*

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## New executive orders expected to be passed

### CONTROL, PAGE 1

tured prior to the ban.

Some feel that tighter regulations on items such as high-capacity magazines and assault weapons with military-style features should have been put in place years ago. Sahara Fonesca, an international relations major and vice president of the FIU College Democrats, shares that sentiment.

"I believe after Columbine there should have been further regulations on assault weapons... such as the ones the student at Virginia Tech used," Fonseca said. "These semiautomatics, these weapons that contain more than 12 rounds. Citizens should not be able to grab a hold of these weapons that are used in combat."

Another topic of concern brought up in the proposal and actions is an increased presence of school resource officers in public schools, a topic that has generated some confusion amongst the public.

"When the [National Rifle Association] said, for example, 'We need to have armed guards in the school,'

all the media went crazy and said, 'Oh my God, armed guards, that's not the solution. We can't do that,' Ramirez said. "Yet, on the flip-side, one of the 23 executive orders that were signed by Obama was having resource officers on the school. It's the same thing. There's no difference between saying, 'We want armed guards in the school,' versus 'We want resource officers.' They're both armed guards."

"I do agree with it," said Dennis Par, president of FIU College Republicans. "It's best that schools do have tight security, because we don't want another shooting to happen again."

School resource officers are not a new concept to the education system, the earliest known iteration of them dating back to the 1950s in Michigan according to a report by the Justice Policy Institute. Miami-Dade County Public Schools has had an active police force since 2000.

Some still feel that schools, while needing tighter security, should be conservative concerning the idea of armed guards, however.

"We should have officers who should be vigilant about these types of cases or should supervise, but to be armed is a different story," says Fonesca. "I believe they shouldn't be as heavily armed. Not completely unarmed, but not as heavily armed."

While the 23 executive actions, including incentives for schools to hire school resource officers, have already been put into action, the real concern is what will be signed into law.

"What you'll notice is that the proposals involve money," Kevin Evans, political science professor, said. "Congress has the power of the purse. The President has a hard time doing anything if he can't get it through Congress first."

According to Evans, while much of the proposal will likely make into law, it may not be exactly what Obama wants.

"He certainly won't get nothing. He's going to get some through, but what is the scope of that, we don't know," Evans said.

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### CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 24, Issue 51, in the story "Estimated 7,000 drop from fall to spring," we quoted Tatiana Amaya saying that nursing advisors were awful. This is incorrect. She meant academic advisors were awful.

*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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## Playing the field: dating in college

ALEX SORONDO  
*Staff Writer*

The first crush I ever had was severe, the sort of inebriating passion that makes water taste better; I was totally, desperately, hopelessly smitten with this girl who, by anybody's standards, was way out of my league.

I was six.

The girl had a different teacher and no way of noticing me except during recess, when both classes congregated on the playground and students either split up into their respective cliques or moseyed off to eat sand in pensive solitude (I really had a classmate who did this).

After I noticed this girl for the first time I seemed to do very little but ogle her from afar and pity myself (a tactic of courtship I've dutifully maintained), hypnotized by the grace with which she double-strapped her velcro shoes, the Olympian precision of her cartwheels -- this girl was a dream.

Yet, it is a truth universally acknowledged that a six-year-old boy in want of a girl would rather die than have the girl find out.

The swell of the heart, however, is hard to hide, so I confided my love to a single friend who, for the purposes of this story, we'll refer to as Judas.

So Judas, as reliably secretive as any six-year-old, then confided my secret to a lone confidant of his own: the girl

I liked.

She was, accordingly, repulsed.

After vowing to avenge my shame, I curled into myself and affirmed, for the first time, the agonies of rejection.

I like to believe that I'm more mature and socially adept at the age of 21 than I was at six, but aside from a broadened vocabulary, a considerable growth spurt and a great deal more hair, I must confess that little appears to have changed; the most prominent consistency being my apprehension about flirting or even just making small talk with extremely attractive people.

And this is supposed to be the great glory of college: shameless promiscuity, "cuddle buddies," abounding hookups, uncommitted people of your own age all around you all the time.

There remains for many of us, however, a good deal of shame to be had with just the prospect of being denied. The denials themselves, which I've somehow managed to enjoy a great many even with my inhibitions, take many different forms: through a text, facebook, phone calls, handwritten notes, and if a middle finger counts as sign language, then sign language too; looking forward to the possible messenger pigeons. I've even dished out a few myself.

And there's the key.

By this age, anybody you're attracted to has probably fielded and rejected more advances than they can remember. Advances are, at this point, so common

and inoffensive (for the most part) that, if not to forget them entirely, most of us can pretty easily dismiss them without thinking any less of the person who made it.

Or so I tell myself after a quart of wine, because whatever the logic you try applying to such a delicate issue, when you're risking a considerable amount of pride and maybe even the comforts of a friendship, it's not always easy to take action on the merits of the mind alone.

But this is college. Your romantic ventures, if pursued with discretion, will probably have little consequence on your adult life; the same goes for the rejections. It's unlikely that we'll ever again share the company of so many eligible contemporaries who find themselves in similar financial situations, with similar interests and goals, similar burdens of work and school.

So let's get out there and embarrass ourselves while we still can. Ask her if it hurt when she fell from heaven; ask if she's a parking ticket and respond to her puzzlement with an allusion to how "fine" she is, then punctuate it with two snaps and a pelvic thrust (works every time, trust me).

If you like somebody, invite them out; arrange a study date or meet for lunch, have a drink at Chili's, play some pool in the game room. The opportunities are quick to disappear.

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## College - The real world 101

ADIRANNE RICHARDSON  
*Contributing Writer*

I've always heard adults make comments like: "The real world is no joke. It will eat you up and spit you right out. You'll see." I've always wondered what they meant by this, because college has been my taste of the real world--and it's as real as it gets.

Eating ramen noodles, working with difficult professors and getting through their tough courses, futile searches for scarce jobs; all are realities of our college life. And very few of us have parents who can provide us with money for tuition, books, daily meals, and the clothes we want. Most of us are just out here trying to function in our "real world."

The notion that in college you party all night and go to classes by day is a fictitious description of the life of the serious college student.

Most students are in need of financial aid. Many students struggle to gather sufficient funds to even finance their housing, and the scarcity of available on-campus jobs leaves many students reconsidering their housing arrangements.

The stress is surreal and it's very hard on us. We just got out of high school, where all of our basic necessities were free or under three bucks because our parents provided everything -- we aren't used to this. Tell me, adults, how much more "real" can it get?

The countless study hours, barely any social time, and working to pass all of our classes in an attempt to maintain a good enough GPA to get into the school of our major, is all very hard work.

"The burden of knowing that most of us are working our hardest and may not have jobs after graduation takes a huge toll on me. College is harder than most think," says sophomore Jessica Reed.

This is true: the economy isn't doing so well and this is no secret. We live in the "real world" too. At least many of the adults who think college is a playground have jobs to go to and a home to live in. We are still trying to get there and it's becoming harder for our generation.

So, the next time an adult tells you that you have to wait until you get into "the real world" to experience life and hardship, make them well aware of the hardships you go through everyday in college.

How quickly we forget what our days once were. How quickly we forget that we all live in the real world.

“The burden of knowing that most of us are working our hardest and may not have jobs after graduation takes a huge toll on me.”

## SAME OLD SPIRIT



ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIAN SPENCER/THE BEACON

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Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to jonathan.szydlo@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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HEALTH

## On pins and needles: the flu epidemic strikes

**SELIMA HUSSAIN**  
*Staff Writer*

On Dec. 13, 2012, Kayla Nahir embarked on what she thought would be an enjoyable, stress free and exciting vacation to the snowy white slopes of Canada. Ecstatic to release herself from a stressful fall semester, Nahir had no idea that her sweet escape would soon be cut short. The culprit?

A ruthless, debilitating and vicious flu.

"I felt like a turtle. I didn't want to come out of my house; I didn't want to do anything," said Nahir, a junior majoring in psychology. "It was very disappointing."

Nahir is just one of the millions of Americans who have been infected by this year's flu virus. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the H3N2 flu has affected twice as many people than last year's strand and has caused over 5,000 Americans to be hospitalized. Businesses are currently struggling with lack of workers due to sick days, and students are suffering as well.

"I got the flu about two weeks ago, right before school started. I couldn't finalize my classes when I wanted to because I felt too sick," said Michael Collado,



NICK TOMCEK/AP IMAGES

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the H3N2 flu has affected twice as many people than last year's strand and has caused over 5,000 Americans to be hospitalized.

a junior majoring in journalism. "I had a headache, fever, runny nose... [The flu] allowed me to catch up with Netflix, but that's about it."

Vaccination is being stressed by the CDC, as well as the World Health Organization, and is being offered at the Modesto Maidique Campus by the FIU Health Faculty Group Practice while supplies last. However, not all students are willing to get vaccinated.

"I try to live healthy, and if my

body can withstand the flu, then I don't really see the need to get vaccinated," said Robert Jaime, a junior majoring in marine biology.

Chavon Ellington, a junior majoring in journalism, doesn't believe the flu vaccine is absolutely necessary.

"I don't want a live virus in me. Pneumonia, tuberculosis, give me [the vaccine] for that. But the flu? I can handle it," said Ellington.

William Stern, an emeritus

professor and researcher in the University's biology department, believes it is essential to get vaccinated.

"Some vaccines contain live viruses, but the flu vaccine doesn't. A vaccine that carries a live virus is the only time any adverse reaction would occur. But the chances of that happening are rare," said Stern.

Stern also believes that while it's good to be healthy, getting the flu shot is still important.

"There's no problem with

keeping your body healthy and it's very good to build up immunity, but it takes time to build up the antibodies that would fight the flu. Before flu inoculations developed, people died from the flu. That's why it's important to get vaccinated," he said.

Because the current flu virus is similar to past strands, the current vaccine in America is deemed to be safe, reliable and effective by the CDC and the WHO. However, some students are still wary.

"Eight years ago, [my little brother] caught an allergic reaction to the mercury in the flu shot called encephalitis, which is inflammation in the brain. When the swelling subsided he was left with seven brown lesions. No one in my family gets the flu shot anymore as a precaution," said Amanda Jajairam, a biology major.

Before getting the flu shot, it's important to look for any reactions that may occur. According to the CDC, people who have had serious egg allergies or who have had a negative reaction to flu shots in the past should be careful.

Nishant Thaker, a senior majoring in hospitality management, is decided.

"I'm not getting the flu shot."

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## 'Sugar Daddies' provide students with tuition money

**SUGAR, PAGE 1**

"The double standard is there; it's sad that it is, but the fact is that it is. A woman who agrees to this relationship comes off as fast and loose. If I didn't have a girlfriend and the need was there, I would do this. Guys are interested in older women either way, but it all comes down to character and the values and ethics you live by," said Lester.

On campus, students like Diana Hernandez, a junior advertising major, and Jessica Diaz, a senior English major, think the site is only for those seeking easy money.

"My dad took three jobs to pay off school. If these girls are bright enough to get an education then they are bright enough to make better choices," said Diaz.

For Diaz, the implications of the arrangement between a "sugar daddy" and his "baby" are enough of a turn off to never go to the website. "The fact that users get on this website because they need tuition money is just an excuse; there are other ways to get money. It's prostitution, clear and simple. They are meeting these men in their bedrooms at the end of the day; just because it doesn't say it doesn't mean it doesn't happen."

Hernandez was in accordance. "I feel like there has to be more than companionship; you can get a friend anywhere for

free. I understand that we are a big city and probably one of the most expensive states but I would never do that under any circumstances."

Hernandez, who doesn't receive financial aid and has to pay tuition out of pocket and via loans, stresses the idea that there exists other ways to pay for college. "Ask family, get a job, save money, apply for scholarships; if things got so bad I would rather stop going to school then have to resort to that."

Abilio Rodriguez, a junior psychology major, however, believes there are instances, especially out of desperation, where someone would be driven to go on sites just like seekingarrangement.com. "I wouldn't do this, but I always say 'to each its own.' I can't say I'm surprised though, considering the culture here [Miami]. Some of the people on campus aren't focused on academics; they're only here because it's the next thing to do after high school."

Despite the many implications and heavy criticism for being a possible site for prostitution, the site continues to thrive, rising four percent from 2011 to 2012.

Asia A. Eaton, associate professor at the Department of Psychology and Women's Studies, believes the sheer size of public universities in terms of students has contributed to the rapid increase in new sign ups. "This is interesting because public univer-

### RUSHIN' IT



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Senior Stephen Koch, international relations major, talks to potential recruits during Theta Chi's fraternity rush and social BBQ held at the lawn in front of Einstein Bagels.

sities have much lower tuitions than private ones. The students who are using this website are likely struggling to pay \$5,000 in annual tuition, not \$50,000, for example. This gives you some perspective on the potential needs and motivations of the students using these websites."

The site is also strict in the language its users, "sugar babies," post on their site stating, "If language on someone's profile is talking about selling their body, they're kicked off immediately."

"These students, mostly young women it

appears, probably don't have a lot of recourse if they experience harassment, sexual abuse or rape," said Eaton. "Even those students who don't intend to exchange sexual favors for money are probably expected to do so by many sugar daddies, and this mismatch of expectations can be a precursor for sexual assault. They are putting themselves in situations where they aren't likely to divulge information even when their safety is in the balance."

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## REFL TO REFL

# 'Amour' is cold and bleak with impressive performances

The name Michael Haneke has become practically synonymous with suffering.

## COLUMNIST



JUAN BARQUIN

The Austrian filmmaker and the bleak reality of his films has been a topic often discussed

in the film world. Now, with "Amour" scoring him five Academy Award nominations including Director and Picture, he's become the talk of the town in Hollywood.

"Amour" focuses on Georges (Jean-Louis Trintignant) and Anne (Emmanuelle Riva), a couple of retired music teachers in their eighties. When Anne suffers a stroke, the couple tries to return to a somewhat normal life, but find themselves having more trouble dealing with it than expected.

While "Amour" could be considering Haneke's most emotional film yet, nothing about the film actually makes



PHOTO FROM IMBD.COM

"Amour" is a romantic drama about the struggles of an elderly couple after Anne [right], played by Emmanuelle Riva, experiences a stroke.

you want to care. That touch of sentimentality that you'd normally get with a story like this is missing here, and it almost makes it a chore to watch.

It's not that one should be expecting the tale of this elderly couple to be as captivating as something like the

disturbing "Funny Games," but there needed to be some sort of motivation aside from the fact that they're old and sad. Sadness for the sake of sadness isn't that great a reason to spend two hours watching a film.

For something that should be immensely character based,

the script is as procedural as can be. There is no arguing that Haneke has always kept his audience at a distance throughout his oeuvre, but this is a story that demands a tenderness that doesn't exist.

Keeping "Amour" tightly concealed within the couple's apartment for most of the film

was a nice touch that enhances the symbolism of feeling trapped decently, but not all the symbolism in the film works in its benefit. A certain metaphor with a pigeon that flies into their apartment is heavy-handed, dragging on when one just wants it to end, which is exactly what Haneke

wants you to think while watching.

The only solace we find in the cold world that Haneke has created in "Amour" are two amazing performances from the film's leads. Riva and Trintignant are stellar, and there is nothing about their performances that doesn't seem wholeheartedly honest. Where the emotion is missing in the script, we have their impressive work to fill the gaps.

While the "Amour" does have its issues, there's nothing genuinely bad about Michael Haneke's work here. There is no doubt that many have and will find themselves head over heels for it, but the reality is that it's far from Haneke's best films. Those unfamiliar with his work would do better to experience films like "The Piano Teacher" and "The White Ribbon" instead.

Juan Barquin is a junior FIU English major. For the past year and a half, he has written more than 80 movie reviews for YAM-Magazine and is pursuing a certificate in Film Studies at the University.



## Dealing with nerves

**Q.** Dear Nick,

Recently I've been having problems with relationships, and I get nervous when I meet people in social situations. What can I do?

S.W.  
Senior  
Psychology Major

Dear S.W.,

A great way for you to improve your social skills and overcome nervousness is group counseling, which is offered by the FIU Counseling and Psychological Services Center. Group therapy is a wonderful way to interact confidentially with other students. Groups help people better understand their problems in getting along with others and provides them with tools they can use in the real world to solve their relational difficulties with others. FIU CAPS has groups that provide students with methods to improve the way they relate to others, including groups specific to the needs of men and women. Groups are also helpful for people suffering from anxiety, ADHD and romantic relationship problems. Additionally, there is a group for the LGBTQ population. With so many groups providing support for a wide variety of populations, almost anyone can find support in group counseling.

I sat down to speak with Dr. Priya Kirpalani, University psychologist and group therapy coordinator, to ask her why group therapy was so helpful.

"Group counseling provides a unique opportunity in which you can get objective feedback from others with regards to your relational style," she explained. "In other words, the group setting offers students a safe space to be honest about their experiences with others and to incorporate that feedback into their real lives. It's a great way to improve your interactions both in and outside of the group."

Check out the group counseling website at <http://groups.caps.fiu.edu> to get more information. Wishing you a great week!

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](mailto:Nscheidt@fiu.edu)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SPRING 2013

#### MONDAY, JAN. 28

##### JOSE MARTI 13TH ANNUAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

WHEN: 8:15-10:15 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: BBC WUC

##### CAREER FAIR SUCCESS WORKSHOP FOR BUSINESS STUDENTS

WHEN: 10-11:30 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: FREE  
WHERE: MMC CBC 123

##### 2013 MIAMI HERALD BUSINESS PLAN CHALLENGE - CALL FOR ENTRIES

WHEN: 12 a.m.-11:55 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Open to all current FIU Students & Alumni  
Entry Dates: January 28th through March 10th, 2013  
WHERE: [www.MiamiHerald.com/Challenge](http://www.MiamiHerald.com/Challenge)

##### ONE-DAY GL FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

WHEN: 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC GL 220

##### CAREER BASH AT BBC

WHEN: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free and open to all FIU students and alumni.  
WHERE: BBC Panther Square

#### TUESDAY, JAN. 29

##### INTERVIEWSTREAM WORKSHOP FOR BUSINESS STUDENTS

WHEN: 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: RSVP is required.  
WHERE: MMC CBC 121

##### CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY

WHEN: 12-1 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC RBD 2002

##### 2013 MIAMI HERALD BUSINESS PLAN CHALLENGE - CALL FOR ENTRIES

WHEN: 12 a.m.-11:55 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Open to all current FIU Students & Alumni  
Entry Dates: January 28th through March 10th, 2013  
WHERE: [www.MiamiHerald.com/Challenge](http://www.MiamiHerald.com/Challenge)

##### FIU FEDERALIST SOCIETY EVENT

WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC RBD 1000

##### BBC MINDFULNESS MEDITATION SESSION

WHEN: 12-1 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: BBC Academic 2, Room 246B

##### WOMEN'S LAW SOCIETY GENERAL BODY MEETING

WHEN: 12-1 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC RBD 2005

##### WORD ESSENTIALS

WHEN: 2-3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: All registered FIU students can attend this FREE software workshop. No prior registration is required  
WHERE: MMC PC 414

##### LET MY PEOPLE GO: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE HEBREW BIBLE

WHEN: 5-6:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC GC 140

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

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Tradition started 20 years ago still in place today

**RUBEN PALACIOS**  
*Staff Writer*

The word "International" in Florida International University stands true when one glances at the women's basketball team. Their regular starting lineup consists of four international players and a lone American player.

The international players in the starting unit are: senior Finda Mansare from Hungary, junior Marita Davydova from Russia, senior Carmen Miloglav from Croatia, and sophomore Zsofia Labady, also from Hungary.

Despite the high number of international players on the team and in years past, it was not always like that. The first true international recruiting class was brought in by Head Coach Cindy Russo before the 1991-1992 season.

Not only was it the first, but possibly one of the strongest in FIU history, producing two future All-Americans in Alben Branzova and Andrea Nagy.

"We kind of broke the ice there and we really got lucky and ended up with two All-Americans," Russo said.

Russo needed a way to gain an advantage over opposing schools because at the time not all conferences received an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament. Russo counted on international recruits to be the difference maker when it came to getting an opportunity to play in the postseason.

"We were one of the conferences that did not have an automatic bid," Russo said. "So that hurt recruiting in the United States because everybody wanted a guaranteed chance to go to the big dance."

A major stepping stone in the process of acquiring an international player is the Test of English as a Foreign Language exam (TOEFL).

The exam, administered via the Internet, is a requirement for any international player that wants to enroll in an American university.

It measures your ability to use and understand English at the university level.

Exams remain the lone blockade between FIU and international players because communication is no longer an issue.

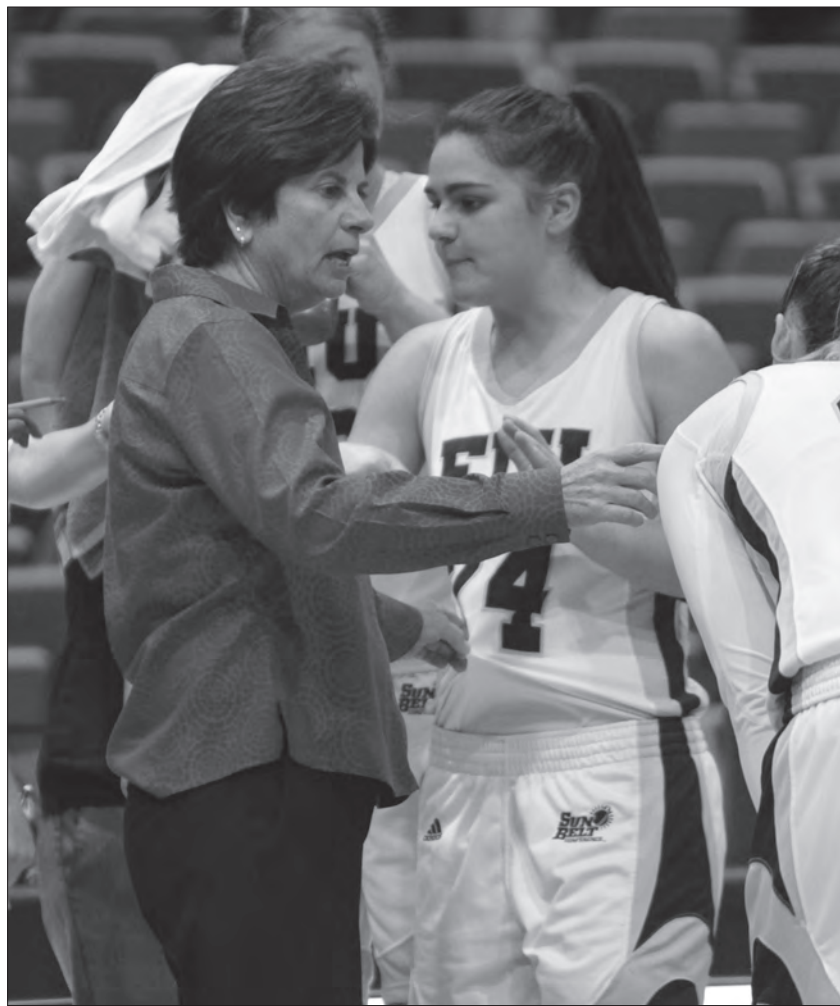
Russo added that once players are signed, they can communicate in a number of ways like texting, phone conversations and even through Facebook.

One would imagine that convincing athletes to leave their home country and move to a foreign land just to play a sport would be a difficult task to accomplish, but that is not the case. According to Davydova, the most recent international recruit, European players look forward to playing basketball in the states.

"This is the home of basketball," Davydova said. "In European countries, this is a dream to play in the NCAA and just play American basketball."

Unlike recruiting domestic players, a big disadvantage in recruiting international players is the lack of opportunities to watch them play in person before signing them. Russo assigns the task of overseas recruiting to associate head coach and women's basketball Hall of Famer Inge Nissen.

**SEE BBALL, PAGE 7**



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Head Coach Cindy Russo, left, has been at the helm of women's basketball at FIU for more than 35 years. She first turned her attention to overseas athletes in the early '90s and has since relied on multiple international stars to accrue her near-700 wins.

## SAND VOLLEYBALL

# FIU sand volleyball ready to dig into history books

**DANIEL BREY**  
*Contributing Writer*

With limited practice sessions already underway, Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett and her squad of young student-athletes are set to leave the first footprints in the FIU sand volleyball history books.

Introduced about a year ago as the first head coach in FIU sand volleyball history, Olympic silver medalist and Hall of Famer Buck-Crockett wasted no time setting the new program in the right direction, signing seven highly recruited players whose track records are loaded with experience and most importantly, success.

"We have some great players, some big time players here at FIU," Buck-Crockett said. "We just have to make it happen."

The seven recruits combine for a total of more than four high school indoor volleyball state championships, along with multiple all-state, all-conference, and all-district selections.

Freshman Emily Podschweit, Colorado's first sand volleyball recruit, also included in the inaugural signing class, has been one of the most exciting players to watch this offseason.

With her ability to set pinpoint passes and cover what seems to be the entire court, Podschweit, a 5-foot-7 libero, has proven just why she was invited to her second straight USA High Performance Holiday Camp this past offseason.

The USA High Performance Holiday Camp, held in Chula Vista, Calif., is not your ordinary summer camp. Podschweit was one



JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Emily Podschweit, above, comprises just one member of the first sand volleyball team in FIU history. She was the team's first signee and the first sand recruit out of Colorado.

of 34 female beach volleyball players invited to compete in both the under-21 and under-26 age groups for a spot on the Team USA roster.

"It's a crazy competition, but it's also fun at the same time," Podschweit said. "We learn so much from all the Team USA coaches that come in. We have a meeting every night and talk about everything from volleyball strategies to what to put in your beach bag."

With almost two-thirds of the FIU sand volleyball roster embodied of freshmen and sophomores, graduate student Kate Stepanova has subdued any question of the current team

lacking leadership.

"She is definitely a leader," Buck-Crockett said of Stepanova. "Kate has been there and understands what to look for throughout the course of the season."

Stepanova, a Latvia native, an AVCA (American Volleyball Coaches Association) Second Team All-American, and a two-year starter at Florida State University, arrives at FIU with the most collegiate experience of any player on the team.

Stepanova's most recent accomplishment was at her first AVCA Collegiate Sand Volley-

ball Championships where she finished third in the pairs competition.

Along with Stepanova, Buck-Crockett has brought a number of international players from overseas in order to add height to an otherwise short team.

"The added height will no doubt help us significantly," Buck-Crockett said. "I feel our team is very good all-around; we have a lot of potential."

The average height of an international player on the current roster is approximately 6 foot 2. The average height of the remaining U.S born players on the roster is 5 foot 9. That is a staggering five inch drop in average height.

Now, why would players from all over the globe want to attend a small Division I school over established sand volleyball teams such as Tulane, LSU, and Georgia State?

The answer is fairly simple: Rita Buck-Crockett.

"Rita Buck-Crockett is such a legend," Podschweit said. "Having a coach with all her accolades is truly something special."

"Her sand volleyball experience and this new program really brought me here," junior Maryna Samoday said.

Buck-Crockett plans to begin an intramural league this spring, and in addition, numerous volleyball clinics, both indoor and sand, throughout the rest of this month up until the end of April.

The 2013 FIU sand volleyball inaugural season schedule is set to be released sometime in the near future.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

# Panthers finally put championship loss behind them

**MICHAEL ORTEGA**  
*Staff Writer*

With the stinging defeat in the Sun Belt Conference championship behind them, the FIU women's soccer team look to start fresh when the 2013 season begins later this fall.

On the surface, the squad is still in tact. FIU is returning all but one player for the 2013 season.

That one player however, is arguably the greatest goalie in FIU history, Kaitlyn Savage.

Despite that loss, Leiva is confident that having the majority of the players back will bode well.

"Losing Kaitlyn is a blow to our team's defense but we are working past that with new schemes and training," said forward Chelsea Leiva. "It's great having so many girls come back for this season we are working right where we left off and it will be easy to pick up steam like we did at the end of last season."

FIU, however, will have a tough road ahead of them with the move to conference USA later this summer. With the conference switch comes new, tougher opponents, but

also old rivals that the Panthers have a score to settle with.

"We are excited to start the next season. We want to get revenge and start this season strong," Leiva said. "We want to be noticed and known and I think we are ready."

At the end of last season, the Panthers increased their average goal per game to about the 2.0 mark, putting them on top of the SBC.

While the season is still a few months away, the squad is already practicing on the soccer field every week.

They're hopeful that they'll get to play another set of nationally ranked schools again. In 2012, the team played UF and LSU.

"Coach knows we want to be known nationally and the only way is to play against the best. We want to show everyone what we can do and how good we are," Leiva said. "We are still looking to faces North Texas more than any other team."

## REVENGE GAME

The Panthers have one game on their mind this off season, a revenge game against North Texas.

SBC rivals of FIU, the Mean Green are making the move to C-USA as well.

North Texas and their stifling defense shut down FIU in the SBC championship 1-0 in 2012. FIU only shot nine times too NT's 21 shots, and had four more corner kicks than FIU.

"The loss hit us pretty hard at the beginning but it was something we got over pretty quick. We knew we would face them again next year so we just put all our pain and anguish into the getting ready for them next season," said forward Scarlett Montoya.

In the last four seasons, the Panthers are 1-2-1 against the Mean Green in the regular season and 0-1 in post season.

As the Panthers continue to train for the upcoming season, they have two things on their minds: beat the Mean Green and win another championship.

"The team is still looking to be recognized and be on top of the conference this year," Leiva said. "We are going to be ready and looking for the win no matter what."

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## Davydova: "This is the home of basketball."

### BBALL, PAGE 6

Every summer, Nissen travels overseas and attends the Junior National Tournament to scout any potential prospects. Recently, Davydova represented Russia during this tournament.

Nissen could not be reached at the time of print.

International recruits have been some of the premiere players Russo has coached.

Branzova, who earned All-American honors, is the all-time leading scorer in FIU history with 2,515 career points; she is also the all-time leader in rebounding as with 1,092 rebounds in her tenure at FIU. Branzova played in the Women's National Basketball Association with the New York Liberty for one season in 1998.

Nagy, who also earned All-American honors, played a record 125 games at FIU. She owns the career record in assists with 1,165 assists over her four year career. Nagy played for three teams in the span of four seasons in the WNBA.

Gergana Slavtcheva, is the third

all-time leading scorer in school history with 1,823 points. She also holds the school record in career three-point field goals made with 172 three pointers netted over her four-year tenure. Slavtcheva also played in the WNBA and played with the Phoenix Mercury for one season in 2003.

The inaugural international recruiting class in '91-92 set off a very successful decade in FIU history. In the 90s, FIU recorded 228 wins, a mark that ranked 18th in the country. Russo's teams in the 90s won 76 percent of their games, a mark good for 15th all-time.

The inaugural class made it into post-season play in every year at FIU, from 91-93 they made the WNIT and from 93-95 they earned bids to play in the NCAA Tournament.

The '91-92 recruiting class changed women's basketball at FIU for good. It was the inaugural class that established multiple connections and hotspots overseas that continue to land talented athletes at FIU some 20 years later.

-sports@fiusm.com

**FIU**

**VS** **VS**

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**MEN AT 7:30PM** **MEN AT 7:30PM**

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## Students on the road, but not behind the wheel

MARIA GARCIA  
Contributing Writer

During last semester's finals week, Altgrace Gustave relied on the Golden Panther Express shuttle to get to her exam at the Modesto Maidique Campus. In the middle of the trip, the bus broke down and she had no choice but to wait two hours until something could be done.

By the time the bus driver made it to campus and offered no apology for the lateness, Gustave's professor had collected the completed exams.

Like Gustave, senior majoring in journalism, French and psychology, many students have opted for Miami's public transportation or the University's GPE shuttle as their principal method of getting around the city or to classes.

At FIU alone, Parking and Transportation sells an average of 500 Metro Dade Easy Cards per month.

But with late arrivals and Miami's traffic, students may find it impossible to know if they'll ever make it on time.

"It was horrible," said Gustave remembering the incident and how she almost failed her class because of one bus ride. "If the professor hadn't known me personally I would have failed my exam. It was scheduled to end at nine in the morning, I got there at 9:15."

In 1960, the Dade County Commission passed an ordinance that created the Metropolitan Transit Authority as a way to combine all the transit operations into one public service for the county.

Throughout the years, it had many names but it is now known as Miami Dade Transit and it is the primary public transit in Miami and the largest in Florida.

MDT operates the Metrorail, the Downtown Metromover, Metrobus and Paratransit systems.

While the best way to avoid headaches and

complications would be to own a car, for some students this luxury is not an option.

"I don't have a license yet," said Amina Nephew, sophomore in communications and a resident assistant at Bay Vista Housing. "But I didn't want to be held hostage in my room. I wanted to go out and see new places so one day I just said 'Let's just figure out the bus schedules and do it.' Once you start and know how to work around it, it's not so bad."

Nephew recalls a time when a Metrobus driver decided to make a stop in the middle of the route because he wanted to buy some chicken at Publix. He left his three passengers in the bus – Nephew, her mother and another lady – and then came back to eat his rotisserie chicken and macaroni and cheese while they had no choice but to wait. "I was thoroughly upset. We were literally a mile away from our stop."

For Lucas Lempek, public transportation was only a temporary solution until he could afford a car of his own.

Lempek started a graduate program in journalism last August and for three months he compared the differences between Miami's public transportation and that of other cities he's lived in.

"I'm used to a different kind of public transportation, like subways in New York," said Lempek. "The distance between where I lived and Manhattan was almost the same between Biscayne Bay Campus and Coral Gables. In NY, it would take me thirty minutes. In Miami, with the bus, it would be about two hours or more."

Lempek now owns a car but says it was always very interesting to just feel part of the city through its transportation.

"You get to engage with people you've never met before while waiting for the bus or along the ride. I think it's really the best way to start



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

In FIU alone, the Department of Parking and Transportation sells an average of 500 Metro Dade Easy Cards per month. According to the American Automobile Association, the average annual cost for a single occupant car is \$4,826. The average annual cost for public transportation is between \$200 and \$2000 depending on the city.

getting to know the city you've moved into."

Yamaira Muñiz, a Spanish journalism graduate student, has lived in Miami for a year and a half without a car, only relying on the MDT and her bicycle.

"Having a car is a huge investment I don't feel prepared for, especially in a city that I only plan to live in for a short period of time."

According to the American Automobile Association, the average annual cost for a single occupant car is \$4,826. The average annual cost for public transportation is between \$200 and \$2,000, depending on the city.

The MDT's Metrobus has a weekly

passenger ridership of 245,358, undoubtedly a highly used method of transportation by Miami residents.

Even though there have been a few hiccups, Muñiz believes the commuter lifestyle has been suitable.

"Compared to how public transportation is where I'm from, Puerto Rico, I find Miami's to be great. The longest I've ever waited for a bus is about 40 minutes," said Muñiz. "Sure, you have to plan ahead and maybe glance at Google maps before heading out but it's no trouble."

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## BAKING TO WARM POVERTY



SONG LIU/THE BEACON

On Jan. 24, students from the International Student Club stood inside of the Wolfe University Center for their International Bake Sale. Lu Liu, senior in Hospitality Management and also a member of ISC, was in charge of the bake sale. The bake sale was to raise money for poverty in America.

## Addressing the inevitable swell of social media

VINSON PRESSLEY  
Contributing Writer

Today, there are 1.2 billion people using Facebook and 490 million using YouTube each month. Social media has quickly evolved into one of the most significant aspects of today according to Statisticbrain.com.

The growth of social media websites has been exponential and Brian Stelter, a television and digital media reporter for The New York Times, will address this issue in an upcoming lecture.

The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus Lecture Series will have Brian Stelter as a guest speaker on Jan. 31 in the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms at 2:30 p.m. The topic of the lecture will be "The Future is Social: How Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are

changing the way we talk and think," a subject that should captivate the interest of students, since most of them utilize social media websites.

Stelter is no stranger to social media; when he was only 18 years old, he founded TVNewser.com (which at the time was called CableNewser), a blog about the television news industry according to cencom.org. He later sold his blog to mediabistro.com in 2004.

Rafael Zapata, assistant director and advisor for SGA and assistant director of Campus Life, hopes this event will yield "a lot of student participation, conversations, discussions" along with the presence of "faculty and staff."

The purpose of the lecture series is for students to meet and interact with professionals

as well as ask them questions about their fields and gain insight from their real-world experiences.

Zapata, who reads The New York Times at least three times a week, said Stelter was chosen for this lecture because of his background in social media and because The New York Times sends one of their available staff members to speak at a lecture due to the agreement between FIU and The New York Times Readership Program.

Students will learn how social media is impacting society, they will also be able to gain insight on the field of journalism and learn what it is like to work for the New York Times.

Students can call (305) 919-5680 for more information about the lecture series.

-bbc@fiusm.com