

New pope responsible for changing view of Catholicism

DEBORA LIMA
Contributing Writer

Atheism has increased consistently over the years and it is most prevalent in Millennials, making it highly plausible that the selection of the 266th pope was an event that went under the radar of Generation Y.

The conclave convened in the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City following the Feb. 28 resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, and on March 13, white smoke billowed from the Chapel's chimney, signaling the election of a new pope. As the world's most influential religious leader, the pope wields an immense amount of power and thus, the inauguration of Pope Francis I, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio, is ultimately of great consequence to the world.

"The election of a new pope is important news for everyone in the world because in a modern papacy, we have the new pope being not just the spiritual leader of over 1 billion people, but also the head of state of Vatican City as an independent state," said Rigoberto Vega, the FIU Catholic Panthers' minister. "The pope has a voice, a moral conscience and authority on issues concerning poverty, human rights, the environment, war and peace and religious liberty and freedom that goes beyond the limits of the



NATACHA PISARENKO/AP IMAGES

Newly appointed Pope Francis I has many challenges facing him and the Catholic Church moving forward including addressing the ongoing sex abuse scandal.

Catholic Church. He will be an ally for all those who share humanistic values."

Francis, the first pope from Latin America, will hopefully also mark a new chapter for the Catholic church. Ahead of him is the vexing problem of restoring the credibility of an institution whose reputation has been marred by headlines reporting cases of

sexual abuse and corruption.

"He has the great challenge of having to continue to address the sex abuse scandal in the Catholic Church," Vega said. "And must reconcile Christians who are divided among many issues within the Church and other denominations."

Catholics have been described in recent years as a divided flock,

but many speculate Francis will successfully respond to opposing demands as the first ever Jesuit to become pope. Vega predicts that Francis will be a "unifying force" despite the fact that Jesuits have always been a controversial group.

"[He] will appeal to liberals because of his concern for the poor and social issues of equality,

and will appeal to conservatives based on his doctrinal and moral orthodoxy," Vega said.

That a Jesuit was elected Pope is remarkable not only because it is a first, but because part of becoming a Jesuit is taking a vow of not seeking ecclesiastical honors or high positions.

"For a Jesuit to become a bishop and then pope speaks of the incredible record of service and leadership that he has offered the Church throughout his life as a priest," said Vega.

The accession of a new pope is deemed deserving of reverence because the papacy is a reminder that the Roman Catholic Church is the only institution in the world that can boast having withstood the test of time and the havoc wreaked by a multitude of barbaric rulers and destructive empires, all the while expanding its influence to serve as a spiritual guiding light for more than 1.2 billion souls.

"If nothing else, Pope Francis is one more voice for those who can't speak for themselves: the poor, the diseased and the abused," junior public relations major David Feldman said. "That's something everyone should care about and find admirable, regardless of their religious beliefs or lack thereof."

-news@fiusm.com

Health and law clinic changing people's lives

VICTORIA RONDEROS
Contributing Writer

Maritza Hernandez, 54, of Miami Gardens, has dealt with many injuries from torn knees to osteoarthritis to spinal stenosis and a hysterectomy. She's also unemployed and has no insurance to cover her medical bills. Hernandez's case is just one of the many that the university's Health, Ethics, Law Policy Clinic works with here in South Florida.

The HELP Clinic is a joint clinic by students of both the University's College of Law and the College of Medicine. They help those who cannot afford but are in need of medical and legal aid.

This past August, Hernandez came into contact with the University's HELP Clinic. Her daughter, who knew friends in the clinic, was the one who referred her.

"I would not be here [without the clinic], period," said Hernandez.

The clinic also calls and texts Hernandez consistently. According to Hernandez, they call around three to four times a week, asking if she's been

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Director's study reports that shark population on the decline worldwide

JUNETTE REYES
Staff Writer

There is no need to fear Jaws when you head to the beach -- at least fear a little less as the shark population around the world is on the decline.

The effect of a declining shark population will not only affect the survival of shark species, but can also cause consequences to ecosystems, the environment and human populations.

An average of one million shark deaths was reported in 2000 and 2010 by executive director of the School of Environment, Arts and Society Michael Heithaus in a paper titled "Global Catches, Exploitation Rates and Rebuilding Options" published in the journal "Marine Policy."

"What we tried to do was figure out how many sharks worldwide were being killed in fisheries every year," Heithaus said. "There's a

fairly big range. It could be the high 60 million up to more than 200 million."

The mortality rate was compared to the rate of reproduction among shark populations which showed that more sharks are being caught than reproduced annually.

"If we look at what other people have done around the world, looking at the catches of sharks in commercial fisheries, we see that shark populations over the last several decades have dropped a huge amount, in some cases 80 percent or even more," Heithaus said.

That research, Heithaus said, proves that there is a valid necessity to fix the problem, not only because catching rates exceed reproduction rates when shark populations are already dangerously low, but because of how the decline in shark populations can affect their surrounding environments.

"We are really concerned

about this decline and continued overfishing of sharks because it might disrupt whole marine ecosystems," Heithaus said. "There is work that my colleagues, students and I have been doing in Australia for many years that shows that having tiger sharks in seagrass ecosystems is really important for the seagrass itself because they kind of keep the grazers in check."

Heithaus suggested that the concern can even shift to the fish and fisheries people rely on.

"If we lose sharks and seagrass ecosystems are disrupted, then there might not be the habitat that shrimp and fish grow up in. We'd see less fish making it in the fisheries for people," he said.

As for solutions to the problem, Heithaus said one approach is to lessen the high demand and value of shark fins, such as taxing the exportation and importation

of shark fins. Heithaus said that early reports suggest that this is starting to happen in the Chinese government, where the serving of shark fin soup is being discontinued in official functions.

Another approach is to have better international regulation and enforcement.

"Sharks that stick around the coast of places like the U.S., where we have strong fishery laws and enforcement, they can do ok, but a lot of sharks go out into the open seas and international waters," Heithaus said.

He said that in order to regulate the catches, especially for species of sharks that are worse off than others, both international agreements and limitations on international trade need to be set.

"It's just not worth it for people to catch them," said Heithaus.

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WORLD NEWS

5 Pakistanis killed in robbery outside Cape Town

South African police say two robbers stealing a safe shot and killed five Pakistani men and wounded a sixth in a ghetto outside the tourist resort of Cape Town. Spokesman Col. Tembinkosi Kinana said the attack took place in a house believed used as a bakery late Tuesday.

The attackers took off with the safe. Kinana said police arrested a 28-year-old South African who had a gun and the safe. He would not say what was in the safe.

Battle for control over Russia's Bolshoi escalates

The Bolshoi Theater's general director has rejected criticism from an assertive principal dancer who is openly aspiring to take his job at the famed Russian dance theater. The two men have waged an increasingly ugly public battle since the Jan. 17 acid attack on Bolshoi artistic director Sergei Filin.

Iksanov has blamed Tsiskaridze for creating an atmosphere of intrigue that contributed to the attack. The dancer has accused Iksanov of using the attack to settle scores.

Surviving a surge in street violence in Venezuela

On their daily cable car rides to and from home in Venezuela's capital, Maria Gonzalez and Jose Rafael Suarez soar in a bubble of safety far above the deadly, trash-strewn streets below.

Untouchable for 17 minutes, they peer at the expanse of dank, narrow alleys and the zinc roofs of shanties, some built four stories tall. Stray bullets and thugs on motorcycles fly through the streets, and people scurry home as soon as night falls.

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

Woman's life changed by clinic

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receiving her checks in the mail, her medication, and about her all around well-being.

In a previous interview with Student Media, Leonor Ayerdis, a member of the HELP Clinic and law student, said that one of the aspects of the clinic was its personable quality.

"You actually go out to the client's home, meet the families, and you deal with them in a consistent basis," said Ayerdis.

"I have never found such a grouping of such dedicated professionalism, not only with the medical team, but with the legal team [as well]," Hernandez said.

Hernandez has been working in the United States for almost 35 years. She always had two or three jobs; she would make about \$8,000 a month. At 18, she served in the army for four years. After the army, she pursued a career in nursing, all while obtaining side jobs. She never took a leave of absence or a vacation from any of her jobs. She is from Puerto Rico, and has never been sick a day in her life. In October of 2011, however, everything changed.

"My left leg started swelling," said Hernandez, "I had a rule out DVT, which is to rule out clots, and I had an ultrasound on both legs. That was negative, so I didn't know what went on. I had an OB exam, and [the doctor] said, 'no, what you have is that your uterus is backwards; it's pushing towards your back, and it has to

come out.'"

Two weeks after the exam, she had an entire reconstruction of her pelvic floor. They gave her a hysterectomy, but left her ovaries. Once she got back to work, her right leg began to swell.

An x-ray showed that she had developed osteoarthritis. A week later, she received an MRI and discovered that her right knee was also torn. Because of her torn right knee, she couldn't apply any pressure to her right leg.

She began to focus and put her weight solely on her left leg. Once she started doing that, she began to have backaches. After an MRI of her back, doctors discovered that she had spinal stenosis. Eventually, her left knee started hurting again. An MRI of her left leg showed that her left knee was now also torn.

The legal side of the HELP clinic is currently helping Hernandez apply for insurance and situate her medical bills, while the medical side is helping her take tests and receive medication, all without paying a dime.

Hernandez had short-term insurance at the time, which helped some of her expenses, but didn't cover them all. All of her expenses eventually made her lose her insurance. She started paying out of pocket, which led her to rapidly lose her money.

"FIU is like an angel on earth," said Hernandez.

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Landmark gun bills signed in Colorado

IVAN MORENO
AP Staff

The governor of Colorado signed bills Wednesday that put sweeping new restrictions on sales of firearms and ammunition in a state with a pioneer tradition of gun ownership and self-reliance.

The bills thrust Colorado into the national spotlight as a potential test of how far the country might be willing to go with new gun restrictions after the horror of mass killings at an Aurora movie theater and a Connecticut elementary

school.

The approval by Gov. John Hickenlooper came exactly eight months after dozens of people were shot at the theater, and the day after the executive director of the state Corrections Department was shot and killed at his home.

The bills require background checks for private and online gun sales and ban ammunition magazines that hold more than 15 rounds.

Two ballot measures have already been proposed to try to undo the restrictions.

At the signing ceremony,

Hickenlooper was surrounded by lawmakers who sponsored the bills. He looked around with a solemn expression before signing a measure requiring buyers to pay fees for background checks.

Each time he signed a bill, applause erupted from lawmakers and their guests, who included Jane Dougherty, whose sister was killed in the attack at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Conn.; Sandy Phillips, whose daughter was killed in Aurora; and Tom Mauser, whose son was killed in the 1999 Colum-

bine shooting in Colorado.

Phillips, who lost daughter Jessica Ghawi, reminded Hickenlooper that it was the eight-month anniversary of the theater rampage.

"You've given us a real gift today," she told the governor.

Later, Phillips added: "Thank you so much. You're leading the entire country."

Dougherty thanked Hickenlooper with tears in her eyes. Mauser also expressed gratitude.

"I knew it would be a long haul," he said. "But I had faith in the people of Colorado."

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Home Grown



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Senior Emmanuel Gonzalez, international relations and sociology major, purchases over 4 mini-sandwiches from FIU's Organic Farmer's Market, who meets every Wednesday outside in the GL Breezeway and offers a healthy alternative at affordable prices. The sandwiches, made by Imeña Valdes and Rachel Crawley (left and right), consist of unique organic recipes including concoctions of homemade hummus and apricot jam.

Our fascination with television's sociopaths

DEBORA LIMA
Contributing Writer

Everyone loves watching a happy ending. Apparently, everyone also loves seeing unscrupulous sociopaths triumphing by bulldozing societal norms.

The fourth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, published by the American Psychiatric Association, describes the axis of antisocial personality disorder as "...a pervasive pattern of disregard for, and violation of, the rights of others that begins in childhood or early adolescence and continues into adulthood."

Sociopathy, or Lord Disick Syndrome as I like to call it, falls under this axis but goes far beyond a mere sense of self-entitlement, characterized by indirect personality traits such as glibness, narcissism, and shallow emotions.

I invite you to conjure up in your head the faces of some of film and television's most popular characters: Don Draper of "Mad Men", Walter White of "Breaking Bad", Patrick Bateman of "American Psycho" and Dexter Morgan

of the eponymous series.

The list could go on for days but I will stop there as to not risk accidentally including my own name. Just kidding. I think.

Rooting for a psychopath is a

amorality, sophomore psychology major Francisco Kelly said, "I think the reason we all love sociopathic characters is because they play out that fantasy we all have of 'What if I didn't care

Kotsko asserts sociopaths transcend norms and their lack of social connection allows them to not "give a f*** about anyone or anything" and thus, "be powerful and free."

Kotsko goes on to say that to watch a fictional portrayal of psychopathy is to engage in a vicarious thought experiment. We project our own desires onto characters' and on some level, wish we could be as manipulative and guilt-free as they are.

"House of Cards", the Netflix political drama series, was my most recent encounter with the fantasy sociopath. In it, Kevin Spacey plays Francis Underwood, House Majority Whip and first-rate psycho. Within two minutes, any illusions the viewer may hold about Underwood having detectable cortisol levels are obliterated -- SPOILER ALERT -- as he looks into the camera, declares that "There are two kinds of pain. The sort of pain that makes you strong and useless pain . . . I have no patience for useless things," then proceeds to strangle his neighbor's dog.

Underwood is unwaveringly megalomaniacal, trampling all

rules and obstacles to reach his professional goals.

Even the female characters of "House of Cards" are heartless -- refreshingly so, might I add. Robin Wright plays Underwood's cutthroat wife Claire and Kate Mara is the cunning and seductive Zoe Barnes. These women are aware that nice guys, and girls, finish last and are as unprincipled as their male counterparts.

I metaphorically waved a finger to the world and decided to be as cold-blooded in my own life pursuits as I compulsively watched all 13 episodes of the series in one sitting. I may have even channeled Underwood by using a Southern drawl while on the phone with Domino's.

I eventually realized I could never take a dog's life, much less a human's, and that my conscience is as loud as a foghorn, but my attraction to these fictional portrayals of sociopathy led me to the conclusion that there is something very human about behaving inhumanely, especially in a capitalistic society.

Survival of the fittest, indeed.

-opinion@fiusm.com

“We project our own desires onto characters' and on some level, wish we could be as manipulative and guilt-free as they are.”

contradictory experience of being simultaneously repelled and fascinated by what we have been culturally conditioned to deem unkind, even evil. You begin by being horrified by the atrocities committed by a character, then suddenly admiring them and envying their Machiavellianism.

When asked why it seems people are so drawn to ruthless

about laws and rules and other's feelings?"

"We would be completely unbound and able to do all the things we secretly want to do. Deep down, I think all humans are ultimately self-serving."

Author Adam Kotsko echoes Kelly's views in his book, "Why We Love Sociopaths: A Guide To Late Capitalist Television."

Fun postponed, the habit of waiting on a friend

JUNETTE REYES
Staff Writer

Great times become great experiences and memories, especially in the company of others.

In many cases, it is the company of friends that we seek in order to do so.

Whether it is as simple as hanging out or as eventful as attending concerts and the like, it is usually more enjoyable when surrounded by those you like spending time with.

The idea of hanging out with friends kind of becomes a habit sometimes, so much so that there is now a sense of dependency on others in order to be able to have a good time; this is, for the most part, fine by me.

A sense of reliability is not always present, though, meaning one might just very well be stuck at home if they feel they cannot have a good time without friends, especially when plans are broken on the part of others.

And plans are easily broken quite often.

In my experience, it

has not gotten to the point where I miss out on amazing events because I cannot bring myself to attend them without friends. For simple events like watching movies and whatnot, it is easily forgivable when friends back out.

It gets old pretty quickly though when this becomes a usual occurrence.

Junior Omar Reyes agrees that it is understandable the first time around.

"If it happens more than once, however, it gives off the vibe that you're being avoided," said Reyes.

Junior Julieta Ancarola says she is usually more frustrated when her friends back out at the last minute from previously planned outings.

"Usually when something happens to them out of their control, I really wouldn't be mad at them and I would probably end up going to the event regardless," said Ancarola.

"But most people my age, in their 20s, tend to be 'flakey' simply because they can and it's rare to find truly

reliable people nowadays."

In the case that nothing is set in stone, it probably does not hurt to miss an event just because friends cannot make it.

It becomes more trou-

blesome, as Ancarola mentioned, when it comes to prearranged events.

The way I see it, there are two ways to avoid such situations: either make plans with reliable friends--

although something can always come up--or go ahead and attend events by yourself. You'll probably find someone who came alone as well.

Besides, if you really

went for the event and not just to hang out with friends, you wouldn't interrupt experiencing it all by talking.

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ILLUSTRATION BY GIOVANNI GARCIA/THE BEACON

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Students spend spring break helping others

KEILA DIAZ
Contributing Writer

For many students, spring break was a chance to unwind, relax and forget about a stressful semester by the beach. For Alternative Break group members, however, spring break had a different purpose. It was a chance to do something charitable in a completely different country.

During the break, a group of nine FIU students flew to Nicaragua to build the foundations for a new school.

The trip was one of six trips planned by the Alternative Breaks program at the University. The program's aim is to create active, charitable citizens by giving them the chance to help various people and causes all over the world--nationally and internationally. The service-learning organization is run by students.

The group of students spent a week working in Los Fierros, which is Spanish for "the irons." Los Fierros is small, poor, rural town in Managua. It is on a mountain side and can only be accessed on trucks via a dirt road. The community's income comes mostly from the cultivation of coffee.

"Humble country people live there. Field workers that collect coffee, raise chickens and pigs, and grow fruit trees," said Maria

Mora, a native of Nicaragua.

Nathaniel Edwards, junior and biology major in the pre-med track, was one of the nine students who traveled to Los Fierros during spring break.

"We were one of three groups that are going to build the school," said Edwards.

Edwards and the rest of his

Working in Los Fierros gave Edwards perspective.

"We have it too easy here. Conditions there are very poor. Little things like pencils are great. Here you bring a box of pencils to a school and it's nothing. There they have one pencil and they cherish that one pencil," said Edwards.

“

It's an awesome experience. It teaches you how to be a global citizen. You know about what's out there. Not just your little bubble.

Nathaniel Edwards
Junior
biology major

group were responsible for establishing the foundation on which the rest of the school is going to be built. The two other groups that will go on to complete the school are not from FIU.

On a regular day, the group of nine mixed cement, cut barbed wire and dug trenches. They were accompanied by some locals who helped with their efforts. According to Edwards, there were usually about 20 people at the site every day.

Alternative Breaks gives students the opportunity to work for causes that they feel passionate or wish to learn more about. The program is open to all University students who want to participate.

Applications are available online and in the Center for Leadership and Service office. Students choose a cause and are then assigned a volunteer site, which can be local, national, or international.

Students fundraise to cover the costs of their trip, which vary depending on the site. After fundraising, cost for a local site can range up to \$100, national sites up to \$200, and international sites up to \$400. Travel, lodging, and food are covered by the costs.

Alternative Breaks offers volunteer opportunities four different times during the school year. The first is in the fall over Thanksgiving break, the second is during the first week of winter break, the third is over the week of spring break and the fourth takes place during the summer.

Each group is headed by a site leader. Site leaders are picked during the summer and there are no special requirements to be one.

Alternative Breaks offer students a way to spend their break doing something to help their community, country, or international community. There are many causes and issues that students can address through their participation in the program. They include poverty, homelessness, education, animal rights, and HIV/AIDS awareness among many others.

The sites include Costa Rica, Panama, Washington D.C., California, Ft. Meyers, Orlando and many others.

Farrida Quant, sophomore and civil engineering major,

has also participated in Alternative Breaks. Quant traveled to New York during winter break to address homelessness in that city.

"We gave out food, clothes, and raised money," said Quant.

According to Quant, the homeless situation in New York is very unfortunate but the homeless are very grateful when they receive help.

Bonding with different students and developing friendships despite language barriers are also some of the benefits to those that participate.

Edwards, who does not speak Spanish, had fun fist pumping Los Fierros locals and saying "Que tal?" which means "What's up?"

Some students in Edwards' group developed friendships with the children from the community and promised to write each other.

"It's an awesome experience. It teaches you how to be a global citizen. You know about what's out there. Not just your little bubble," said Edwards.

Those who wish to participate in Alternative Breaks can fill out an application by visiting www.leadserve.fiu.edu. Applications can also be picked up at WUC 220 in the Biscayne Bay Campus and GC 242 or GC 2210 in Modesto Maidique Campus.

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Honors College's first trip to Asia leaves lasting impression

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

College study abroad programs are generally seen as a life changing experience. Honors students and faculty who traveled to Southeast Asia would almost certainly agree.

The trip marked the first time that FIU's Honors College study abroad program had visited the region, as students traveled to Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia.

"This interdisciplinary trip examined the history, culture and art of these countries, especially Cambodia and Vietnam, and influence over the centuries on the region's geography and politics, and their evolution into players on the world stage of Cold War politics of the Western powers from 1945 to 1990," explained Honors College Dean Lesley Northup.

The students, along with Program Director and Associate Professor within the Honors College,

Juan Carlos Espinosa and in-country facilitator, Harry Roberge, a Vietnam veteran, would begin their journey abroad by flying to Bangkok. But, their arrival would not be the beginning of their education on the region.

The trip was preceded by a 3-credit course during the Fall 2012 semester to get students prepared for their four-week stay in Southeast Asia over the break.

"This allowed them to travel with some prior knowledge of the underlying history and culture," said Northup.

During this time, students were also asked to prepare a research paper discussing a place, person or topic related to the trip, which would be presented on the actual site upon their arrival.

Freshman Matt Forensky presented on emperor Ho Chi Minh and the Indochinese communist party outside of Minh's mausoleum.

"This really brought the reality of the research to what they were doing," said Espinosa.

While these unique presentations were certainly an interesting use of the study abroad platform, the trip had other purposes.

"The key to the trip," said Northup, "was in Cambodia, where the students first visited one of

teachers' college students, helping them to develop their English language skills."

This experience turned the students into teachers for the two-week period as they assisted in bringing literacy back to the region. The Khmer Rouge killings of the 1970s involved the elimination of all literate people in the area. The region is only now

enchanted by this very haunted place," said Espinosa of the time in Cambodia.

"I think it was life changing for our students and it was a wonderful opportunity for the Cambodian students to experience what it was like to be college age students from America."

The life-changing manner of the trip is clearly

that he has begun to form a nonprofit organization by the name of Project Riyeen, the Khmer word for "learn." The project includes a website that will sell photos and woven wristbands from Cambodia to raise funds. Also Choi is seeking donations of shoes, books and electronic readers as well as working to establish a partnership with the One Laptop, One Child program.

The time spent teaching in Cambodia endeared many of the students as well as the faculty to the area and left some longing to return.

"[Choi] and several others from the trip intend to maintain close ties with both the teachers and children they grew to know and love in Cambodia," said Northup

"I've been to a lot of countries," said Espinosa. "But I think I've only fallen in love with two, and Cambodia is one of them."

-life@fiusm.com

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The key to the trip was in Cambodia, where the students first visited one of the chilling, horrific killing fields left by the Khmer Rouge...

Lesley Northup
Dean
Honors College

the chilling, horrific killing fields left by the Khmer Rouge, then worked two weeks with Cambodian

beginning to reinstitute education.

"Something happened to all of us, we became

exemplified in one student. Senior Sky Choi was so profoundly affected by the time spent in Cambodia

‘What’s the Miami tech scene really like?’

While browsing the Miami reddit page in early February, I stumbled upon a post that caught my attention.

COLUMNIST



LUIS BOLAÑOS

A redditor had asked the Miami community: “What’s the Miami tech scene really like?” I clicked the post immediately. I was wondering the exact same thing.

Despite my brief exposure to it at a comic-book convention. I didn’t think Miami had a serious tech community, especially when compared to places like Silicon Valley or Seattle.

In the comments of that post, one

user brought up The LAB Miami coworking space and the RefreshMiami group. Another brought up something called SuperConf.

I clicked the SuperConf link, and couldn’t believe what I found.

SuperConf was the answer I was waiting for. Instead of a comic-book convention, it was a technology-centric conference, where web design, web development, entrepreneurship, learning and networking were the major themes.

My background is in the web. I worked with WordPress with The Crimson, Florida Tech’s Student Run newspaper, and Spider-Bot, my own personal (tiny) blog that covers video games. There was more to web

design and development than WordPress, despite my undying love for the blogging platform. The words “Web Design + Dev Conference” made me do an internal backflip. I really wanted to go, but the price was a slight deterrent.

However, thanks to some quick Google searching, I squeezed myself into SuperConf at a student rate.

I was going to take part in workshops held at The LAB Miami, along with the talks held at the Miami Convention Center. Truthfully, I still couldn’t believe I was going to SuperConf.

Amidst the discovery of SuperConf, I learned about Miami Tech Week, organized by RefreshMiami.

A weeklong technology celebration in Miami? Pinch me.

On the Tech Week site, I learned about UHack, a free hackathon held at the University of Miami. UHack was 24 hour competition where students would get together and “hack” away at an application involving art along with presenting the application to judges.

Looking through the UHack site, I felt that I lacked experience to partake in such an event. I knew I’d be around powerhouse students, who would program, think and design from dusk ‘til dawn and overshadow anything I’d do. Logically, I didn’t have a chance against the other students.

Despite the odds against me, I felt

the need to go. It was a romantic idea, to sit alongside student developers and designers and partake in this hackathon, despite not having programmed in a while and never having made an actual workable app in my life. All I had was my brief programming experience, my Crimson and Spider-Bot experiences and my passion for tech.

Without hesitation, I signed up for UHack, and began counting down the days to the workshops at The LAB, the start of my own Miami Tech weekend.

For more, check out Luis Bolaños’ feature “Hacking and Tech in Miami” at FIUSM.com

—juan.barquin@fiusm.com

Ala. man builds model ships for Fla. celebration

PEGGY USSERY AND DOTHAN EAGLE
AP Staff

Steve Harris’ home is filled with models of ships.

Building models has been a hobby of the Dothan doctor since he was a kid. But Harris’ attention to detail and extensive knowledge of early ships led to an opportunity to help Florida celebrate its history.

Harris was asked to build ship models of the vessels used by the explorer Juan Ponce de Leon as part of the Viva Florida 500 celebration marking the 500th anniversary of Ponce de Leon’s expedition to Florida in

1513. The models are currently on display in St. Augustine, Fla.

“Ponce de Leon, even though he discovered Florida, never made any kind of land exploration into Florida - he had intended to,” said Harris, a doctor with ENTcare. “His first expedition was entirely by ship . but a few years later he came back thinking he was going to establish a colony.”

The native Indians of Florida, however, attacked. Ponce de Leon was wounded and later died in Havana. But, the explorer’s discovery led the way for other Spanish explorers - Hernando de Soto, Tristán de Luna y Arellano and Pánfilo de Narváez.

And the ships that brought them all across an ocean - and Columbus before them - have fascinated Harris for years.

“These early Spanish and Portuguese ships were important to the archeologists because they represented the ability now of Europe to go everywhere in the world and come back,” Harris said.

Ponce de Leon sailed under the Spanish flag with three ships - the Santa Maria de la Consolacion, the Santiago and the San Cristobal. The Santa Maria de la Consolacion and the Santiago were bigger caravels while the San Cristobal was believed to be a smaller ship known as a bergantin. Harris also built

a fourth model to show the hull frame of the Santiago.

The ship models were built for the Florida Humanities Council and will become the permanent property of the Florida Public Archeology Network. Having been displayed at Flagler College, the models were recently moved to the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum for display, where they will remain through May before being moved to Miami for an exhibition.

Harris was recommended for the Ponce de Leon project by Roger Smith, head of the Florida Department of State Underwater Archeology Division.

Good Luck



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Students gather around Fresh Foods to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day and take pictures with Lucky the Leprechaun, the mascot of Lucky Charms.

FIU | FLORIDA
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UNIVERSITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The University Health Fee Committee
will be holding public hearings on

Thursday, March 28, 2013 MMC
GC 150 at 10:00am
Thursday, March 28, 2013 BBC
WUC 155 at 2:00pm

The objective of these meetings will be to give interested individuals an opportunity to hear arguments pertaining to the proposed increase to the Health Fee. The amended fee will become effective in the Fall 2013 term. Students and other interested individuals are invited to attend these meetings.

Turner, Panthers kick off spring football



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Special teams, bottom, looks on as the offense scrimmages the defense in the last hour of FIU football's first spring practice.

PATRICK CHALVIRE
Staff Writer

Spring is in the air and the Turner Era for the Panther football team has officially begun. Tuesday morning brought the team back onto the field for their first spring practice of the year.

The Panthers open up the spring not only with new management, but also a new and inexperienced group of young men shaking off the dust of being away from the field. Head Coach Ron Turner understands the difficulty of leading a new team into a new system.

"I want to see energy and enthusiasm," Turner said. "I knew the execution obviously was not going to be where we want it. We want to make it simple, but you can't come out day one and have the kind of execution you want put in. I want to see athleticism, energy and enthusiasm. As long as we have that, then we have a chance."

Energy and enthusiasm played a key role in the Panthers' first practice of the year. Coaches are hard pressed to find out which player will stand out and who fill the needs and gaps from last season, but there were a few bright spots that proved themselves on the field and showed coaches

what they're made of.

Richard Leonard, cornerback for the Panthers, could be heard all through out the field both with his voice and plays. Leonard succeeded in disrupting passes and making it difficult for receivers to catch passes, as well as keeping the motivation and support high for the rest of the defense.

Another player returning from last year's squad is Willis Wright. A wide receiver that is expected to see more passes this year now with former Panther Wayne Times no longer on the team. Wright looked in shape and when the team separated into position drills, he did not seem to lose a step running his routes and in catching his passes left and right.

Though there are players returning with previous playing experience, there are some big needs to be filled by young, inexperienced players. Former Panther Jonathan Cyprien will not be returning to the field because he is projected to be drafted in the 2013 NFL Draft. Turner understands that filling gaps left behind by seniors is the nature of the game.

"Well that's the nature of college football," Turner said. "You lose guys like that, somebody else has to

step up and play and somebody will."

Jericho Lee, who spent last season playing on the defensive line, went through drills with Kedrick Rhodes and the rest of the running backs. Under Turner and his new system, Lee may possibly be switched over to offense and use his size and physical ability as the team's fullback.

"We run some two-back offense and he looks like a fullback body type," Turner said. "He's a willing football player. He loves the game, plays with heart, so hopefully we find a place for him and give him a shot there."

The offensive line, coached by Steve Shankweiler, graduated all five starters and will be one position that will see some of its biggest competition. The Panthers do have three returning juniors in David Delsoin, Donald Senat and Jordan White. But with four out of seven lineman being freshman, there is a lot to learn in this new system.

"There's a reason why they call you coach," said Shankweiler jokingly. "We got a long way to go but we some eager kids that are trying and want to do well."

The offensive line position, unfortunately, could not take full advantage of

their first practice as well as other positions. The first practice only brought players out in helmets and shorts, and for a position that is strictly contact and movement, it can cause problems at first.

"Anytime you're running around in pajamas, it's hard to evaluate a lineman," Shankweiler said. "The bottom line is you got to line up and knock somebody's butt off the ball."

Another position filled with freshmen players is the linebackers. Led by new linebackers coach Tom Williams, the first practice showed more energy and enthusiasm by the group.

All the coaches, including Williams, understand the pros and cons to having young yet talented players willing to learn. The inexperience allows Williams and the coaching staff to mold their group the way they feel is beneficial for the team.

"They don't have old habits to break," Williams said. "As young players, they have a lot of enthusiasm, a lot of energy and love to play the game of football. They don't have a lot of playing experience so we got to try and get them as much experience in practice to prepare them."

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'No names' key to FIU football success

Joe Staley, Jahri Evans and Logan Mankins. Three names even NFL diehard fans would not recognize. Now, have you heard of Tom Brady, Drew Brees or Colin Kaepernick? I'm sure the answer is yes.

However, what many football fans neglect to realize is that without those three 'no-names', the aforementioned super star quarterbacks would not survive in one NFL game or at any playing level.

These no-names happen to be pro-bowl offensive lineman. Staley plays for the San Francisco 49ers alongside Kaepernick; Evans suits up for the New Orleans Saints with Brees while Mankins and Brady are New England Patriots.

While their respective teams are different, Staley, Evans and Mankins' duties remain the same: protect the quarterback.

Truth be told, FIU football and especially quarterback Jake Medlock and the running backs will rely heavily on their protectors up front, better known

as the offensive line. No matter what level of play, Pop Warner, NCAA or the pros, the philosophy remains the same: for a team to be a great on the gridiron it must be built from the inside out.

Despite the skill positions like quarterback, receivers or running back that receive all the press, it's the O-lineman that battle in the trenches in between the hash marks are the ones that deserve the props.

Don't get me wrong; guys like Medlock, running back Kedrick Rhodes or wide-out Glenn Coleman deserve a lot credit for their play-making ability despite a forgettable 2012 season that gave former Head Coach Mario Cristobal the pink slip.

However, neither of these stand-outs, along with any other skill position players, won't reach their full potential unless the underappreciated 'no-names' referred to as the O-lineman do their job to serve and protect.

Graduation, one of the highlights of a student-athletes career, is also a negative for the FIU program. It leaves gaps to fill the following year. This year, not a single O-lineman from the 2012 season is returning.

Caylin Hauptmann, Giancarlo Rivera, Shae Smith and Rupert Bryan

won't be running out on the field for that week one matchup on the road against Maryland. So it is up to the young bloods like redshirt freshman Trent Saunders, redshirt sophomores Aaron Nielsen and Edens Sineace, junior Yousif Khoury, redshirt juniors Jordan White and Delmar Taylor as well as any other O-lineman on the spring roster to make a staple in the depth chart during spring football.

Throw in some youth, a bit of inexperience and a few scoops of lack of chemistry and that's the recipe Offensive-line Coach Steve Shankweiler must work with in order to brew up an offensive line entrée to fill the 2013-2014 depth chart.

It's not just Medlock, Rhodes or Coleman, but it's the Saunders, Khoury, Smith, Bryan, Nielsen or Sineace that will be the ultimate benefactors for the 2013-2014 season.

Come week one against the Maryland Terrapins, the O-line will take the field as not a bunch of 'no names', but as a close-knit family of resilient protectors that will ultimately determine the future direction of the FIU Panthers football team.

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Heat's streak similar to Lakers'

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Staff

Gail Goodrich knew Miami would beat Boston the other night. He knew even a 17-point deficit, the largest they had faced in six weeks, wouldn't stop LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh.

"Once they got back in the game, there was no doubt in my mind they were going to win," Goodrich said of the Heat's 105-103 victory Monday. "They just are better than everybody else."

So were the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers. Jerry West, Wilt Chamberlain and Goodrich were a Big Three to rival what Miami has, the core of a team that racked up routs on the way to an NBA-record 33 straight victories. They rarely felt threatened, either by their opponent or the stress of the streak, making one of sports' most remarkable achievements seem rather routine.

"We had one of those teams that comes along every once in a while," West said. "The only bad thing about it is we were really too old to be able to sustain it. But it was easy. And when we lost, it was like, 'I can't believe we lost.' It was like two-and-a-half months. It was a very special time."

Miami has won 23 in a row heading into its game Wednesday at Cleveland. After that, it's home for Detroit and Charlotte, then off to Orlando, a four-game stretch against the bottom four teams in the Eastern Conference. So after years when no team came close to threatening their record, the Lakers recognize this could be the end of their time at the top.

"I really didn't think that that record, after really thinking about it,

SEE MIAMI, PAGE 7

Hungry and Humbled: Journey to FIU

TYMELL MURPHY
Special to the Beacon

“Coach Pitino just got the job at Florida International, Tymell, I’ll call him up and tell him about you.”

Those were the words of my junior college coach Hank Plona. I said “Who, coach Rick Pitino from Louisville?” He said no, his son. I laughed it off. I went to Google to look up coach Pitino and FIU because I had no idea this school existed to be honest.

Next, I got a call from coach [Mike] Balado and he told me about FIU and the situation. I then spoke to every [FIU] coach on that same phone call.

“I’M COMING COACH!!!” I told Pitino.

Man, I think that was the greatest choice I made on my own in my whole entire life. After I committed basically with no visit or knowledge of where this place is in Florida, I found out that it’s in Miami. I laughed again. Even better I tell myself, Miami-living for the Brooklyn boy.

My time here has been nothing short of wonderful. I got great teammates and a great coaching staff. People in the community care about the athletes and want us to succeed both on and off the court, but this season has been a blessing for me.

I learned so much under coach Pitino, who is my hardest critic besides myself. The guy really wants to see me do well and I

love him for that.

This season, I accomplished something that I will remember for a long time. A game, 24 points and 20 rebounds. What made this game a lot more special to me was that for a couple days I had to live with the fact that I didn’t record a single rebound the game before against Middle Tennessee. I came out that game and was just relentless. I went after everything.

Also a great accomplishment was being named first team

All-Conference, being the first FIU player since the ‘04-’05 season to do so. I think I elevated my game a lot this year, but I know I’m nowhere near finished.

My first year in Miami going to school and playing here at FIU has been a great experience for me.

As of now, the season is over and I’m just focusing on getting my schoolwork done and finishing strong in the classroom and getting better as a basketball

player in this offseason, preparing for the challenges ahead of me.

Just thinking about my life a couple years ago: I almost dropped out of high school and went for a GED. A friend by the name of Peyton Mullings, however, didn’t allow me to do that. He told me about a school named Brooklyn Academy, which was an alternative high school that allowed me to play high school basketball right away, even if you were a fifth-year guy.

In all, I did six years of high school and got some experience in playing organized basketball under guys I still talk to and have big influences on my life today.

Kenneth Fair, Kevin Tucker and June Fraizer. All those guys taught me about hunger and being true to people and working my tail off for the things I wanted in life.

They gave me my second shot at the game I so desperately loved and they are forever with me in my journey wherever it may take me. I did it because I wanted to graduate high school and make my mother proud.

People are always coming after you and if you’re good, then you get everyone’s best shots. It was so much fun just being on the court playing ball, sometimes there would be fights, kicking and punching, everybody let their anger out on the court. But it was all fun to me, it made me tougher and trust me, I got my fair share of beatings on the court.

Now I’m here at FIU grabbing 20 rebounds and being first team all conference. The game of basketball has been good to me and coaches Pitino, Balado, Mark Lieberman, Kimani Young and Casey Stanley have been very good to me.

I just want to do the best and play the best on the court while being a truly good person off of it.

And where better to do then right in the warm likes of Miami?



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Junior forward Tymell Murphy says that coming to FIU, without much knowledge of where it was or who was heading the program, was the greatest decision he’s ever made in his life home opener.

With Heat rolling, Lakers recall their record run

MIAMI, PAGE 6

was going to be broken. Now, I’m starting to change my mind,” Goodrich said during a phone interview. “I think they have a good shot at it.”

Yet as good as the Heat have been, they can’t match the ruthlessness of the Lakers’ run.

It started after a loss — two of them, actually — early in the season. The Lakers fell 109-105 to Golden State on Halloween 1971, then franchise cornerstone Elgin Baylor retired because of a knee injury.

They returned with victories on three straight days from Nov. 5-7 — players complain now about playing on back-to-back nights — with two coming by single digits. From there, the games got progressively easier and the margins more lopsided.

The Lakers outscored opponents by an average of 123.3 to 107.3, according to STATS. They had one three-game stretch in which they scored 139, 132 and 138 points, part of a nine-game span in which their low total was 123 points.

“I think we might have only played two close games the whole time. The rest of

them were just routs,” West said at a recent Golden State game.

Like golfers who suddenly feel they can make any putt from any distance, the Hall of Famers remember the game getting easier as the streak went on. They actually enjoyed the run instead of feeling any kind of burden to keep it going.

“You’re very, very confident. Your shot is going in, you just do things, you don’t even think about the streak. You don’t think about the entirety of it,” Goodrich said.

“Certainly we had a lot of confidence and that confidence grew among us that somehow, some way, we were going to find a way to win, and I think all great teams do that. We really didn’t think about the streak, at least I didn’t. I mean, we knew it wasn’t going to last forever, I mean that just doesn’t happen, but we were dominating.”

Chamberlain was more defender and rebounder at that late stage of his career, but West (25.8 points per game that season) and Goodrich (25.9) provided plenty of points. Defense wins championships, the cliché goes, but a potent offense can keep a winning streak going, and the

Lakers knew they had it.

“We were capable of having runs, streaks, running off 12 or 15 points in a game,” Goodrich said. “Pretty much we were confident we were going to do that, but I think the confidence builds that you’re better than your opponent. That doesn’t mean you disrespect them, but you are better.”

The Heat have had it tougher. They trailed by 16 before rallying for a six-point victory over a Knicks team that had beaten them badly twice earlier in the season. They went two overtimes with Sacramento and needed a layup by James with 3.2 seconds left to beat Orlando. His jumper with 10.5 seconds remaining allowed them to escape Boston with the streak intact.

The toughest obstacle for the Heat — already one of the most scrutinized teams in sports from the moment James and Bosh joined Wade in 2010 — may be the attention they’ll face. The streak has made the reigning champs larger than life, even drawing attention away from college basketball’s postseason during what’s usually a quiet time in the NBA schedule.

The Lakers, even with

Chamberlain’s outsized personality, didn’t face nearly the level of media interest. The then-record of 20 in a row had been set by Milwaukee less than a year earlier, the Knicks had won 18 in a row a couple of years before that, and there just wasn’t the fascination with a feat that didn’t seem as extraordinary at the time.

West, a consultant now with the Warriors, was watching a national news program recently and saw a segment about the Heat’s streak. But asked how much the Lakers heard or thought about theirs, he said: “Honestly, not much.”

“I think athletes have the ability to focus in on what’s ahead of them,” he said. “Today it’s much different than it was before because you have so much more media around today. And then toward the end there when we really got in the 20s, there wasn’t a lot of interests.”

The streak finally ended on Jan. 9, 1972. The offense that had been humming for so long managed only 17 points in the second quarter, and the defending champion Bucks beat them 120-104 behind 39 points from Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

That started a stretch of

four losses in six games before the Lakers regrouped and won eight in a row en route to a 69-13 record and their first championship in Los Angeles. They’d had great individual talent for years, but knew that season they had something more.

“We had veteran guys on our team. Veteran players like that, you don’t have to come in the locker room and say a word,” West said. “It was, ‘Let’s see who we’re playing tonight. Don’t change anything you’re doing and go play.’”

FIU FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The University Capital Improvement Trust Fund Fee Committee will be holding public hearings on

Monday, March 25, 2013 MMC
GC 140 at 10:30am
Monday, March 25, 2013 BBC
WUC 155 at 2:00pm

The objective of these meetings will be to give interested individuals an opportunity to hear arguments pertaining to the proposed increase to the CITF fee, used to fund student buildings. The amended fee will become effective in the Fall 2013 term. Students and other interested individuals are invited to attend these meetings.

Pipe burst caused damages, class cancellation

STEPHAN USECHE
Asst. News Director

Dripping water, soaked carpet floors and computers piled up in the corner to avoid getting wet greeted journalism students when they walked into class.

Senior Journalism student Angela Bonilla did a double take when she walked into Room 258 in Academic II at the Biscayne Bay Campus wondering what had caused the cancellation.

“Upon approaching the classroom I saw wires hanging from the ceiling then looked inside to see water dripping from the ceiling and the wall and carpet in one area soaked with water,” said Bonilla.

According to Neil Reisner, journalism professor, the leak had a distinct aroma and yellow color, which led him to cancel his News Reporting Workshop class.

“Everything started out quite nicely, we were having a very nice class and suddenly water started dripping from one of the tiles at the rear of the classroom,” said Reisner. “That kept happening and kept getting worse and we initially put a trash can underneath one of the desks underneath the leak, but it kept getting substantially worse and we had to start moving computers to get them out of the way.”

“Class is canceled,” said

Senior journalism student Jonathan Shaffer to his peers as they approached the classroom.

Jessica Meszaros, Senior journalism student, was in Reisner’s class when the leaking started.

“We were having our class discussion, as usual, when everyone in the class started hearing a crackling noise,” said Meszaros. “At first, we thought it was some electrical problem in the ceiling, then we noticed a small drip coming from the back ceiling.”

Because of severe conditions, Reisner canceled his second class too.

According to Matthew Mielke, coordinator of Operations and Maintenance Services, a ½” pipe that provided fresh water to an unused piece of lab equipment in AC2 350 burst causing water damage to ceilings on the first and second floors of the building, which will have to be changed out. The carpets had to be steam cleaned; fortunately, no damages to electrical or data systems were found.

“Sometimes pipes leak, that’s not uncommon,” said Mielke. “However, rarely to this extent.”

Later that day, the water had reached spaces on the first floor; however, Mielke said disruption was minimal.

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STEPHAN USECHE/THE BEACON

Following the burst pipe, many classrooms such as the one above, took in water damage that destroyed a ceiling tile and reached both the first and second floors of the building.

Ethiopia comes to Biscayne Bay one latte at a time

VINSON PRESSLEY
Staff Writer

The Student Organizations Council and Campus Life-BBC will team up Avengers-style for a day of cultural awareness as well as club exposure for students.

The SOC club fair and the Ethiopian Late Day Latte II will take place on Tuesday March 26, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Hospitality and Management patio area by the bay. It will be a day full of food, music, culture and exposure to the clubs on

said Michael Aquino, president of SOC, the organization that organized the club fair aspect of the event.

Aquino also pointed out the benefit of clubs attending the event; they will be able to “recruit new members to keep their organization going.” Aquino wants to “to promote involvement at the beautiful Biscayne Bay Campus.”

SOC has its club fair event about four times a semester; this event will mark the third club fair of the spring semester, giving students another chance to meet and greet the number of clubs on campus. According to Aquino, SOC and Campus Life-BBC have collaborated on events in the past and expressed his appreciation of coordinating events with Campus Life-BBC.

The Ethiopian Late Day Latte II event was coordinated by Campus Life-BBC and the event has evolved since its debut last year.

According to Andres Bermeo, marketing coordinator for Campus Life, the event has “evolved over the last year dramatically.”

According to Bermeo, initially, the Late Day Latte Event was just a social for clubs and organizations; now entire departments are invited to come and check out the event.

The setup has also been upgraded for this event as now the Late Day Latte will feature a different country as its theme.

Meaning that the event will shine the spotlight on a particular country, this idea originated from the success of the first Ethiopian themed Late Day Latte, Bermeo

mentioned.

The Ethiopian themed event will not only live up to its name and have coffee, but will also have Ethiopian dishes and music. There will also be giveaways.

“It’s important for the overall of worldwide culture, especially in Miami, the melting pot,” said Josh Saka, sophomore pre-med major.

Nina Montoya, sophomore public relations major, said the event will bring “more awareness about Ethiopia, the country itself and its status.” Montoya also mentioned that the event will be a “fun way to bring students together and to make FIU’s clubs more known. I can’t wait.”

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Beauty and the Bay



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

Organized by The Impact Movement, the Simple & Classy to Fab & Fancy event took place inside of Wolfe University Center 223 on March 20. Nilla Moline, international makeup artist and hair stylist, and Jennifer Petion, an esthetician from Body and Soul Retreat in Pompano, Fla., were the guests of the event. Nilla Moline taught students how to properly apply makeup. Christine Joseph, sophomore in hospitality management, had her makeup done by Moline.

“It’s important for the overall of worldwide culture, especially in Miami, the melting pot.”

Josh Saka
sophomore
pre-med major

campus.

“All clubs are required to attend Late Day Latte II and the SOC club fair to showcase what their organization is all about.”