

FIU to compete at the Olympics of Model UN teams

LESLIE OVALLE
Contributing Writer
leslie.ovalle@fiusm.com

The University's Model United Nations Team was chosen to participate in the upcoming Harvard National Model UN Conference.

The Conference will bring together different universities across the United States, as well as hundreds of college students with common goals of furthering international awareness and building consensus.

Danney Salvatierra, a senior majoring in political science, is a new delegate and one of the

seventh in the country, later moving to fifth in the nation and, last semester, fifth in North America by bestdelegate.com, an organization in charge of calculating MUN ranks based on universities' performances.

In addition to the ranks, the team placed among prestigious national universities, including the University of Chicago, Harvard, Georgetown, New York University and Yale.

The MUN program is offered as a political science course. It is designed to build students' public speaking, analytical writing, negotiations, critical analysis and research skills.

BBQ



VINCENT RIVES/THE BEACON

Rebecca Rico, graduate student studying criminal justice, punts a football at the Sigma Phi Alpha grill out on the GC lawns on Wednesday Jan. 28, 2015.

“

It makes you a leader and gives you confidence. For me, no other class has done that.

Danney Salvatierra
Senior
Political Science

”

members chosen to participate in the upcoming competition amongst team members.

The competition's title? "The Olympics of Model UN."

"It's a lot of work," she said. "But it brings out the best in you."

The team has had much recognition in the past, including

For this, extensive practice and time is required.

"It makes you a leader and gives you confidence," said Salvatierra. "For me, no other class has done that."

To be part of the team, students are required to go through a long process, which entails a detailed application and two interviews,

in which the student is tested and screened.

For Gabriela Guadalupe, a senior majoring in political science and minoring in journalism, it's all about the diversity and context of the program.

"I'm excited for the Harvard competition because it's the most international and substance-

driven conference," she said. "We see people from all over the world."

MUN puts forth a wide range of scenarios that stimulate students' critical thinking and knowledge of various topics.

According to Ethan Roberts, the University's MUN program director, these topics can range from creating an international

anti-piracy regime to rewriting the constitution of Thailand.

Some of Roberts' most memorable topics have been the 1982 Berlin Conference and the 1996 UN Security Council, where they dealt with the fall of Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire, which is now known as the Democratic

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Campus honor society opens doors after 15 years

ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA
News Director
adrian.suarezavila@fiusm.com

Two years after having inducted its last member in 1998, the University's chapter of Phi Eta Sigma honor society went inactive. But on Tuesday, Jan. 27, after a 15-year hiatus, the University's chapter was re-chartered, ready to induct a new group of students.

Founded on March 22, 1923, at the University of Illinois, Phi Eta Sigma is the oldest and largest honor society in the United States for first-year university and college students in all academic fields of study, according to the society's web page.

The discussions to revive the organization on campus started in 2012.

The efforts to re-establish the FIU chapter were led by Tony Vu, University treasurer and Phi Eta Sigma's chapter advisor, and Sanjeev Udhvani, a then-undergraduate student working with Vu.

Udhvani reached out to Elaine J. Powell, executive director of the Phi Eta Sigma National Office, and thus started the process to receive a new charter.

According to Phi Eta Sigma's web page, in order for an institution of higher learning to establish a chapter, it must be a four-year

degree-awarding institution, reveal support for a charter from its administration, be accredited, and demonstrate a commitment to the mission of the honor society—"to encourage, promote, and reward high scholastic achievement in its students, especially first-year students"—among others.

In order for first-year students to qualify for the honor society, they must achieve a

20 percent of their class.

For the induction ceremony, students were accompanied by family and friends, as well as the chapter's current executive board members and other invited guests.

"You are among an elite group of scholars achieving academic excellence in the first year of higher education," said Powell while addressing the newly inducted class.

“

Now that it's being chartered I hope to give it the foundation that it needs in order to succeed throughout the years [after I graduate.]

Jannell Padron
Senior
International Business and Finance

”

cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5 at the conclusion of any academic term during their freshman year in college, be enrolled for a traditional academic workload to fulfill the requirements for a bachelor's degree, and rank within the top

The University's chapter of Phi Eta Sigma was first chartered in 1982.

In 1985 and 1987, the chapter was home to students who managed to receive national scholarships from the society's headquarters.

Some students believe that membership will provide many benefits.

Christina Rose Fernandez, a sophomore Asian studies major and newly inducted member commented that since Phi Eta Sigma is such a well-known honor society, she believes she'll have a chance to stand out from other applicants in professional settings.

According to Powell, what sets Phi Eta Sigma apart from other national honor societies is that it's the oldest one in the nation that strictly recognizes the academic achievements of freshman students.

Before Phi Eta Sigma there were already honor societies recognizing the academic efforts of upper-division students in colleges and universities, however, there were none in existence that recognized the achievements of lower-division students.

Acknowledging this, the society's two founders got together to address the lacking representation for freshman students by promoting and awarding their significant academic performances, according to Powell.

Aside from over 25 undergraduate students inducted into the University's chapter, Tony Vu recognized Vanessa

SEE HONOR, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Bombing houses in Gaza violated international law, Israeli rights group charges

In the most extensive report yet on Israel's policy of bombing homes during last summer's war in Gaza, the Israeli human rights group B'tselem said Wednesday that some of the attacks violated international law while others raised "grave concern" of such violations.

The study, which examined 70 incidents in which 606 Palestinians were killed, noted that despite the "foreseeable, horrifying consequences" of the bombing of homes filled with

civilians, top Israeli government and military officials continued the policy for weeks.

B'tselem, the most prominent Israeli rights group documenting alleged violations by security forces in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, said it had sent the report to the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but there was no immediate public comment from the government or the military.

Israel strikes Syrian government positions after rockets land on Golan Heights

Israeli aircraft struck Syrian government artillery positions early Wednesday as tensions mounted along the Israeli-held Golan Heights a week and a half after an Israeli airstrike killed an Iranian general and six members of the militant group Hezbollah.

Israeli army spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner said the

early morning airstrikes were in response to the firing from Syria of at least two rockets that struck the Golan Heights on Tuesday. The rockets landed in open areas and caused no damage, but Israeli forces have been on high alert for retaliation since the deaths of the Iranian and Hezbollah members.

New Islamic State video sets 24-hour deadline for release of Iraqi bomber

The Islamic State on Tuesday gave the Japanese and Jordanian governments less than 24 hours to release a female militant who's been on Jordan's death row since 2005, in exchange for the release of a kidnapped Japanese journalist and the life of a captured Jordanian fighter pilot.

The demand for the release of Sajida al-Rishawi, an Iraqi woman involved in the suicide

bombings of three luxury hotels in Amman, Jordan, more than nine years ago, highlights how closely linked the Islamic State remains to its predecessor organization, al-Qaida in Iraq, which the United States once thought it had defeated. The operation that led to al-Rishawi's arrest, which killed at least 57, was al-Qaida in Iraq's largest ever outside of Iraq.

University to host lecture on energy usage

NAYLEEN MOLINA
Contributing
news@fiusm.com

When the topic in question is energy, Edward Glab is ready to speak.

Glab, a professor in the School of International and Public Affairs and the director of the Global Energy Outlook, which was inaugurated in 2003, is hosting the annual Global Energy Outlook Forum to 2040 in February.

According to Glab, one of the results behind the event is that the government uses these outlooks to invest and prepare to deal with changes in energy supply, thus leading to the generation of useful energy policies.

These outlooks provide an opportunity to draft overall deals for private sector organizations to establish business plans. They explore the global energy context within which the world will implement new energy policies and measures to address global warming.

Having worked for over 25 years as an energy executive, Glab has also worked over 10 years as an energy consultant and professor, teaching and leading the Global Energy Security Forum at the School of International and Public Affairs.

Other experts in energy usage will also be at the event.

Among them is Nick Jones,

energy advisor in ExxonMobil's Corporate Strategic Planning department. Jones will serve as a guest speaker, addressing the importance of energy usage and its applications within the corporate and higher educational realms -- such as the one to which the University belongs.

Working in the planning department of energy usage, Jones will be presenting on the topic of global energy and will discuss possible outcomes for petroleum and natural gas usage.

He will also present to those in attendance various forms of energy producers like hydraulic factories, nuclear factories and solar panels, among others, and will draw on the importance of these energy producers and their influence over the coming 25 years.

Glab believes that students should take advantage of the event.

He stressed the notion that energy is all around us and it is vital to focus on the best way to spend it and keep it for a very long time.

Some students agreed.

"Energy conservation is relevant to students because we have a limited amount of non-renewable resources," said Jose Maldonado, a sophomore computer science major. "One must also consider the impact that energy usage has on global warming."

Energy usage can encompass

anything from using oil to electricity, but one of the most important forms is the use of chemical energy for agriculture production.

According to Glab, it's important to teach students about this particular topic, especially the dangers of overuse and the direction in which energy is going.

Glab also cited the importance of generating change to use more biofuels, solar power and wind power, which will lead students to not use a carbon footprint.

Rather than have the lecture be strictly political, focusing on climate change and the current circumstance to produce better policies for the long run, Glab wants to generate a discussion that will engage the public.

The event will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2015 in the MARC Pavillion at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, and will run from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Those interested in attending must register. To RSVP, call 305-348-7266 or go to <http://energyforum.fiu.edu/events/>.

According to Glab, it is important that people focus on the best way to spend energy.

"Energy is life," Glab said. "Without energy, there is no life."

Additional reporting was conducted by Adrian Suarez Avila and Nicole Montero.

FIU's Model UN Team going to Harvard for competition

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Republic of the Congo.

But from the endless variety of topics, Roberts find Africa to be especially interesting.

"I find the systematic disadvantages

imposed on many of the people there proof of man's evil," he said. "But the growth and change in Africa, despite this history, is proof of man's resilience and ability to change and create hope."

This year, the team hopes to travel as a

large delegation and to continue receiving awards and recognition for their performance. They also hope to place first at the Harvard conference on Feb. 12.

"We have really been trying to travel as a large delegation," said Roberts. "Our goal

is to repeat our performance from last year's Harvard National Model UN Conference and win a Large Delegation Award."

The team is currently accepting applications to the program. Those interested in applying may visit modelun.fiu.edu.

University honor society rechartered after hiatus

HONOR, PAGE 1

Vazquez, assistant director of event management at the Graham Center in the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, as an honorary member for all her help with aiding the organization.

Executive board positions for the chapter were also filled at the induction ceremony.

Anibal Enrique Morales was voted as the new treasurer, and Jahkell Lazarre as the new vice president.

Jannell Padron, senior international business and finance major and president of the University's chapter of Phi Eta Sigma, plans on returning to help the organization after graduation.

"Now that it's being chartered I hope to give it the foundation that it needs in order to succeed throughout the years [after I graduate,]" she said.

Those interested in getting more information about Phi Eta Sigma may visit its web page at www.phietasigma.org.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-5 PM
(305) 348-2709
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus:
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-5 PM
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Fax:
(305) 348-2712

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580

philippe.buteau@fiusm.com

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

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The number one spot at the bottom of the barrel

JEAN-PAUL BOSQUE
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

Miami is known as the second rudest city in the United States, right behind New York as seen on Travel+Leisure “Rudest Cities in America.”

I’m here to argue that. I think we Miamians have been cheated out of the number one spot. Its not fair to throw us out of the number one spot because of our lack of subways and smog.

Miamians are some of the rudest, most self centered people in all of the 50 states. Our driving skills and lack of road etiquette alone should be enough to reward us with the number one spot on Travel+Leisure’s “Rudest Cities in America.”

The fact that our self centeredness translates so often onto the road and could potentially cause an accident and hurt someone else is ridiculous to the point where we find ourselves joking about bad drivers here.

Like, is it really necessary to cut someone off because they looked at you wrong?

Yeah, we don’t have skyscrapers as high as some of the buildings in New York City, but our downtown skyline is built on cocaine money and corruption within our system. We don’t have a little Italy or little China, but we have La Sawera (Southwest) and Calle Ocho.

“
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We don’t have the famous Macy’s Day Parade, but we have ¡La Para de los Reyes magos, aseré. (The three Wise Men Day parade, my comrade). Even the way we talk about our city is rude and shows that even we don’t take ourselves seriously.

The Miamian walks around with a swagger of

exfoliated testosterone, Axe body spray, cafecito cubano and bulldog look that will scare the stripes off your shirt. He pulls up next to you at a red light and gives you that, “Hey man, wanna race man, cause I’ll so take you man, cause man bro, man man bro?”

We have to start asking when did we start priding ourselves with being obnoxious and ‘trying’ or challenging every other person that walks by because our ego needs to be inflated a little bit more. This kind of outward attitude already proves that we’re basically asking to be named number one in rudeness.

So why isn’t Miami in the top spot, are we still not rude enough? Is it because our streets don’t smell like garbage? Well, take another sniff Travel+Leisure, cause what you think smells like Axe body spray is just a cover up.

Take a walk down any other part of Miami but the beach and you’ll be greeted with the raw Miamian. The one that will make you sick to your stomach and make you cringe when you hear the song Welcome to Miami.

I still don’t get it and I don’t think I ever will.

Why you should drink more coffee

MEGHAN MACLAREN
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

Too much of anything is bad. We all know that. Too much candy, too much alcohol, even too much of the things that are supposed to be good for us.

Let’s be honest, when you’re running late for your 9 a.m. class, standing in a Starbucks line for 20 minutes trying not to get irritated by the mixture of overly happy morning people and overly impatient not-morning people isn’t really what you want to be doing.

But coffee can change your life.

I know that sounds extreme, but none of the most successful people in history got where they did by having ten hours of sleep every night.

Sleep is wonderful, but there are a lot of important things to get done – and if you haven’t realized that yet, you’re not in college for the right reasons. I’d love to be one of those ridiculously efficient people.

You know the ones who go through one task

and the next with a machine-like application while you’re still struggling to actually write your to-do list. Try as I might, I can’t make myself into one of those people.

But give me a couple of well timed coffee breaks during the day and suddenly I am one of those people. It might be artificial, but the work you’ll produce won’t be.

For any of the other coffee drinkers out there, you’ll know what I’m talking about. I don’t just mean the people who like going to Starbucks because it’s Starbucks, the ones who alternate between various types of frappucino and rejoice when the beginning of the fall brings the pumpkin spice latte with it.

I mean the ones who are tired – not just wanting some more sleep tired, but the tired of trying to find inspiration in a world where people themselves leave you drained.

Until you have that first sip. And suddenly all of that mess fades into the background; an abstract blur that is somehow now easy to keep at bay.

All of the ideas and knowledge that had been simmering on the fringes of your brain is able and ready to get turned into something concrete.

Something you can put on a page. Something that will get you an A, or boost your resume or inspire your classmates. College isn’t easy – if

“
Sleep is wonderful, but there are a lot of important things to get done – and if you haven’t realized that yet, you’re not in college for the right reasons.”

you want it to be, it can be the most fun four years of your life – but you can go out and party regardless of whether you’re in college or not.

But you might not have access to the opportunities that college gives you once your four years are up. Don’t let tiredness keep you from achieving all the things that you are capable of achieving.

Try not to completely rely on coffee. It’s hard, trust me. Try not to get to the stage where it’s mid-morning and you have a headache for no

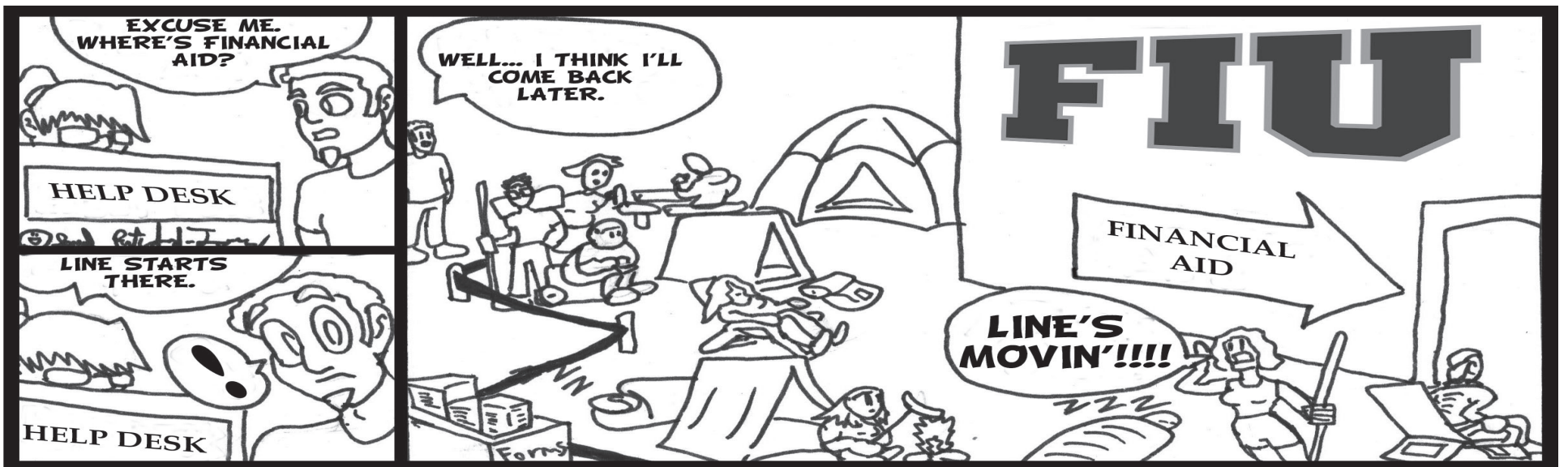
reason other than lack of caffeine.

But if one more espresso shot is what it takes to get that paper done or that extra hour of studying in, don’t give up and go to sleep.

Don’t go out and party again. Ease out the alcohol and ease in the coffee. You’ve got work to do.

FRANK AND IRENE: Tent Time

SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON



SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

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DakaBoom act brings music performance, comedy together

AMANDA RABINES
Entertainment Director
amanda.rabines@fiusm.com

For Ben McLain and Paul Peglar, high school in northern California was a combination of jazz choir, and a cappella groups.

They learned falsettos, baritones, crescendos, and harmonics and in the midst of learning performing arts they quickly learned they'd become friends.

"We became insta-besties," said McLain who has a stage act with Peglar as the travel comedy duo, Dakaboom.

The two performed at FIU in the Graham Center's Ballroom, Monday at 6 p.m. and livened up the crowd with a show that mixed humor,

theater, opera, jazz and hip hop.

They yelled, danced, cried, sang, and screamed during different parts of their show while interacting with the audience.

Some of their sets included catchy mash-ups and loud acts which all revolved around their friendship on stage.

McLain says most of their skits were made for fun and show, but some are derived from real life experience, like college life and trying to land an acting role in Los Angeles.

"There's definitely truth behind it," said McLain. "It's really frustrating being an auditioning actor in Los Angeles, it's incredibly hard because you're rejected, you're rejected and you're rejected."

Peglar went to UCLA to



AMANDA RABINES/THE BEACON

Ben McLain (left) and Paul Peglar, the comedy duo DakaBoom, perform at the Graham Center Ballrooms on Monday, Jan. 26.

study musical theater and McLain went to UC Irvine to study opera and acting.

Now they travel to different colleges to perform their comedy skit and before

coming to FIU, the two had a show at Saginaw Valley State in Michigan.

Though the two went to highschool together, they split for over four years while they went to college.

"There was a girl who kind of instigated the separation," said Peglar. The tried not to laugh and quickly digressed.

"College we did on our own thing and then moved in with each other in L.A.," said McLain "We hit the ground running and tried to act. It was a lot of cattle calls."

But what really started Dakaboom, was their high school.

"We really started doing this because we wanted to do a fundraising show for our old high school," said Peglar. "So

we put together Dakaboom because we were heavily involved with the music department there, and I think it was more an excuse for us to do something."

Even their name, Dakaboom, can be accredited to their schooling, specifically in Peglar's ballet class where his professor would recite "Tic Taka Boom" as a way to give instructions.

We created something of our own," said McLain. "So we put together an hour's worth of material and went back and put on a show and built our repertoire and kind of one thing led to another."

You can see a video interview with Dakaboom on fiusm.com.

Dating apps: Am I your Cinderella?

COLUMNIST



MARLISA PONCE

Dating apps are all the rage nowadays. Not only are they user friendly, they're also the fastest and easiest way to meet new people.

Our generation relies heavily on technology as well as being able to do practically anything on our phones, which makes dating apps that much more in demand.

Dating apps have been around for a while now, but have only recently blown up in the past few years. Apps like OK Cupid, Plenty of Fish and Tinder have all grown in popularity.

Tinder is a combination of a hook-up and dating app, making it one of the most popular applications available to iPhone and Android owners.

With functions that allow for a quick swipe to the right to "like" someone, Tinder has

definitely been the MVP of the dating world.

Tinder has caught the attention of not only FIU students, but also found a home in the Sochi Winter Olympics last year. American slopestyle gold medalist Jamie Anderson told Us Weekly that she had to delete her Tinder app in order to keep her from being distracted.

One of the pros to Tinder is that it allows you to know how close or far within the 100-mile radius the person on the other side is. This is extremely useful when traveling and trying to meet up with locals to show you around.

Another application that has increasingly grown its member list is OkCupid. Originally forming from TheSpark.com, OkCupid has become another front-runner for those looking to network, or for just fun.

Anthony Santovenia, a senior communications major, was asked whether or not he would recommend OkCupid to

someone else.

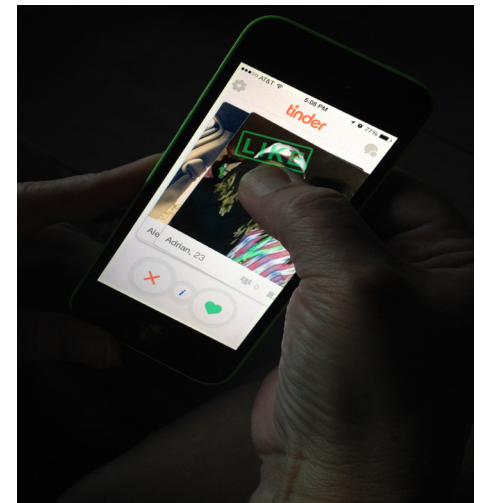
"I wouldn't recommend it to someone looking for something serious but if you're trying to have fun and meet new people, yes," Santovenia said.

Meeting someone from online will probably always be a bit awkward or flat out scary, but as the world changes so do the rules in the dating world and how we meet one another.

According to pewinternet.org, one in ten Americans have used a mobile dating app or website themselves.

So if you're debating on whether to get Tinder, OkCupid or whatever other dating app that's caught your attention, go for it. You never know--maybe the hottie that sits in front of you is on it as well.

-marlisa.ponce@fiusm.com



MARLISA PONCE/THE BEACON

Online dating applications are currently within common use during today's generation. Pictured above is one of the most talked about apps, Tinder.

CARTOONS

LOLLAPALOOZA

Margaret and Roswell are coming to FIU. You can find these time travellers and follow their weekly adventures at The Beacon.

LENNY PEREZ/THE BEACON



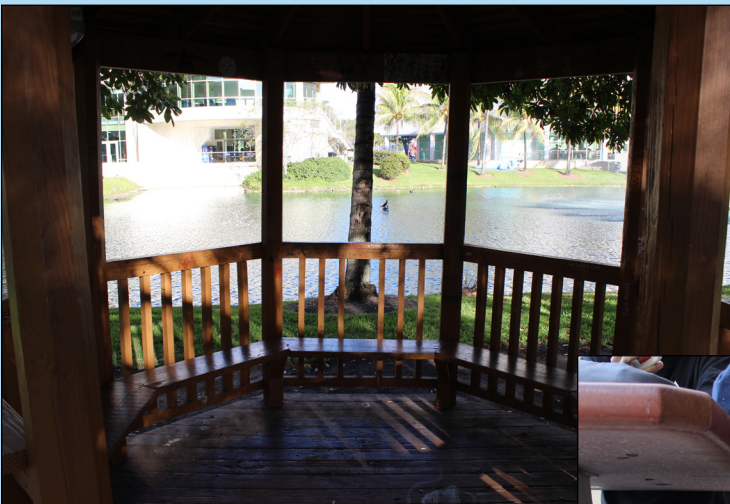
Top Tres: Best hangout spots on campus



PHOTOS BY DIEGO SALDAÑA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

TOP: The swinging tables outside of the Ernest R. Graham Center is the number one spot to hang out on campus.

CENTER: The gazebo between Lakeview Hall and the lake outside the Frost Art Museum is the second best spot to hangout on campus.



RIGHT: The breezeway by the P.O.D. of the University Towers buildings is the third best spot to hangout on campus.



TOP TRES



RHYS WILLIAMS

There are a lot of different places on campus that students choose to hang out, grab bites to eat, or study. Here are my top three for the best places to hang out.

No. 1

The swinging tables outside of the Ernest R. Graham Center.

These are usually filled up but if you get the chance to get inside of one of these, it is a great spot for a date, lunch with friends, or if you are brave enough to fight through the wind and/or heat, to do some homework.

It is my top spot because it has the perfect combination of view, exclusiveness, and ways of use.

No. 2

The gazebo in between Lakeview Hall and the Frost Art Museum lake - which I am naming Lowell Lake after FIU Baseball alum and former MLB World Series MVP Mike Lowell - for a nice place to sit where you can look at ducks, hang out with some friends, or be

on a phone call with some privacy and a good view.

The side of this that knocks it down: there is no table to put stuff on and it may or may not be used for some publically frowned upon (illegal) activities.

No. 3

Breezeway by the P.O.D. of the University Towers buildings.

It is probably the most social place out of my top three and has an option for food right near tables and benches.

If you can grab a table and not get hit by water balloons from above then it is worth it.

You probably won't get any homework done and as the name suggests it can get pretty windy. "Loudness" is also a factor both in sound and other ways.

Top Tres is done for every Friday issue of The Beacon and on fiusm.com.

The view of the Top Tres do not represent the views of FIU Student Media.

If you wish to suggest an FIU topic for Rhys Williams to give his top three for send him an email at rhys.williams@fiusm.com.

-rhys.williams@fiusm.com

"Vulnicura" is Björk best album in over a decade

ALBUM REVIEWS



DAVID SANABRIA

musical styles and creative minds.

Her vision and collaborations have led to several stunning albums, each of which is a departure from the preceding release. She is an artist who is unafraid of creating bizarre and seemingly unorthodox music.

For 2015, Björk intrigues our ears with "Vulnicura," a trip into her gloomy landscape.

The nine-track album features Venezuelan-born producer and Kanye West collaborator Arca.

The album deals with her thoughts and emotions shortly after the breakup with visual artist Matthew Barney.

The album begins with

Icelandic singer Björk is known for her varied discography, featuring sounds that originate from an array of cultures,

opener "Stonemilker." This track contains a steady buildup which evolves into grandiose instrumentation.

A full orchestra plays while Björk clearly conveys her emotions through her lyrics; the

include some of the darkest pulsing rhythms on the album, complements Björk's somber poetry.

"Notget" sounds like a bonus track from her 2007 album "Volta," that is, until

“The songs are fascinating, complex and immersive.

same as she always has.

The second track, "Lionsong," features Björk's modulated voice over Arca's sublime beats and some soothing violins. She announces "Maybe he will come out of this" which alludes to Barney.

Ten-minute track "Black Lake" illustrates the vocalist at her lowest. The beats, which

Arca introduces an apocalyptic synthesizer. The song later dissolves into near anarchy, displaying one of the highlights of Björk and Arca's collaboration.

Antony, who was featured on "Volta," makes his presence known on "Atom Dance." His duet with the celebrated vocalist works great with the atmosphere of the album.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHIRLAINE FORREST, VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

Icelandic singer Björk is known for her varied discography, featuring sounds that originate from an array of cultures, musical styles and creative minds.

He brings his voice, laden with effects, to meet Björk's, and the result is a mind-bending experience that must be heard.

Already nine studio albums into her career, Björk shows no

signs of quitting or running out of fresh ideas.

The songs are fascinating, complex and immersive. Her willingness to work with forward-thinking artists, both for the music and the album artwork, leads her vision into innovative directions.

Artist: Björk
Album: Vulnicura
Rating: 4/5

"Vulnicura" displays her desire to experiment, a drive found in her previous works.

This is her best album since "Vespertine."

David Sanabria writes album review biweekly on the latest hits and releases of alternative music.

-david.sanabria@fiusm.com

Offensive Line Recruit Williams Flips Commit from FIU

JACOB SPIWAK
 Staff Writer
 jacob.spiwak@fiusm.com

FIU football got a tough piece of news earlier this week when Richard Williams, an offensive lineman from Hollywood, FL who was nationally regarded as a 2/3-star player, decided to decommit from FIU and

join the Florida Atlantic University Owls.

Williams, who committed to FIU on Jan. 18, was expected to be a key player moving forward for Ron Turner's Panthers.

FIU lost five offensive linemen from last season, three of which were starters, so the need for the position was obvious and Williams was thought to be

a great fit.

However, Williams took his official visit to Boca Raton to see what the Owls had to offer, and he determined that FAU was the place for him.

He spoke with FAUOw- lAccess.com and discussed what led him to make a final decision.

"I felt at home when I visited FAU," Williams

said. "The coaches did a great job of recruiting me."

He officially decommitted from FIU earlier this week via his Twitter account. His first Tweet stated that he "just [decommitted] from FIU." He followed that up with another Tweet containing a photo of him wearing an FAU jersey and stated, "with much thought...I have decided to commit to FAU. Best decision for me...let's make history!"

The decommitment actually came after Williams spent the night on FIU's campus during an official visit with the team he originally signed with. Williams felt more comfortable in Boca Raton, so he changed his mind and committed to FAU.

"After the first day at FIU I knew I didn't want to be there," Williams said. "It wasn't the environment

I wanted to be in. I just felt more comfortable at the FAU campus [than I did] at the FIU campus."

Williams is a 275-pound lineman who played at Everglades High School in Miramar, FL. He was given a 3-star rating from ESPN's recruiting website, and gets a 2-star rating from 247Sports. Aside from FIU and FAU, he also received offers to play at Wagner University who was FIU's first victory during the 2014 season, Samford University and Fordham University.

This decommitment came less than two weeks before National Signing Day, which is where schools across the country receive official letters of intent from their future players.

National Signing Day marks the day when teams will know which players

will officially be apart of their roster next season.

According to 247Sports, after the decommitment of Williams, FIU's class of commits is currently ranked 84th nationally and fourth in Conference USA. This ranking is the best the Panthers have gotten since the 2012 recruiting class that included Jeremiah McKinnon, Michael Wakefield and Davison Colimon, among many others.

However, the class for next season is not set in stone yet, as there are still more student athletes yet to officially declare where they will be attending in 2015.

There will be a lot more clarity as to who will be included on the Panthers roster after players begin to sign their letters of intent next week.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD WILLIAMS' TWITTER

Richard Williams, a high school lineman who was previously committed to join the Panthers this upcoming season, has decommitted and will now be playing at Florida Atlantic University.

Panthers Fall Flat at Florida Classic

RAYMOND SIXTO
 Contributing Writer
 sports@fiusm.com

Monday, Jan. 26, the golf team kicked off its Spring season against the state's best at the Florida Challenge in Ocala, FL. Unfortunately for the Panthers they did not get off to the start they wanted to this Spring. They finished in last place and had one of their worst performances of the year.

Junior Meghan MacLaren entered the tournament as the team's number one golfer but did not perform like it. She finished third best on the team and

placed tied for 21st place by shooting 81-74 - 155. It was her two worst rounds of the entire year. It was the first time this season that MacLaren has not finished with the best score on the team or in the top 10 of the final standings.

Freshman Katrina Krasova entered the tournament as the team's number two golfer and performed just as expected. She turned in her third top 20 finish of year. She finished tied for 19th final player standings after she shot 75-79 - 154.

Sophomore Coralina Arias was a bright spot in the tournament. She came into the tournament as the team's third golfer on

the team yet finished with the best score of all the Panthers. She finished tied for 16th in the final player standings. She shot, 75-78 - 153, a 9-over-par score. It was the third time she finished in the top 20 this year.

Sophomore Camila Serrano and Junior Carla Jane entered the tournament as the team's fourth and fifth golfers respectively. Serrano shot, 79-79 - 158, 14-over-par and finished tied 26th in the overall final player standings. Jane shot, 79-84 - 163, 19-over-par and tied for 30th overall.

Juniors Jasmine Wade and Sophie Godley also competed individually

for FIU during the Florida Challenge. Wade shot, 76-85 - 161, 17-over-par and finished 29th overall in the final player standings. Godley shot, 85-87 - 172, 28-over-par and finished 37th overall in the final player standings.

The University of Miami and University of South Florida both tied for first to win the tournament, followed by the University of Florida in third, Florida State in fourth, and FIU in fifth place. The golf team won't play again until February 23rd when they play in the 2015 Amelia Island Collegiate on Amelia Island, FL.

FIU to give Conference USA a run for their money

COLUMNIST

 LOUIS AGUDELO

We are a little over two weeks away from the first pitch of 2015 and Conference USA baseball looks to be just as much, if not more, of a tight race as last season.

In 2014, 9 of the 12 teams finished with no more than a seven-game difference in conference play.

Rice University is projected to lead the pack, being the only CUSA school to crack the Perfect Game USA Preseason Top 25 list as No. 21 and the Division-1 baseball Top 25 list as No.13. Rice will be led this season by Second Team All-American Blake Fox. The junior stepped off of the mound after the 2014 season with an astounding 1.46 era, 12 wins, and not a single loss.

Florida International University is expected to finish the season as a close second place, which would be

quite the accomplishment, in their first season without All-American and Conference USA player of the year, Aramis Garcia. Garcia was drafted and signed to the World Champion San Francisco Giants in the second round of the 2014 MLB draft.

Projected to finish closely behind FIU is the University of Southern Mississippi. USM looks to repeat their in-conference dominance from a year ago. They'll be doing so behind senior slugging Designated Hitter Matt Durst. A season ago they went 19-11 against their respective CUSA opponents, but the task at hand might be a bit different, as the landscape changes a bit with Western Kentucky University joining the conference this season.

The rest of CUSA shouldn't be forgotten about though, as the next six on the list of remaining schools not mentioned, each have at least one all conference player playing for their respective team. That is tough to

achieve, all things considered, when you realize that the top three teams in the conference account for seven all

conference selections of the entire 16 player list. All in all, the 2015 season shapes up to be an interesting and

competitive one for sure. FIU's season opener is on Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. against the University of Tennessee at FIU.

2015 Conference USA Projections (W/L denotes 2014 totals)					
	Team	W*	L*	W	L
1	Rice		23	7	42
2	Florida Internati		16	14	35
3	Southern Missis		19	11	35
4	Florida Atlantic		14	16	28
5	Texas-San Anto		16	14	35
6	UAB		20	10	35
7	Old Dominion		17	13	36
8	Middle Tenness		17	13	31
9	Western Kentuc		15	15	29
10	Marshall		10	19	20
11	UNC Charlotte		10	19	19
12	Louisiana Tech		5	25	15

*Conference Wins and Losses

Halfway through Season, Men Seeking to Regain Early Style

COLUMNIST



DAVID DRUCKER

The men's basketball team is double-double. The win over Florida Memorial pushed the men to a 3-0 start to the season.

The Panthers climbed out to a good start, but bumps in the road loomed ahead. Georgia Southern University was the first team to hand the Panthers a loss, despite the fact that Diaz scored 33 points.

They experienced defeat again at the hands of USC Upstate in a 53-68 loss in the Spartanburg Marriot Classic.

The next day in the event they managed to squeak by Wright State with a score of 61-59, only to lose by a narrow margin of 61-64 to California State Fullerton. They left the classic with a record of 4-3.

The remainder of the season up to the midway point was a tale of back and forth. FIU held Kennesaw State to just 38 points on their way to a win.

When they marched into Kentucky, however, to play Louisville – by far the Panthers' toughest opponent of the season –

things did not go as well.

The Cardinals scored points at will while sending FIU to an 82-57 defeat.

The men regrouped though and managed to take a 69-63 victory from Florida Gulf Coast Eagles. Back-to-back losses against LIU Brooklyn and Hartford sank the Panthers to .500, a winning percentage they would hover around for the next few games.

Two victories, a 76-55 win over Florida A&M and a 62-60 result against Florida Atlantic in their first conference action, seemed promising to put the Panthers back on track. They followed up these back-to-back wins, however, with back-to-back losses against Middle Tennessee and the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

The Panthers flashed late-game prowess in a 66-62 victory over Marshall, but couldn't seem to find in a decisive fourth-quarter against Western Kentucky. They

lost that contest by a score of 58-65.

Conference USA's team statistical rankings have put the Panthers all over the map. In scoring offense and three-point shot percentage, they are last.

In defending field goal percentage, they are first. Their individual leaders, however, represent their program well. Mavin leads all Conference USA scorers with 17.2 points per game.

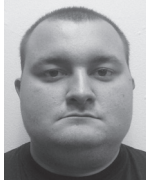
Junior forward Adrian Diaz also leads the conference in a statistical category; his .654 shooting percentage is the most efficient in the conference.

The Panthers have about half of a schedule – the portion slated with must-win conference games – to paint the overall narrative on the 2014-2015 season.

Whether it will resemble the highs of the beginning of the season or the inconsistencies in early conference play remains to be seen.

Hey NFL, Let the Players be Themselves

RHYS' PIECE



RHYS WILLIAMS

"I'm just here so I won't get fined," Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch said.

That is actually all he said for the Super Bowl XLIX

media day. He answered every question with that same saying. He did do a great press conference with the company Skittles, who he is sponsored by.

I think that the portion of why some players and fans deem as the "No Fun League" that fines - or threatens a fine - for things such as not speaking with the media, wearing gold cleats, or a semi-obscene touchdown celebration. That touchdown celebration, which Lynch has been fined for, is now being sold as part of a collage of photos by the NFL about the NFC Championship Game, that was held on Sunday, Jan. 18 where the Seahawks beat the Green Bay Packers for a trip to the Super Bowl.

This is also not the first time he has been threatened with a fine for not speaking to the media. There are almost too many times to list. However, I think this is a joke.

NFL players go through so much in a year for two things. The first is to play the game that they love at the highest level. That is the dream of every player, to get to the highest

level possible. The second is to entertain. Not simply to entertain in a straight-line, only for viewing pleasure, do not repeat at home kind of way, but also to entertain enough to get a child or two to go outside and play. Such as one of the best portions - to me - of the NFL, the Play 60 initiative.

They have to work so hard, beat their bodies down, and some even deflate balls to be the best every year. If they don't want to speak with the media, they should not have to. Something that the NFL has to remember is that the administration is there to serve the players and put forth the best product that they can. If a help for that could be to not require the players to speak with the media then so be it. There are plenty of players who are fine with speaking with the media and even if they aren't the most relevant, they can still speak.

Yes, the argument there is that Lynch is arguably the best player on the Seahawks roster, and probably Top 10 in the league overall. So he should be more willing to speak with media since more people want to hear what he has to say than they want a soundbite or quote from the backup left guard. However, if he doesn't want to, if he just wants to focus on the game, he should be allowed to do that without the fear of being fined.

Also, if a player wants to wear

his or her own brand of headphones, or cleats, they should be able to. I know that won't happen because the administration is all about getting money from their partnerships with such companies as Bose and Nike among others but I have a simple way to do this. Do not sell anything NFL related that is not made by a sponsor but let the players do what they wish. They will get their team gear, which will show the sponsorships but also have some freedom in the choice of headphones that they use.

They need to remember that the players have the ability to sign with any brand or company as a sponsor.

Don't get me wrong with all of this though. I am here at FIU as a Physical Education for Coaching major and one day want to coach at the highest level but I would much rather be a part of a league that gives more thought to the lives of players.

To end off I would just like to let everyone know something.

"I'm just writing this so I don't get fired."

Rhys Piece is a weekly column on both FIU and National sports news that goes on. The views shown by Rhys' Piece are not necessarily the views of The Beacon, its Editorial Board, or FIU Student Media. Check back every Friday for the latest edition of Rhys' Piece and email rhys.williams@fiusm if you have a topic that you would like to suggest.

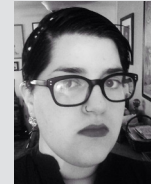
The Beacon Editorial Board Super Bowl XLIX Predictions



Seattle Seahawks

vs.

New England Patriots



JUNETTE REYES

Editor-in-Chief

Seahawks: 28-22

The Seahawks won last year so I think they will do it again.



JORGE CORRALES

Sports Director

Seahawks: 21-17

Seattle has an overpowering defense. One of the best the league has ever seen. New England is extremely reliant on establishing the run game in order to get Tom Brady and the passing game going. Also, the footballs will be fully inflated.

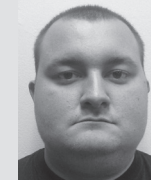


ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE

Asst. Sports Director

Seahawks: 24-17

Marshawn Lynch puts the team on his back doe.



RHYS WILLIAMS

Production Manager

Seahawks: 34-26

Defense wins championships and there is no argument that the Seahawks have a better one. Plus Wilson and Lynch make a greater duo than Brady and Gronk.



ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA

News Director

Patriots: 35-28

My money is on Brady.



AMANDA RABINES

Life! Director

Seahawks: 31-21

The sky was blue today so I chose the Seahawks.



CAMILA FERNANDEZ

BBC Managing Editor

Seahawks: 28-23

Because Seattle is a good team. Simple as that.



STEPHANIE PIEDRAHITA

Opinion Director

Seahawks: 100-0

I have no knowledge on sports teams and want to be a bandwagoner like everyone else in Miami.



MARIA SOLEDAD LORENZINO

Multimedia Editor

Seahawks: 36-14

Because football. Do the thing, score the points.

HONORING JOSE MARTI



MARCIA AKSU/THE BEACON

Guillermo Perez, FIU's President's staff, pulls the cover off the Jose Marti statue during the unveiling at the Jose Marti breakfast on Wednesday, Jan. 28.

Health Enrollment Event for a Healthy FIU Community

MARIA C. SERRANO
Staff Writer
maria.serrano@fiusm.com

With the ObamaCare enrollment deadline only a couple weeks away, FIU will host its final Health Insurance Information Enrollment Event at the Biscayne Bay Campus Feb. 7.

For the past year, FIU Health, Student Health Services, and FIU Law set a campaign on the Affordable Care Act to inform the FIU Community on their health insurance options.

As part of the plan, this year, the FIU departments/divisions started a collaborative effort with the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act (PPACA) workgroup, Enroll America and Health Council of South Florida to bring as much health information as possible to FIU campuses.

Based on a survey done by 460 students by the FIU Healthcare Network on August 2014 during Week of Welcome, 70 percent of them were insured — 47 percent of them through their parents' health insurance plans.

According to University alumna Natalie Castellanos, the supervising attorney in FIU Law's Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic, students, faculty, staff and relatives sit down with federally-certified in-person-assisters to guide them through the application process.

She said they offer free guidance so they can get covered before the Feb. 15 deadline. They present different health insurance plans and help determine if the person is eligible for financial assistance whether for first-time enrollment, or to re-enroll.

Milton Vázquez, Field Organizer of Enroll America, said, "Federally-certified in-person-assisters (sic) can offer counsel about the intricacies of health insurance."

"So that the FIU Community (sic) can not only get covered, but understand what their coverage means and how they can make the most of it," Vázquez said.

Similar events held previously at FIU have

helped to open up the dialogue about the importance of having health insurance and create awareness about the Affordable Care Act.

"The students (sic) could have to pay a fine of \$395 or 2% of their taxable income, whichever is greater," Milton said. "This is in addition to the hundreds of dollars they could have to spend on doctor's visits and prescription medicines, even for simple illnesses."

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, many adults fall into a "coverage gap" of having incomes below the lower limit for Marketplace premium tax credits but above Medicaid eligibility limits, and this includes some FIU students.

Roberto Rodriguez, a junior music major, "I don't make any money and the State of Florida has no Medicaid, so I am exempt from having Obama Care, but, at the same time, I do not qualify for Medicaid."

For students like Roberto who have limited options because they fall in the Medicaid gap, the event team informs them about their FIU Student Health Fee, and all other primary care services available to them on campus, either free of charge or for a nominal fee.

"Healthcare can be very complicated and expensive," said Mariela V. Gabaroni, Associate Director of Student Health Services.

"Not having health insurance when one has a medical or (sic) health care need can have significant financial, and ultimately academic impact, for our students," said Mariela.

The event team also works to let the FIU Community know that the student health fee they pay each semester is not an insurance plan.

It provides prevention, on-campus primary care, and mental health services during the semester they are paid by the student, but there is no more coverage beyond that.

According to Milton, the average monthly premium paid by Floridians who received assistance through the marketplace was \$68 in the last enrollment period.

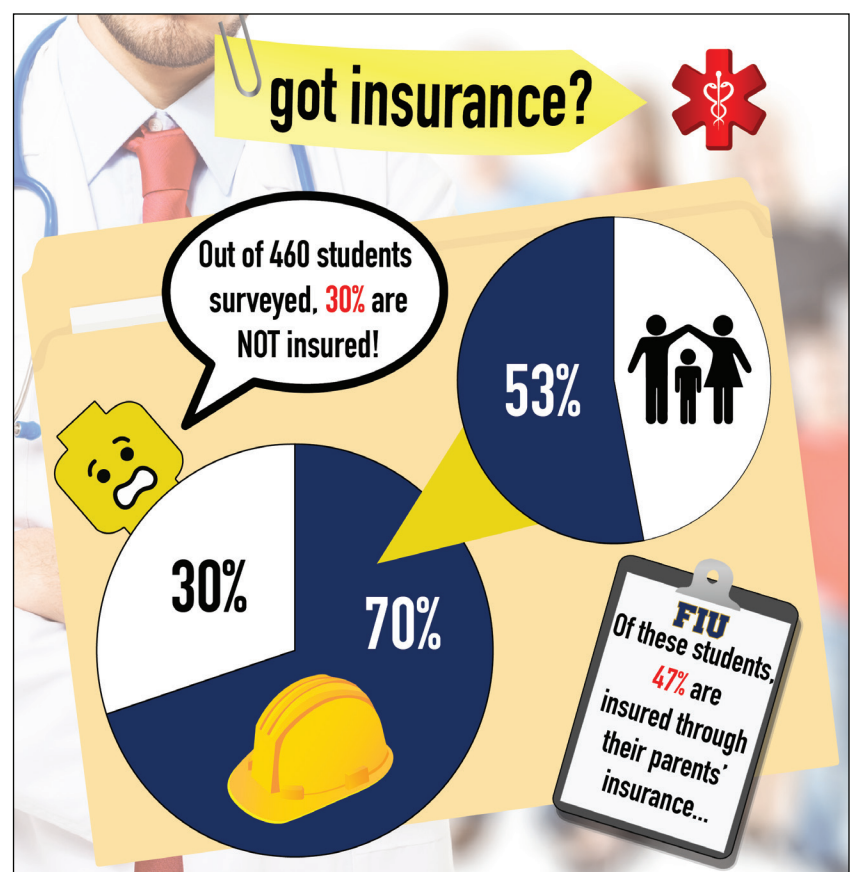
"So far this enrollment period, 94% of those

who have enrolled in this state have received assistance," said Milton.

For information about what documentation is needed to complete the enrollment process at the event, students can visit: http://student-health.fiu.edu/insurance-and-fees/affordablecare/FIU_Health_Insurance_Information_Enrollment_Event.html

The Health Insurance Information Enrollment Event

Biscayne Bay Campus
Hubert Library,
2nd floor
Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015
From 10am to 1pm



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

According to an August 2014 data collected by the FIU Healthcare Network during Week of Welcome, out 460 students surveyed, 70 percent were insured — 47 percent of which through their parents' insurance.