

## FIU to offer only doctorate of its kind in U.S.

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Imagine having to travel to another continent to pursue studies in an academic discipline not offered in your country.

For Harry Rhea, assistant professor of criminal justice, this was a reality that he had to confront.

Although he wanted to pursue doctoral studies in international criminal justice, the only programs in his radar were located in Europe, with none being offered in the U.S. But that is about to change.

Starting in the fall semester of 2015, the University's Department of Criminal Justice will be offering the nation's first doctorate program in international crime and justice.

According to Rhea, who attended the National University of Ireland, Galway for doctoral studies, criminal justice curriculums in the United States feature a traditional approach to the discipline, offering courses that deal more with domestic affairs in the U.S., such as policing, court corrections, and juvenile justice.

His interest in international crime was piqued at the undergraduate level.

While pursuing a joint bachelor's-master's degree at Rutgers University, Rhea became acquainted with research topics in criminal justice that dealt with international

law, genocide, and crimes against humanity, among others.

Generally, students in the U.S. who are interested in topics within the realm of international crime attend law school, according to Rhea.

However, the difference between attaining a law degree with a specialization in international crime and a doctoral degree in the same field is that law school provides preparation to practice law on the subject, not to research it and perhaps become a government advisor or academic.

While researching doctoral programs in his desired field of study, Rhea set his sights on the National University of Ireland, which was home to one of the most prolific scholars in international law, William Schabas.

When travelling to Miami on a professional visit to the University, Rhea was astonished when Lisa Stolzenberg, chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, informed him that a doctoral program in international crime and justice was being considered.

"Within one second I knew I was taking the job," said Rhea.

Rhea admitted that he saw an opportunity to expand the traditional criminal justice curriculum, stating that he saw it as a chance not to create a specialization in undergraduate studies, but a more elaborate and focused Ph.D. program.

Some students think the new doctoral program is ideal.

"Since Miami is so diverse and FIU houses students from so many countries, I think the Ph.D. program will align perfectly with the school's mission to develop globally aware students," said Marie Desir, a senior biology major.

Stolzenberg agreed with the mention of Miami's diversity, stating that the city is a premier location for the Ph.D. program, considering the fact that Miami is home to an internationalized community.

Rhea mentioned that Florida is no stranger to international crimes.

According to Rhea, border states, such as Florida, are rife with crimes of forced labor, human trafficking, and sexual slavery among others. Immigration issues are also common in the state, with many individuals seeking asylum within the peninsula's borders.

"FIU... offers a great contribution to Miami and the state of Florida," said Rhea, who cited that people in the area will get the chance to not only study in Miami but perhaps also apply what is being learned in the classroom within the same city without having to relocate.

However, a lot of work did go into paving the way for the program's existence.

According to Dr. Rob Guerette, associate professor of criminal justice, discussions on the creation of

the doctoral degree started around 10 years ago.

Ph.D. programs have to be approved at the state level, and the Department of Criminal Justice needed to create a proposal for a doctorate that didn't duplicate any already-existing programs in the state or country.

In the effort of trying to identify something unique, the idea for the program was the only one of its kind in the U.S., filling a unique niche to further the understanding of international crime and justice issues.

Various University committees, the Provost's office, the Board of Governors of the University, and the state's committee had to approve that the program was unique.

Lisa Stolzenberg, along with Rhea and others, spearheaded the efforts to start the program, citing that the time was right—that the program went hand-in-hand with the University's strategic global initiative.

As the doctoral degree program was initially proposed as an online program, the proposal was denied more than once.

Once it was decided to be an on-site degree, it was approved.

The doctoral degree in international crime and justice will be open in the fall semester of 2015. Regardless of one's undergraduate training, those interested in the topics covered within the program can already start applying.

## Rec Center improves

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If you ask any student on campus that has visited the Recreation Center, probably their first complaint would be is that the Rec Center is too small. With having so many students in this school that frequently go to the gym it's easy to see why complaints would come up.

According to Robert Frye, Director of Recreation Services, "Last year there were over 410,000 users that came through this building."

With that staggering number, one can see why students were complaining that they had to wait to use certain machines to work out.

The plans to expand the rec center will finally lift off in late spring and it's going to be a 14 million dollar project which is funded through the CITF fund. The projected timeline for this project to be completed is fall of 2016, but obviously this is a tentative time table.

**SEE REC CENTER, PAGE 7**

## University to host deferred action seminar in GC

**NATALIE ALATRISTE**  
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Last fall the University's chapter of Students Working for Equal Rights, an organization that seeks to garner support for the rights of undocumented individuals, celebrated FIU becoming Florida's first public college to offer an out-of-state tuition waiver for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals students.

In spreading the word for the announcement last year, SWER held information sessions to inform students about the requirements for the program. This semester the organization has more information to share.

In keeping with its commitment to helping undocumented individuals, the organization seeks to provide other forms of support for those who can benefit from services such as the DACA program.

The newest development from President Barack Obama's executive action is the Deferred Action Parental Accountability program, which serves to extend the benefits of DACA to eligible parents of lawful permanent residents and U.S. citizens, according to Claudio Galaz, president of SWER at FIU.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, those who qualify for deferred action must prove to be no risk to national security or public safety, and must abide by several rules and regulations. The DACA program essentially allows children that were brought to the country before reaching 16 years of age to remain within the U.S.

Although the DAPA program was accepted

**The Deferred Action for Parental Accountability**

DAPA will be open to individuals who:

- Have a U.S. citizen or LPR son or daughter as of November 20, 2014
- Have continuously resided in the United States since before January 1, 2010
- Are physically present in the United States on November 20, 2014, and at the time of applying;
- Have no lawful immigration status on November 20, 2014
- Are not an enforcement priority, which is defined to include individuals with a wide range of criminal convictions (including certain misdemeanors), those suspected of gang involvement and terrorism, recent unlawful entrants, and certain other immigration law violators
- Present no other factors that would render a grant of deferred action inappropriate
- Pass a background check

Photo Credit: Light Brigading

KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

The parents of University students hoping to be eligible for deferred action must meet the following requirements.

and passed at the executive level by President Obama, some congressional leaders still aim to do away with the provision. According to Galaz, DACA gives children the hope to continue studying in the U.S. and the opportunity to work and remain in America for a certain period of time without the risk of removal proceedings from the country.

Despite the fact that the deferred action program is allowing undocumented immigrants to remain in the United States for a certain period

of time, it does not provide a "lawful status" to those who are approved.

"A lot of students and a lot of students' parents would qualify for deferred action programs such as DACA and DAPA if they became aware of the procedures and qualifications," Galaz said.

At this time, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is not accepting new applications for DAPA or the expanded DACA, according to the National Immigration Law Center.

Only renewals are allowed from those that

qualified in the June 2012 DACA criteria.

With these new developments, activists await the final announcement of the DACA and DAPA passing. DACA begins accepting applications on Feb. 20, 2015, and DAPA on May 20, 2015.

However, the acceptance of these bills is still pending, as Congress can still veto the programs.

Galaz, as well as all the members of FIU's SWER, as leading activists for FIU, are currently lobbying against the veto for these programs. Galaz's personal background is what inspired him to become an activist.

Having been born and raised in Chile, and having moved to America eight years ago, Galaz recently attained his residency. His largest concern is that those who qualify be aware of what the laws currently are and what steps should be taken to handle immigration status.

"We don't want people going to public notaries or immigration consultants and giving them money, thinking they'll get something in return," he said. "If someone needs help with this matter, they should visit a certified immigration lawyer only."

He says these scams commonly take money from people who are simply just trying to get help with their situation. SWER will be hosting a public seminar on the topic of deferred action on Jan. 31, 2015, in the Graham Center at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus at 11a.m. This informational session will give further insight and options for deferred action.

"Even though immigration reform hasn't been possible yet, I'm grateful that the President was able to pass these laws," said Galaz. "It's one step closer in the right direction. We need to keep fighting for those who don't have a voice."

# NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

## Obama watches the spectacle of India on parade

There were elaborate floats and colorfully attired children dancing, ornate floral displays and lots of soldiers, tanks and missiles. Even a camel-mounted military force complete with its own marching band.

And for the first time in history, a U.S. president in a place of honor to witness all of the grandeur that is India's Republic Day, which celebrates

India's transformation from colony to independent nation and the adoption of its constitution in 1950.

President Barack Obama served as the chief guest of one of this country's most patriotic holidays, a reminder of the inextricable tie the world's two largest democracies share despite a sometimes tense relationship.

## Libya oil production plummets as tribes fight to control field in south

Ubari, a ramshackle desert hub hundreds of miles from Libya's populous cities on the Mediterranean coast, was once a favored tourist destination, a picturesque pocket of the Sahara with dramatic sand dunes, oases and volcanic mountains.

Now, however, it's best-known for a bloody power struggle in the

desert near the southern borders where Libya meets Algeria, Niger and Chad, a desolate expanse where Libya's warring factions, unleashed by the revolt and NATO air campaign that toppled Moammar Gadhafi, battle for control of oil fields and smuggling routes.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

## CORRECTIONS

On page of 1 Vol. 26, Issue 35, the name of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity was mislabeled Phi Kappa Phi. On page 4 of Vol. 26, Issue 35, the story "Alpha Phi Alpha starts Too Dapper Tuesday trend" was misattributed to Samantha Cruz instead of to Stephanie Cruz. On page 5 of Vol. 26, Issue 35, the Student Spotlight piece does not identify the student in the photo as Vanessa Morales, a freshman communications major. On page 8 of Vol. 26, Issue 35, the quote in "University commemorates Cuban national hero" is supposed to be attributed to Raul Moncarz, the vice provost emeritus of FIU.

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

# Manhunt halted hours after FIU Alert released

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A convicted felon on the run miles from the Modesto Maidique Campus was captured last Friday, two hours after an University alert was released.

On Jan. 23, at 12:14 p.m., the University issued an FIU Alert stating Miami-Dade Police were searching for a 190 lb, white, barefoot male with a face tattoo and in a hospital gown at Southwest 107th Avenue and Eighth Street, 16 miles from MMC.

Nearly an hour later, at 1:04 p.m. another FIU Alert was issued that read, "ALL CLEAR RESUME NORMAL ACTIVITIES."

The suspect on the loose was Ivan Zapata, a 21-year-old man who escaped officer custody while being transported from Kendall Regional Medical Center at 11:40, Friday morning.

Zapata proceeded to steal a black Mercedes from a woman in the hospital parking garage and took off. Shortly after, the vehicle was found near the University at the location issued in the alert.

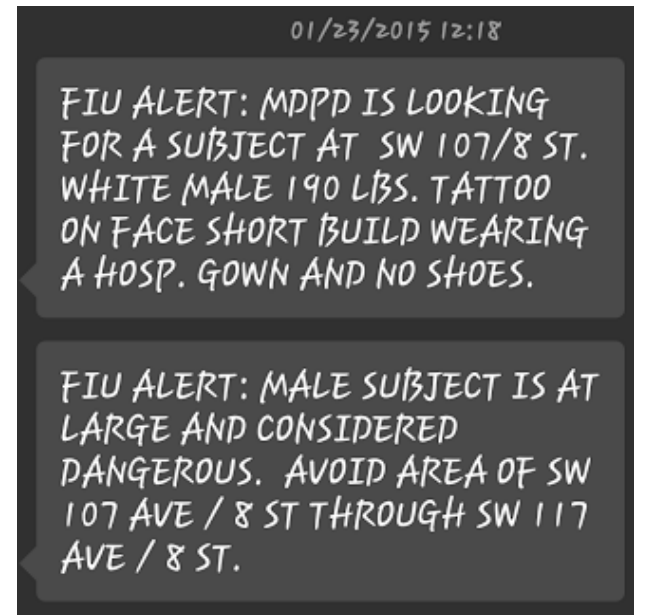
Once local police departments were notified of

Zapata's escape, Southwest 127th and 137th avenues and Eighth and 18th streets were sectioned off to continue the search.

At 2:22 p.m., about an hour after the University issued its

said Grant Berman, 109 Tower resident services manager.

Berman said a moderate lockdown was in effect when employees saw police activity in the area and were informed by officers of the situation.



last alert, Zapata was found in a home within the area sectioned off and was captured.

The off-campus residence hall 109 Towers, located at 737 Southwest and 109th Avenue, implemented a temporary lockdown during the manhunt.

"We locked our doors and monitored who came and left,"

He said a text message was sent to its residents at 12:40 p.m. through the hall's personal emergency text messaging system. At this time only residents were allowed to enter the building.

Later, at 1:10 p.m., the hall issued another text stating the lockdown was lifted.

# THE BEACON æ

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## Do you have mild to moderate acne?

We are currently conducting a clinical trial using a topical acne medication and a new acne device. If you are between the ages of 12 and 35 and have mild to moderate acne, this may be the study for you.

Study patients will be compensated for their time.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Dr. Mark S. Nestor at the Center for Clinical and Cosmetic Research at (305) 933-6716.

## Media priming helps and hinders freedom of speech

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The role of mass media and its different platforms like television, radio and newspapers, has recently been at the forefront of its own exertion of freedom of speech.

It is true that the media, especially the well known news sources, drives the discourse on culture and society.

This type of influence is called priming or media priming. Priming is the duration of an issue, or the amount of time the media keeps information alive and how often they provide it.

The longer the media devotes itself to that issue, the stronger the public view will become.

The recent events of the Sony Entertainment hacking by North Korea and the horrible terrorist attack in Paris have changed the way priming affects freedom of speech, which is a journalist's number one right.

Although freedom of

speech is evidently necessary, it goes to show how unfortunate it can turn out.

Each person should be able to write, say, and draw what they please without waiting for a violent death.

The hacking of Sony was not in any way physically violent but it jeopardized

to release the film, media coverage noticeably died down.

A limited showing of the film was a good decision but the hackers ultimately threatened our right of expression.

The lack of media coverage towards the end, in a way, kept

cultural and religious humor.

Printing weekly, it keeps current news alive.

The Muslim extremists who killed 12 people at Charlie Hebdo had a vendetta against freedom of expression.

It built intimidation within every facet of the media from the big news sources to small magazines like Charlie Hebdo.

Freedom of speech was violently shut down as this terrorist attack gruesomely let the world know not to insult their religion, not even by drawing.

The mass media and even French citizens used this event to march the streets as a form of expression and resistance towards the attack and the importance of freedom of expression.

In this case, media priming has not ceased. The mass media is so influential that it spreads a global stereotype of a culture, thereby linking an individual to that society.

Satire is clearly not taken lightly but even at the risk of violence, freedom of speech must always triumph over any obstacles.

“Although freedom of speech is evidently necessary, it goes to show how unfortunate it can turn out.”

reputations, jobs, personal information and businesses.

Media coverage dedicated most of the cyberattack controversy to the release of the comedy film “The Interview,” based on the assassination of North Korea's leader Kim Jon-un.

Major theater companies were fearful of terrorist attacks and only limited theaters released the movie.

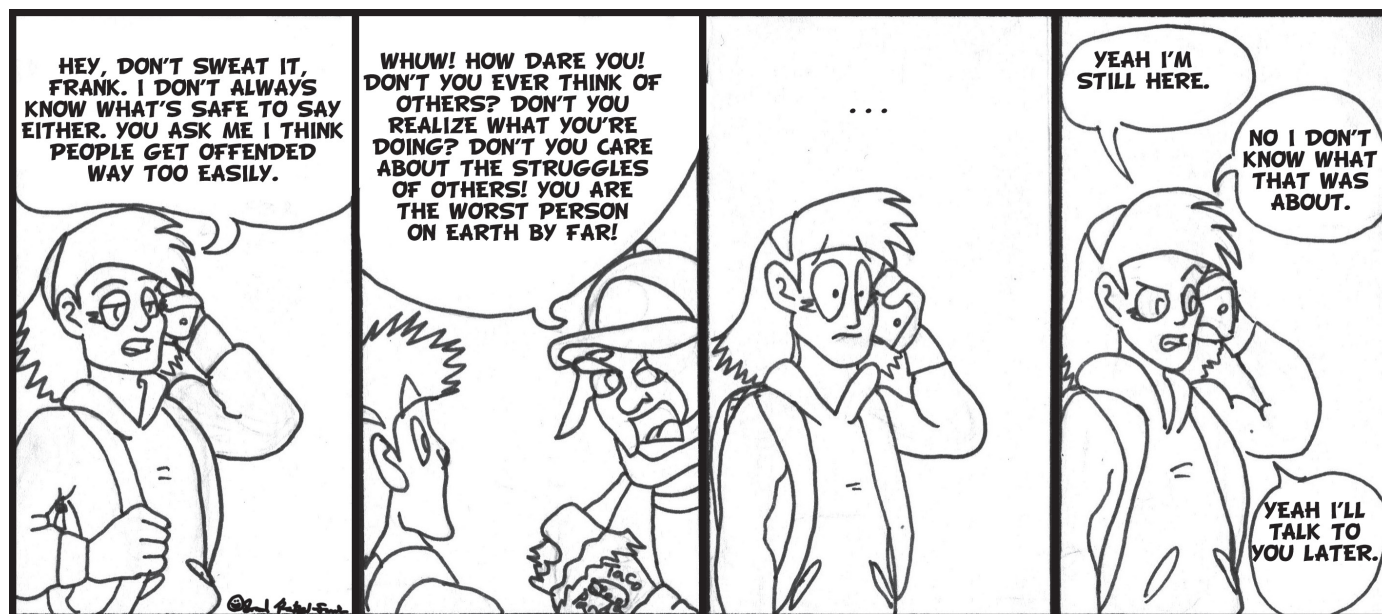
Shortly after the debate

the public safe and did not contribute to the distribution of hacked information.

There is no doubt that this was a cyber terror attack that challenged freedom of speech and media priming had to eventually lessen its influence on the public.

Much like “The Interview,” French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo devotes itself to challenging public opinion through their political,

## FRANK AND IRENE: Easily Offended



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

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

Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124 or apply at [fiusm.com](http://fiusm.com).

## THE BEACON | Editorial Free Community College: An Answer For Most

For a country that prides itself in giving everyone an equal opportunity to succeed, there hasn't been much done recently by our government to make this a reality. However with the introduction of President Obama's plan to offer free community college throughout the nation, there finally seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel that is student debt.

Students everywhere voiced their extreme appreciation for this measure by flooding multiple social media outlets with praise for this executive order, showing the country and world how big of an impact this proposal can have. If this resolution passes and is signed into law, not only will we see an increase of college graduates but we also give hope to disenfranchised students who never had a chance before to pursue the American dream.

It's important to note how bad things are for students in the current system: According to the Huffington Post, 30 percent of students, including upper and middle class, drop out of high school and never pursue a degree. The national average of student debt due to loans is approximately over \$20,000 even if they did complete high school and got accepted into a public university, according to studentdebtprojection.com.

These statistics published by different researchers and news outlets do vary from state to state and change by a small margin every year but it is still very disturbing how much the system in place does not work in favor of the students. We often hear about motivated and hard working students from impoverished neighborhoods that attend prestigious universities on scholarships breaking all preconceived notions of success. Imagine, however, if we lived in a society where everyone has the same access to quality education.

Think of all the students who aren't necessarily in the top percentage of their class but could still benefit from going to trade school or completing an associate degree in an effort to become more marketable for employers. By doing this, those who never believed they could rise above tough circumstances like poverty now become part of our work force which also helps the state of our economy.

Passing this plan also helps students that are currently going through the struggle of paying for their own tuition. Usually, most people decide to attend community college first in an attempt to save some money on credit hours and then transfer over to finish the remainder of their track. If the first half of a person's education was virtually free, we would see so many more students applying to big universities that weren't affordable before and we would eventually see a larger amount of people graduating at a faster rate.

The history of our University saw an initial student body population of students who were completing their third or fourth year of their degree after attending junior college. Considering how this might affect our University personally, we might see history repeating itself, leaving the general student population being comprised of individuals completing their degrees after having attended community college for free. This would go against the University's general goal of having students go through our programs for all four years.

The proposal certainly is a solution in terms of the accessibility of education for most, but it could also act as a hinderance in the University's mission. In the grander scheme of things, accessibility to education for everyone trumps one university's goals of profiting from student attendance.

#### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto: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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## Save Lolita movement sparks artistic expression and protests in Miami

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The five ton jade Buddha exhibiting at Ichimura Miami-Japanese Garden until Feb. 8 wasn't the only massive display at the event.

A mural painted by Michael Gray, dedicated to the three ton orca whale named Lolita, made participants gaze into the eyes of an old whale currently living in Miami Seaquarium.

"This was painted in honor of the whale that's here [Miami Seaquarium]," said Gray, 28. "She's been here for 45 years and I painted this in honor of her situation."

According to Gray, Lolita is the longest living whale in captivity and was captured in 1970 off of the northwestern coast in Washington when she was four years old, an age he feels was too young for her to have been removed from her family.

"Orcas travel in herds," said Gray. "The whole purpose here is to raise awareness and have her transferred back with her cousins in Washington."



AMANDA RABINES/THE BEACON

Michael Gray, a freelance visual artist, web designer and working graphic designer, shows off his mural of Lolita, the longest living orca in captivity.

According to Local10 News, Miami Seaquarium has been previously fined for \$7000 by the OSHA for allowing trainers to work with a killer whale without sufficient protection.

Today, its employees can say they have worked with Lolita all their life. She is that old.

In an article posted by the Sun-Sentinel in 2010, the aquarium's former general manager, Andrew Hertz, said Lolita has been hand-fed since her capture and would not be able to survive on her own in the ocean.

But still, protesters held signs reading "Free Lolita" or "Get the whale out of jail." The protest was called Miracle March for Lolita and according to its fundraising page on GoFundMe.com the march raised almost \$22,000 in donations.

Gray's mural, though not part of Miracle March, is part of the non profit organization called the Peace Mural Foundation's Ocean US project, which serves as a platform to bring awareness to all the damage of marine life through art.

You can see Gray's mural at the Bodhi Festival on 1101 MacArthur Causeway (Parrot Jungle). The event is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets can be found at <http://jadebuddhamiami.com/site/>, or at the front door for \$10 on the weekends and free admission on weekdays.

“

The whole purpose here is to raise awareness and have her transferred back with her cousins in Washington.

Michael Gray  
Freelance Artist  
Oceanusmural.com

”

Gray has his mural of Lolita inside The Bodhi Festival, a world peace art and spiritual-healing exhibition sponsored by the ChakraSamvara Center, a Buddhist healing center in Miami Beach.

The festival's main attraction is the largest Buddha statue made entirely out of jade, which according to legend is said to possess healing powers.

Gray hopes his mural will spread not only energy but raise awareness of Lolita's situation, similar to how her story affected many on Jan. 17, when hundreds of protesters marched on the entry of Key Biscayne to Miami Seaquarium.

Many of whom, were angry over the aquarium's decision to place Lolita in a tank that did not reach the Occupational Safety and Health and Administration's size regulations.

## 'Dear White People' film makes 'a cultural statement'

### COLUMNIST



KATRINA VELEZ

As a cultural statement, "Dear White People" speaks volumes.

Set in Winchester University, a fictional Ivy League, the film derives its title from Sam White's satirical and racially provocative radio show.

The plot is carried by four characters that struggle with their own stereotype casted shadows. Troy Fairbanks, the student government president who secretly writes comedy and smokes marijuana.

And White, who has mixed background conflicts with her feelings of being pressured to "choose a side" for her identity.

Then there's Colandra 'Coco' Connors, a student striving for the spotlight and compromises her behavior to spark racially-driven controversy in order to get attention.

Finally, Lionel Higgins, an undeclared major who wants to write for the school newspaper,



PHOTO BY MATHEW MCQUILKIN, VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

Tessa Thompson (bottom left) leads the satirical charge in "Dear White People."

but has no desire to fit into a certain group based on his racial or sexual identity.

In the film's culmination, huge controversy erupts when the prestigious university magazine, Pastiche, decides to host a racially offensive party, which the Black Student Union refuses to tolerate.

As confrontation escalates quickly to violence, Sam White captures the outbreak on footage for her film project to describe the current state of

racial relations on campus.

This film comes equipped with an incredibly topical script, as Justin Simien, the film's director, achieves a unique plot scheme embedded with real-world context that is difficult to digest in one sitting.

The dialogue is burdened with strong racially charged tones, and the scenes speak to real situations every student has witnessed.

But more than a decomposition of racial

dynamics, DWP is a commentary on the challenges of forming individual identity in a culture that constantly stereotypes and encroaches self-discovery,

After the screening of the movie put on by SPC Friday, Jan. 23 in GC 140, students who attended had the chance to participate in a panel discussion

“

The film comes equipped with an incredibly topical script, as Justin Simien, the film's director, achieves a unique plot scheme embedded with real-world context that is difficult to digest in one sitting.

”

whether it stems from social circles, other movies or profit-driven reality TV shows.

We see both the oppressor and oppressed in almost every character as they are sized with labels.

But we also see that every character contributes to the conversation of race, of which the film has done a fantastic job.

After you watch "Dear White People," you'll want to keep the conversation going.

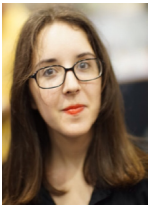
about race.

Those leading the panel were part of FIU's Black Student Union and The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. You can listen to the discussion at FIUSM.com.

-life@fiusm.com

# LGBT professor is a positive role model

## PRIDE GUIDE



MADARI PENDAS

Dr. Julie Marie Wade is one of FIU's many accomplished writers and poets.

She has received eight Pushcart Prize nominations and in 2014, she received the To the Lighthouse Poetry Publication Prize from the A Room of Her Own Foundation, a nonprofit organization working on behalf of women writers, for her poetry collection, "SIX."

In spring 2016, her collection of lyric essays, "Catechism: A Love Story," will be published by Noctuary Press. She also coordinates the Writers on the Bay series at the Biscayne Bay Campus, which brings novelists, memoirists and poets to FIU to read from their books and engage in substantive discussions about literature and the processes of writing.

Wade is an openly lesbian professor and writes extensively about her coming out experiences, the dichotomy of gender, the epiphanic moments that helped her realize her sexual identity, the struggles of finding acceptance as a gay person and the dissolution of friendships that can occur after the revelation of one's sexual orientation. She also writes a lot about love.

Coming out as gay, bisexual, lesbian or transgender is a difficult process. One fraught with the disillusionment of friendships, tense familial dialogues and a deep confrontation with one's self.

This process is even more confounded when one has few or no gay role models. Without such figures one's experiences may seem less valid and more idiosyncratic. "Well, I didn't know many gay people when I was growing up, and most of my role models were heterosexual—at least as far as I knew—until I got to college," Wade said.

Having openly gay and lesbian professors helps students who are struggling with sexuality dispel negative stereotypes about LGBT people.

Beth Kraig was a role model for Wade while an undergraduate student at Pacific Lutheran University.

"At eighteen, just meeting Beth Kraig was life-changing. The most important of the many things I learned from her was when she said to me once during an advising session: 'You know, some people act sympathetic when I tell them I'm a lesbian, like they feel sorry for me and that's the only

way they can tolerate who I am. It's as if people think we can't help it, but that if I did have a choice, then of course we'd choose to be straight,'" Wade explained. "Beth Kraig made clear that she wouldn't change her life as a lesbian, or her life-partnership with Suzanne, regardless of whether such a choice was possible."

Wade grew up in a conservative enclave in West Seattle, Washington, which she describes as a place that wasn't welcoming of homosexuality.

"I knew from an early age that even if I looked like I fit in there, e.g. white skin and various markers of middle-classness, I contained a truth inside me—perhaps more than one—that wouldn't be well-received in that world and certainly could never be openly acknowledged," Wade said.

Having to tell her parents she was a lesbian was difficult.

In one of her poems, "When My Grandmother Learns I Am a Lesbian" that is included in her acclaimed collection of poems, "When I Was Straight," she elucidates the plight of coming out to family members who are not receptive or immediately accepting.

"Don't be silly, dear. You're Scandinavian," was the response Wade's grandmother gave her.

The coming out process is never complete; there are always instances where your sexuality needs to be clarified because people automatically assume an individual is straight until proven otherwise or unless it is visibly obvious.

"I have to come out to someone almost every day, even if it's just clarifying that my spouse isn't a man when I'm filling out a form at the bank or the pharmacy," Wade said.

The constant need for clarification and frequent invisibility of LGBT people is a result of cultural training, wherein the majority of couples on television and in films are heterosexuals, where homosexual relationships are relegated to independent cinema and literature.

Homosexual couples also deal with a lot of legal difficulties, especially since gay marriage has only recently become legal in certain states.

"We knew from our years of having to get new power of attorney paperwork and living wills drawn up in every new state we moved to (there have been five states total), and always worrying if the legal paperwork we had would be 'enough' in a medical emergency," Wade

said.

The legal system is a bureaucratic nightmare for gay couples to navigate, often hypocritical and insensitive. For instance, many gay couples cannot put their significant others as beneficiaries on their health insurance.

Even FIU could not put Wade's partner of eleven years on her health insurance plan, even after they were legally married in Washington state.

Regarding this matter, Wade said, "Our legal marriage in Washington didn't transfer to life in Florida, as we knew theoretically it wouldn't, but I was still dismayed that my marriage license meant nothing to my employer, still banned by the state from recognizing me as a married person or granting my spouse the same benefits as a different-sex spouse. I received an email from FIU HR after I submitted the marriage license informing me, in business speak, that my marriage to Angie changed nothing. I was still 'single' as long as Florida's same-sex marriage ban remained in place, unable to cover her on my health insurance."

Despite the copious amounts of red tape, Wade is still an incredibly optimistic and enthusiastic professor.

I took her creative non-fiction class and was astonished by the amount of feedback and constructive criticism she gives her students.

She is one of the few professors that I have had that make themselves truly accessible to their students. Her passion and zeal for her work radiates every time she speaks.

Wade views FIU as a "magical" place to teach, explaining, "In fact, no faculty person has ever left the MFA program here except to retire! Now there has to be something magical, I thought, about that dream team of writers and that place where they teach," said Wade.

I wanted to know what kind of advice Wade had for students and faculty members who are currently struggling with their sexual identity, and of course Wade shared some eloquent guidance.

"Being gay or bisexual or transgendered isn't inherently good or bad any more than being heterosexual is inherently good or bad. I used to fall into this apologetic mindset at the beginning of coming out where I would think, 'I need to be extra-super-good so people won't be afraid of my lesbianism or judge me because of it,'" Wade said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE MARIE WADE

Julie Marie Wade was hired as an FIU professor directly from a PhD program in interdisciplinary humanities at the University of Louisville. She began teaching in the Fall of 2012 and is an assistant professor of English, specializing in creative, non-fiction and poetry genres.

"Ultimately, if people are going to judge you, I think they're going to judge you. You don't have to single-handedly change all the stereotypes that exist in the world about your group. Your mandate is to be

authentic and to embrace all facets of your identity. This is the best you can do."

In summer A term, Wade will be teaching an introductory course in creative writing. In the Fall semester, she will offer a special topics

in creative nonfiction course for upper-level undergraduates, and a graduate memoir seminar focused on memoirs of identity crisis, trauma, and healing.

On Feb. 8 at 4 p.m., Wade will read from her book "Wishbone: A Memoir in Fractures" at Book & Books in Coral Gables. The event is free and open to the public.

If you want to take a class with a professor who is passionate about her craft and takes a genuine interest in the development of her students, take a class with her; it will be one of the most enriching experiences of your college career.

-madari.pendas@fiusm.com

*Every Wednesday Madari Pendas and Chris Portilla will go where no column has gone before. Together they will take a deeper look into the LGBT community at FIU and produce a column that will consist of keen analysis within the daily lives of LGBT students and faculty. You may call it their researched opinion or call it what they decided to name it: a Pride-Guide. Make sure to read more and fiusm.com.*

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## TRACK & FIELD

# RUN PANTHER, RUN

## Sophomore athlete sets new heptathlon record mid-season

**LOUIS AGUDELO**  
Contributing Writer  
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Track and field athletes at FIU don't have the easiest of lives, especially when you consider they don't even have a facility here on campus in which to practice or hold meets.

The team has to take a trip regularly to a Miami Southridge High School for those otherwise in-house type operations.

They travel there as

well as using a slab of concrete behind the U.S. group of young athletes.

Century Bank Arena next to FIU Soccer Stadium to practice for throwing events.

Although the implications aren't what Head Track and Field Coach Ryan

Heberling would want for his program, they've been



PABLO ESPITIA

This includes sophomore multi-event athlete Pablo Espitia.

Espitia recently set the FIU all-time indoor heptathlon record just this past Jan. 20, at

the Winston-Salem Open, in N.C.

For anyone who doesn't know, the heptathlon is a seven part event, involving the 60-meter dash, long jump, shot put, high jump, 60-meter hurdles, pole vault, and 1000-meter run.

"My favorite event in high school was the triple jump," Espitia said. "I do hep so I do like most of the events."

The sophomore, who's been in the states for less than a decade, and has participated in track and field for only four years,

has set the bar for future Panther track and field multi-event athletes at a staggering 4,708 points. Each event is scored at a scale with some events weighing more than others in the series of seven.

This was a high standard to set, but the modest record setter says otherwise.

"I think most of us could've done it," Espitia said.

The Panthers will travel back to Winston-Salem

for the Hilton Garden Invitational for a meet this coming weekend on Jan. 30-31.

Following that, the Panthers will travel to Birmingham, Ala. for the Samford Multi at Birmingham as their last regular indoor season meet for Feb. 13-14.

The Conference USA Indoor Championships will then be held at the same indoor facility in Birmingham for Feb. 25-26.

## TENNIS

# Tennis opens season on high note

**LOUIS AGUDELO**  
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The FIU Panthers faced a daunting task coming into the first serve of the 2015 season. They prepared open their schedule against the hot Liberty University Flames, who were 2-0 after two convincing 6-1



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Junior Kaitlin Brozovich prepares to hit a forehand shot at the Jan. 25 tennis match against Liberty University.

victories coming against Wofford College, and North Carolina Central University. Both of their wins came on their home courts in Lynchburg, Va., and they looked poised to take a road trip south to spoil the Florida International University's home opener.

FIU opened doubles play without any troubles and the 1-0 lead with the easy 6-1 defeat of Emily Groenveld and Valerie Thong by Nina Nagode and Carlotta Orlando. Unfortunately, the Panthers would follow up the win by dropping the next two matches. The first loss came when Vana Koroleva and Nerma Caluk lost 6-2 to the pair of Maria Khval and Brittany Yeng. The second was when Valentina Briceno and Kaitlin Brozovich came up short against Belen Rivera and Evangeline Crist.

With FIU going down to LU in the doubles matches, the home team went into singles play with a 1-0 deficit to overcome, although it didn't take long for the ground to be made up as senior Vana Koroleva (No. 1) topped Mariely Hassey

6-1 and 6-3, knotting things up at 1, where junior Carlotta Orlando (No. 2) put FIU in the lead with her win over Belen Rivera. The Lady Flames weren't going without a fight, as Nicola Wellman brought the score back to even at 2-2 by defeating FIU sophomore Valentina Briceno (No. 6) 6-2, and 6-2.

Florida International reclaimed the lead with the defeat of Maria Khval 6-3, and 6-2 at the hands of sophomore Nina Nagode (No. 4). The Liberty, no surprise, came back as junior Kaitlin Brozovich (No. 5) dropped a close match to Evangeline Crist 6-3 and 7-5, tying the score at 3. Nerma Caluk (No. 3) stepped back onto the court against Emily Groenveld with a shot at redemption from losing in her doubles match earlier in the day. She secured the home-opener win for FIU with the 7-6(3) and 7-6(4) victory.

The Panthers look to keep a good thing going as they welcome the Stetson University Hatters on Friday, Jan. 30. First serve is to come at noon on the home court of the undefeated FIU Panthers.



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Senior Yana Koroleva prepares for the next set against Liberty University.

## WINTER ATHLETICS

### January Athletic Events

JAN. 29 - 31

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS OLD DOMINION UNIV.

WHEN: Thursday, Jan. 29 - 6 p.m.  
WHERE: Home

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL AT OLD DOMINION UNIV.

WHEN: Thursday, Jan. 29 - 7 p.m.  
WHERE: Away

#### WOMEN'S TENNIS VS STETSON UNIV.

WHEN: Friday, Jan. 30 - 12 p.m.  
WHERE: Home

#### WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING VS FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIV.

WHEN: Friday, Jan. 30 - 3 p.m.  
WHERE: Away

#### MEN'S TRACK & FIELD AT HILTON GARDEN INVITATIONAL

WHEN: Saturday/Sunday, Jan. 30-31 - All Day.  
WHERE: Away

#### WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD AT HILTON GARDEN INVITATIONAL

WHEN: Saturday/Sunday, Jan. 30-31 - All Day.  
WHERE: Away

#### WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING VS UNIV. OF MIAMI

WHEN: Sunday, Jan. 31 - 12 p.m.  
WHERE: Away

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS CHARLOTTE UNIV.

WHEN: Sunday, Jan. 31 - 6 p.m.  
WHERE: Home

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL AT CHARLOTTE UNIV.

WHEN: Sunday, Jan. 31 - 7 p.m.  
WHERE: Away

# Rec center expansion plans are underway

## REC CENTER, PAGE 1

Whoever is concerned about the gym being closed during the construction time frame shouldn't be worried because the rec center will be 100 percent fully operating during the expansion.

The current Rec Center building was opened in 2005 and, at the time, was built for 27,000 students. That number has now doubled. Even with the opening in 2005 the construction of the building was only the beginning.

“

Everyone likes how Parkview looks and it was a great quality team. We are expecting that same kind of quality on the expansion.



DIEGO SALDANA ROJAS/THE BEACON

The FIU Recreation Center will soon begin updates and renovations to better help the students who use their

Robert Frye  
Director  
Recreation Services

try and capture what the actual building could look like.”

The overall expansion of the Rec Center will be about 9,000 square feet of fitness space that includes free weights and cardio spaces.

Another addition to the Rec Center that absolutely will be welcomed with open arms is a new three court basketball gymnasium that will go along with the two courts that are already there.

With the new courts, more basketball games can be played involving more students and eliminating long waits to

play in the next game.

Three group fitness areas will be added to the second floor of the new Rec Center.

One will be a dedicated spinning room, the other will be a matted room for martial arts groups, and the third will be a small group fitness room.

The small group fitness room is a great way to get six to eight of your friends together and work as a team doing exercises led by a trainer.

Another exciting addition is there will be one racquet ball court and one convertible squash and racquetball court.

The last noticeable change that will be made is the expansion of the men's and women's locker room.

All this construction will be taking place on the south side of the gym where the parking lot of the health center is today.

There is a lot to look forward in the expansion of the Rec Center which is continuing the trend the university is trying to show as a growing school and community.

Once this project is complete, it will capture the attention of students who normally don't visit the Rec Center. This is because the way the new part of the gym will look is being planned by the same architects who designed the Parkview dorms.

Frye has all the confidence in the architects and builders for the expansion after seeing them build the Parkview dorms.

“Everyone likes how Parkview looks and it was a great quality team,” Frye said. “We are expecting that same kind of quality on the expansion.”

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## University crowns Mr. and Miss FIU 2015



PHOTOS BY JEFFREY PIERRE / THE BEACON

On the right, Miss FIU 2014 Andrea Mirabal puts on her crown as she prepares to host Mr. and Miss FIU on Saturday, Jan. 24. On the bottom left, the Mr. FIU contestants line up during the Mr. FIU pageant. On the top left, Mr. FIU contestant Joannier Pinales prepares for the pageant backstage.

**JEFFREY PIERRE**  
Staff Writer  
jeffrey.pierre@fiusm.com

While the world had their eyes fixed on the U.S. Century Bank Arena for the Miss Universe Pageant, the University hosted its own students for the Miss and Mr. FIU Scholarship Pageant.

On Saturday, the day before the Miss Universe pageant, eight women and eight men showcased their talents and finesse at the Biscayne Bay Campus' Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre. Torya Whittaker, a sophomore broadcast media major, won Miss FIU; and Michael Cabral, a senior majoring in management information systems, was crowned Mr. FIU.

Whittaker received a \$1500 scholarship and Cabral received a \$500 scholarship. Miss FIU is part of the Miss America organization and will go on to participate in future events and competitions. Louis Macias, the assistant director for the Multicultural Programs and Services office and executive director for Mr. and Miss FIU says this is the first year the Mr. FIU winner received a scholarship.

"We want to try and grow as an organization," said Macias, the first time executive director. "We're hoping that

it gains popularity."

The Miss Universe Pageant attracted negative attention— from the community, students and faculty— for spending University money for what many are calling crass

“

“Physical beauty is heavily weighted with the Miss USA [pageant],”

Louis Macias  
Assistant Director  
Multicultural Programs and Services

”

use of funds. Macias says the Mr. and Miss FIU competition is, however, an empowering experience based on the “well-roundedness” of students contestants.

“Physical beauty is heavily weighted with the Miss USA [pageant],” Macias said. He adds that the talent and interview portion hold more weight than lifestyle and fitness. “That says something about what’s valued.”

The contestants agree.

Yeferson Acosta, a senior majoring in psychology, says he entered the competition to connect and build with new people. Acosta, who is involved with Baptist Collegiate Ministry on campus, says he wants to encourage students to be more proactive during their college years.

“It’s a bit intimidating for students to get involved,” Acosta said. Acosta was one of the founding members of BCM at FIU, and helped the organization grow to 115 members. He says personal engagement can help break the ice for shy or unengaged students. “Personal invitation is much better than social media. [Social Media] is important too, but personal invitations will always get students to join organizations and becoming active on campus.”

Macias said each contestant, like Acosta, had character and aspirations, but in choosing a winner, they looked for the most “dynamic” individual who could “think on their feet.”

In March, the University will host their annual Torch Awards where Miss FIU will be greeting donors and working directly with the University president Mark B. Rosenberg. In June, Miss FIU will go on to represent the University in Miss Florida.

“We needed someone who is ready for all that,” Macias said.

### SPORTS

## Swimming and diving claims first ever win against FGCU

**DAVID DRUCKER**  
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The women’s swimming and diving team defeated Florida Gulf Coast University 167-133 in the ladies’ last home meet of the season.

The seniors, who were honored before the game, were represented well by Johanna Gustafsdottir as she claimed first place in three different events throughout the day.

The competition was tight throughout the meet.

The Eagles, who were once ranked 28th best in the nation this season, often went back and forth with the Panthers for first place.

Gustafsdottir finished ahead of the pack in the 200 freestyle, the 200

breaststroke, and the 200 individual medley.

Junior Valerie Inghels also touched the wall first in the 200 butterfly in 2:03.28.

The freshmen also swam well in their seniors’ last regular season competition at Biscayne Bay.

Freshman Kyna Pereira earned two first place finishes, once in the 1000 freestyle with a pool record of 10:09.80, and again in the 500 freestyle with 5:01.42.

Freshman Silvia Scalia also bested the other swimmers once in the 200 backstroke with a mark of 2:00.75.

The Panthers’ last event of the meet, the 400 freestyle relay, highlighted a successful outing for the Panthers; they set a pool record of 3:29.05.

Florida Atlantic University will host the Panthers next on Friday, Jan. 30 in

Boca Raton.

The women will have one more meet the next day at the University

of Miami before the Conference USA Championships begin on Wednesday Feb. 18.

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