

University partnership to promote HIV/AIDS awareness

DESTINEY BURT

Staff Writer

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FIU-BRIDGE partnered with Union Positiva, Spectrum Programs, Mixto Music and Dieste on Friday, Jan. 23, to promote HIV/AIDS awareness among Hispanic students in the community ranging from 18-24 years of age.

The Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) offered a grant to FIU-BRIDGE, one that would go towards a project promoting health as well as substance abuse, HIV and Hepatitis C prevention.

The project FIU-BRIDGE is working on is the Miami-Dade partnership for preventing health risks among young adults.

"This is for FIU students; the nature of the grant was to focus on a minority group and because we [are] a Hispanic serving institution, that's what we focused on and got the funding for," said Dr. Eric Wagner,

the executive director for FIU-BRIDGE.

Some shared their excitement over the event's turnout.

"I'm glad people came out for the free HIV testing," said Sofia B. Fernandez, a public health doctoral student. "I feel like it's something that hopefully the students

since it is ranked number one in the state of Florida for the number of new HIV and AIDS cases.

To gain more attention, FIU-BRIDGE has Miss Hivaria, a representative they enlisted to help promote awareness of HIV and AIDS.

good," said Wagner.

According to her Facebook page, Miss Hivaria spent the week of the Miss Universe pageant representing the Republic of Hivaria.

"I hope that capitalizing on Miss Universe and having this campaign running right now will spread awareness about the campaign and what our ultimate goal is, which is encouraging people to get tested and being open about their status [to] prevent the spread of HIV," said Fernandez.

Some believe that having a grant that targets one minority group will be beneficial to helping BRIDGE achieve its goal of spreading awareness.

"Sometimes certain illnesses affect a certain minority [group] more and if it's a growing population you want to make sure you are targeting a specific population," said Denise Aiyedatiwa, public health graduate student. "It's easier if you pick a certain population to reach your goal."

“

I hope capitalizing on Miss Universe and having this campaign running right now will spread awareness about the campaign and what our ultimate goal is.

Sofia B. Fernandez
Doctoral Student
Public Health

”

will take advantage of. We actually brought the van to the students because it's convenient and confidential."

The event was not just for FIU students but also Miami-Dade County in general,

"Miss Hivaria was created to represent people with HIV, which is 35 million... the size of a country. [She] has been doing appearances as a playful way to use the Miss Universe event for the forces of

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CEO of Sushi Maki coming to share business experience

NICOLE MONTERO

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The CEO and founder of Sushi Maki will be coming to FIU to share his personal experiences in the business world as an entrepreneur.

Abe Ng, a Miami native, was recognized as one of Miami Herald's 2011 "20 Under 40," a list created to showcase accomplished professionals from the South Florida area who are under the age of forty and demonstrate abilities to succeed in their respective industries.

Ng is also a graduate of the Owner/President Management program at the Harvard Business School, and was honored as the Ultimate CEO by the South Florida Business Journal in 2014.

"With Abe, the unique thing is that he started his own business and got it to grow at a very young age," said Garth D. Headley, associate director of public affairs in the Center for Leadership. "His story will relate to everyone, especially when you're in an environment like Miami that's entrepreneurial by nature."

According to Headley, the Center for Leadership reached out to Ng because it identified him as an ideal speaker for their leadership lecture series.

"He's gone through a lot to get to where he is," Headley said. "The idea is to have him share his message on leadership and share what he did to get his business to where it's at now, including the challenges and issues he had to deal with."

Ng's restaurant is mostly

known for its Japanese cuisine and has many locations around South Florida—including Miami, Kendall, Coral Gables, Brickell, the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and more.

In 2011, it received the award for Outstanding Minority Business of the Year by the Greater Miami Chamber of Congress.

Romina Angelelli, a junior majoring in digital media, is one of the many students looking forward to his lecture.

"When someone like this comes to FIU, you have to be there and take advantage," she said. "Even though I'm a communications major, I've always had ideas to open up a company and I just think that this lecture will really help put that in perspective for me."

Like Angelelli, Ricardo Amaury, a senior majoring in

business, believes that this is an opportunity that is vital to the FIU community.

"It's important, not just for business students—though obvi-

“

When someone like this comes to FIU, you have to be there and take advantage.

Romina Angelelli
Junior
Digital Media

”

ously they are the ones that would take the most out of it—but for everyone," he said. "Everyone should be interested in how the

business world works. If not that, then at least they should show up to hear about how Sushi Maki got to where it's at now."

As highlighted in the Center for Leadership's website, the lecture will provide attendees an opportunity to gain insight on the challenges involved with creating a startup company and finding the right path to identifying partners with similar interests.

The Center for Leadership will be partnering up with the Honors College for this lecture, to the capacity that the College will award honors credit hours to its students.

Ng will present his lecture this Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 9 a.m. at the Graham Center Ballrooms in the Modesto A. Maid-

SEE SUSHI, PAGE 2



**MLK
DINNER**

LEFT: The gentlemen of Alpha Phi Alpha Inc. perform during the MLK Dinner on Wednesday, Jan. 21.

CENTER: Shaun Derik, keynote speaker for the MLK Dinner, speaks to students.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

King Abdullah, Saudi ruler who led nation through turbulent times, dies at 90

As the leader of a conservative family dynasty of tremendous wealth and extraordinary power, King Abdullah ibn Abdulaziz al Saud was charged with steering the desert kingdom of Saudi Arabia through an unprecedented period of cultural upheaval, regional strife and economic challenge.

He had formally taken power in 2005, but had in effect been running the country for a decade before that, guiding it uneasily through the challenges posed by the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, the war in neighboring Iraq, the disintegration of Syria, the upheavals of the “Arab Spring,” and the rise of Islamic State.

Abdullah died Friday, Saudi state television reported, even as his state faced a new challenge in the meltdown of another neighbor, Yemen. He was 90.

Yemen’s president resigns, leaving country in state of limbo

SANAA, Yemen — The Yemeni president and his Cabinet resigned Thursday, creating a leadership vacuum and raising the prospect of chaos and fragmentation in a strategic Arab nation that has been a pivotal ally in U.S. anti-terrorism efforts.

The surprise departure of President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi and his government ministers came a day after the beleaguered administration appeared to have reached an accord with Houthi rebels who surrounded the presidential palace and residence during two tense days of clashes in Sanaa, the capital.

Hadi, who was backed by the U.S. and much of the international community in an ambitious plan to bring democracy to the impoverished and deeply fractured country, was left a virtual captive of the Houthi militiamen who control the city.

Kerry meets with Iran’s foreign minister on nuclear talks

Secretary of State John Kerry met with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif late Friday on the sidelines of the annual World Economic Forum to try to advance efforts to secure a final nuclear deal ahead of a new July 1 deadline.

It was the third meeting in just over a week between the two diplomats seeking a deal intended to remove Iran’s capability to develop nuclear weapons in exchange for lifting crippling international sanctions. Kerry and Zarif met Jan. 14 in Geneva for nearly seven hours and again in Paris two days later.

Young pilot to offer inspirational advice

ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA
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If Yadira Amador believes in anything, it’s in the power of an inspirational story.

A junior chemistry major, Amador actively seeks professional development opportunities that find ways of incorporating inspirational stories within science, technology, engineering and math fields.

Now she can stop looking.

As part of its 2015 Leadership Lectures series, the University’s Center for Leadership will be hosting Captain Barrington Irving, who, at the age of 23, became the youngest individual and first African-American pilot to fly around the world in a single-engine aircraft.

At the lecture, Irving will discuss the importance of making topics covered in STEM courses relevant to students, and how to fuse these courses with those in the humanities, among others.

The lecture, along with the three others that comprise the series, was chosen by University faculty and staff, two groups that worked alongside the Center for Leadership’s academic board of advisors and a group of business professionals from the community.

According to Garth D. Headley, associate director of public affairs in the Center for Leadership, the lecture will aim to provide more than just information on STEM fields to those in attendance. Irving will be speaking on the difficulties he faced as a young man and his ability to overcome adversity.

The interest in potentially hosting Irving was sparked over two years

ago, when members of the Center for Leadership saw the young pilot sharing his story at a Miami Foundation event.

“More than anything, the lesson from Barrington’s story is tenacity. How can you persevere, how can you make things happen in spite of whatever beginnings you had?” said Headley.

For Headley, one of the most important aspects of the lecture will be the element of informing those in attendance how to overcome the challenges that life throws at them.

“I think it’s important to be reminded about one’s ability to push through adversity, and that’s what I believe the lecture will offer.”

Yadira Amador
Junior
Chemistry

“I think the lesson [one] should walk away with from Barrington...really boils down to how much do you want [to succeed],” he said.

For some students, the element of inspiration is what draws them to the lecture.

“I’m going to attend the event, but not because I’m interested in a career in the STEM field,” said Yadira Amador. “I think it’s important to be reminded about one’s ability to push through adversity, and that’s what I believe the lecture will offer.”

In drawing attention to Irving’s potential for inspiring individuals,

Headley mentioned that people shouldn’t dwell on the relative level of difficulty of their challenges, but should instead focus on determining whether or not they can move forward in life.

“You can either face the world on your knees when it knocks you down, or you can stand up and start moving again,” said Headley, quoting Whoopi Goldberg.

Rather than just talk about how much enjoyment can come from a STEM career, Irving will also highlight the necessity for students to be academically prepared when considering pursuing careers in the STEM industry.

Students are not the only ones welcomed to the lecture.

“The lectures are intended not just for students and faculty and staff, [they are] intended for the community,” said Headley, citing that the Center for Leadership aims to provide educational opportunities for the entire community.

The lecture will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 9:00 a.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

Those interested in attending are encouraged to RVSP to the event by visiting the Center for Leadership’s web page.

According to Fernandez, this project has been a hands-on community collaboration and a great opportunity to get involved.

“This is also a good opportunity to use our partnering and resources for a good cause,” said Fernandez.

Students can follow Miss Hivaria on Twitter for updates on when and where the van will be in the community for free HIV testing.

University partnership to promote HIV/AIDS awareness

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The goal is to promote awareness, screenings and safe behavior for young Hispanic adults.

“Hispanic folks are much less likely to engage in HIV testing, which is another reason to spread awareness to the Hispanic community,” said Wagner. “Hispanic men are three times more likely than non-Hispanic white students to contract HIV, and

Hispanic women are four times as likely than non-Hispanic white women.”

Even for the non-Hispanic community at FIU, it is still important to be aware of the consequences of the disease and the importance of taking preventative measures.

“I’m not Hispanic but I still feel like this is a great opportunity for everyone to learn from,” said Aiyedatiwa.

and have access to the speakers. Why wouldn’t the FIU community want to take advantage of this and learn more about what’s going on in their environment?”

It is free and open to the public.

“I really encourage students to come,” said Headley. “We try to have these lectures for people to communicate

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The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.

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ique Campus.

and have access to the speakers. Why wouldn’t the FIU community want to take advantage of this and learn more about what’s going on in their environment?”

College life improved through online classes

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The beginning of the semester is among us. We must solemnly wave goodbye to winter break, sleep and syllabus week.

It won't be long before it is just as hard to find a spot in the library near a power outlet as it is to find a spot in the parking garage before class.

These sad truths

classes.

According to a report done by the Stanford Research Institute for the U.S. Department of Education, the number of students who enroll and complete online coursework is increasing exponentially over the years.

Consequently, test results of these online students are improving. From reducing certain stresses in a student's

restriction to worry about is when assignments for the week are due; whereas in a traditional in-person course students may be constricted three times a week during work hours.

Students who take online courses are in control of their learning as they are able to decide when to complete the work, which learning strategy they want to utilize and the pace at which the work is done.

Beside the fact that students and professors do not meet in person, there is no other difference between online and traditional courses.

While online courses allow students to mold their own schedule, the class still keeps some vital components of traditional classes.

As a global learning community, FIU has developed online courses that incorporate various forms of technology and communication that allow group work, discussions, teacher feedback and virtual class meetings.

It has never been easier for a student to learn as he or she pleases, especially with more tools offered. When taking an online course, there is no longer the fear of missing even one sliver of information mentioned during a lecture.

Depending on the method of learning a student enjoys most, the course content can be replayed, reviewed or revisited as many times as needed without hesitation.

The only time

life to handing over the control of learning, online classes are modestly becoming more attainable and sought after.

As one of the great technological advancements our generation has, this simple idea of learning at home has solved the problem of rushing to campus, grabbing food on the go and being constricted to taking class at certain times.

Online classes have given students the opportunity to study what they want, where they want and when they want.

Rather than planning work and life around school, students are now able to do the opposite.

“Online classes have given students the opportunity to study what they want, where they want and when they want.”

are becoming reality before we have time to consciously remember to write “2015” and not “2014”.

Before we become too cynical of the new semester, though, let us think of some positive aspects of heading back to school.

Don't think about waking up ridiculously early, think about sleeping just a little more.

Rather than dreading the drive to campus imagine your route to school being as simple as opening your laptop.

Now, instead of sitting at an uncomfortable desk listening to a lecture, picture yourself at home reading your textbook. Welcome to online

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: MISS UNIVERSE

Dear Editor,

As a student and a Latina woman, I am extremely angered and disappointed to attend a university where their “Worlds Ahead” mission includes the perpetuation of an imperialist white supremacist, capitalist patriarchal event. Miss Universe directly colonizes women's bodies on and offstage.

With its ethnocentric views, this event imposes what diversity should look like to the rest of the world. Miss Universe enforces toxic Eurocentric beauty standards that are unattainable to the majority of women around the world, who are mostly women of color.

Miss Universe is NOT “Worlds Ahead” it is “Worlds Behind”, and FIU is bringing their faculty, staff and students behind with them. This event delegitimizes everything that FIU students, faculty and staff have worked so hard in order to help legitimize FIU's reputation and credibility.

The lack of communication between FIU's administration and it's students, faculty and staff only goes to show how FIU is more interested in their image rather than providing quality education and resources to it's students, faculty and staff.

Acquiring assault rifles, canceling classes, halting transportation for disabled individuals around the event area, policing bodies outside of the event and taking money away from the women's athletic program in order to fund this (whom are performing much better than their male counterparts), reeks of a University that is “Worlds Behind.”

So my questions for the FIU administration are: What kind of messages are you sending out to your own women-identifying students who are overwhelmingly women of color? What messages are you sending to your women-identifying students from Venezuela and Colombia, who already suffer from a detrimental body psyche thanks to the importance placed on beauty pageants and plastic surgery in their countries? What kind of message are you sending out to your faculty and staff whose credibility is being damaged by this vapid event? What kind of message are you sending out to the students whose classes are being cancelled because of this event? What kind of message are you sending out to your disabled students? What kind of message are you sending out to potential students, faculty and staff members and women-identifying students? But most importantly, what kind of message are you sending out to the WORLD as an educational institution?

Sincerely,

Laura Hernandez

National Student Advisory Council
Member, AAUW

Vice President, FIU National Organization
for Women

President, FIU College Democrats

Fellow, YP4- Young People For

Good Job Opportunity? Or...

ANGELO LOPEZ
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As potentially stressful and nerve-wracking as it may be, job seeking is something that almost all of us will have to suffer at some point.

This past October, I had my turn in experiencing the torment that job hunting can turn out to be.

Unpleasant as this was, this uncomfortable experience provided me with valuable lessons to apply to the future when I have an uneasy feeling about a hiring company. Namely, what are important tell-tale signs of a potential employment scam.

First, the story.

I began sending resumes via CareerBuilder to as many job openings as I felt made sense, and even to a few others that I felt were long-shots considering they were not related to my major.

Reflecting on this, I'll stay away from sites like those in the future. They seem to be a magnet for scam artists. Out of all the resumes I sent out, I only received a response--within two days--from one company which claimed that it specialized in direct marketing.

This was the first red flag for me. Why would an advertising firm be interested in someone whose major was in the social sciences? And why would it waste so little time in not only getting back to me, but granting me

an interview? Misgivings aside, I decided that it couldn't hurt to see what was being offered.

Dressed in my best attire, I arrived at the company's office for the interview. Their office was in the Blue Lagoon Business Park, in the same area as Burger King's headquarters just south of the airport. It was a good sign, but I took it with a grain of salt. There are many commercial properties that are available for a fraction of their worth because of the slow economy, making it easier to deceive.

After being given a flyer about the company and fifteen minutes of waiting, I was ushered in to meet the head of the company who would conduct the interview. I was too focused on leaving a good impression during the interview, but afterwards I found myself skeptical about the claims the interviewer was making.

Long story short.

I was very uneasy about the number of red flags emanating from all this, but the potential of a well-paying stable job kept me from running for the hills even faster than I did. I even began to doubt my work ethic, but I decided against wasting any more time.

I came across someone's story on the internet which was a near carbon copy of mine, the only difference being the setting and the claimed client. Upon seeing that, I knew I would forego the second interview.

All the anxiety I felt evaporated. By doing my own investigating, asking family for their thoughts and listening to the nervous feeling I was getting, I suspect I dodged a major bullet.

IS IT REALLY MISS UNIVERSE?



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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Alpha Phi Alpha starts Too Dapper Tuesday trend



STEPHANIE CRUZ/THE BEACON

STEPHANIE CRUZ
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

Thanks to the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, a typical Tuesday in the Graham Center now consists of blazers, button-downs and bowties. The sharp dressers started this fashion trend last semester when the fraternity coined the craze Too Dapper Tuesday,"inviting all of FIU to join in on the fashion fun.

"Originally we called ourselves the Too Dapper Tau Delta chapter. Later, in a meeting, we had the idea to create Too Dapper Tuesdays," said Jayson Esdaille, current president. "The idea revolved around the fraternity dressing up in suits and ties, promoting the minority presence on campus, and we envisioned involving the entire FIU community."

Too Dapper Tuesdays became an immediate hit. Suddenly, the hashtag was up everywhere, and soon after the entire National Pan-Hellenic Council promoted the trend, as well.

Quickly, the members of the Black Student Union began to post selfies and mirror pictures in their business professional interview-ready looks. Even students unaffiliated with any organization

became active Dapper participants. Although the movement prepared students for career fairs and job interviews, improving the reputation and image of minorities remained a major factor.

Promoting professional attire and conduct would be a positive way to combat stereotypes.

Jayson Esdaille
President
Alpha Phi Alpha

Esdaille passionately expressed the root and necessity for what he hopes to be a new tradition.

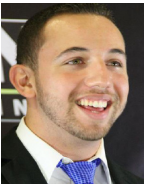
"All of the recent negative media surrounding minorities quickly lead to negative stereotypes, so we believe that promoting professional attire and conduct would be a positive way to combat those stereotypes," Esdaille said.

For Alpha Phi Alpha, the old saying, "dress for the job you want, not the job you have," is true, and they can definitely say they have a bright future ahead.

From left to right, Alpha Phi Alpha brothers Andrew Jones, Rodin Celidor, Jayson Esdaille and Garry Louisa show off their sophisticated style for Too Dapper Tuesday.

High hopes for mid-season premieres of 'Arrow,' 'The Flash'

DC ON TV



CHRIS SANTIAGO

After a very long five weeks of no new episodes of the CW's "Arrow" and "The Flash," we finally got to witness the 10th episode of both shows.

"The Flash"
[Warning for spoilers]

"The Flash" mid-season finale had left us wondering what would happen with Barry and his powers after his climactic confrontation with the man who killed his mother when Barry was a child, the Reverse Flash.

In the final minutes of the mid-season finale, we see that Barry's mentor and partner, Dr. Harrison Wells, is in possession of the Reverse Flash suit. This would,

normally, lead the viewer to believe that Dr. Wells is the man in the yellow suit. But I believe it's a little more complex than what meets the eye. Why would Dr. Wells have such interest in helping Barry expand his powers and do everything in his power to keep Barry safe from harm?

Obviously unprepared and overpowered by the Reverse Flash in their first battle, Barry, in this past week's episode, looked to expand his powers and to train on a much more strict regimen in order to become faster and more agile for the next time the two speedsters would collide. His training would, actually, help him out in his fight at the end of the show with the returning Captain Cold and newcomer Heatwave. Something big is being set up in the show, and I am more than excited to see how it all plays out.

As a fan of "The Flash," it's

pleasing to see how in depth the CW is getting into the core of the character of Barry Allen/The Flash. They keep his humanity in check, give him that believable superhero complex and the best part about it all, they have a humorous and courageous Barry. And not just Barry's character, but with all the other characters in the show too. I mean, do I really need to say how beautiful Iris is? Fellas, help me out here.

"Arrow"

[Warning for spoilers]

In the 10th "Arrow" episode, every one of us fans were left in wonder of whether or not Oliver was still alive after his fight with the League of Assassins leader Ra's Al Ghul. In the mid-season finale, Ra's Al Ghul shocked the CW world by stabbing Oliver through the chest in the final moments of their duel with

one of Oliver's own swords, leaving all mouths dropped and in disbelief that our hero, the Arrow, had fallen.

I knew it was only a matter of time that the show would keep Oliver dead, but I had no idea that they would bring him back in the very next episode. Normally I'd feel like that that sort of return would be a little too rushed, but I was ecstatic and shamelessly, jumped up and down like a schoolgirl when I saw Oliver return to consciousness at the end of the episode.

Now what's left on my mind is what Oliver will have to do -- Now that he's alive again -- to return to Starling City back to his family and his friends.

I know I'm not the only one who's extremely excited to see Ray Palmer's A.T.O.M. suit in action. Seeing Ray working on the suit's mechanism at the beginning of the episode was really great to watch.

Not only because this suit has been in the works for all of the third season, but also because we got to see more emotion come from Ray as to why he's creating this suit to save the city. As someone who has lost a relationship to death, I find myself relating to Ray Palmer more than I thought I would. His motives are pure and understanding. How awesome Ray Palmer will look in the full A.T.O.M. exoskeleton is still up in the air for viewers to wait on. But I have a feeling that we'll be seeing Ray Palmer and Oliver Queen suit up together to take on the bad guys shortly.

Sit tight my fellow "The Flash" and "Arrow" fans. We are in for an exciting second half of each season. So, let's get ready for episode 11 of "The Flash" and "Arrow" on Tuesday, Jan. 27 and Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 8 p.m.

-life@fiusm.com

CARTOONS

FIU

LOLLAPALOOZA

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

LENNY PEREZ/THE BEACON

THE YEAR 1894

TAKE NOTE FOR WOMEN'S VOTE!!

See the Future Today!!

Why yes!

Why do you ask?

Then let's see the Future. Hold on!

Ms. Margaret, Welcome to the Future!

Th-th-they're

Yes?

THERE ARE GIANT METAL DRAGONS IN THE SKY!!!!

By: LENNY PEREZ

CRAYDOR.TUMBLR.COM



ANA ARENAS/THE BEACON

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

ANA ARENAS
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

“It is difficult to manage my sorority, family, school, and a job. Some days it all gets very exhausting. My sisters of Delta Phi Epsilon have motivated me to be the best version of myself by remaining focused. Although it is my first year with my sorority, I am so grateful for them.” -Vanessa Morales, freshman communications major

Based off Humans of New York from the NYTs, Student Spotlight captures FIU students as their natural self. Ana Arenas, FIUSM Staff, will spotlight a new student every Monday, with a photo and quote that eludes to their personal story and goals.

‘B4.Da.\$\$’: sluggish debut

HELICOPTER PAD



ANGELO LOPEZ

In 2012, the still in high school Jo-Vaughn Virginie Scott, better known by his stage name Joey Bada\$\$, released mixtape “1999” that to this day is a favorite of the contemporary underground hip-hop community.

That mixtape, combined with the buzz he had been garnering in the previous two years, brought with it two things; notoriety and expectations. By the tender age of 17, Joey Bada\$\$ had established what many aspiring rappers struggle mightily for years to acquire, a fanbase.

The fact that he had done so before graduating high school was not only wildly impressive, but placed on his shoulders

rhymes being suspect themselves. There were too many occasions where Bada\$\$ would hold a syllable too long or sing more than necessary to gloss over the fact that the rhyming was not up to par.

“Paper Trails” is probably the best listen among the first 10 tracks. The 11th and 12th tracks “On & On” and “Escape 120” respectively, raise hopes in the listener that the album will turn a corner and deliver increasing enjoyment to the end. Alas, these hopes are quickly dashed in the next three tracks. In fact, those three tracks after “Escape 120” are probably the weakest segment of the album.

The last track of the album, “Teach Me” is quite the radical divorce in Bada\$\$’s modus operandi. While it is a song that would not be out of place at a party or even on main-

“As I listened to track after track, the phrase that I found myself repeating was, ‘Good at best, but nothing exceptional.’”

great expectations for future greatness.

Not unreasonably, if you ask this author, because it’s not every day that a teenager manages to make a good living because he rhymes impressively in his hip-hop songs before he even graduates high school.

As of this writing, these sizable expectations have yet to be met. His 2013 mixtape “Summer Knights,” while containing its fair share of quality tracks, was nothing comparable to the caliber of “1999.” Fast forward 18 months and we find ourselves uttering the same thing about his debut album, “B4. Da.\$\$.”

As I listened to track after track, the phrase that I found myself repeating was, “Good at best, but nothing exceptional.” Another word I kept thinking of, though it would be too harsh to describe the whole album, was uninspired. It begins with the first track on the album, “Save the Children.” It’s a good listen, save for a horrible faux pas... the verses on the track are mere rehashes of two-year-old freestyles he performed on the Sway in the Morning show.

Through the first 10 songs, we get a sense of the direction Bada\$\$ wants to take in this project. Disillusionment with his success, racial profiling by the police and money’s role in influencing our behavior are heavily present in the subject matter. The rhymes are usually escorted by dark beats, with the

stream radio, it does not provide embarrassment to Joey as a rapper.

Maybe he doesn’t rhyme to his full potential, but he also doesn’t water down his content to unacceptable levels on this track. The standout tracks include the aforementioned “On & On”, “Escape 120”, “Teach Me”, and “Paper Trails.”

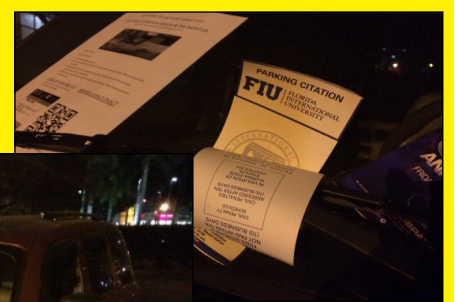
For an album with seventeen tracks though, this is not enough. While the number of clunkers on “B4.Da.\$\$” is kept at a manageable level, the majority of the tracks induce indifference, which is not an adequate substitute. This is C+ work from beginning to end and makes one worry about the lack of growth in Joey Bada\$\$’s career.

Angelo Lopez is a DJ who hosts the hip-hop show “Black Helicopters” on WRGP 95.3 FM. You can listen to Black Helicopters on WRGP every Monday from 6p.m. to 8p.m. “Helicopter Pad” is the accompanying column on the latest hip-hop news and releases.

-angelo.lopez@fiusm.com

Artist: Joey Bada\$\$
Album: B4.Da.\$\$.
Rating: 3/5

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BASKETBALL

RUSSO RELEASES REIGNS

Women's head coach steps down, leaves position after 36 years

REBECCA CHARUR
Staff Writer
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The reign of Head Coach Cindy Russo has come to an unforeseen end after 36 years. Russo announced on Thursday, Jan. 22, that she is stepping down as the head coach of the women's basketball team, effective immediately.

The strain of a long basketball season proved too much as the famed coach battled through her own physical and mental health struggles.

From the Press Release:

"For the first time in my life, I am putting myself first," Russo said. "My health has been compromised for a long time now. It has been difficult to get

up and move around. Basketball season is a long, stressful season that can suck you in with the demanding schedule. I just didn't

for a long time, and now it's time to take care of myself. I just can't push myself like this anymore. The team will be fine. They play

handle everything that comes along."

A look back at her resumé will only emphasize the contribution she has made to the legacy of women's collegiate basketball at the school. Russo guided FIU to 22 consecutive winning seasons and leaves with an overall career record of 707-395. In addition, her teams have achieved at least 20 wins on at least 18 different occasions.

Russo also left a lasting impression that transcends beyond the FIU community. The seven-time conference coach of the year led her teams to six NCAA Division I Tournament berths, seven



CINDY RUSSO

Postseason Women's National Invitation Tournaments, three NCAA Division II Tournaments and three AIAW Small College National Tournaments. In her 36 years with the program, Russo became 15th winningest coach in Division I women's basketball history.

Russo was born in Portsmouth, Va., and began her coaching career in 1977 at FIU. Soon after she accepted the head coaching job at Lamar University and stayed there for two seasons, where she went 40-22. In 1980, Russo returned to FIU and had herself one of the more impressive coaching runs in the history of women's college basketball.

"The team will be fine. They play good basketball and they play hard, but we just can't finish. Someone just needs to step up and be a leader. I trust that Inge Nissen will do a great job and handle everything that comes along."

Cindy Russo
Former Head Coach
Women's Basketball

feel like I had the physical and mental capacity to keep going. My mother's death exasperated everything, and it was a long ordeal with her. I was by her side

good basketball and they play hard, but we just can't finish. Someone just needs to step up and be a leader. I trust that Inge Nissen will do a great job and

Women start second half of the season against Florida's best

RAYMOND SIXTO
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There are five tournaments left before the Panthers play for the Conference USA Championships in April. The first of those five is on Monday, Jan. 26 when they tee off in Ocala, FL at the Florida Challenge. The Panthers competed in this tournament last year and finished in fifth place. They look to do much better as they bring back seven players who played in last year's tournament.

Last we saw the Panthers

was November 2014 when they were hosting the 37th Annual Pat Bradley Invitational in Sarasota, FL. They wrapped up their fall season with a third place finish and had four players finish in the top 20.

Junior Meghan MacLaren was the leader of that group, finishing in second place after shooting five-under-par for the entire tournament. She played in all four tournaments in the fall and led the team with a 71.92 stroke average. She finished in the top 10 at all four tournaments. Her best finish came in the first tournament of

the year when she won the Mary Fossum Invitational by posting a score of five-over-par. Her best score was her performance at the Pat Bradley Invitational. She has already shot two individual rounds under 70 and is on pace to have another great year for FIU.

The Panthers are going to need help from others besides MacLaren if they want to capture a Conference Championship. A lot of that help has to come from freshman Katerina Krasova. She's tied for second best on the team with a 75.25 stroke average. She has played in all four tournaments and finished

in the top 20 in three of them. Her best finish came at the Mary Fossum Invitational when she shot fifteen-over-par and tied for 13th place. Her best score came at the Johnie Imes Invitational when she shot five-over-par. She finished tied for 26th which turned out to be her worst finish to date.

Sophomores Coralia Arias and Camila Serrano have also been huge contributors to FIU's success this year. Arias has the second lowest stroke average along with Krasova at 75.25. Serrano is not too far behind with a 75.58 stroke average of her

own. Both have played in all four tournaments and have combined for four top 20 finishes. The best one came by Serrano when she finished in eighth place after shooting two-under-par at the Johnie Imes Invitational.

The road to a Conference Championship begins when they tee off at the Florida Challenge. They will face the best that the state has to offer; schools such as the University of Florida, Florida State University, the host school University of South Florida and local rival the University of Miami.

Panthers to face tough road test in Norfolk against Monarchs of Old Dominion University to end January

DAVID DRUCKER
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The men's basketball team (9-9) will travel to Norfolk, Va. to play Old Dominion University (15-2) on Thursday, Jan. 29.

The Monarchs, who were ranked for the first time in school history two weeks ago, will be looking to climb back into AP's top 25 while the Panthers will look to rise above .500.

Old Dominion's path to success has been paved by solid defense and unselfish offense.

The Monarchs currently have the ninth best defense in college basketball, allowing 55.4 per game.

They also rank in the top 75 in both offensive and defensive rebounds per game.

On offense, Old Dominion looks often

to junior forward Trey Freeman (15.8 points per game).

Junior guard Aaron Bacote is also a reliable scorer for the Monarchs with 10.2 points per game and a free throw shooting percent of .841 this year.

The Panthers are coming off of a 65-58 loss to the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers.

Although the team has had good performances out of junior forward Daviyon Draper and senior guard Dennis Mavin, they struggled to break the Hilltoppers' full press and ignite their offense in the second half.

Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. from the Ted Constant Convocation Center.

Video coverage is available on Conference USA Digital Network.

The Panthers will then continue their roadtrip against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte 49ers (8-10) on Saturday Jan. 31 at 7 p.m.



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Senior guard Dennis Mavin attempts a finger roll during the 66-62 overtime win against the Thundering Herd of Marshall University on Thursday, Jan. 15.

BASEBALL

Marlins open Spring Training with game against FIU

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When Major League Baseball announced the official Spring Training schedule, it was confirmed that the Miami Marlins will be opening their season with an exhibition against the FIU Panthers baseball team.

The game will take place on Monday, March 2, at 1 p.m. at Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, FL, the home of Marlins Spring Training.

These games featuring pro and college teams are not uncommon, as other MLB teams will also be opening their exhibition slate against a college team.

The Marlins will be playing two collegiate teams, this game vs. FIU and another against the University of Miami the next day. In fact, this will not be the first time the

Panthers and the Marlins have faced off.

The two have opened Spring Training multiple times in the past, including a 2012 matchup

that gave fans a sneak peek of the new Marlins Park.

Despite some Panther players having this opportunity before, any

experience playing a Major League ball club it's a great thing for a team, especially for younger players who haven't gotten the chance before.

While this will be the first game of the year for the Marlins, FIU's season will be in full swing by the time March 2 rolls around.

The Panthers will be playing this game right in the middle of two key homestands, the first of which is against the Manhattan College Jaspers (a familiar opponent whom they swept in 2013), and the second against the University of Connecticut Huskies.

The game comes at a point in the season where the Panthers will be looking to gain some momentum to carry them toward a big series against UConn, and Conference USA play shortly thereafter.



RHYS WILLIAMS/THE BEACON

Head Coach Turtle Thomas will lead the Panthers in year No. 8 at the helm. The Panthers open the season at home against the University of Tennessee on Feb. 13.

FOOTBALL

From Panthers to Panthers: House joins FIU after Pittsburgh



PHOTO COURTESY OF PITT ATHLETIC RELATIONS

Matthew House was the defensive coordinator at the University of Pittsburgh for two years before joining the staff at FIU.

DAVID DRUCKER
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Former University of Pittsburgh defensive coordinator and linebackers coach Matthew House has been hired by Panthers Head Coach Ron Turner to become the team's next defensive coordinator.

House brings with him 15 years of coaching and tape analyzing experience.

House inherits a defense that ranked second in the nation in

fumble recoveries and ranked fifth total takeaways in 2014. In the same year, House's group at the University of Pittsburgh was ranked No. 33 in total defense – just two spots ahead of FIU's own.

Josh Conklin, who coached the Florida International defense in the past two seasons, departed for the University of Pittsburgh earlier this month. Joining him was former linebackers coach Rob Harley, who spent just one year in Miami. Both coaches were hired to fill their same respective positions.

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University commemorates Cuban national hero

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
BBC Managing Editor
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As a Cuban patriot, a freedom fighter and poet, José Martí transformed Latin American literature as he strived for his country's independence from Spain.

To honor the Cuban national hero, the University will host a 15th Annual José Martí Breakfast the day of the martyr's birthday, Wednesday, Jan. 28 at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

"We are not only going to honor a Cuban person, but a Latin American person that was known

donations for future scholarship recipients. Hundreds of dollars are awarded to winners.

According to Moncarz, this year's commemoration will honor both the younger and older generations as an example of Martí's respect for all ages.

For this reason, the University has invited guest speaker Juana Bober and students from MAST @ FIU Academy, David Lawrence Junior K-8 Center and Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High to participate at the event.

A student of a relative of Martí, Bober will share her insight of the hero as a teacher and will also talk about her own involvement in the Cuban community. She is also an

FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD MANATEE



CHRISTOPHER MOROT-GAUDRY/THE BEACON

Manatee found at dock located near the tennis courts on Jan. 22 at the BBC campus.

“

Hopefully the young people will remember that not only do we honor them, but we also honor elderly people that have been very important in their lives.

Raul Moncarz
Vice Provost Emeritus
FIU

”

and respected by Latin America," said Raul Moncarz, University vice provost emeritus and starter of the event.

The breakfast event will also raise awareness about the José Martí Scholarship Fund for FIU students, as well as to collect

artist, a writer and a painter.

As done in the past, the high school and middle school students will perform at the event with either a song or recitation of Martí's poetry.

"Hopefully the young people will remember that not only do

we honor them, but we also honor elderly people that have been very important in their lives," Moncarz said. He made reference to Martí's saying, "Los niños son la esperanza del mundo," meaning "the children are the hope of this world."

After singing the United States National Anthem, the Cuban National Anthem is also expected to be sung, a touching moment for everyone, Moncarz explained.

According to Marcy Alstrom, Student Government Association office assistant, what is most exciting about the event will be the unveiling of the newly installed José Martí statue at the Rincón Martiano near the Academic Two Building.

"We are very excited to have

the unveiling of the statue as part of our program this year," Alstrom said. "It's something that we've been looking forward to for quite some time."

The statue was donated by Cuban Ysmelio Lopez, who also donated a statue of liberty located on the campus. It is said that a replica of the statue will also be placed at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

Fernando Ottati, graphic artist for BBC Campus Life and attendee of the event for the past few years, said that it is nice to see younger generations still reading Martí's great works.

"We are all influenced by what he did and what he wrote," said Ottati. "And [the children] read aloud what he did. It's nice to see

that," he said.

Ottati said that as a young student in Uruguay, he remembers having studied Latin American writers, including Martí. He said his favorite poem is "La Niña de Guatemala" of which to this day he can still recite a part of: "Dicen que murió de frío. Yo sé que murió de amor," meaning, "they say she died from cold, I know she died of love."

The breakfast will be held at the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms from 8:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. The event is free and opened to the public.

As long as it looks good, it's okay.

STRAIGHT-UP
ALEX



ALEXANDRA
MOSQUERA
NETZKARSCH

FIU has been facing a lot of criticism in the past months regarding the Miss Universe pageant which took place at the university's main campus this past weekend. Why is this upsetting and frustrating to many?

As a young woman, I see any kind of pageant as objectifying, no matter

if it is a contest between female or male participants, it triggers in my mind something that yells "That is so wrong!"

For me, it is a shame not to be able to honestly call this university an outstanding academic institution anymore, like I have been doing since I started my studies at FIU in fall 2013.

I have taken ethics courses where I have had the chance to find out what moral values I want to have in my life. I am an advocate of ethical and moral values that help promote a mindset of integrity, respect and honesty in our society. This is what I look for in an academic community, such as the one at FIU.

At this moment, I am not seeing these values in this university.

As a student, I feel strongly about FIU being blinded by the publicity it will earn

from these kind of events.

This university should promote and support many positive values such as the ones it advertises: respect for the dignity of the individual and intellectual excellence.

By letting events like these being affiliated with FIU, the university is showing its students and the world, that 10 seconds in the spotlight are worth more than the values it intends to promote.

A professor of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications recently told a joke in class in which it didn't matter how much one sells his dignity and self-respect for, it could be \$544.073 or \$1, it is wrong no matter what the circumstances are. That joke wasn't intended to be funny, but rather to make us reflect on how we should feel and react to this event, as individuals and as a community.

I can't blame Donald Trump for renting and using it, it's his right to make an offer and be able to use that space for whatever event he wants to.

The dilemma, in this case, is that FIU can't discriminate any business who has the funds and desire to rent out that space. However, FIU shouldn't have spaces that can be rented out to whoever wants to in the first place.

The image projected on the entire University is now vain, gaining publicity



CAMILA FERNANDEZ/THE BEACON

Miss Universe 2013 Gabriela Isler (right) answers a questions by Miss Universe co-host Roxanne Vargas during the Miss Universe preliminary on Wednesday.

around the world thanks to an absurd beauty pageant. What will those students think that will apply only because they saw FIU advertised during the pageant?

Will they want to join our panther community because they will think all the females look like the pageant contestants?

Will the accomplishments of many FIU scholars even matter to those students that will apply?

This doesn't mean that the women and men at FIU are not allowed to feel comfortable with their image and show it off to the world. On the contrary, I think that a serious academic institution, such as FIU, should be able to promote the combination of the inside and outside beauty of all their students, faculty and staff members.

I want to believe that FIU can be an academic community in which the beauty of every student's mind is valued above his/her looks, contrary to pageants.

I'm confident that the alumni and current panthers have the capability and the talent, in endless fields, to show the world that an education at FIU is worth every penny and every minute of hard work and that this institution doesn't need a beauty pageant event to attract new generations of students. People will see and admire our actions, not our intentions.

FIU, show us your greatness through your good ethical actions, not through the hidden intentions.

-alexandra.mosquera@fiusm.com