

## Students using Pell Grant money for more than just tuition

AARON PABON  
*Staff Writer*

What do you do with your Pell Grant money?

The University receives grant money from Tallahassee each year, which gets dispersed to a majority of students in forms of financial grants and aid to be used for educational use.

The second a student receives the check, the question is posed: what is the money going to be used for?

In an article published on Feb. 27 in USA Today by Phil Dunn, it stated that college and university students have been irresponsibly using financial aid funds for personal use.

Amer Faraj, a computer science freshman, said the term "personal use" was vague.

"Just because people don't use the money for school, doesn't mean that [students] don't use it to help with their school life, like for gas or food," said Faraj.

Examples in Dunn's article mention students treating their "...financial aid as their own income..." and using vouchers for purchasing gift cards on a college campus to make a purchase elsewhere.

Fernando Machado, a junior art history major, said his girlfriend has a Pell Grant and uses all the money for school.

"She doesn't get all of her money from the Pell Grant, she has other scholarships," said Machado. "She needs the money from the Pell Grant to pay for school, combined with another scholarships, and has to pay for books with the remaining money."

Other students at the University are in the same boat.

"One hundred percent of my money went towards classes," said Juan Leyva, a senior psychology major. "I even use other grants for school related fees and bills for school. I have heard of other students using it for other personal means, but I don't have that luxury."

While Leyva did not use his Pell Grant money for anything outside of school, he admitted to using his student refund to pay

SEE GRANT, PAGE 2



STEPHAN USECHE/THE BEACON

Venezuelans gathered around 'El Arepazo' in Doral after hearing of Hugo Chavez's death.

## Venezuelans hopeful for future after death of Chavez

MARIA BRITOS  
*Contributing Writer*

The news of the death of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez hit worldwide late Tuesday afternoon after an announcement made by Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro. Chavez had been battling cancer since 2011 and rumors of his death since December of 2012.

For many Venezuelans this news brought sentiments from delight to speculation. In Venezuela, his followers grieved his death and marched in the streets of the capital supporting the continuance of his political policies.

On the other hand, Venezuelans in South Florida, who fled the country in fear of losing their wealth and freedom, were celebrating the leader's death.

"I have a feeling the situation in Venezuela is going to become very hostile," sophomore international business major Alejandro Merino said. "So the next few years are

going to be very crucial, and it's too soon to really know what's going to happen, so we just have to wait and hope."

During more than 14 years in office, his leftist

three times for a six-year-term after his government adjusted the country's constitution in his favor. He renamed Venezuela the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela after his political

"I have a feeling the situation in Venezuela is going to become very hostile."  
Alejandro Merino  
Sophomore  
International business

politics and grandiose style polarized Venezuelans. The barrel-chested leader electrified crowds with his booming voice and won admiration among the poor with government social programs and a folksy, nationalistic style.

Throughout his presidency, Chavez was reelected

inspiration; the 19th-century independence leader, Simon Bolivar.

Venezuela witnessed as their commandante, forced television and radio stations off the air if they opposed his political and government

SEE CHAVEZ, PAGE 2

## HIV/AIDS research gives students hope for the future

JENNIFER SANS  
*Contributing Writer*

Scientists and doctors in the medical community may be coming closer to finding a cure for the HIV/AIDS virus.

It was reported on March 3, 2013 that an infant in Mississippi was cured of HIV.

The news of the infant who was cured has spread globally as possibly being the second case to ever be documented of a cured patient. Doctors and scientists are excited about the news.

"There's going to be a huge amount of research that's going to come from this. If this ultimately leads to a standard way of treating infants that's effective and actually cures HIV, that would be wonderful. It's very, very exciting," Mary Jo Trepka, an associate professor of epidemiology and biostatistics.

Trepka was honored by President Obama for her AIDS research in 2011.

"It is a very important milestone in the development of a cure for HIV/AIDS. I am confident that this event will trigger a new wave of research in HIV/AIDS. It is some sort of boost we need today," Sakhrat Khizroev, vice chair of the Department of Immunology said.

According to The New York Times, the infant was born in 2010 to a mother who did not know at the time that she was infected with the virus. Hannah B. Gay, an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, began intensive treatment on the newborn.

When the baby was 18 months old, the mother stopped going to the hospital to receive treatment for her baby. Five months later, the mother returned and doctors were shocked to find that all of the baby's tests came back negative for any infection.

"This is amazing. I can't believe there could actually be a cure. I don't know anyone who is infected, but I think this is great news for them," Rhianna Jenkins, junior in hospitality management said.

There is still some skepticism of the news among doctors and scientists in the medical community about the case with this patient. Not enough information is known about the case at this time.

SEE HIV/AIDS, PAGE 2

## Coley ready to lead Panthers into Sun Belt tournament

RUBEN PALACIOS  
*Staff Writer*

The regular season is over, and now every team will adopt the same mindset: win or go home.

With the regular season coming to an end, it is time for the Sun Belt Conference Tournament to kick off. The women's basketball team finished the season with an 18-11 (12-8 SBC) record and earned the No.5 seed. The squad won five of its last seven games in order to earn their second first-round bye in the last three

years.

"The way we are looking at it no one team is so much better than the others," said junior Jerica Coley. "We are going to go in and give it all we got. We want to win and we know we have a really good chance."

On March 6, Coley won the SBC Player of the Year Award for the second consecutive year. Coley remains as the leading scorer in the nation with 26.1 points per game.

The Panthers will play the No.4 seed Arkansas State on Saturday, March 9 at 12:30 p.m. ASU finished the year 15-14 (12-8 SBC)

and were one of only two teams to defeat FIU in both of its regular season matchups.

ASU beat the Panthers on Nov.29 in a tight 60-57 contest in Miami. The Red Wolves were able to shut down the All-American in Coley. They were able to hold the nation's leading scorer to just 14 points on 7 of 23 shooting from the field and an abysmal 0 of 5 from behind the arc.

The Panthers traveled to Jonesboro, Ark., later in the year for the second matchup against ASU. FIU was yet again met with a similar outcome as they lost another tight contest

49-43. The Red Wolves took it to Coley once again; holding her to only 15 points on 7 of 20 shooting from the field and another 0 of 5 shooting performance from the three-point line.

"The matchup with ASU is as good as any," Russo said. "They certainly are beatable, both games in the regular season were close games."

Aside from the two regular season matchups, Head Coach Cindy Russo notes that another factor could play a huge role in the game: mid-term exams.

SEE BASKETBALL, PAGE 6

# Social media influences students' self image

**DEBORA LIMA**  
*Contributing Writer*

If one were to create a modern day adaptation of T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" it is likely that the line "I have measured out my life with coffee spoons," would be modified to "I have measured out my life in Likes and retweets."

To say that social media has become a vital part of everyday life would be the understatement of the century. Studies have shown that living in a world so permeated by networking sites has had alarming, even adverse, effects on users.

Junior political science major Warlfrantz Aldajuste believes people become a different person once they log in.

"People tend to go online and be who they wish they could actually be," Aldajuste said.

According to a study by the Journal of Consumer Research conducted by professors from the University of Pittsburgh and Columbia University, reports that Facebook users show highly elevated levels of confidence due to positive feedback from friends.

Leandra Medine, fashion blogger, expressed horror at her emotional response to Facebook interaction in the aptly titled post "Think Before U Like" on her blog manrepeller.com: "I am highly disturbed that a digital thumb up has the ability to fill a highly visceral void manifesting within me with the same level of compassion that say, a compliment, hug, or, heck,

confession of undying love could," Medine said. "The maniacal pace at which I check newly uploaded Instagram photos, tweets and Facebook statuses is disconcerting."

That spike in self-confidence, the study revealed, leads to other forms of crazed behavior in the form of loss of self control.

**SEE SOCIAL, PAGE 5**

## Students using Pell Grants for "personal use"

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luxury."

While Leyva did not use his Pell Grant money for anything outside of school, he admitted to using his student refund to pay for personal bills like his cell phone.

"It is true that there is no way that we can control what the student does with the extra funds that they get that are intended for books and supplies and living expenses," said Francisco Valines, the director of financial aid.

Valines understands the use of funds for personal use for assisting the needs of a student.

"Almost all of our students commute, and there is really only one way to get to campus, you've got to drive," said Valines. "If you are using a student loan, you can pay for gas, insurance, payments, maintenance, which is valid if you need to cover those things to get to school."

According to Valines, there are various

areas that funds can be dispersed to. Examples include tuition, supplies, books, food, living expenses and gas.

Students using money for personal reasons is not the only issue.

According to Dunn, "...The American Association of Community Colleges reports financial aid and abuse such as organized fraud rings and individuals intending to commit financial aid fraud have concentrated on community college programs due to their low tuition."

Valines has not seen that problem here at the University.

"Although we are reasonably [low] cost, we are not extremely low cost. It's not easy to get into FIU. The way those fraud rings work is that they gather people up, all apply in a school, take the [grant] money and run. You can't just get in here," said Valines.

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## Relief and mourning felt following death of Chavez

**CHAVEZ, PAGE 1**

ideas.

Chavez then took over television to host his own daily show, which ran however long he wanted, where he freely lambasted his opponents, lectured the country on socialism and announced political news at his discretion.

Chavez used his country's oil wealth to launch social programs that included state-run food markets, new public housing, free health clinics and education programs.

While poverty declined during his presidency amid a historic boom in oil earnings, critics said he failed to use the windfall of hundreds of billions of dollars to develop the country's economy.

Inflation soared and the homicide rate rose to among the highest in the world.

"I can say that I'm neither happy nor sad about it," junior journalism major Carhil Medina said. "Living here in America, you don't really get to see the full impact that he's had on the people. I do believe though, that he was not the best of presidents and that Venezuela can do better off without him."

Chavez was a "master communicator and savvy political strategist," as the Associated Press described him.

He was well known around the world for his disputes with the United States and Great Britain as well as his famous friendships with dictator Fidel Castro, Bolivian President Evo Morales and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

As of now, the country will have new elections held in 30 days, and although there is speculation that

the current Vice President Nicolas Maduro will be representing the United Socialist Party of Venezuela, there was no official announcement. The opposition's party is also unsure of their candidate but former presidential candidate, Henrique Capriles, is expected to run.

"Without a doubt, Chavez's death will be marked as an ending of a difficult era for the people of Venezuela," junior criminal justice major Rebeca Artilles said. "I, myself, am not rejoicing because of his death but I am celebrating the fact that my family will be able to live a better life. I just hope the next appointed president will push the country in the right direction."

*Additional reporting by Frank Bajak and Ian James of the Associated Press.*

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## Excitement builds over infant cured of HIV/AIDS

**HIV/AIDS, PAGE 1**

"There are a lot of unknowns with this. It could be a fluke. They need to be able to see if they can replicate this in other infants before they start doing full scale trials," said Trepka.

Khizroev said although the event is groundbreaking, more studies need to be conducted.

There is also the question of whether or not this case could be a model for research of the virus in adults. It may only serve a purpose for research in infected infants.

"It's a lot more complex in adults. When you're initially infected, the virus is multiplying like crazy. Then your body starts to

attack the virus, but it never goes down to 0. It hides in different reservoirs in adults," said Trepka.

Students gathered at the Biscayne Bay Campus cafeteria to watch the breaking news of the cured patient on TV.

"Putting the baby immediately on those drugs seems a little scary, but if it really cured the baby, then I think that's incredible," freshman art major Gianni Barcos said. "AIDS seemed to be a disease that there was just no cure for. I can imagine that this is exciting for everyone, especially those infected with the virus."

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## Classes across campus, distance and time affect students

**JUNETTE REYES**  
*Staff Writer*

With the many options FIU offers, the most difficult issue a student could come across might be deciding what class to take. The severed connection between Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus makes this decision even more difficult when the course offerings might not always be as equal from campus to campus.

What separates the two campuses further, besides their obvious distance, are the different colleges and schools established at each one. This could explain why department courses are not always equally available at each campus.

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication at BBC, for example, only offered nine courses at MMC in spring 2013 with only one section each, the rest simply accessible at BBC as well as online.

This is personally troublesome for me because as a staff writer of The Beacon, I have an interest in journalism but find it extremely inconvenient that most of the classes are at BBC.

“The lack of classes from departments at either campus can be an issue for some, especially when taking the shuttle or taking classes online is not an option.”

The availability of an online portion of some classes can be quite helpful sometimes but they are more costly, given that they have an additional distance learning fee of as much as \$174 for three to five credits.

The Golden Panther Express Shuttle can also be somewhat helpful for people, such as myself, who do not have the means of commuting between campuses. Still, establishing a schedule at MMC is difficult enough as it is sometimes given to how quickly classes fill up, so it isn't always easy creating a schedule between the two.

This problem is not limited to SJMC or BBC alone.

The School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, for example, only offered seven courses at MMC in spring 2013, again with only one section each while the rest were offered either at BBC or online.

Hospitality and Tourism student Melissa Del Toro has to travel four separate days to BBC and said the time spent to travel and the expense of transportation is something she doesn't even want to think about.

“It's really hard sometimes. We have to pay for the bus \$2.50

each way! [For me] that's \$20 every week,” said Del Toro. “I don't even want to think about how many weeks there are in a semester. Imagine how much I spend on gas for those emergency days that I miss the bus.”

From the MMC side of things, a class search of the Department of History showed that only two courses were offered in spring 2013 at BBC, one of which was an Independent Study course.

A class search of the Humanities Department produced a similar outcome with only three courses having been offered at BBC, one of which was also an Independent Study course.

A class search of the Department of Philosophy showed that only two courses in the 2000 level were offered in spring 2013 at BBC.

On one extreme, a class search seemingly showed that the Department of Criminal Justice did not even offer any classes at BBC in spring 2013.

Fortunately, departments such as the Department of Psychology and the Department of English made up for such issues with a class search showing that they

offered eighteen and twenty-five courses at BBC respectively, all of which were a combination of upper and lower division courses.

The lack of classes from departments at either campus can be an issue for some, especially when taking the shuttle to attend the other campus or taking classes online is not an option.

One solution to this can simply be to make the classes available to students by scheduling enough sections at each campus. Another solution, as was done with some Hospitality courses this semester, is to simulcast classes from one campus to the other via video-conference with the presence of teaching assistants.

Whatever the solution may be, there certainly needs to be one so that students can pursue the education they desire.

“It's hard, but [our hospitality and tourism school] is such a great program with such wonderful instructors that it's worth the ride,” said Del Toro. “If only there was a way to have them at south campus, my world would be perfect.”

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## Welcome to the FIU 500

**AARON PABON**  
*Staff Writer*

Tires screeching, brakes squealing, and cars colliding. This is not a NASCAR race, this is what can be heard around FIU.

Living in Miami, we are aware that drivers are crazy and it can be a dog-eat-dog world; but why is that the case at the Modesto Maidique Campus?

Is it necessary to floor it out of a parking spot?

Do you need to go through the roundabout nearly drifting?

I can hear the squealing of tires from PG-5 from the other side of Academic Health Center 4.

Basic laws like texting while driving and blowing stop signs have been broken, but what I witnessed in January angered me to no end.

I came across a school bus on campus. The bus pulled off to the side, near the Frost Museum to drop off middle school students for a class trip. Noticing the stop indicator, I followed the law and stopped for the safety of potential future Panthers.

While I stopped, another driver in a Camaro decided to drive around the bus doing almost 20 miles per hour.

In case anyone has forgotten: according to Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, “Florida Motor Vehicles Laws require

that motorists stop upon approaching any school bus which displays its flashing red lights and has its stop signs extended.”

By the way Camaro driver: had I been a cop, you would have had to pay a \$165 ticket, plus a license suspension for 90 days to six months.

I implore all of you to please, take a chill pill, slow down, and drive much safer.

Everyday walking around the campus, I always hear the screeching of brakes, and see a near-collision, fender bender, or a parked car get tagged.

As a reporter for this paper, I fear that I will have to write about a student getting fatally injured on campus because someone flew out of Gold Garage and hit someone walking to class.

Would you want to read an article with the title, “Student killed in car accident at MMC”?

This is not only directed to drivers of automobiles and motorbikes; this is also directed to the golf cart drivers. While a golf cart may be smaller than a Miata, and I could push it over with ease; do you want to get hit by one at full force?

Save the speeding and reckless driving for Gran Turismo: “The Real Driving Simulator.”

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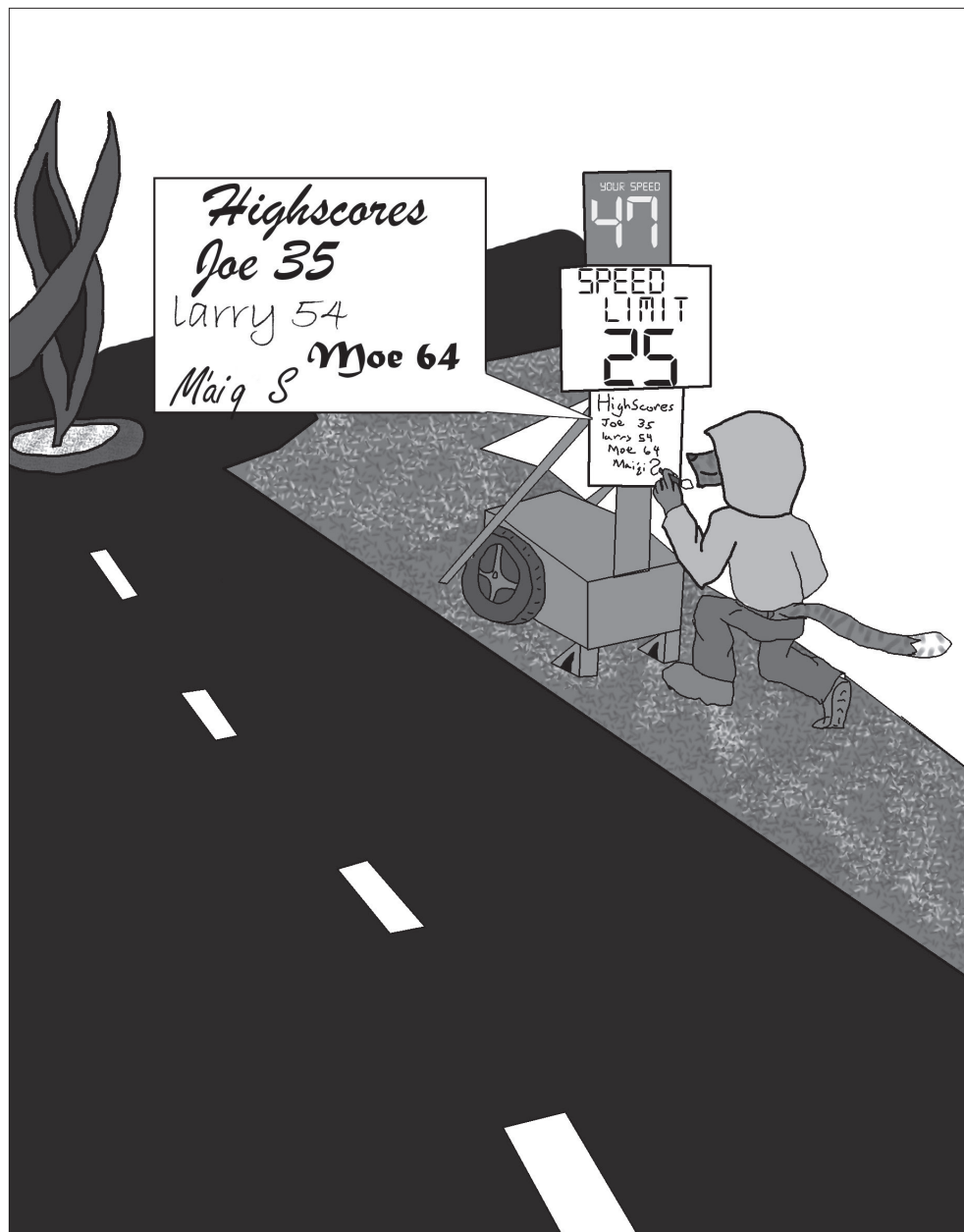


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## Professor receives major software grant

**KEILA DIAZ**  
*Contributing Writer*

Technology using renewable sources of energy to create power systems is rapidly emerging, especially at the University.

Professor Osama A. Mohammed has received a \$430,750 software grant from Operation Technology, Inc. – the creators of the Energy Systems Research Laboratory – to further his research of power systems and alternate energy sources.

Mohammed is a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at FIU as well as the director of the Energy Systems Research Laboratory.

His impressive resume includes a doctoral degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Tech, various research projects for the Office of Naval Research, more than 300 industry papers that he has written or collaborated on and various book chapters in industry books among many other accomplishments.

According to Mohammed, the software grant from Operation Technology, Inc. was due to the great research and educational programs that have been devel-

oped at FIU.

“Our power and energy program is one of the best in the country,” he said.

The Energy Systems Research Laboratory is used by students in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering for research as well as for educational activities. The lab is used by both graduate and undergraduate students and is used in several courses at the graduate and undergraduate level.

The Office of Naval Research has funded the development of the Energy Systems Research Laboratory over the last seven years.

The research conducted in the lab has to do with power system design and operation.

ETAP is the software the lab uses to train students in the design, analysis and operation of power systems.

According to the ETAP website, the company has grown to be the world’s largest in power system analysis software.

ETAP is used in combination with the Smart Grid Test Bed project built at the Energy Systems Research Laboratory. The project is a power system

designed to enable to use of sustainable alternate energy sources. On the lab’s site, the Smart Grid project is described as “a self-managing and reliable smart grid facility that is presented as the future of protection and control systems for a healed operation.”

“The Smart Grid Test Bed

daily lives.

His research is focused in two areas.

“The first one is the development of new control techniques that will help power and energy industry find solutions to the blackout issues that have recently occurred costing us billions of dollars. We are doing that through

research will continue to grow as the nation faces more severe power outages as the one experienced by millions of residents in parts of Arizona, Southern California, and Northern Mexico in 2011.

For Mohammed, another very important aspect of the research he conducts is the development of scientists and engineers in these areas of research that will help this nation grow.

Many undergraduate students are involved in the research Mohammed conducts in the lab and they are paired with doctoral students.

“One important note here is that all students involved in our research projects do secure excellent jobs in industry and academia before they graduate,” he said.

The experience that the students gain working the in the laboratory prepares them with the skills that they need to succeed in the field.

“I hope we can continue to secure the research funds to keep this pipeline of trained graduates going.”

“I hope we can continue to secure the research funds to keep this pipeline of trained graduates going.”

Osama A. Mohammed  
Professor

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

facility that we built here at FIU as part of my research laboratory is significant and unique and many researchers from around the world want to visit and collaborate with us,” he said.

Mohammed’s research is motivated by his desire to solve practical problems that affect our

increased utilization of renewable and sustainable sources of energy distributed throughout the system. The second one is in the area of product development and their design optimization to meet established national and international standards,” he said.

The importance of his

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## The luck of the Irish: more than a four-leafed clover

**HOLLY MCCOACH**  
*Staff Writer*

The Emerald Isle is a land rich in traditions and culture that range from Irish folklore, to the Irish Gaelic language, which is spoken almost as commonly as English itself.

Around St. Patrick’s Day, however, old Irish traditions are emphasized in Ireland, unlike here in the United States, where dressing in green is considered a way of celebrating the day.

In Ireland, St. Patrick’s Day is recognized as a religious holiday that has been observed since Saint Patrick’s death in the fifth century, on March 17. Saint Patrick, a slave that was brought to Ireland at a young age, has been credited for bringing Christianity to Ireland, for introducing the Holy Trinity through the three leaves of the shamrock and legend has it that he banished all of Ireland’s serpents to the sea.

Aiveen Gallagher, who is known as Aoibhinn Ní Ghallchobhair in Gaelic, is a graduate student at the University studying music performance. A native of Cork, Gallagher highlights all that Ireland

has to offer, including that of St. Patrick’s Day.

“The strongest tradition is that you would always go to church, because it’s our patron saint’s day,” said Gallagher, “Afterwards, there [are] parades, like over here, but they are more traditional.”

In the parades, the traditional elements that are included are acknowledgments of ancient figures of Ireland, snakes, Saint Patrick, and fairies. Fairies stem from many ancient Irish legends and folklore, which have been kept alive through storytelling in school and with families.

On this day, signs in parades are usually in Gaelic, everyone wears their best green garb, and everyone also pins a real shamrock to their attire in honor of Saint Patrick.

In the afternoons, families usually get together for dinner, and perhaps even sports.

“We have Gaelic soccer and Hurling. Those are Gaelic sports. On St. Patrick’s Day, you will always have teams playing,” said Gallagher.

Unlike in the United States, St. Patrick’s Day is regarded as a national holiday, which means most places shut down,

including most supermarkets and schools.

The modern day leprechaun is an icon that is not so much Irish.

“The leprechaun we know today are basically a media thing,” said Gallagher.

Leprechauns, along with fairies, also emerge from Irish folklore. Leprechauns, in Irish stories, are short, tiny people that bring you luck and have magical powers, but the leprechaun that is tossed about the media in the United States is the Americanized version.

The “luck of the Irish” is not a complete fable either. It is brought by the Irish’s history of hard work and ancient legends.

“It’s not so much that we’re lucky; Irish people tend to be quite driven and focused on what [they] want to do, and mostly because we had a bad history,” said Gallagher.

This bad history includes the wars between England and Ireland and the Potato Famine, which allotted the Irish to work hard for their land, homes and religion.

However, Irish folklore and tales also introduced the idea of the luck of the Irish.

“The luck of the Irish comes from the Blarney Stone. Apparently, if you kiss the

stone, you get the luck of the Irish, and the Gift of the Gab,” said Gallagher.

According to legend, the Gift of the Gab allows anyone to talk readily and convincingly to any subject that is presented to the individual.

Ireland is divided into four provinces, where four dialects of Gaelic are spoken. Gaelic is compulsory in schools, from the ages of 5 to 18, making Ireland a bilingual country. More than half of Ireland is completely fluent in it, and the other half speak broken Gaelic. In Ireland, you will also find areas called Gaelacht regions.

“There’s Gaelacht areas all over Ireland. In those towns, people only speak Gaelic,” said Gallagher.

So unless you are a foreigner, it is expected that you speak only Gaelic in these places. This is how the Irish keep the language from dying out.

The Gaelic language continues to prevail, especially on St. Patrick’s Day, where you can see signs sending luck and good wishes on that day.

On that note, Lá Fhéile Pádraig Sona Duit! Or, Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

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# Put a spring in your step: spring break fashions



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY GARNER/THE BEACON

Cramping for tests, pulling all-nighters and getting swarmed with multiple assignments are all symptoms of a stressful “I-need-a-break-already” semester. Luckily for students, our long-awaited spring break is just a few days away. Even luckier for us, the place people from all over the country come to for vacation is the place we call home: Miami.

For locals, it's less about vacationing and more about relaxing. Dressing for school can become lazy and second priority as classes overload you with too much work to even give your brain a chance to create a creative outfit. That's why today I want to give you a few tips on how to revive your stylish spirit this spring break.

Miami may be known for Art Deco buildings and topless beaches, but what truly makes this city unique is its use of color. The Wynwood Walls are overwhelmingly saturated and if you're not wearing white, you're probably wearing a vibrant color of some shade.

Bright colors are a great way to get into the spirit of spring break as seen by education major Brittany Davis. Her rainbow head-wrap caught my eye immediately and changed my bad attitude into a light-hearted one.

If you enjoy color but not to the point that you want to scream about it, try a pale pink outfit like Emily Adams; she giddily stated that her choice of clothes that day was “to feel float-y and positive before a test today.”

Spring break is also about indulging in comfort, so her long un-fitted layers are perfect choices for a day spent shopping on Lincoln Road or curling up with a book and cup of tea.

Another item that is absolutely essential for a successful spring break is a hat. Whether it is straw, a snap back, fedora or bowler, without a hat there is a good chance a sunburn will be prevail.

Senior Heidi Bryce was seen wearing her boater's hat outside of the Green Library. This style is great for areas like Miami because its wicker material allows airflow to your scalp and its khaki color is versatile enough to be paired with almost anything.

Another great option is the classic snap-back. With their huge rise in popularity it's easy to find one that is customized to your liking such as art history major Renier Casanova's “BOY” hat.

“My friend was trying to butch me up so she got this hat for me,” remarked Casanova on the significance of his hat, also making a very good point about the visual symbolism of snapbacks. They may have their origins leaning towards the male gender, but are just as good for any female.

These are just a few ideas and inspirations to ignite your creative spirit this upcoming break. In the meantime, relax, enjoy times with friends and family, and get yourself a nice golden tan to get ready for summer bikini weather.

Ashley Garner is a junior editor, fashion merchandiser for *Fashify.com* and currently has an internship with *College Fashionista*. She was a fashion-based writer for *Wasabi Fashion Kult*, the fashion editor for *RAUKUS Magazine* and has worked for *Miami Swim Fashion Week*, *Art Basel*, *Project Runway Latin America* and has been published in several magazines. She also runs a personal art/fashion blog called *Elegant Idiosyncrasy*.

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## Social media plays large part in self image

SOCIAL, PAGE 2

Greater social network use was linked to weight gain, lower credit score and higher debt, researchers Andrew T. Stephen and Keith Wilcox reported. Stephen and Wilcox measured self-esteem to demonstrate that browsing a social network lowers self-control by increasing self-esteem.

Stephen said social media users feel that “it's like a present. It's saying I'm going to give myself a gift. I deserve to get that unhealthy snack instead of sticking to my diet for the day.”

Although many people are indifferent to social media usage, they still acknowledge its superficial nature.

“Personally, I don't really care about social media because I don't care what people are doing or saying today, but I know that there are a lot of people who do,” junior business major Suraj Karamohandari said.

Social media has proven to be a useful tool for participatory politics in instances such as the Arab Spring but realistically, Facebook and Twitter are rarely used to sow seeds of revolution. As various experiments have shown, social networking sites are a source of negativity and unfavorable outcomes for those who dabble in it.

“People who spend a lot of time on social media are basically living a double life,” Karamohandari said. “If you are someone who is social in real life, you are not going to care about social media.”

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2013

### FRIDAY, MAR. 8

#### ADVOCACY BRIEFING IN COLLABORATION WITH GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: FREE  
WHERE: Fowler Rodriguez Valdez Fauli, LLP, 355 Alhambra Circle, Suite 801, Coral Gables, FL 33134

#### HOUSING ROOMMATE PULL-IN

WHEN: Deadline 5 p.m.  
WHERE: Housing Online

#### FIU NATURE PRESERVE VOLUNTEER DAY

WHEN: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: FREE  
WHERE: MMC FIU Nature Preserve

#### COHEED AND CAMBRIA

WHEN: 8 p.m..  
HOW MUCH: \$28  
WHERE: The Fillmore Miami Beach 1700 Washington Ave. Miami Beach, FL 33139

#### HEALTH SCIENCE ADVISING SESSION

WHEN: 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC Academic Health Center 3 Room 123

### SATURDAY, MAR. 9

#### FIU THEATRE PRESENTS: THE LIAR

WHEN: 8 p.m.  
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center 10910 SW 17 Street, Miami, FL 33199

#### SAND VOLLEYBALL

WHEN: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
WHERE: Malibu, CA

#### INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL

WHEN: 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$12 - \$25  
WHERE: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden 10901 Old Cutler Road Coral Gables, FL 33156

### SUNDAY, MAR. 10

#### FIU THEATRE PRESENTS: THE LIAR

WHEN: 2 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: FREE  
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center 10910 SW 17 Street, Miami, FL 33199

#### FIU'S ENSEMBLE-IN-RESIDENCE

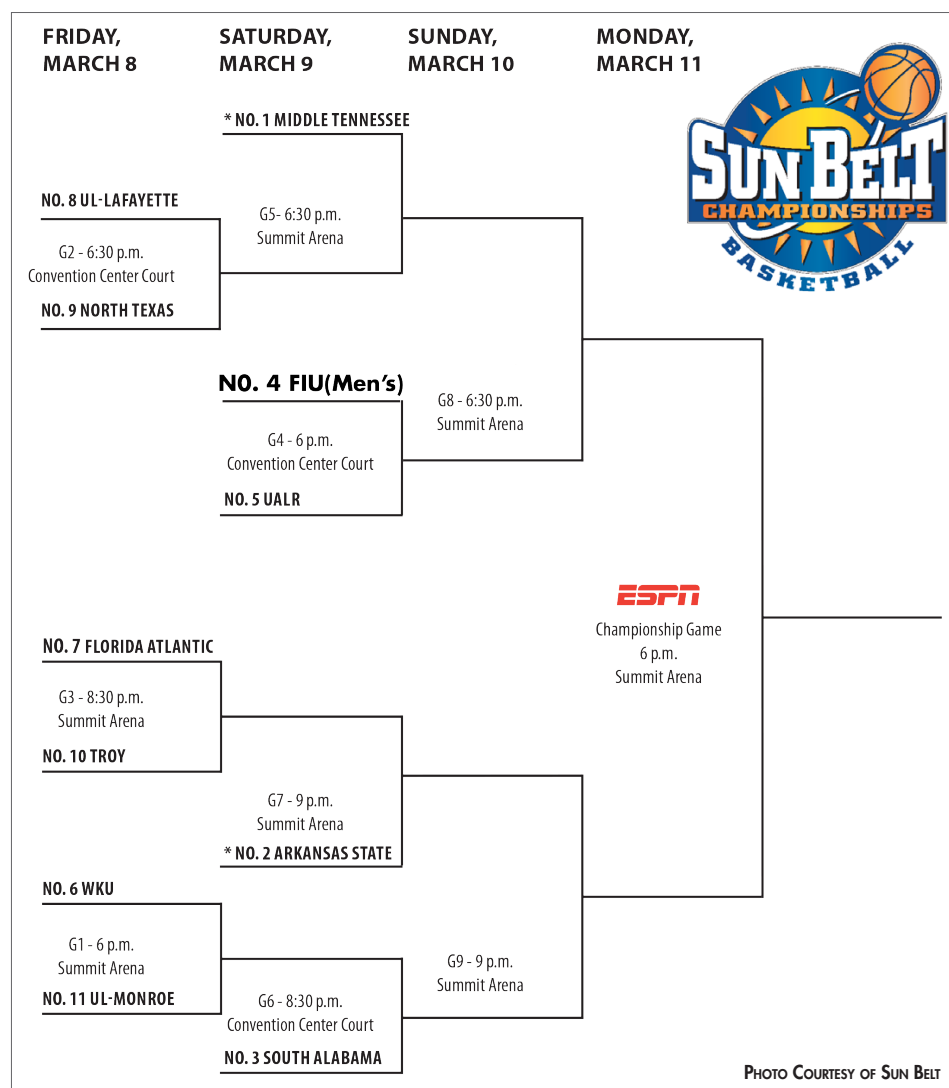
WHEN: 3 p.m.  
WHERE: Concert Hall - Wertheim Performing Arts Center 10910 SW 17 Street, Miami, FL 33199

#### CALLE OCHO FESTIVAL

WHEN: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Calle Ocho

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

## FIU has no time for rest with SBC tournament tomorrow



**KEVIN CASTANEDA**  
 Staff Writer

The FIU men's basketball team ended the season on a sour note.

Though finishing with a 16-13 record, the best mark the

program mustered in the last 13 years, the team lost its final game to the Florida Atlantic Owls, leaving them to linger in the air of defeat for a week.

The loss means the players have to wait a full week before they get a crack at the hard-

wood again, since they have a first-round bye. Several factors could be running through the minds of the Panthers. Are they going in smug about an above .500 record? Are they going in angry they lost their last game of the season? The only

certain thing is their trip to Hot Springs, Ark. for the Sun Belt Conference Tournament as the No. 4 seed facing the No. 5 seed Arkansas-Little Rock Trojans.

The two teams split their regular season matchups, both winning at home. Working against FIU is the fact that the tournament will be played in the Trojans' backyard. Even with that looming above the Panther's heads, senior point guard Cameron Bell is not scared.

"I would play anybody in the first round. I really don't think there is a team we want to shy away from," Bell said. "So if we see [University of Arkansas at Little Rock] in the first round, we're going to go in as confident as if we would see anybody else in the tournament."

What Bell might not be aware of is that just two years ago, Steve Shields, the Trojans' head coach, won the SBC Tournament. In his nine previous seasons as head coach, Shields has led the Trojans to five division championships. Those five first-place finishes are the most by any school in the SBC during his tenure at Little Rock.

FIU's first-year Head Coach Richard Pitino is certainly aware of the experience Shields is bringing to the court. In his first year at the helm, Pitino also is bringing

high-level tournament experience as well. Having been an assistant at both Louisville under his father Rick Pitino and at University of Florida under Billy Donovan, he has been a part of three Elite Eights and a Final Four. However, Pitino does not believe it will come down to a coaching duel, rather it will come down to the players.

"It's not going to have much to do with me or him," Pitino said. "This time of the year it comes down to the players."

The entire season, Pitino has been adamant that he does not define his expectations by wins or losses. He has focused on a day-by-day, game-by-game approach with team goals that can lead to wins.

"My expectations are, 'Are they going to play really hard?' 'Are they going to defend?' 'Are they going to rebound?' 'Are they going to take great shots?' 'Are they going to have a great attitude?'" Pitino said. "If we handle my expectations, I think we will win."

These expectations will weigh heavily on the shoulders of the team's captain, Malik Smith. The junior shooting guard has been the vocal leader of the Panthers this season. Pitino even challenged Smith after the loss at FAU to take control of the team and hold the others accountable.

"This late in the season,

they're going to hear the same thing from me. At some point the players have got to do it themselves," Pitino said.

Giving the leadership role to Smith does not mean Pitino is eliminating other players from his game plan. He does not want only one player to dominate. His ideal situation is to get everyone involved and improved. Players like Tymell Murphy, a first-team SBC player who leads the team in both points and rebounds per game or even Jerome Frink, who Pitino regards as the best freshman in the SBC, have areas that can be further developed.

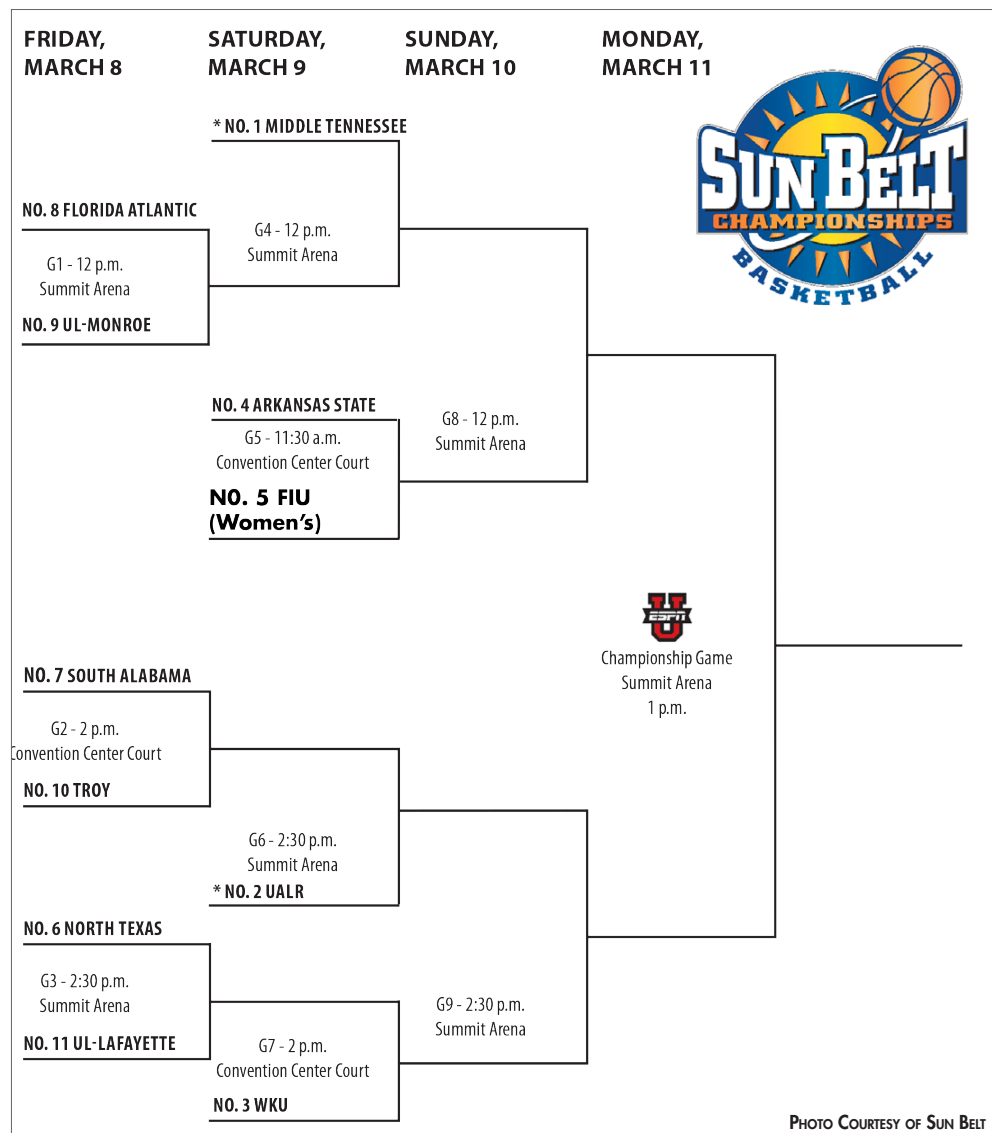
"I certainly want everyone to give it their all. I think that every single one of them has something they can improve on," Pitino said.

The Panthers have definitely improved as a program as their 11 conference wins were the most in the school's history since joining the SBC in the 1998-1999 season. If the players can execute Pitino's game plan of fast basketball, solid defense and fundamental rebounding, perhaps this is the year the Panthers can make it past the quarterfinals, a feat not done in eight years.

"We are preparing for Little Rock like it's a national championship," Pitino said.

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## Coley: "We can beat anybody in our conference"



### BASKETBALL, PAGE 1

"Unfortunately we are taking midterms right now and all the girls have taken three or four exams last week so they're pretty brain dead," Russo said. "Exams are not a good combination when you are trying to get ready for a tournament."

If the Panthers wish to advance in the SBC tournament, Coley and the rest of the team will have to fight past ASU's stifling defense.

"They play good defense, they take their time on offense. They run it all the way through and they have multiple people who can score," Coley said. "We need to play good solid defense, get everyone involved, put in the easy shots and definitely rebound. We need to get back to rebounding like we did in the beginning of the year."

Rebounding, as Coley noted, is a focal point in the Panthers game plan against ASU. In the two regular season matchups, the Panthers outrebounded the Red Wolves by an average of 14 rebounds per game. The Panthers will have to use their size advantage as a way to turn rebounds into fast-break opportunities and easy shots.

"They are a good team but we think we can beat them," Coley said. "We can beat anybody in our conference so it really doesn't matter."

Coley, who continues to light up the stat sheet, must step up her game against the Red Wolves in order for her team to succeed. It is plain and simple: as Coley goes, so does her squad. The All-American will look to put up her usually stellar numbers against ASU for

the first time this year. ASU held Coley to an average of 14.5 points per game in their two matchups thus far, almost 12 points below her season average.

Coley believes the Red Wolves' chances of beating her and her team three times in a year are slim.

"We know they beat us two times so we are definitely going in knowing that and we want to turn around and beat them," Coley added. "Maybe we are coming in as the underdogs but we just don't want them to beat us again. If we go in with that mindset it should definitely make us play harder. We just have to play like it's our last game."

If the Panthers get by ASU they would likely face off in a semifinals game against Middle Tennessee. The Panthers split the season series with the Blue Raiders, with both teams winning on their opponent's home floor. The Blue Raiders are the No.1 seed in the tournament and finished the regular season 22-7 (17-3 SBC).

"It doesn't matter who the opponent is at this time," Coley said. "Any game we go into any team can beat any team so we just have to be ready to play."

Russo believes this matchup boils down to who plays with the highest intensity and shows the most desire to win.

"The team that comes in and plays the hardest is going to win," Russo added. "Whoever is the healthiest, the strongest and mentally and physically toughest will win."

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# Women fighting their way into martial arts

**RHYS WILLIAMS**  
*Contributing Writer*

Going into 2013, the Ultimate Fighting Championship, or UFC as it is more commonly known, was a males-only event that had become extremely popular around the country. A change occurred in February, however, that can be explained in one simple word: women.

On Feb. 23, Ronda Rousey fought Liz Carmouche in the first ever UFC fight featuring women where Rousey defeated Carmouche in UFC 157.

Students, both men and women, are getting involved in martial arts at FIU, with organizations like the Brazilian Jujitsu club, headed by Ricky Smeglia, a junior recreation and sports management major.

“Women have been getting more involved and we have gone from one or two to six or seven in the past academic year,” Smeglia said. “Once they get over the shyness of being involved, they seem to like it more.”

Smeglia has been an instructor of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu for a several years and enjoys having women in his classes but

does not believe the change will last long in the UFC.

“Any fighter must fit under criteria to be in the UFC. Rousey and Carmouche did so but I think it will be awhile before there are a lot of UFC fighting [for women], because for now it will be a slow work in progress,” Smeglia said.

“I believe every sport has some controversy that goes with it but I have nothing against it personally. They are being equally viewed and accepted and segregation is becoming less and less. Even though I do not believe that they can get to the full potential that a man can, they can train as hard and are just as capable to be involved in athletics.”

Some women who got involved with Smeglia’s Brazilian Jiu Jitsu classes are junior Becky Fernandez and sophomore Fanny Rodriguez. Fernandez doesn’t view it as solely a hobby.

“I have been doing martial arts for about a year. I think of it as a pastime of mine that helps me with both exercise and self-defense,” Fernandez said.

Even if the UFC were to open its doors wider to women fighters, Fernandez, an international relations and Asian studies

**“To my friends that I recommend it to... I tell them that they have to be a bit open minded when they are first beginning with it and then some great...life changes begin to happen with mind and body.”**

Becky Fernandez  
Member  
Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

major, said she would not take her skills to that level.

Rodriguez, who has been doing Brazilian Jiu Jitsu for almost seven months, already acknowledges that she recommends it to her friends.

“To my friends that I recommend it to, both male and female, I tell them that they have to be a bit open minded when they are first beginning with it and then some great, in my opinion and experience, life changes begin to happen with mind and body,” Rodriguez said.

As long as both of these women have been participating in martial arts and as exciting as it could have been to watch the first female UFC match, neither watched the fight due to various reasons.

“I was going to watch it but I had to work so I missed it,” Fernandez said.

Yannick Saez, the president of the Mixed-Martial Arts club at FIU, and other members of the club, were unavailable for comment at the time of publishing.

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## Venezuela’s baseball team mourns death of Chavez

AP STAFF

Venezuela’s baseball team was taking pregame batting practice when players heard that president Hugo Chavez had died.

“He was a baseball man,” manager Luis Sojo said after a 6-5 loss to the Miami Marlins in a warmup game for the World Baseball Classic. “At the World Baseball Classic in 2006 and 2009, the first call in the morning was his. And after the game, he used to call me, too. It’s a very sad moment for our country. We wish the best to his family, we know they are going through a tough time right now.”

Chavez died Tuesday at age 58 after a nearly two-year fight against cancer.

“It’s sad what’s happening to our country,” first baseman Miguel Cabrera said. “We send our condolences to his family. This is something you don’t wish on anybody.”

“I don’t know how his family is right now. He’s no longer with us — it’s very sad. I cannot comment a lot on it because I feel a lot of pain, and I’m not there in Venezuela.”

Pitcher Carlos Zambrano said he hoped his fellow Venezuelans would come together.

“I’m very sad. I ask that the Venezuela people stay calm,” Zambrano said. “We have to understand that the president had a family. He’s a human being and it’s sad. We send him the condolences to the Chavez family. We know it’s a difficult moment. This caught us by surprise.”

Some players did not want to discuss Chavez’s death. Pitcher Anibal Sanchez and third baseman Pablo Sandoval both declined when asked to comment.

A Venezuela spokesman said the team had requested a pre-game moment of silence for Chavez and asked that flags be flown at half-staff, but was told all parties involved — the Marlins, Major League Baseball and Roger Dean Stadium — were not prepared to do so.

“There are things we can’t control,” Zambrano said. “For the respect of Venezuela, they have to do something before the first game against the Dominican Republic (at the WBC in Puerto Rico).”

## Above the rest...again



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Junior Jerica Coley earned the Sun Belt Player of the Year award for the second consecutive year. She led the country in points per game at a 26.1 mark and became only the second Panther to break the 2,000-point mark for her career.

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## Beautification of campus continues during semester

JOSEFINE GYLLENPORRE  
*Contributing Writer*

Cuban Sabicu, West Indian Mahogany, Canary Island Date Palm. The Biscayne Bay Campus offers up flora as diverse as its students.

The Biscayne Bay Campus offers an oasis for Florida wildlife in an urban environment. Several branches of offices and organizations at the campus are committed to projects that both ecologically preserve and improve the campus.

The University has a history of dedication to the environment. It was the first in Florida to receive the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Campus USA in 2010.

It earned the certification by meeting five standards: forming a Campus Tree Advisory Committee, creating a tree care plan and program for the campus, annual Arbor Day observance and service-learning projects.

Several facilities and offices at BBC are currently working on initiatives that incorporate both beautification and sustainability.

"There isn't a specific beautification project; we just always do our best to improve the overall look and maintenance of the campus," said Julissa Castellanos, director of Academic Support Services and Operations. "For example, we work together with External Relations, Student Government Association and Facilities Management to do these things. The pantherization of Academic 1 was done through

SGA's initiative to make the campus more FIU branded."

The School of Environment, Arts and Society has been the main catalyst for maintaining several of the current initiatives. The mangrove restoration project and bay cleanup began in September 2009.

On its website, SEAS writes about the crucial role of mangroves in the South Florida landscape; many species depend on it for "food, shelter and as a nursery."

They protect against the wind and water currents "which can wreak havoc in low-lying South Florida, particularly during a hurricane."

So far, the program has been successful in Oleta River State Park.

In October 2011, faculty and students from FIU, Miami-Dade College and Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High planted around 1,500 red mangrove seedlings throughout Oleta Park.

Another environmental initiative at BBC is the Florida Friendly Landscaping Project. This has brought more native plants to the campus, allowing various species of great conservation need such as the Atala caterpillar to thrive.

The garden project has been incorporated in the First Year Experience course curriculum that all incoming freshmen are required to take.

The new students learn about the local ecosystems, the importance of Florida Friendly Landscaping, conservation and stewardship.

The students also maintain and

## Holding the reins



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

On March 6, the Women's Center hosted the Women Who Lead Conference. The all day conference included lunch and networking with public female figures such as Regine Monestine, city attorney for North Miami, and Pamela Conover, the CEO of SeaDream Yacht Club. The conference also included a film called Miss Representation. Keynote speaker and alumna, Cassandra Roache (also known as "Coach Cass") is a life coach who aims to inspire others to "take action" when it comes to becoming successful instead of "sit around and wait for other people to make it happen." She believes that fear tends to be the main issue that holds a person back from making changes in his/her career.

plant native gardens on campus.

Castellanos said the biggest challenge standing in the way is funding and poor student involvement.

"There are little improvements here and there when we can secure funding because all of these things are pricey," said Castellanos.

However, students seem not to know about the programs or volunteer opportunities.

"I noticed the decoration in AC 1 which I thought was pretty nice but I didn't know there were so many other plans for the campus," said Carlos Hernandez, junior and inter-

national relations major.

SEAS holds monthly Mangrove Work Days where students help observe and nurture mangrove seedlings. SGA also organizes bay cleanup days for faculty, students and staff.

"I've had several students who have just wanted to take the initiative and do it," said Castellanos.

These events are accented by Bayanza which is a yearly massive cleanup event organized by Miami-Dade County that takes place on April 20 at several locations; BBC is one of them.

Student participation in these restoration programs is free and encouraged. If interested, contact Jennifer Grimm, environmental programs manager at SEAS.

"I know that [SEAS has] held many events on campus throughout the years and they try to get students involved," said Castellanos.

The 7th Annual South Florida Tree Summit will be on March 27 at the Management and Advanced Research Center Pavilion on Modesto Maidique Campus.

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## Dean's research helps train detector dogs

JUNETTE REYES  
*Staff Writer*

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Kenneth G. Furton's research with Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal Detector Guidelines was cited by the United States Supreme Court in the case of Florida v. Harris on Feb. 19, 2013.

"I have actually been doing research now for about almost 20 years on the chemicals that dogs use to locate forensic specimens, including drugs," said Furton.

Furton's work with SWGDOG deals with guidelines for the proper training, maintenance and certification of detector dogs.

The general guidelines for all canine disciplines cover the initial training of the dog, canine team assessments, canine team certification, maintenance training, and the keeping and management of records and documents.

The work cited by the U.S. Supreme Court suggested that a dog's reliability should be determined and based on certification and proficiency assessments but in controlled testing environments. It also suggested that it would be easier to differentiate "false posi-

tives" from a positive dog alert, unlike in the field.

The dog's reliability is established by the results of certification, given that the dog achieved a 90% positive alert rate, and the results of proficiency assessments, such as the canine team assessments in which the way a search is conducted by the dog and handler is evaluated.

The U.S. Supreme Court cited the research in the context of Florida v. Harris, stating that a dog's certification and proficiency assessment should be the basis of its reliability, in turn satisfactorily providing probable cause for a search if its reliability has been properly established.

"Most of the time, when you're doing scientific research, you don't get to see a practical application of it until it's not even in your lifetime," said Furton.

"It's very satisfying to know that the many years of hard work of my students, colleagues and I have paid off in terms of supporting the reliability of dogs in an investigation."

In the case of Florida v. Harris, Clayton Harris was pulled over by K-9 Officer William Wheelley on June 24, 2006 for having a

suspended license plate.

After observing that Harris was "visibly nervous" and shaken, Wheelley proceeded with a "free air sniff" search with a German shepherd by the name of Aldo. Harris had previously refused to consent to a search of his truck, which led Wheelley to walk around the truck with Aldo.

Aldo had been trained to detect narcotics such as methamphetamine, cocaine, ecstasy, heroin and marijuana. Aldo eventually signaled by the driver's side for the presence of drugs, which Wheelley took as probable cause for searching Harris' truck.

"They found indications of materials that would be used to make methamphetamine but they did not actually find methamphetamine," said Furton.

The materials found, as indicated by Associate Justice Elena Kagan of the U.S. Supreme Court through the Opinion of the Court, were "...200 loose pseudoephedrine pills, 8,000 matches, a bottle of hydrochloric acid, two containers of antifreeze, and a coffee filter full of iodine crystals."

Harris was arrested and charged for possessing pseudoephedrine pills used to

create methamphetamine.

Harris' motion to suppress the evidence found in his truck was denied by the trial court, concluding that Wheelley had probable cause to conduct the search.

The case was then presented to the Florida Supreme Court, who reversed the trial court's ruling.

The Court's general consensus was that neither the training nor certification of the dog is adequate in establishing reliability as well as probable cause for the search of a vehicle.

The case then went to the U.S. Supreme Court, who granted certiorari; in other words, review of the case.

"The Court actually unanimously reversed the ruling of the Florida Supreme Court in that a dog alert is sufficient to provide probable cause for the police to search the vehicle," said Furton.

"The Supreme Court, in their unanimous decision, basically upheld the use of dogs as a tool for finding narcotic odors, and in this case, actually using them for searching a vehicle."

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