

Lecture engages students to better understand Islam

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Amy Tenorio understands why many individuals may have biased notions of Islam.

A sophomore majoring in computer science, Tenorio cites the negative media coverage of the religion as contributing to the negative opinions that people harbor.

However, Dr. Reza Aslan, a writer and religious studies scholar, will be coming to the University to deliver a lecture about Islam in the 21st Century to provide a new perspective of the religion.

Aslan is a professor of creative writing at the University of California, Riverside with a joint appointment in the Department of Religion.

Pedro Botta, associate director of operations at the School of International and Public Affairs, believes that Aslan's lecture will give FIU students and the general public a more complete image of Islam despite its radicalized perception depicted by the media today.

"What the media says isn't the whole story...what we'll find is that, in any religion, extreme versions don't have much to do with the religion," he said. "People engage in the types of behaviors for power and control".

Botta added that these behaviors have nothing to do with the religion itself, and believe that the lecture will provide attendees with an overview of this idea.

At the lecture, students will have the opportunity to engage in conversation with Aslan, an expert who has received multiple degrees in religious studies, theological studies and sociology.

Botta believes that Aslan will not simply lecture aimlessly, but that he will offer various ideas to give a perspective to the topic of Islam.

"He is a brilliant scholar," Botta said. "And what makes him brilliant isn't what he knows, but that he is able to have a conversation. He is able to speak on these themes with anyone, regardless of their knowledge on the topic."

Some students are excited about the idea of a discussion on Islam.

"With so much going on in the world and in the Middle East, I can

WINTER IN MIAMI



DIEGO SALDAÑA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

Aida Cardenas, junior in English, studies outside SIPA. The cooler temperature brought a lot of students outside during the most recent cold front.

see why many may have mixed or biased perceptions of Islam due to all the negative media going around," Tenorio said. "A lecture from this expert can really help people dismiss misconceptions."

In addition to his experience, Aslan has authored numerous books, including the New York Times Bestseller "Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth," "Beyond Fundamentalism: Confronting Religious Extremism

in the Age of Globalization" and "No God But God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam," which was named one of the 100 most influential books of the last decade by Blackwell Publishers.

The lecture will be sponsored by the School of International and Public Affairs as part of the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, with contributions by SIPA's Middle East Studies program and the newly established

Initiative for Muslim Studies.

The event will be held at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus in the SIPA building, Room 125, on Thursday, Feb. 19. It will start at 12:15 p.m.

"Our goal is to give students learning opportunities so they can get a grounding in different areas," Botta said. "Real grounding in themes that are in the world stadium right now vital, not just for students but for everyone."

'Don't Start Me Talkin' author Tom Williams lectures at the university

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The University's creative writing program, in accordance with the Department of English, is bringing a published writer to speak at FIU.

Tom Williams, author and director of the creative writing program at Morehead State University in Kentucky, will host a reading from his latest novel, "Don't Start Me Talkin'."

At the lecture, Williams hopes to engage the crowd.

"From this talk, I really want people to know that here's somebody who's engaging with some important issues that only fiction can really address well," Williams said. "That here's somebody whom, as Holden Caulfield once said, 'you wish was a terrific friend of yours and you could call him up on the phone whenever you felt like it.'"

Each year, on a rotating basis, the members of the creative writing faculty invite a visiting writer of their choice for the University's Writers on the Bay reading series. This year,

John Dufresne, professor of creative writing and author of five novels, invited Williams.

"Typically, when we bring writers to campus who are also active teachers of creative writing, we find that we have thoughtful readings and especially engaging question-and-answer sessions following

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A lecture from this expert can really help people dismiss misconceptions.

Amy Tenorio
Sophomore
Computer Science major

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those readings," said Julie M. Wade, assistant professor in the Department of English and WOB coordinator. "It's exciting."

Wade says that the Department is eager to bring writers to campus, especially those who can have

a mentoring influence on the undergraduate creative writing and Master of Fine Arts students. According to her, Williams fits the bill for both respects.

"There's a perception that writers are very far away and inaccessible as people," Wade said. "The Writers on the Bay reading series provides an

of fiction: "The Mimics' Own," a novella, and "Don't Start Me Talkin'."

His short fiction, reviews, essays and interviews have appeared in publications like Barrelhouse, Boulevard, The Collagist and Florida Review, among others.

Following the reading, there will be a Q&A session, as well as a reception and book signing for all event attendees.

Jason Lee, a sophomore majoring in English, is looking forward to hearing an excerpt from Williams' novel. He is also excited to purchase the author's newest book, "Among the Wild Mulattos," which will be out this summer.

"As an aspirational writer myself, I'm thrilled to hear Williams' talk," said Jason Lee, sophomore English major. "Like him, I want to be a published author and I want to learn about his experience and hear any advice he might have for me."

In turn, Williams advised aspiring

writers with a simple, yet exhausting, process.

"Read everything. Write a bunch of bad stuff. Find people who are encouraging. Write better bad stuff," he said. "Then, seek out people who can help you with the practical matters, like how to submit and who to contact, and write even better bad stuff."

The event will be held at the Biscayne Bay Campus' bookstore in the first floor of the Wolfe University Center on Thursday, Feb. 5. It will start at 8 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public.

"As always, these events encourage students, faculty, staff, and members of the general public to have a direct encounter with contemporary literature and one of its creators," Wade said. "We want everyone possible to encounter living writers of both poetry and prose via the Writing on the Bay reading series. Take advantage."



TOM WILLIAMS

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Islamic State group's hostage deadline passes as confusion reigns over swap terms

The most recent deadline for Jordan to release an Islamist prisoner before the Islamic State group executed a captured Jordanian pilot passed at sundown Thursday with no indication that an agreement was near on a deal to swap the two people.

Jordan insisted publicly that it needed proof that the pilot was still alive before it would transfer the woman, Sajida al-Rishawi. For its part, the Islamic State group demanded in a new Internet

recording that al-Rishawi be transferred to an unspecified point on the Turkish border or the pilot, Muath al-Kaseasbeh, would be killed.

The new recording, purportedly by Kenji Goto, a freelance Japanese journalist also held by the group, did not offer to swap al-Kaseasbeh for al-Rishawi. Instead, it reiterated the group's original offer--to swap Goto for al-Rishawi.

China's crackdown on corruption targets sales of officials' calligraphy

As part of his corruption crackdown, China's president has ordered government officials to be less artsy. State media reported Thursday that President Xi Jinping has told government officials to quit their positions in calligraphy associations and other art groups. The ban applies to retired officials as well. Why? It appears that numerous Chinese

officials have used their status in art associations to cover up bribes. A typical payoff looks like this: A businessman needs a favor from a local government official, one with a lofty title with an art association. The businessman pays an exorbitant amount for a work of calligraphy painted by the official, and the favor is granted.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Experts to lead discussion on Ebola

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University experts are scheduled to come together for a panel to discuss the past year's Ebola pandemic.

"The Ebola Epidemic: Public Health, Medical and Social Perspectives" will be hosted by the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work.

Erica L. Gollub, Dr.P.H., M.P.H., the moderator for the panel, outlined the goals of the event as being "to educate and raise awareness, to update people, and to encourage people to evaluate and analyze and understand current public health challenges."

The ultimate purpose of the event is to make it readily apparent that the Ebola epidemic is no longer solely a medical or African problem.

The disease has entered the realm of a global and social issue that requires the world to examine the outbreak in a professional and organized fashion in order to prevent future epidemics.

"If we fail to learn the lessons--and there's lots of lessons--if we fail to learn and implement new things, then we put ourselves at risk very easily for something like [Ebola] to happen again," Gollub said. "The ground is fertile for another outbreak like this to get out of control if we don't learn

the lessons now."

The panel will feature some of the foremost researchers in the field.

Among them are Dr.Aileen Marty, and Dr.Consuelo Beck-Sagué, who will be returning to the United States from West Africa just days before the event.

Marty, of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, will be speaking on her experience working for the World Health Organization on the ground in West Africa, providing first hand knowledge of the medical situation in many different countries.

Beck-Sagué, of the FIU Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, will be addressing issues about safety and transmissions among health care settings in West Africa

She will also weigh in on the preparedness of the United States and other countries when faced with such an epidemic.

Other experts will also be present.

Dr. Zena Stein, a world renowned epidemiologist, will be speaking on her editorial in the International Journal of Epidemiology about containing the Ebola epidemic, mobilizing the survivors of the disease, and the glaring health disparities found throughout Africa.

Stein will be visiting the University for two weeks, giving the inaugural Robert

Stempel Honorary Lecture in Epidemiology on Tuesday, Feb. 10.

In order to discuss what the world has learned as a result of the Ebola outbreak in terms of quarantine policies--when and where is quarantine appropriate, and what implications for future public health crises have arisen--Dr. Mary Jo Trepka, from the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work will speak.

Gollub hopes for a large turnout.

"I think that everybody, wherever they're coming from in the audience, will be able to relate to some part of this story because it's a very human story," she said.

She admits that the discussion will not be entirely technical, acknowledging the fact that it deals with medical issues.

"It's an extremely human story about caring, devoting resources, carrying through, and management."

The event will take place on Friday, Feb. 6, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Wertheim Conservatory Room 130 at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

The panel is open to alumni, faculty, students and the community. A light lunch will be provided as well as one continuing education unit available. Register at go.fiu.edu/epiebolapanel.

CORRECTIONS

In Volume 26, Issue 55 Alpha Phi Sigma was incorrectly labeled as Sigma Phi Alpha on Page 1 with the BBQ photo.

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

Mexico hospital blast leaves at least two dead, dozens hurt

TRACY WILKINSON AND CECILIA SANCHEZ
Los Angeles Times
TNS

An explosion early Thursday destroyed most of a maternity and children's hospital in Mexico City, killing at least two people and trapping and injuring dozens.

More than 60 children and adults were injured, mostly by flying glass and the flames, according to firefighters, Red Cross personnel, police and other workers who flooded the scene. The dead were identified only as a woman and a minor.

Officials earlier gave a larger death toll, but it was revised downward, although 22 of the injured were in critical condition and other people may still be trapped, Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera said.

Racked by uncontrollable sobs, Maria Angeles Bautista was among scores of people who crowded the scene frantically seeking information on relatives among the patients or hospital employees.

"My niece gave birth on Monday but the baby had a low weight, so they were still hospitalized," said Bautista, 54. "We don't know anything about the two. We've gone to all the hospitals, but there is no information. We are desperate." A man who did not give his name also broke into tears as he talked about his wife, who

had given birth the day before. He believed a lot of the destruction was in the area of the cribs and incubators.

The explosion happened about 7 a.m., before visiting hours and a shift change to the busier daytime schedule. That, combined with the hospital being relatively small, probably averted a higher casualty toll.

There were conflicting reports of what had caused the explosion, but the investigation was focusing on a possible leak of gas that was being pumped by hose from a delivery truck to the hospital's kitchen. The blast was concentrated around the kitchen and the emergency-area arrival bays. Neighbors reported a strong smell of gas before the blast.

Nearly 70 percent of the government-run, two-story hospital, which caters primarily to middle- and lower-income patients, collapsed or was heavily damaged, Mancera said.

Milenio Television reported that a pregnant woman who was removed from the ruins gave birth in the ambulance taking her to another facility.

The hospital is located in the Cuajimalpa district, on the far western edge of the sprawling capital. Mancera, the mayor, said three people with the gas company supplying the hospital were detained for questioning about possible negligence.

THE BEACON

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Give her a compliment, she deserves it

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Go out and give a girl a compliment, I dare you.

Go on and tell her that her shirt looks awesome on her. Not as charity, not as an act of kindness, but more as an act of support.

In a time when women are constantly fighting to be respected and valued in society, we must not forget that it applies to both genders. We have to celebrate each other's accomplishments and encourage our power to pursue our own virtues.

It is very important that women appreciate and respect each other. We are all one team, we are one group of people who more or less share the same problems. Most of the time it is our love lives or trying to be successful in our careers or, of course, TOM.

Regardless of the battle we are fighting on this day, we are all warriors fighting through it.

Between concert tickets not being cheaper, food making you gain weight, the Miami Heat losing, him not texting you back fast enough, and GPAs, a girl barely has time to remind herself that these things are only temporary.

Then there are world issues, and that list is even more painful.

Now, it doesn't stop there. We must also live among women who are envious or out to judge. Why are we each other's problem? It's 2015, it's time to stop being catty.

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We have to celebrate each other's accomplishments and encourage our power to pursue our own virtues

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Encourage our good decisions, for we over analyzed each move just like you did.

Compliment our outfit, because we may have scored a huge sale or worked really hard to purchase it at Urban Outfitters.

Congratulate us when we're eating a salad

or working out, because you know how much it sucks and you should be proud that we're actually sticking through it.

If we go a different route and eat the pound burger, well then don't tell us how much it will add to our thighs; pass the ketchup and laugh while you steal a fry.

There are so many young women fighting difficulties such as illnesses, relatives dying or a battle with themselves. Constantly telling themselves that everything will be alright. Every problem has a solution and tomorrow, when the sun rises, better things will come.

These women, like us, don't need the added weight of unreasonable hate or intolerance.

Maybe she cut you in line, maybe she did dress up too much for school, she was way too loud in class or her views on reality are a little off. But who really cares?

Who cares how many filters she used on her picture? That's what they're there for. Who cares if you think she looks slutty because her boobs are big and too exposed in her dress? She's blessed and knows it, I wish I was. Who cares if she only posts about sororities? She's found a place where she belongs, and heck, she's paying a ton of money for all these moments and might as well juice them.

Every woman is different, and hating on them or putting them down for any of the little irrelevant things I mentioned before makes no sense. Why are we in a war with our own kind?

Maybe we should've paid more attention to Ms. Norbury in Mean Girls. Men already make our lives a nightmare by belittling us with their apathy and judging. We should stand together to appreciate and support one another.

I'm not asking for us to all get along and "bake a cake filled with rainbows and smiles and everyone would eat and be happy." What I'm asking for is tolerance.

Tolerance for the chick who is always pissed off, the sorority girl, the girl that hasn't found herself yet, the one who posts a selfie an hour, the slutty one, the prude one, the jock, the PLUR warrior and even that girl that bullied you in high school.

I haven't mastered this art yet. I'd be lying if I told you it's easy to not hate the girl that believes in everything you're against. But that's the beauty of life. People will disagree, that's what makes it interesting.

Support is something every woman needs and deserves. Heck, we pay ridiculous amounts of money for it at Victoria's Secret, why not get it or give it for free?

Phones might turn obsolete with new invention

MICHELLE MARCHANTE
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Who needs a phone?

That seems like an odd type of question to ask. While it's true that technically, no one really needs a phone, it's a product that is held dear by many, myself included. Cell phones are no longer just a useful technological device, but rather, an additional part of our body. You can't go anywhere without seeing someone on their cellphone, whether they're talking, texting, using Twitter or playing the hottest game.

Everywhere you look on campus, people are looking down at their phone's screen. Who

would've thought that a small portable device would become so important to us? Well, the days of carrying a cell phone may possibly become nonexistent in the near future. Why would I say that, you ask?

The cellphone may be close to becoming obsolete, with a new technological invention, the Cicaret bracelet, courtesy of Cicaret, a french startup company. Cicaret plans to revolutionize the world with their bracelet that transforms your arm into a smartphone, with all the capabilities of one. Cicaret's bracelet idea is simple. You snap on the bracelet and with a shake of your wrist, bam, a holographic image of a touch screen appears on your arm. According to the compa-

ny's concept video the bracelet will be a waterproof device that comes in two sizes -- 16GB and 32GB -- and 10 different colors, comprised of a digital projector that uses eight long range proximity sensors, with connectivity options such as WiFi, Bluetooth and a Micro USB.

While this idea sounds wonderful and quite frankly, impossible, if this invention were to truly succeed what would it mean for future cellphone users? Being able to send and receive messages, play games, check your mail and answer your phone on your arm seems a bit out there and more like it belongs in a movie.

At the time of the bracelet's concept video, Cicaret still

hadn't created a prototype, using computer-generated imagery instead to show what its product could do. This led many people to believe it was a farce since

known that being on your phone 24/7 is harmful to our bodies, and that too much texting could lead to repetitive strain injury otherwise known as "Blackberry thumb."

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The line between our humanity and technology is thinning; where do we stop and the machine begins?

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the company is asking for public donations to make its product a possibility. Recently though, Cicaret's co-founder Guillaume Pommier claimed in an interview with Gizmag that they now have a working prototype and are in the process of "upgrading it."

If Cicaret's product proves to be the real deal and not a farce like many suspect, it certainly will be a large step in the technological world, but would it really be an advancement for us? The line between our humanity and technology is thinning; where do we stop and the machine begins? While it does seem like an amazing idea, not having the weight or the size of a cellphone, but instead a simple, lightweight bracelet, the concept might potentially be harmful. It's already

If injuries like this can occur by using a solid platform, what type of injuries would be sustained from typing away on our own arm? Could it cause more joint and muscle pains? Could the sensors inherently damage our nervous system much like a laser would? Would our skin get irritated? Risk or not, the idea of the bracelet is compelling. If Cicaret actually gets enough donations to fund the making of this bracelet, Pommier expects to have it out in the public market within a year and half, with a possible retail value of \$400.

In a year or two from now, when you're walking through campus, instead of seeing people glued to their phone, will we now be seeing people glued to their arm?

STOP CURLING



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

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Frost Art Museum's MLK exhibit opens for its fifth year

LESLIE ANGELA BLANCO
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In a collaborative effort to raise awareness and to maintain the memory of the civil rights movement and its most revered political leader, Martin Luther King Jr., Multicultural Programs and Services has partnered with the Frost Art Museum to create the MLK @FIU exhibit. This is its fifth year running, and although MLK week is coming to a close, Black history month is right around the corner and the message it makes to confines of the student body's psyche at the University is just as relevant and powerful.

Dr. Kalai Mathee, of the FIU department of Human and Molecular Genetics is the main organizer and creator of the event at the Frost Art Museum. The MLK exhibit at the Frost Art Museum showcases portraits and drawings dedicated to the movement. The exhibit opened on Jan. 6 and ended on Jan 29.

"The idea was basically that the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration should not just be one day where we have this big breakfast and then everybody forgets what happens. To keep it a little bit more in the hearts and minds of people, we wanted to do activities that span the month of January," Mathee said. "The whole idea is that we have students at FIU who are first generation, whose parents aren't originally from the U.S, so

they don't really know the history of Americans -- especially civil rights history."

Due to the civil rights movement and the struggle of African Americans at that time, it has also caused a domino effect which paved the way for minorities in regards to opportunity and equality. Mathee said that if it wasn't for the civil rights movement, she being a minority herself, wouldn't have been able to become a faculty member or get a decent job at the University.

The University, consisting mostly of Hispanic minorities, wouldn't be what it is today had it not been for the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Each year the MLK exhibit at the Frost tries to adhere to a specific theme, the theme this year is "His Vision: Our Responsibility," which shows a series of illustrations made by author Henry Cole.

When asking students what they thought of the exhibit, Telia a second semester freshman majoring in Psychology said, "I thought the exhibit was nice, I thought it was necessary because it is a piece of our history. The portraits talking about the underground railroad, I really liked the story telling aspect of that. That was really cool. I just think FIU should advertise the events going on during MLK week more."

In regards to the advertising, Telia said that she stumbled upon the exhibit at the museum by



DIEGO SALDAÑA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

Portraits exhibiting the underground railroad hang in the Frost Museum during the MLK exhibit, which went on from Jan. 6 to Jan. 29.

chance, and there wasn't enough marketing for the events going on during MLK week.

Victor Garbalosa, third year grad student for physical therapy said, "This is the first time I've heard about the MLK exhibit this year, but I haven't really seen any flyers, nothing in the email, nothing really raising awareness for it.

That small group needs to raise awareness and make sure MLK month is a big deal. I think since FIU is an international university I think its important that we highlight issues such as MLK, and the struggles of the civil rights movement."

Last episodes enough to give a 'nerdgasm'



CHRIS SANTIAGO

I was proven wrong.

I enjoyed this episode for a multitude of reasons: The first reason was Barry's message at the very beginning of the episode about how we need to remind ourselves that we always have a hero that we all look up to.

Second, the character of Hartley Rathaway was very captivating. He was a convincing villain with clear motives, which made his character much more enjoyable to watch. These days it's tough to believe that a villain can be threatening. But to watch Rathaway find a way to almost kill Barry and go through with it made the episode that much more exciting and scary.

The final reason gave me the biggest nerdgasm of the year, thus far. Yes, I know 2015 just started. At the very end of the episode, Dr. Wells is shown with a device he calls the "tachyon" on his chest that is giving him some sort of energy that his pal

named Gideon is warning him not to use.

This device is giving him the powers of the "Speed Force." For those of you that may not know, the Speed Force is this power that essentially powers all of the versions of The Flash's superhuman abilities. And it seems like the creators of the show are going on the route where Reverse Flash taps into this great power to access the ability to time travel.

But like I said last week, I'm not entirely convinced that Dr. Wells is up to no good. There is so much more than meets the eye, and I'm willing to be as patient as they need me to be to witness greatness in the world of The Flash!

As for this week's episode of Arrow, the new crime mob boss known as Brickwell has been making his name known throughout Starling City with his vicious attacks.

Side note, I love this trend that the CW is partaking in by making their villains very believable and threatening. I know I've already said it earlier in this piece, but it just makes me so happy as a fan of both shows.

Just the ruthlessness that Brick brings to the show really keeps me on my toes. He kills his victims in cold blood with no shame, especially during that scene where he killed one of the Aldermen in front of Arsenal and Black Canary.

And since we're now on topic of Black Canary, I feel as if there needs to be a few words said about Laurel. I've never been a

fan of Black Canary in general. So, seeing all the complaints that people are having for Laurel taking up her sister Sara's mantel as a vigilante doesn't faze me that much.

However, with that being said it does lead me to feel excited to see the uprising of Laurel's fighting skills. It's mentioned throughout the whole episode that she doesn't have the skills that the rest of the gang has; all she has is a law degree and she is not the fighter her sister Sara was.

This not only motivates Laurel to keep on fighting crime to become the hero her sister once was, but it gives me more incentive to watch her character development. It's always great to see the underdog come out on top, and I believe we'll be seeing that very soon from Laurel.

Now that we all know that Oliver Queen is indeed alive, it's time for him to return to Starling City and fast. Things are getting out of hand due to the terror brought upon by Brick and we need our Arrow to be the one to fix it all.

Trouble is brewing in Starling and Central City, and both the Flash and the Arrow are going to need all the help they can get!

"DC on TV" with Chris Santiago will review the ongoing series Flash and Arrow.

-life@fiusm.com

LOLLAPALOOZA

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

LENNY PEREZ/THE BEACON

BY LENNY PEREZ

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ANA ARENAS/THE BEACON

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

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This week's student spotlight is Javier Gomez, a sophomore of class 2017. He hopes to become a Physician's Assistant, and can get a little silly at times.

"Paint me like one of your french girls." - Gomez

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.

Skilled lyricism, metaphors abound in 'Tetsuo & Youth'

HELICOPTER PAD



ANGELO LOPEZ

This past week, my friend texted me to sing the praises of Lupe Fiasco's newest album, "Tetsuo & Youth." According to him, "Tetsuo & Youth" was so impressive lyrically that he declared, "It's like Chino XL decided

to make an album with Ras Kass, with KRS-One supervising and Canibus giving input on big words that should be added to verses."

This drew quite the hearty laugh from me, not just because it was a well-crafted simile, but because he was including Lupe Fiasco in the same company as some of hip-hop's lyrical scions.

The same Lupe Fiasco who has an irritating tendency to pause for various seconds in the middle of a verse. The same Lupe Fiasco who was at the forefront of the 2007-08 fresh kid fad that introduced purple jackets and skinny jeans into the genre.

Personal feelings about Lupe aside, my friend's persistence persuaded me to give his newest release a fair listen.

It was certainly worth it. Of the twelve tracks (not counting the four interludes), only one scares you away by the one-minute mark and a further two are (in this author's estimation) below par.

An album with a three-to-one ratio of good tracks to bad is pretty good work, but ratio in and of itself does not give a complete feel for how good the album truly was. The other part of the equation is how enjoyable a listen were the good tracks.

In "Tetsuo & Youth," most of the above average tracks were definitely something

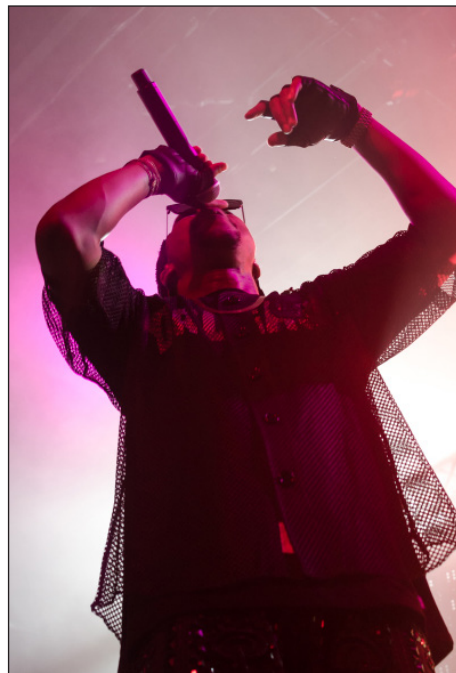


PHOTO COURTESY OF SAIDY LOPEZ, VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

Lupe Fiasco on his Tetsuo & Youth Preview Tour.

The best examples that come to mind are the lines, "Ain't nothin' to it but to do it/ Unless you Virgin Mary, nothin' do it but the truest/Believe all that, unless you Jewish" and "As I paint cold pictures like Kool-Aid facing condensation... So that's OJ da Juiceman meets OJ with two hands/And two gloves that's too snug/to judge who was, who drew blood" from the second track "Mural."

That was absolutely brilliant wordplay, and if you are one of the many whom aren't as put off by the pauses and the slowed down flow, you will enjoy his rhyming that much more.

The topics explored on the tracks are yet another positive this album has working in its favor. They are interesting,

well you're wicked," a nice observation of the no-win situation it is to declare your position on homosexual marriage in today's social climate.

The best tracks on "Tetsuo & Youth" were "Mural," "Dots & Lines," "Prisoner 1 & 2," "Body of Work," "Little Death," "Adoration of the Magi," and "They. Resurrect.Over.New."

It's a very good album, but I disagree with my friend's assertion that this album brings to mind Ras Kass or Chino XL. There exists a better comparison.

The only other rapper who is better at painting vivid pictures in his rhymes is Sage Francis, though he goes about in a

Artist: Lupe Fiasco
Album: Tetsuo & Youth
Rating: 4/5

much different style than Lupe.

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

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Most of the time the selected beats acted as positive complements to Lupe's rhyming.

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to savor.

Most of the time the selected beats acted as positive complements to Lupe's rhyming. The irritating penchant of Lupe to slow down his rhyming or pause for too long mid-verse is still present, but the quality of his writing more than makes up for that.

No one can deny his ability to paint pictures in a witty fashion on this album.

thought provoking, and current.

Topics include the high incarceration rate in this country, analyzing the situation with his record label in a bold way, getting out of relationships before they turn sour and other interesting social commentary.

A fantastic display of social commentary came on "Little Death," where he rhymes "Sam marrying Sam...If that sickens you, you a bigot/If it doesn't,

FOOTBALL



BRIAN TRUJILLO/THE BEACON

The Panthers ended their 2014 season 4-8, and did not go on to play in either the Conference USA Championship game or a postseason BCS Bowl Game. Head Coach Ron Turner and the football program will be hosting open tryouts on Wednesday, Feb. 18, on Ocean Bank Field at FIU Stadium.

Calling all Panthers: Football to hold open tryouts

COLUMNIST



JORGE CORRALES

On Feb. 18, the University's football team will be holding open tryouts for the 2015-2016 season. While the idea of walking on and excelling at that level seems like a longshot, it's not unheard of. There are several current and former NFL stars who were college walk-ons.

South Florida natives might remember the name Santana Moss. Moss was a speedster out of Miami Carol City High School who went to the University of Miami on a track scholarship. Moss took his speed to the football field and went on to become one of the top receivers in the University's history. Moss was drafted No. 16 overall in the 2001 draft and he just completed season No. 14 in the NFL.

Clay Matthews III, now of Green Bay Packers fame, played his college ball at the University of Southern California. He started his college days with no football scholarship and left as the No. 26 overall pick in the NFL draft. All he's done since then is star in commercials and win a Super Bowl.

The Packers seem to have a knack for picking up college walk-ons. Green Bay's star wideout Jordy Nelson was a walk-on player during his days at Kansas State University. Nelson played quarterback and cornerback in high school, but his KSU coaches decided he would be a better fit at wide receiver. The move worked for all parties. Just two seasons after the switch, Nelson was named an All-American and was taken in the second round of the NFL draft.

Texans defensive end J.J. Watt was another who had to make a position switch in order to achieve

success. Watt grew up in Pewaukee, Wisconsin and always dreamed of playing football for the University of Wisconsin. After his senior year of high school however, Watt did not get a scholarship offer from the Badgers. He attended Central Michigan University on scholarship and started at tight end his freshman year. After one year, Watt transferred to the University of Wisconsin and tried his luck as a walk-on. After just one semester and a move from tight end to defensive end, Watt was awarded a scholarship by the Badgers.

Panthers hoping to become the next T.Y. Hilton will have to report to FIU Stadium at 11 a.m. on Feb. 18. In order to be eligible, students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours, maintain a 2.5 GPA and be under the age of 24. Any student who meets these requirements will get a chance to live the dream of playing Division 1 college football.

BASEBALL

Exciting baseball season ahead as two players honored

COLUMNIST



ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE

As recently drafted FIU players Aramis Garcia and Mike Franco continue their path towards the Major Leagues, new players must step up to lead this team to a successful season.

Fans should become used to seeing senior Josh Anderson and sophomore Chris Mourelle stepping onto the diamond.

Having been named to the 2015 Preseason All Conference USA Team.

The naming is an incredible feat having been recognized by the

whole conference and it's 12 head coaches that selected them.

FIU baseball has been receiving

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Expect big things from this exciting and talented roster this upcoming season.

a lot of positive attention as they are predicted to finish second in this year.

Last season, Anderson started

56 games at third base for FIU and impacted the team on the offensive side as he finished second with a

.300 batting average and 66 hits.

He is projected to either be the third or fourth hitter on the team to be that big bat in the lineup to help

the team score runs. He attempts to lead the team in runs batted in again as last season he was also the primary run producer on the team.

Anderson drove in 43 runs largely due to having 13 doubles and five home runs. He has been one of the main contributors to this FIU squad since his sophomore year.

Although his batting average was down compared to his last season average, his power numbers were even better as he belted seven home runs with a 42 RBI and 22 doubles - a team-best.

Last season Mourelle had a stellar freshman campaign as he was named a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American.

Leading CUSA with nine wins

and three losses, he was ranked third among conference pitchers in victories.

He also recorded a 1.95 earned run average that was eighth best in CUSA.

Two out of his nine wins were complete-game shutouts which led all rookies as well. Mourelle had pinpoint control as the right hander only allowed 11 walks in 78.1 innings pitched.

Mourelle has all the tools to lead this deep pitching staff to the top of the conference and hopefully become the ace that Mike Franco was last season.

Expect big things from this exciting and talented roster this upcoming season.

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TENNIS

Panthers defeat Stetson University, improve record to 2-0

JACOB SPIWAK
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It was a battle of unbeaten women's tennis teams Friday afternoon as FIU took on the Stetson University Hatters in Miami.

Both teams came into the match looking to improve upon their 1-0 records after winning to open the season, but it was FIU who took a 4-3 victory, bringing their early season mark to 2-0 for the first time since 2010.

Stetson got off to a quick start, winning two out of the three doubles matches and taking an early 1-0 lead over the Panthers. Yana Koroleva and Kaitlin Brozovich were the only doubles team to win for FIU today with a 6-1 win in the No. 3 position. However, just like they did against Liberty

last week, FIU was able to rebound and play much better in the singles games.

FIU tied the match 1-1 after Nerma Caluk, the team's No. 3 player who got the match-clinching victory over Liberty last week, quickly defeated Stetson's Arijana Korac in straight sets, 6-3, 6-0.

Shortly after Caluk's win, Carlotta Orlando defeated Isabella Fernandez of Stetson 6-3, 6-1 in the No. 2 position to give the Panthers a 2-1 lead. Carlotta also got a victory against Liberty, so she was in very good spirits after today's match.

"It's really important for your confidence [to start the season 2-0]," Orlando said. "It definitely gets you a lot more positive for your other matches."

Orlando, who is second on the team in career singles wins, also touched on today's match, and how she was able to win in such a convincing outcome.

"It's never easy to win a match," Orlando said, "but if you don't complicate it so much on the court [your results] will usually be good."

Stetson was able to tie the match 2-2 after standout freshman Alizee Michaud defeated FIU's Yana Koroleva at the No. 1 position 7-6, 6-4. This match stood out as a highlight today, as Michaud and Koroleva went back and forth the entire time. Michaud suffered a lower body injury that appeared to be a knee sprain of some sort during the first set, but she was able to power through and defeat FIU's top singles player.

FIU regained the lead after Kaitlin Brozovich defeated Eveline Lepinay in the No. 5 position 6-4, 7-5. Brozovich was on the losing end of her match against Liberty, so this was a key win not only for FIU to secure a victory against Stetson, but also for Brozovich's confidence moving forward.



BRIAN TRUJILLO/THE BEACON

Sophomore Nina Nagode, fought back from a near defeat against Stetson University's Carolina Meregalli before winning the match 4-6, 7-6, 6-3.

Ashley Dean of Stetson made it very interesting and brought the match to a 3-3 tie after coming from behind to defeat Valentina Briceno in the No. 6 position.

On the court directly next to Dean and Briceno, FIU's Nina Nagode and Stetson's Carolina Meregalli went back and forth in a match that ended up deciding today's contest. After dropping the first set 4-6, Nagode fought back from a near defeat in the second set, winning 7-6 in a tiebreaker. Nagode won the final set, making the final score 4-6, 7-6, 6-3.

"I'm really happy that I was the one who decided the match," Nagode said, "but I still think that we have to improve, especially in our doubles matches."

Coach Katarina Petrovic agrees that the team needs to improve in doubles,

considering they have lost the doubles point in each of their first two contests.

"We are still experimenting to see what we can do to get the doubles points," Petrovic said. "I will continue to change [the doubles partners] all the time, and we will try to get that point."

However, Petrovic realizes her team is better suited for singles due to their conditioning and positions. She also placed a lot of importance on practicing and getting better every day.

The Panthers will begin a 5-match Northeast road trip on Feb. 6, as they travel to Philadelphia to take on the University of Pennsylvania Quakers. FIU will return to Miami for their next home match on Feb. 28 against the Florida Gulf Coast University Eagles.



BRIAN TRUJILLO/THE BEACON

Junior Carlotta Orlando, who is in the No. 2 spot for the Panthers, won against Isabella Fernandez of Stetson University.

COLUMN

A Miami Marlins perspective from a casual baseball fan

DRUCKER DIGEST



DAVID DRUCKER

I'll admit it. I have never been a big baseball fan, much less a good one. As a kid, I only used to pay attention at the ball game when it was time find which hat the ball was under on the Jumbotron. My personal baseball career flamed out in tee-ball, when I believe I became the first hitter to strike out in a pitch-less event. For me, America's past time just never stuck.

Like any South Florida baseball fan, however, I have been ragging on Jeffrey Loria for years. I know enough to know that the former Expos owner had been shipping away the Marlins' premium talent for unproven youngsters since forever.

With each fire sale, the pattern became more evident; a top-notch player in Major League Baseball would be shipped off overnight to some fortunate team and the Marlins would receive prospects in return.

These young players would pan out, though only to be sold off again like cattle for calves. It's a great market principle and a terrible way to run a baseball team.

And so, I could have sworn Stanton

was to meet the same fate. The six-foot-six slugger with 154 career home runs, is the biggest fish the Marlins have had in a while.

Given Loria's reputation, I hunkered down waiting for the worst, like so many Marlins' fans.

Then, out of nowhere, Loria lowered the boom with the largest contract in baseball history.

Stanton's \$325 million, 13-year contract that was complete with a no-trade clause, still feels unreal to me. Although the deal was announced more than two months ago, I have a hard time accepting that Loria finally locked one up.

For the first time, the Marlins will not just temporarily have a superstar; they will have the chance to build a team around one.

I think that I will have no choice but to accept reality when the University's own baseball team plays the Marlins in Jupiter for spring training.

When considering that the Panthers are projected to finish second in Conference USA by multiple polls this season, it might finally be safe to say that 2015 will be a good year to be or become a South Florida baseball fan.

NBA

Whiteside revives professional career

STEFANO RIVERA
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Hassan Whiteside? Before the 2014-2015 NBA season, this was not a household name to many people. The Miami Heat gave him an opportunity to get his name out into the league and nation. So, who is Hassan Whiteside?

Whiteside was born on June 13, 1989 in Gastonia, N.C. There, he attended three high schools including Huss, Ashbrook, and Forestview High School. Even more difficult than attending three high schools in two years, was living with a single mother and six siblings.

For a short period of time, Whiteside moved to New Jersey to live with his father and play for East Side High School. He averaged 18 points, 10 rebounds, and 5.5 blocks per game in his time at East Side.

His brightest spot while playing high school basketball

was when he returned home and attended The Patterson School in Lenoir, N.C. In the 2008-2009 season, he lead this team to a No. 1 national ranking and a 34-2 record.

Whiteside, the No. 19 center in his class, decided to sign with Marshall University. He turned down an offer from the University of Kentucky, a college basketball powerhouse.

Whiteside ended the 2009-2010 season with 182 blocks, which was No. 1 in the nation. He broke the Freshman record for blocks in a single season held by Shawn Bradley from BYU.

After just one collegiate season, Whiteside declared for the NBA draft on March 29, 2010. He was drafted 3rd in the 2nd round of the 2010 NBA draft by the Sacramento Kings.

Throughout his career for the Kings, Whiteside dealt with being taken in and out of the roster. He was appointed to the King's Developmental

League team several times before finally being waived in 2012.

It took some time for Whiteside to be comfortable with the rotation but finally, he made himself known. On Jan. 4, 2015 he recorded 11 points, 10 rebounds, and five blocks against the Brooklyn Nets in which the Heat would win 88-84.

Whiteside proved the game against the Nets was not a fluke. Two games later, in a game against the Los Angeles Clippers, he scored 23 points and grabbed 16 rebounds. The Clippers' front court, Deandre Jordan and Blake Griffin, had no answer for Whiteside and his dominance.

Whiteside's paint awareness and athletic offensive capabilities will allow the Heat to work with a true center, something they've been lacking for several years.

For the full story go to fiusm.com.

DRESS TO IMPRESS



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

Freshman finance major Anne Dorcius has a practice interview with Allen Levi, a Certified Public Accountant with Stroemer and Company, LLC in Aventura at the third annual Career in Gear event. The event included practice interviews, career advising, and food.

Barreto still helping Florida's fish, wildlife

STEVE WATERS
Sun Sentinel
TNS

Rodney Barreto was the most effective chairman the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ever had.

Now, as chairman of the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, he's again working tirelessly to improve and enhance the state's outdoor opportunities.

Under Barreto's strong leadership, the FWC protected valuable species such as bonefish and tarpon, derailed efforts to undermine the state's gill net ban and expanded hunting on stormwater treatment areas.

The Miami businessman's no-nonsense, take-charge approach was best illustrated five years ago when an extended cold spell killed thousands of snook. Instead of having workshops and surveys to figure out what to do, Barreto had the FWC immediately close the snook season statewide.

That move saved the state's remaining snook population, which is now thriving.

Barreto spent 10 years as an FWC commissioner, seven of them as chairman. In recognition of his service, the agency created the Chairman Rodney Barreto FWC Employee of the Year Award.

But Barreto, who is also chairman of the South Florida Super Bowl Committee, couldn't stay away for long.

He got involved with the Fish & Wildlife Foundation, became chairman in September and quickly set, and achieved, impressive goals.

Barreto said the non-profit Foundation, which was created by the state of Florida, is the fund-raising arm for the FWC.

It gets money from specialty license plates, like the bear and deer tags, "and we make sure it's going to the right place," Barreto said.

The Foundation also raised over \$800,000, an unprecedented amount, at its third annual BlueGreen Event at FWC

commissioner Ron Bergeron's Green Glades Ranch in Weston in November.

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, who supports land and water stewardship and sound agricultural practices that benefit fish and wildlife, was honored there with the 2014 BlueGreen Award for Conservation Leadership.

Some of that money will be used to upgrade the 55-year-old Everglades Youth Conservation Camp at the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area in northwestern Palm Beach County.

The camp has introduced countless youngsters to the outdoors and also hosted Becoming an Outdoors Woman workshops for women 18 and over who want to learn about fishing, camping, hunting, archery, shooting and other outdoors pursuits.

"All the current cabins will be leveled, we'll build a new education center, we'll build a new museum because of the history out there and put a new roof over the cafeteria," Barreto said.

"We're also building a shooting range next door. It'll be the only outdoor public range in Palm Beach County."

Barreto said \$3.2 million for building the range, which will include rifle and clay target shooting, will be from federal excise taxes on firearms and ammunition. The balance of \$2.2 million will come from the Foundation. Once the range's design contract is approved, construction will take 18 months.

"West Palm Beach has the highest concentration of licensed hunters without a nearby range," said Barreto, who hopes the range also will attract visiting shooters for competitions and serve as the winter home of the U.S. Shooting Team.

Barreto said that once the camp and range are "up and running," he plans to use them as sales tools to encourage business partners such as Bass Pro Shops to help construct similar facilities throughout Florida.

Alumna helps less fortunate in Colombia

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
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Class of 2011 Alumna Natalie Fernandez may have gone to Colombia for a news report, but after meeting a group of underprivileged kids in the coastal city of Barranquilla, her life's path changed forever.

A sports journalist, Fernandez traveled to the country to meet with a baseball Yankees scout who trains 3 to 18 year old kids who don't have enough means of their own to play. There, she met five year old Juan who inspired her to start Game Time Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides sports equipment for young athletes.

"I went as a reporter to do a story, but I came out different because the little kid touched my heart -- so that's when I knew," Fernandez said.

She said he expressed to her how much he loved his coach because of his commitment to the team. Later did she find out that little Juan and his family were provided shelter in the stadium.

When Fernandez returned home to Miami, she said she couldn't forget her experience and decided to put her career on hold to help support the kids.

"So seeing them -- they barely have anything, and us that have everything, and if all I can do is be the messenger, then by all means, why not fight for that?" said the journalism communications major. Many of them play baseball on soccer fields.

Fernandez has been featured on NBC 6 and ESPN Deportes in Miami, as well as Caracol Radio and television network Telecaribe in Colombia.

Game Time Foundation also has its own website called gametimefoundation.org to collect funds for new equipment to then send to the kids.

Fernandez also started a campaign called #Athletes4Athletes where MLB Minor Leagues and Major Leagues show their support to the foundation in a video and or photo through its Instagram page @gametimefound.

She said it's a way for athletes to not only promote themselves, but also to support future generation athletes.

At the Sluggers Batting Cages in Tamiami Park and Hitters Hangout in Kendall, she leaves boxes where donors can leave bats, baseballs, softballs and baseball uniforms. She has also found support through the Miami Marlins Baseball Team.

Fernandez said collecting equipment has been the easier part, the challenge is having enough funds to bring them to Colombia.

"It's hard, it's a lot of work, but I put my career on hold. If I get a job in T.V., it's going to be 100 percent T.V. So if I'm starting this, I can't leave it half-way," Fernandez said. "I found the purpose of my life, so that's why I'm pushing and pushing forward."

Being involved at the University as a Phi Sigma Sigma sorority sister, volunteering with FIU Alternative Breaks to help less fortunate in Washington D.C. and participating in FIU Dance Marathon really showed her passion to help others.

"I think that also influenced me in giving

back... It was always in me to help," she said.

Even though soccer is the most commonly played sport in Colombia, Fernandez sides first with baseball and softball because she thinks these sports have a lot of potential to grow in the community.

According to the National Consulting Center of Colombia, 77 percent of 2,475 Colombians who were surveyed last year said that sports like soccer bring them closer together.

This is why Fernandez loves sports, because it brings people together in celebration.

"I think it unites people and it's a way of people forgetting like the bad things that are happening," Fernandez said.

Later on, Fernandez hopes to teach the kids English and talk to them about the importance of taking care of their body to be healthier and better athletes along the way.

"[The Foundation] presented itself in the most random way, but through my career, which is my passion, I learned my meaning of life," she said. "I feel like as a reporter, we're a voice of many people."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATALIE FERNANDEZ

Alumna Natalie Fernandez started her foundation after meeting children without the means to play sports in Colombia.