

English requirement bill receives criticism

JUNETTE REYES
Opinion Director

The Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013 is a Senate bill that, if passed, would be responsible for the strengthening of border security alongside the legalization of approximately 11 million undocumented immigrants.

The bill presents Registered Provisional Immigrant Status, a preconceived step in which immigrants would begin their path towards legal status, so long as they have been physically present in the U.S. since before Dec. 31, 2011.

Once this status has been established, these immigrants will then be able to apply for permanent residency, given they have maintained their presence

in the U.S., paid their taxes, acquired employment and have taken classes to learn English, government and history.

This language requirement, met by enrolling in English classes, bothers some, including Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, one of five senior fellows in the School of International and Public Affairs.

In a press release on the senator's website, Rubio proposed an amendment to the bill as a means of fixing this shortcoming by requiring immigrants to prove their proficiency in English. This means they would have to show their ability of understanding the language to the point of reading, writing and speaking the words accordingly, as opposed to simply taking a course.

"On the day we announced the principles that would shape

the immigration bill, we made it clear that English proficiency would now be required for permanent residency for the first time in American history," said Rubio. "This amendment ensures that will be the case."

Reactions to the amendment have varied.

A poll on fiusm.com shows that 53 percent of voters believe that immigrants applying for legal status should be proficient in English, while 30 percent voted no and the remaining 17 percent voted maybe.

Finance and international business major Giorgio Izzo said that while he understands Rubio's concern over the negatives of immigration legislation, he considers the amendment to be the most closed-minded way of dealing with it.

"In simplest terms, I believe

this requirement treads on the American values of welcoming immigrants throughout our history," said Izzo. "I firmly believe it is an attack on globalization and global citizenship as a whole; a country that does not tolerate non-English speakers is deliberately closing its borders on international citizens."

Izzo additionally said that there would be no need to impose such a law, as immigrants would learn on their own that being fluent in English is necessary.

International Business and Marketing major Santiago Diaz, on the other hand, believes that immigrants should be able to communicate, although proficiency should be defined more clearly.

"If you want to stay, you should adapt or at least try to, [as] effort is well compen-

sated," said Diaz.

Juan Carlos Gomez, clinical assistant professor of law, said that while this may affect hard working people in the community such as students' parents, he does not see the amendment as a troubling obstacle because there are always exceptions and waivers.

"In naturalization, there are exceptions for people who don't have the capacity. Medical waivers are granted all the time, in terms of naturalization. Everything from people who have a mental or physical disability [that keeps them] from learning English to people who are just developmentally delayed," said Gomez.

Still, Gomez does not think it's wise to predict the proba-

SEE RUBIO, PAGE 2

Community responds to Zimmerman verdict

MADISON FANTOZZI
News Director

A Florida jury found George Zimmerman not guilty in Trayvon Martin's death Saturday night after the six women deliberated for 16 and a half hours. It only took moments, however, for students to take to social media in an uproar about the verdict.

Martin's brother and FIU student, Jahvaris Fulton, tweeted "Et tu, America?" following the verdict on July 13, a reference to the Latin expression of betrayal.

University students are also expressing mixed feelings.

"I'm okay with the verdict," said Joshua Montalvan, senior chemistry major. "We don't know what happened and our justice system is not perfect, but it's the best in the

country so I trust that [Zimmerman] is not guilty."

Assistant Director of the College of Law's Trial Advocacy Program and Faculty Fellow H. Scott Fingerhut agrees.

"All told, based on the facts of the case, the jury reached an appropriate verdict," said Fingerhut. "With that said, there is much more to this case than the law."

Zicomanii Fremont, junior economics major, said the case turned into a source of entertainment.

"There is much more to the case and the verdict than what people see on television," said Fremont. "It goes much deeper than that and the public doesn't always get all the facts."

Martin's death in February 2012 unleashed debate about racial profiling, equal justice and self-defense.

The jury had the option to consider manslaughter, but

declined to convict Zimmerman of the lesser charge.

"If Zimmerman killed Trayvon for racist reasons, then I think he would deserve the death penalty," said Montalvan. "But I feel like people use the race card too much."

Fingerhut said the public's reaction was fueled by a polarizing media storm.

"Law as 'entertainment' or 'info-tainment' is never a good thing," said Fingerhut. "It's real people's lives that are lost and on the line."

The Department of Justice has announced that it will look into the case further, which could lead to criminal civil rights charges. Zimmerman may also face civil lawsuits from Martin's family.

-madison.fantozzi@fiusm.com

University prepares for hurricane season

REBECA PICCARDO
Staff Writer

A month and a half has passed since the beginning of hurricane season, and FIU's Department of Emergency Management has prepared all year to take on the possibility of a hurricane or tropical storm.

"FIU is an all hazards university, meaning that we take measures to be prepared for any type of emergency or disaster," said Amy Aiken, director of the Department of Emergency Management, in an email.

As preparation for any emergency, the University conducts training exercises to prepare staff to respond to any emergency.

According to Aiken, at the beginning of the hurricane season, the Department of Emergency

Management meets with President Rosenberg and his staff to go over different scenarios and discuss what actions they would take to prepare the University and recover from any impacts.

"Emergency Management monitors the tropics," said Aiken, "If a storm looks like it may threaten South Florida, twice-daily conference calls begin with the National Weather Service and Miami-Dade County."

Additionally, the University's Emergency Operations Center is activated whenever the University is threatened by a tropical storm or hurricane. The EOC was first activated last August for Tropical Storm Isaac.

"Fortunately, we were spared, but it was a great opportunity to see all of the training and exercising that

staff have been doing in action," said Aiken.

According to Aiken, depending on the type of storm, the EOC would remain activated 24/7 and staff members would remain on campus during the storm.

"The Emergency Management group that staffs the EOC meets to ensure that key departments like Facilities, UTS, FIU police, and Housing are prepared to secure the University in advance of the storm," said Aiken.

Although the Modesto Maidique Campus is not in an evacuation zone, residential students are advised to go home or stay with a friend during a storm.

"Students will be more comfortable with their families or friends and we want as few people as possible on campus during

a storm," said Aiken.

Biscayne Bay Campus is in an evacuation zone, and students that cannot go home are taken to the Modesto Maidique Campus to take shelter from the storm.

"If students from either campus can't go home, they will be sheltered in a common area in one of the residence halls," said Aiken.

Leith Bakhit, a junior international business major, lives in the MMC dorms.

"I would just stay in the dorms. I don't think it is a big enough deal to evacuate from where I live," said Bakhit.

Veronica Plazas, a junior finance major, has lived in Florida for four years and has never experi-



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

The parking lots around campus were flooded from the rain, courtesy of tropical storm Chantal.

SEE STORM, PAGE 2

WORLD NEWS

Gay marriage bill passes in Britain

Britain's gay marriage bill passed through the House of Lords on Monday, where lawmakers will review government amendments before it officially becomes law. Currently, same-sex couples can form civil partnerships, which carry similar rights and responsibilities to marriage. The bill will enable gay couples to get married in both civil and religious ceremonies in England and Wales. The Church of England is barred from offering same-sex ceremonies, however.

Spain prime minister resists resignation

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy told reporters that he would not step down amidst scandalous text messages that surfaced that show him comforting a political party treasurer under investigation over a slush fund and secret Swiss bank accounts. This spectacle of alleged corruption has hurt and enraged Spaniards who are suffering from austerity and high unemployment. Former Popular Party Luis Barcenas told investigators that he gave tens of thousands of euros in secret cash payments to Rajoy.

Cuban, US diplomats allowed to travel

Recently, Cuban and U.S. diplomats have been increasingly, and more easily, traveling within the Cold War enemy countries. Cuban diplomats at the United Nations in New York cannot go 25 miles beyond Columbus Circle in Manhattan or past the Beltway loop circling Washington without the permission of the U.S. State Department, and U.S. Interests Section workers must submit detailed itineraries to Cuban officials if they want to travel outside Havana.

Courtesy of the Associated Press.

For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.

PanthERS join the fight to save lives at University

DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS
Staff Writer

It is 2 a.m. in University Towers and a resident has suddenly stopped breathing. The student is not responding and a 911 call is sent out. By the time emergency personnel arrive, the student is conscious and breathing again thanks to actions taken by a member of Panther Emergency Response Squad, who happens to live in University Towers.

This scenario is the PanthERS mission, a newly formed student-run organization that could one day be responsible for saving the life of a university community member. PanthERS will be the first responders

to assist in emergency situations where Miami-Dade Fire Rescue or University Police may take too long to arrive.

The PanthERS mission is to close the "life-threatening gap" between the time a call goes out and when emergency responders arrive, said University Safety Officer Wili Alvarez, the squad's advisor.

Alvarez envisions the organization being a cross campus 24-hour service that would include a team of two students on mountain bikes equipped with medical supplies, having a presence at University events such as football games and a component consisting of housing students.

"Students will be suit-

ably trained and equipped, already present on campus, familiar with building names, locations and layouts, and able to overcome traffic and obstructions that typically delay off campus resources," said Alvarez.

Students are on board. "Everyone in the health system will benefit," said registered nurse and nurse practitioner graduate student Evelyn Salgueiro.

Junior biology major Zachary Jones supports the idea behind PanthERS.

"[PanthERS] can assess the situation better and give info to people that come later," said Jones. "I also think it's important to have 24-hour-a-day response because you never know what's going to happen."

Alvarez not only wants students in medical fields to join, but will also "make a concerted effort to recruit outside of allied health."

The organization is in its earliest stages of development and expansion.

Alvarez is actively seeking out University community members who have any sort of emergency response training.

Salgueiro shares Alvarez's view on recruiting outside of allied health.

"I think anybody can be involved in the organization," he said.

Individuals interested in joining PanthERS should send their qualifications and experience to Alvarez at SAFE@fiu.edu.

-diego.saldana@fiusm.com

Rubio's proposal sparks debate

RUBIO, PAGE 1

bility of the amendment being passed, as he believes it creates false expectations and false hopes.

"Guessing at what will be in the final bill(s) is not a productive use of time," Gomez said.

However, Gomez does think that people should not get in the way of giving others a chance, especially those that have previously benefited from different levels of immigration law.

"I think that at this point, in the communities and the advocacy, the focus has to be on convincing people opposed to any kind of immigration reform, or any productive immigration reform, to support productive immigration reform and not be destructive," said Gomez.

"It's horrible that there are people out there who are 'in the door' and don't want to give somebody else a chance," said Gomez.

-junette.reyes@fiusm.com

Emergency Operations Center offers storm preparations at FIU

STORM, PAGE 1

enced a hurricane. If a hurricane hits, her family plans to stay in a hotel to weather out the storm comfortably. Plazas said, however, that they would still need a backup plan and safety measures.

Dariela Nieto, a junior journalism major, has lived in Florida most of

her life, and experienced Hurricane Wilma.

"I remember for a while after the hurricane hit, all you saw were people's roofs covered in the blue plastic—that meant there was damage," said Nieto.

According to Nieto, when a hurricane is approaching, her family stocks up on water and gets the shutters ready.

According to Aiken, University preparations begin well before tropical storm force winds are anticipated to arrive.

"The good thing about hurricanes is that we have plenty of notice, which allows adequate time for the University to prepare," said Aiken.

-news@fiusm.com

Cuban athletes and artists get in on capitalism and business

JOHN DANISZEWSKI
AP Staff

Cuban track and field legend Javier Sotomayor has launched a sports bar named for the height of his world record high jump. An Olympic volleyball champion has opened a swanky new Italian restaurant, and salsa star Hugo Morejon has a first-rate automotive repair shop.

Armed with money and name recognition, Cuban athletes and artists who have long enjoyed a far more luxurious lifestyle than their

compatriots on the Communist-run island are embracing the new world of private enterprise. In doing so, the celebrities have exposed themselves to more than a little envy from a population already weary of the perks they've long had.

At least a dozen athletes and artists have started private businesses since President Raul Castro began opening Cuba's economy to limited capitalism in 2010, and others have quietly invested in such establishments. Many of the spots have opened in recent months.

At Sport-Bar 2.45, patrons sip icy-cold Cuban beer and eat pizzas while perusing memorabilia from Sotomayor's career, such as a white athletic shoe he used in competition and several of his awards and medals. The bar is named after the height in meters (equivalent to 8 feet, 1/2 inch) of Sotomayor's world record high jump, set in 1993.

The record stands 20 years later, but the 45-year-old Sotomayor has moved on from his past as one of the Communist world's great athletes, and now considers himself a businessman.

THE BEACON

EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR IN CHIEF

BRANDON WISE

BBC MANAGING EDITOR

NADRA MABROUK

PRODUCTION MANAGER/

COPY CHIEF

JENNA KEFAUVER

NEWS DIRECTOR

MADISON FANTOZZI

LIFE! EDITOR

EISSY DE LA MONEDA

SPORTS DIRECTOR

FRANCISCO RIVERO

ASST. SPORTS DIRECTOR

RUBEN PALACIOS

OPINION DIRECTOR

JUNETTE REYES

PHOTO EDITOR

STEPHANIE MASON

CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 348-2709
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
brandon.wise@fiusm.com

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

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

Trouble between generations

MOISES FUERTES
Staff Writer

On May 20, Time magazine published “Millennials: The Me Me Me Generation,” completely stereotyping Generation Y into a bunch of lazy, narcissistic, and, for all intents and purposes, incompetent bunch. “Millennials are lazy, entitled narcissists who still live with their parents,” said writer Joel Stein in May’s Time issue.

Despite using these attributes to declare us as the generation to “save us all,” Stein’s backhanded compliment is still completely redundant and unfounded.

Here’s why.

We are going through a shift in many areas of the world as we know it, with the digital age having brought forth unprecedented changes. These changes, in many ways, have completely transformed the way society functions.

It is precisely this divide between digital natives and digital immigrants that I suspect brings with it a misunderstanding amongst the generations, with previous generations taking it upon themselves to belittle Generation Y.

I believe that our story is being told through the eyes of people that don’t grasp what’s happening around them.

Looking into recent economic and education data starts to paint the picture of the physical world we are inheriting from previous generations: an economy in shambles, where college degrees are suddenly not worth as much as they once were.

Analysis by the Pew Research Center reveals that, “a third of the nation’s 25 to 29-year-olds have completed at least a bachelor’s degree,” but breaking records is not doing much for us due to the recession and the high percentage of unemployed young people.

I’m not trying to devalue what an education is worth. I believe being educated has no cost, but reality is reality and we all have to pay bills.

Yet, according to a survey by WSL/Strategic Retail, millennials now represent “the highest percentage of Americans lacking enough money to meet their basic needs.”

This is not surprising, given that Generation Opportunity reported that millennial unemployment was at 16.1 percent in June. Youth unemployment rates aren’t just a local issue, with The Guardian reporting in May that “More than 7.5 million young Europeans aged between 15 and 24 are not in employment, education or training.”

Despite these statistics, previous generations criticize



us as if we’re not interested in a professional career because we only care most about jobs that give room for innovation, fun, social responsibility and time off, according to Patricia Sellers of CNN Money.

The way the world is now, we are lucky to even have jobs. When one of us finally acquires a job, it doesn’t even pay much.

I’m lucky enough to have a stable full-time job now, but acquiring it took years of searching. I still don’t have enough to move out on my own, and even if I did, my parents also need my help. For the past three years, I have been the sole

breadwinner in my household in multiple occasions, all while being a full-time student as well.

Unsurprisingly, we are labeled as the generation whose adulthood has been delayed, with 3 million young adults like myself still living at home, according to Hilary Osborne of The Atlantic.

Nevertheless, I see my generation working hard, doing our best to stay afloat while trying to acquire a degree in hopes of a better future. We, like many generations before us, are simply misunderstood by the previous generation.

-moises.fuertes@fiusm.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RE: ROYAL CARIBBEAN

Those of us who have been working with Royal Caribbean on a mutually beneficial partnership based on the Biscayne Bay Campus are disappointed on your recent editorial. Our thinking and motivation all along has been completely student centered. In fact, the benefits this would bring to you, the student, are the only reasons for us to enter into this public/private partnership.

First the facts: FIU is working with Royal Caribbean LTD to create a production, rehearsal and performance facility at BBC. The relationship is still being negotiated; no contract has been signed at this time. I will share with you the broad outlines of the conversation and how this will benefit our students.

- Starting in 2015 Royal Caribbean employees would take over the existing student housing at BBC. These buildings were slated to be demolished by then to make way for new student housing. We are now in the process of designing new student housing at a different location in BBC to be ready in 2015.

- Royal Caribbean will build a \$25 million building near the housing complex where they will train their performers. This

will be a state-of-the-art facility unlike any that exists currently in South Florida. This facility will have “rigging” capabilities -think flying performers a la Cirque de Soleil. Our theater students will have access to this building for master classes, mock auditions and other custom workshops and training to be conducted by Royal Caribbean entertainment professionals working on the front lines of the entertainment industry.

- Royal Caribbean will become our partner in offering experiential learning opportunities to our students that will be invaluable as students enter the job market. For example: they will conduct exclusive behind the scenes shipboard tours and provide access to their management teams in entertainment and operations.

- Starting in fall 2014, Royal Caribbean will provide 20 paid internships for FIU students. These opportunities - shipboard and on land will be invaluable to our students in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management as well as those in the College of Architecture + the Arts.

- Royal Caribbean employees must at a minimum adhere to our campus code of conduct, but are also subject to their company’s code of conduct, which is more stringent than the FIU student code of conduct.

These new residents are likely to be great neighbors and having them on campus will also allow us to expand the dining offerings and hours of operation at BBC, which is something BBC students have wanted.

As in already the case, through SGA, Campus Life at BBC has an array of ongoing activities to keep students involved and active. These include various events in Panther Square, in the auditorium and ballrooms, and on the bay. The lecture series is one of the highlights on campus during the year. All of these activities will continue a will be expanded as conditions and funding allow.

Your editorial also casts a negative light on plans for a MAST academy at BBC. These plans are moving forward and, just like the partnership with Royal Caribbean, this partnership with Miami-Dade Public School System is designed to benefit our university community. In addition, it creates a pipeline of high-performing STEM students, it benefits the local community and it helps us create a more vibrant BBC community that is even more focused on science, technology, engineering and math.

-Larry Lunsford, Vice President for Student Affairs

THE BEACON | Editorial

Please understand what we’re saying

Sen. Marco Rubio’s English requirement amendment to The Border Security, Economic Opportunity & Immigration Modernization Act of 2013 has been referred to as one of many means to appease opponents by holding up the progress of the Senate bill that could be responsible for legalizing approximately 11 million undocumented immigrants.

The amendment itself would require registered provisional immigrants to prove their proficiency in English in order to acquire permanent residence in the US, instead of the bill’s current language skills stipulation that could be satisfied simply by enrolling in English courses.

Whether the amendment is an intentional roadblock in the path of acquiring legal status or not, The Beacon can’t help but agree with Rubio’s emphasis on learning the English language in order to become legalized.

Our reasoning behind this is that although learning a new language may be an obstacle for some, learning enough to get by and to be able to communicate accordingly is not an impossible feat.

To begin with, the approximate 11 million undocumented immigrants the Senate bill is addressing are immigrants who have to prove they have been physically present in the US since before Dec. 31, 2011, meaning these are people who have been here long enough to have picked up some understanding of the English language.

We wouldn’t go so far as saying that not having learned some English within that time is due to laziness or stubbornness. We do, however, acknowledge that it would require effort that is, quite frankly, nothing compared to the risk of entering and residing in the US illegally.

Of course, the exceptions to the rule are people incapacitated by physical or developmental disabilities as well as mental impairments, for which a waiver is mandatory. There is also an exception for registered provisional immigrants that are 70 years of age or older when applying for permanent residence, but this is discretionary.

Whether Rubio’s amendment gets passed or not, the underlying importance is that these people need to take the step forward in ensuring their future in this country is solidified by learning English. Rubio’s amendment simply makes it a requirement, but it is necessary regardless of such a law’s presence.

Yes, the amendment would present one more obstacle in the way of many hard workers in the community trying to survive on a daily basis, but it’s an obstacle that, if conquered, will eventually lead to peace of mind and a sense of security because the risk of being deported would be diminished.

A chance for that peace of mind as result of trying to fix a broken immigration system is being presented to these people through the Senate bill as well as Rubio’s amendment. We think it’s only right they do their part and meet it halfway.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.

Panther is offered internship with 'cake boss'

JESSICA VALERIA
RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

If the University library is your second home, you have probably met Melissa Del Toro and her divine sweets. She can sometimes be spotted giving out booster cupcakes around finals to encourage students to stay motivated during a stressful time. Or maybe you've heard of her dessert catering business, Rebel Sweets.

Senior Del Toro is majoring in hospitality management and graduating this fall. She will also be representing FIU at Carlo's Bake Shop when she interns with Cake Boss' very own Buddy Valastro in New Jersey. Del Toro knows this is a very big step in her career and is very excited, as she will be learning from her role model. "[He's] my inspiration; he thinks differently. I've already learned so much just from watching the show," said Del Toro.

Del Toro helped with fundraisers in high school where she would make cupcakes and sell them as birthday grams. Her love for cake making flourished in high school, but it was still "small baking." Everything she knew was self-taught and her first official class was at Michael's. From this experience, Del Toro's curi-

osity for cakes exploded, so much that it caught her first customer's attention.

"My first customer was actually a family friend, for her son's birthday." After that, Del Toro started making business cards to hand out to everyone she met. Shortly after, she started receiving calls and creating a client base.

"Melissa has made me exactly what I want and exceeded my expectations. Not only does she make what I want look perfect, but the taste is so good," said Jemina Dominquez, one of Del Toro's clients.

Once at FIU, Del Toro started looking into the business aspect of baking and the name Rebel Sweets was cooked up. She decided to use rebel because she identifies herself with the word.

"The word rebel has always been a personal thing of mine, and I think my creativity makes me rebellious," she said.

Naming her business Rebel Sweets was also her way of showing customers that no cake idea is too wild for her. Del Toro describes her cakes as different and creative.

"[They're] cakes you wouldn't find at your local bakery because they have something 'rebellious' about them," said Del Toro. "I love when someone comes to me and they have this

crazy idea that I've never done before and I make it happen."

Del Toro has used her baking powers for good and has donated cupcakes to the Sigma Kappa sorority for their annual fundraiser benefiting Alzheimer. She also worked with The Great American Bake Sale to end poverty for children in America and got four other bakeries to donate pastries to raise money for the cause.

Having interned for the Food and Beverage Department at Norwegian Cruise Line previously, Del Toro has some experience to help her in her new internship with the "Cake Boss."

"[At the Food and Beverage Department at Norwegian Cruise Line], I would bring them cupcakes all the time and show them my work," said Del Toro. "The employees at Norwegian loved the cupcakes! I would hand them a business card with the cupcake."

She even made them a cake on her last day of work, as a thank you for teaching her about the company and about the cruise line business. "The cake had little cut outs of the seven people I worked most closely with, and they appreciated it," she said.

Shortly after finishing her internship with Norwegian, Del Toro's inspiration, "Cake Boss" Valastro, came

to Miami Beach for a showcase in the Jackie Gleason Theatre.

With a little push from her friend, Carling Lezcano, Del Toro took a risk and gave Valastro a USB filled with pictures of her work. She admits to being nervous when she met him. "At least I got him to sign my Rebel Sweets t-shirt," said Del Toro being optimistic.

Another close friend, Mariana Hernandez, was there to show her support. Hernandez has helped Del Toro stay up during those long busy nights, as well as with Rebel Sweets' advertising.

Ironically enough, Hernandez doesn't have a sweet tooth--unless it's Del Toro's sweets. "I don't like sweets, but every time she makes one she has to make extra for me," said Hernandez.

Shortly after Norwegian Cruise Line announced their partnership with Carlo's Bake Shop, Del Toro received a phone call from her previous boss inviting her to come meet Valastro. To her surprise, the "Cake Boss" remembered her.

"Oh my God, your cakes are beautiful," said Valastro when he recognized Del Toro.

After sitting with him and discussing her plans to go to Chicago for pastry school, Valastro offered an



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELISSA DEL TORO

Senior hospitality management major Melissa Del Toro will be working with "cake boss" Buddy Valastro in New Jersey. The cherry blossom cake is one of Del Toro's favorite to make.

alternative. He offered her an internship at his shop. "I accepted in a heartbeat," she said.

Del Toro is preparing for the big move and plans to learn from the best for the next three months. She hopes to learn how to make her cakes more three-dimensional and learn Valastro's way of doing business.

In the near future, Del Toro hopes to impress the

Cake Boss and land a job with him. Years down the line, she wants to open her own environment-friendly bakery that specializes on cakes. "I hope to follow in Buddy's footsteps; I don't feel ready for a bakery right now. Working for him is my dream, but in the future I can see myself owning a bakery."

-life@fiusm.com

Students spread their wings at Flugtag competition

HOLLY MCCOACH
Staff Writer

Have you ever seen a flying panther? Well, now is your chance.

On September 21, the National Redbull Flugtag Competition, a competition to see who can build the most creative successful flying machine, will fly its way into South Beach.

Over thirty teams are attending, including five of the University's mechanical engineer majors, Patrick Alvarez, Juan Barrera, Andres Cardenas, Kevin Goldvarg and Daniel Oliva. Together, they are "The Flying Panthers," and

for them, the sky is literally the limit.

With one pilot and four team members pushing the makeshift aircraft to fly over a 30-foot platform, The Flying Panthers knew they would find great interest in participating.

"We were a pretty nice group; we were all pretty motivated," said junior Kevin Goldvarg, who is also the pilot, "Right now, basically what we need to do is make sure we have enough money for the project."

The team knew each other through high school and college, but their passion for this competi-

tion brought them together.

"We all have a common interest in the aerodynamics and aerospace part of engineering. We are interested in the aerodynamics of mechanical engineering. We are friends, so most of the time we are together," said Andres Cardenas, a junior mechanical engineering major. Cardenas' job as a Flying Panther is to determine how to improve lift on the aircraft, what airfoil to use, and how to reduce the weight.

The judges of the competition are not only looking for the distance the aircraft flies, but the creativity put into building it, as well as

a short skit and mission statement that is required of any team applying. This skit includes approximately half a minute of music and dancing to capture the judges' attention. Safety and knowledge of the competition is also important.

"There [are] a lot of regulations. We can't do a lot of stuff like enclose the pilot or use glass and other materials," said Cardenas, "There's a whole book called the Pilot Handbook that we have to read."

Assignments and tasks are also given out by Red Bull, and medals are awarded to the teams

on their website. Assignments include maintaining a growing amount of followers, and for the teams to be as active as possible in social media.

On the day of the event, airplane shows accompanied with music will be included in the entertainment, as well as the competition of the teams itself. Three prizes will be awarded: A skydive with the expert free flyers of the Red Bull Air Force for 1st place, a VIP seating at a Red Bull-titled sporting event for 2nd place, and the opportunity to attend a Red Bull-titled dance, music, or art event. Winners are

determined through the judges' scores.

As for their aircraft, The Flying Panthers are in the design process, receiving assistance from Professor George S. Dulikravich and Professor Richard Zicarelli. Tag Heuer Watches is one of the sponsors of the team, but other interested sponsors are free to contact Cardenas at acard080@fiu.edu.

Admission to the Red Bull Flugtag Competition is free to the public for students and faculty interested in seeing The Flying Panthers take off.

-holly.mccoach@fiusm.com

JOIN OUR STAFF!

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don't be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124 or apply at fiusm.com.



Toledo in Spain: New places, new friends

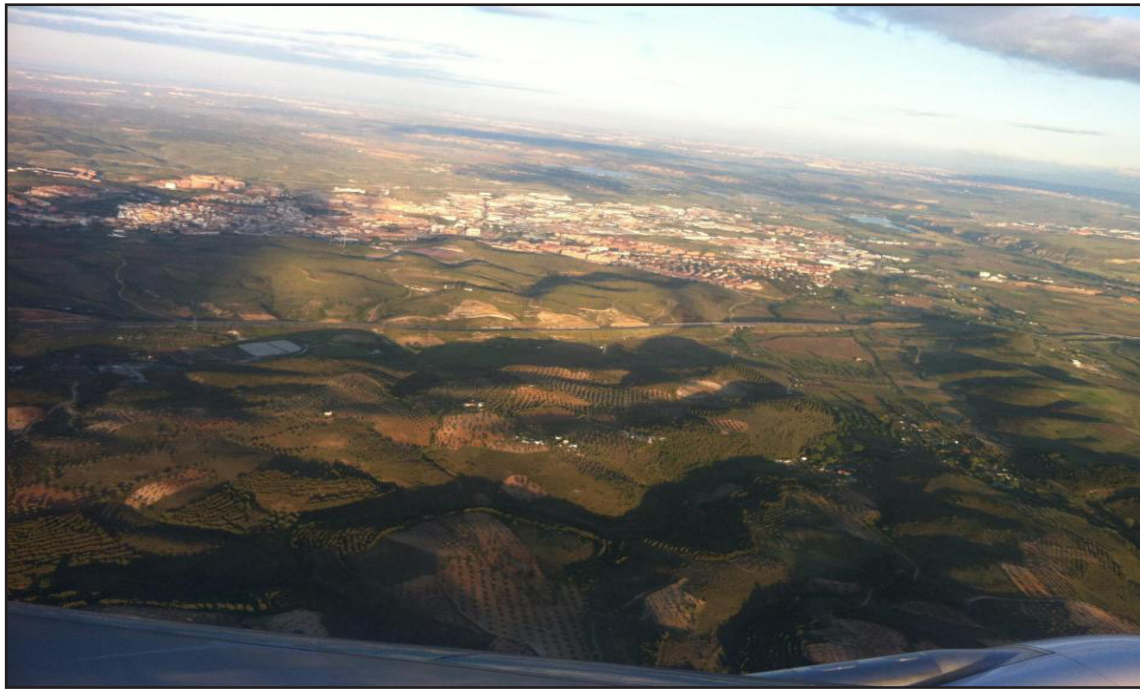
COLUMNIST



AILYS TOLEDO

After a not-as-grueling-as-I-thought-it-would-be flight to Spain, Matthew Young and I landed in Madrid for a two-hour layover to Seville. The airport in Madrid is bigger than any other airport I have ever been to! Getting from one terminal to another takes no less than 30 minutes. I knew this because every time I would turn a corner, I would see a sign reminding me that Gate H is still a 20-minute walk away.

I forgot to mention last week about the first friend I made from Spain. His name was Jesus. Matt and I met him while waiting to board our flight to Madrid in Miami. Jesus is a pharmacy student who was in Miami for a certification test. Perhaps it was his amazingly good looks or the distinguished accent, but I was smitten. All I could do was stare at him as he talked about the beauty of Andalusia and as he gushed about the fabulous wine and food. I was quiet for the majority of the conversation, which was quite a surprise. I remember thinking: "If this is the kind of man that awaits me in Spain...I will never leave." Jesus was impressed by my Spanish, too, which I mentally gave myself points for. Then he mentioned his girlfriend back in Scotland, which made a little part of me die inside. Regardless, I



AILYS TOLEDO/THE BEACON

was so happy to have made my first Spanish friend. I was also relieved when he stayed with Matt and I and helped us around the airport in Madrid. I will never forget Jesus and I hope he never forgets me.

After Jesus and I said our bittersweet (at least for me) farewell and went our separate ways, Matt and I wandered aimlessly through the airport until we went back to our gate. Once we got there, I immediately recognized others from the group. I was reacquainted with Analia and Melissa, who were rooming together, and also Doris and Nicole, who were rooming together as well. I talked with Melissa about her solo trav-

eling plans once the program was over and shared Goldfish snacks with Doris. Although we were all exhausted from the flight, excitement and anticipation to get to Seville was brewing and we all could not wait to start this amazing adventure.

The second flight to Seville was no big deal. It was a short, two-hour flight so we were in a small plane. The flight was empty, so I got to have a whole row of seats to myself. I used this as an opportunity to catch up the much-needed sleep I didn't get on the flight to Madrid. The true shocker was arriving to the airport in Seville. It was so small and dingy compared to the major

airport in Madrid! I thought back to the airports I am most familiar with back home, Miami and Ft. Lauderdale, and realized I was definitely not in the U.S. anymore. Picture me saying in my best Judy Garland impersonation, but instead of carrying around a cute dog named Toto, I am lugging my ginormous luggage and carry-on through a depressing airport. By the way, do not make the same mistake I did and take a carry-on with no wheels. Your shoulders, no matter how strong you may be, are no match for the walk through airports, streets, and hotels.

So I made it to Seville! Finally! Waiting for us at the

airport was Clarissa Reyes, our unofficial, official tour guide to Spain. I could tell from the silk scarf she wore around her neck and the matching colored blazer that this woman meant business, and I was right. She and her daughter were kind enough to give us all a ride to the apartments where we would be staying for the majority of our time in Spain. During the drive there, she gave us important information about how to use our prepaid cellphones, easy directions around our neighborhood, and the plans for a cocktail party later that night.

I wish I could say that I was paying attention, but I was not. I was too infatuated by the sights around me. Seville was so unlike any place I had ever seen. From my right window, I would see the prettiest parks surrounded by urban office and apartment buildings. Then to my left, I would see winding roads leading to cozy cafés and shops.

The moment I knew this is where I belonged was when we got to our neighborhood, Plaza de las Cruces. In English, this translates to "Plaza of the Crosses." True to its name, our little neighborhood was decorated with iron crosses everywhere. I will never forget the instant connection I felt when I got there. I will forever be enamored by my charming city of Seville; it was my home away from home.

-life@fiusm.com

Wolfsonian expands thanks to gift

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

FIU's Wolfsonian museum has established itself as one of South Florida's hidden gems, and with the addition of a recent gift from founder Mitchell Wolfson Jr., its presence should continue to grow. The gift includes approximately 25,000 objects for the collection and an estimated 20,000 square feet of office space in Downtown Miami.

Since joining the University, the museum's Miami Beach location has not only housed thousands of pieces from Wolfson's personal collection, but also provided classes and tours to FIU students. With the addition of this gift, the Wolfsonian can now offer a new location as well as a new type of experience for visitors and students.

The Downtown location includes three stories of office space. According to an internal document written by the museum's staff, one of the goals for the new space is to provide more free access to the exhibits.

"The Wolfsonian will

use the Downtown site as an object study center," it states.

"Permitting students and faculty members freer access to a large number of different kinds of items than it can offer at its Miami Beach headquarters, where the conditions of storage make the vast majority of holdings accessible for scholarly investigation only via labor-intensive interventions by staff members."

Easier access to the exhibits is not the only benefit of the proposed use of the new space. The museum staff also plans to include meeting spaces and offices for faculty and staff Downtown. There are also plans for classroom space that would facilitate learning by "enabling discussions to take place in direct proximity to items in the collection."

Wolfson himself personally collected the pieces that will likely fill the Downtown space, like the ones at the Miami Beach location.

"It is what he has been collecting, mostly in tandem and consultation with our curators and



ROMINA ANGELELLI/THE BEACON

The newly remodeled 5th floor of The Wolfsonian-FIU Museum is entirely dedicated to the "Art and Design of the Modern Age." The exhibit encompasses all aspects of the modern age including decorative art and portraiture, as well as communication and transportation technology.

librarians, to deepen and strengthen our collection," said Museum Director Cathy Leff.

The pieces include various written works including rare books that Wolfson has collected.

"The materials in this

recent gift follow The Wolfsonian's core collection interests, strengthening areas currently represented in the collection and bringing new areas to bear on the kaleidoscopic period from which the materials derive," said

Assistant Curator Matthew Abess.

He elaborated further, saying, "The contents of the gift are the product of [Wolfson's] efforts to enrich the repertoire of narratives already embedded in The Wolfso-

nian's collection through an especially focused collecting strategy, addressing overall gaps in the collection while supporting the immediate exhibition plan."

-life@fiusm.com

KEDRICK RHODES ARRESTED



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Kedrick Rhodes was arrested Saturday night, July 13, after discharging three to four shots in parking lot 6 outside Everglades Hall.

Kedrick Rhodes dismissed from FIU football

FIUSM STAFF

Running back Kedrick Rhodes was ready to begin his senior year for the FIU football team until he was arrested on Saturday July 13 at 7:30 p.m.

According to the arrest affidavit, Rhodes was charged with possession/discharging of a firearm on school grounds, improper exhibition of a firearm, discharging a firearm in public and discharging a firearm under the influence of alcohol.

According to the affidavit, a witness observed Rhodes exit Everglades Hall and run towards his vehicle, parked in lot six,

in anger over an unknown cause.

The same witness observed Rhodes pull out a firearm, step out of the vehicle and yell, "Get the f—k back!"

Rhodes then proceeded to fire proximity three to four rounds towards the air from his .380 caliber semi automatic pistol leading the witness to flee for his safety.

Rhodes was then arrested and taken to Miami Dade County jail where he provided a written confession that he was under the influence of alcohol while discharging his firearm.

The situation escalated when Rhodes lost a play fight with a teammate, ac-

ording to multiple witnesses. This was later verified by University Police Chief Alexander Casas.

"I don't know if it got to a real fight but Rhodes got upset because he did lose a play fight," Casas said.

This is not the first time that FIU has had a problem with a football player and firearms; in 2004 three FIU players were arrested, including one who was charged with attempted murder for firing a gun into an occupied car.

Rhodes is now the fourth player to be arrested for the use of a firearm. Corner back Everett Baker was charged with at-

tempted murder for firing into an occupied car.

He also was charged with two counts of armed robbery, possession of a weapon on school grounds and two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, all felonies.

On the field, Rhodes is coming off a season that saw the young back rush for 714 yards while racking up four touchdowns.

The Panthers looked for Rhodes to continue his growth and success in his senior year and help lift FIU from their appalling

SEE RHODES, PAGE 7

Panthers defense looking to regain its intensity

RHYS WILLIAMS Staff Writer

When new Head Coach Ron Turner began his era at FIU, he brought in an entirely new coaching staff. His defensive staff is very diverse, with the experience column ranging from former NFL coaches to recent college graduates as defensive assistants.

The defense is in the hands of Josh Conklin. Conklin comes to FIU after being the safeties coach at the University of Tennessee last season. The Volunteers ranked 107 in the nation in points against after the 2012 season.

Before coaching for the Vols, Conklin was the defensive coordinator for the Citadel for two seasons in 2010 and 2011 after being the defensive backs coach for Wofford from 2007 to 2009. He began his

coaching career at his alma mater, SDSU, as a defensive graduate assistant before being both a special teams and defensive coach for two seasons.

Conklin has the burden of rebuilding a defense that was ranked 97th in points allowed last season.

Bringing in the most NFL experience is defensive line coach Andre Patterson. He has had coaching stints all around the country at every level of football from high school to professional over a 30-year career.

His career, which started at the University of Montana in 1982, has spanned 14 seasons in college football, 10 years working in the NFL and five seasons at the start of career as a high school head coach.

Defensive backs coach Jason

SEE DEFENSE, PAGE 7



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Head Coach Ron Turner and his new defensive staff look to put the bite back in the Panthers defense.

New coach leading to optimistic outlook for volleyball

OSCAR BALDIZON
Contributing Writer

Starting last year, there were high expectations surrounding the women's volleyball team at FIU. They had a solid group of newcomers and veterans that were poised to make a deep run. However, that all came crashing down when the team was decimated by injuries.

"With all the controversy that happened last year, I think it really brought us all together, we all know how to approach different problems and overcome adversity now," said junior libero Carolyn Fouts.

When the ladies speak about their upcoming season their eyes say everything, and you can tell they are hungry to show everyone this team is revamped and geared up for this upcoming season.

The burden of positioning the team to succeed is now squarely on the shoulders of a woman who knows a little bit about success in the volleyball world. Guiding them through this season will be new Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett.

"She came to one practice last year and almost changed my whole arm swing in an hour, by the end of the practice we were all really shocked at how much we had learned in just one

practice with her and were very impressed," senior middle blocker Kimberly Smith said.

A member of the Volleyball Hall of Fame Class of 2011 and a two-time Olympian, Buck-Crockett brings a wealth of playing experience at the highest levels of volleyball competition to FIU, along with over 20 years of coaching experience.

This head coaching change came as a bit of a surprise considering the athletic department brought in Buck-Crockett last year as the Sand Volleyball coach. However, with such experience and knowledge it was a welcomed adjustment by the players.

Joining Coach Buck-Crockett on the sideline will be associate Head Coach Felix Hou. His resume boasts serious volleyball experience at both the collegiate and international playing fields, including 16 years of NCAA Division I coaching experience and extensive international expertise, both as a coach and a player.

"They have a big heart for the game and that's very inspiring for us players and learning from two Olympians," Fouts said. "Specialty coaches like them can specifically help certain positions, it makes a big difference and we really respect everything that they have to say."

Hou also realized that the upcoming year for the Panthers would have many challenges and



BEACON FILE PHOTO

The FIU volleyball team prepares for their first season under new head coach Rita Buck-Crockett.

obstacles to overcome.

"With the new conference change this year we are going to be facing tough teams right off the bat. I believe with the returners we have and the new players coming in we will be able to make a splash right from the start and really get into this season," Hou said.

Former Volleyball Head Coach Trevor Theroulde, who was released as the head coach, was unavailable for comment.

Buck-Crockett was also unavailable for comment as of press time of this story.

-sports@fiusm.com

Former assistant coach moves on, leaves behind legacy

STEVEN ROWELL
Contributing Writer

Friendly faces continue to fade away for the women's basketball team as they enter the 2013 season. The squad graduated four seniors and will now be without assistant coach Desma Thomas Bateast.

After seven years of serving as an assistant coach with the Panthers, Bateast recently accepted the head coaching position at nearby St. Thomas University. For the Panthers, Thomas Bateast's departure brings mixed emotions.

"It's a catch-22 thing, as I am happy for her but at the same time, I am kind of sad," senior forward Arielle Durant said.

"It's kind of bittersweet, I'm really happy for her because she is a really great coach and we all knew she would be a Head Coach eventually," senior point guard Jerica Coley said. "When she got the job, we were just excited for her because we know she will do great things there, but of course I am sad because she is leaving."

Thomas Bateast was a standout at the University of Miami as a two-time All Big East third team selection, and is 11th in

scoring all-time in the school's women's basketball program.

She was also key in the development of Coley. Helping mold her into a two-time all-american, two-time Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year and national leading scorer.

During Thomas Bateast's tenure at FIU and while under the guidance of Head Coach Cindy Russo, the Panthers amassed over 100 wins including 62 conference wins and 10-plus wins in the conference for the last three seasons.

Thomas Bateast was considered an integral piece within all that success, she was regarded as the motivator on those winning teams.

"She is very passionate and very knowledgeable of the game and always knew when push us to be our best," Coley said.

"She was the motivator and the pusher on the team; especially in practice she would push us to the limit to a level that we ourselves didn't think we could make," Durant said. "She would push us to be faster, to be quicker, to be better defenders and to be better scorers and to just be a better overall team."

Thomas Bateast's impact was not limited to the lines within the basketball court. She helped players learn how to conduct themselves while off the court as well.

"Personally, she was like my second mom. She was one of the major reasons I came here because we built a relationship. Just a recruit and a coach, she took me under her wing," Durant said. "She told me, 'You will be a better person individually, you will come in as a young lady but you will come out as a young woman.'"

With Thomas Bateast now at St. Thomas, it will be a tall task to find someone to replace Bateast on the sidelines, Durant said.

"The things I will miss the most about her is her intensity, she was always upbeat, always loud she wasn't the quiet coach and was on top of you 24/7 and I don't know who is coming in next but they will have huge shoes to fill," Durant said.

The fact that Thomas Bateast will be nearby will make it easier for the relationships that Durant and Coley built with the former assistant to be maintained. They both plan to take full advantage that their

former assistant coach will be close by to stay in touch for future advice.

"Of course, I will still talk to her on a regular basis and try to get some games with her in the gym, we are still close," Durant said.

With her departure from FIU now set in stone, Thomas Bateast was appreciative for the opportunity the Panthers provided for her.

"I want to thank Cindy Russo and the entire women's basketball staff for the great opportunity to grow in this profession at FIU for the last seven seasons," said Thomas Bateast in a release provided by the athletics department.

"I want to thank the team of wonderful young ladies that I've been privileged to coach and mentor – I know that they will continue to move towards a brighter future of FIU women's basketball in Conference USA. That being said, I am extremely excited for the opportunity to lead the St. Thomas University women's basketball program, and to take the next step in my coaching career."

-sports@fiusm.com

Running back arrested, kicked off football team

RHODES, PAGE 6

record of 3-9.

The news that Rhodes will no longer be in uniform shook the team.

"We took a loss, I'm not going to lie," offensive tackle Dieugot Joseph said. "However, we have the same mindset as before. We just have to keep outworking everybody

and proving we can win in C-USA."

"Not having Kedrick on the field after having practiced with him this past spring is going to be different," punter Chris Ayers said. "But we will find a way to get past his loss just as we have with the other losses this offseason."

This loss also is also disappointing news for first time Head Coach Ron Turner, who was hired earlier this year

to turn around the football program after the firing of former head coach Mario Cristobal.

As of press time, Turner was not available for comment.

-Francisco Rivero, Diego Saldana-Rojas, Patrick Chalvire and Rhys Williams contributed to this story.

-sports@fiusm.com

Turner's new staff looks to ignite fire under defense

DEFENSE, PAGE 6

Brooks recently obtained the dream of every football player or coach: being a part of the Super Bowl. Brooks has worked for the past four seasons in Baltimore on the offensive staff for the

Super Bowl XLVII champion Ravens. He and his father, Clarence Brooks, the offensive line coach for the Ravens, were both on the same coaching staff.

Brooks will be coaching defense for the first time since 2007 when he was an assis-

tant secondary coach at the University of Massachusetts.

Tom Williams also comes to FIU from UTEP as the linebackers coach. With over 20 years of experience, including three seasons under Jack Del Rio with the Jacksonville Jaguars.

The linebackers coach also has dealt with some of the most intelligent athletes in the game of football with his work at Yale University and the University of Stanford.

Williams was a four-time letterman for famous head coach Bill Walsh while play-

ing at Stanford, which is also where he got his coaching start.

The two graduate assistants for the defense are second year assistant Matt Garris, a former linebacker who played for FIU from 2006-2008 and Mike

Hiestand. Hiestand was a letterman for the Illinois State Redbirds before having a career ending injury in 2011, his first coaching job was as a graduate for the University of Miami at Ohio.

-rhys.williams@fiusm.com

Public-private partnerships becoming a growing trend within University

BRANDON WISE
Editor-in-Chief

Welcome to the new Biscayne Bay Campus-- at least what is planned to change in the next few years.

During the University's Master Plan update session held on July 15 at 5 p.m., faculty and students were shown the proposed changes coming to the campus.

The biggest change: public/private partnerships.

In late June, Gov. Rick Scott signed a law to ramp-up public-private partnerships in Florida.

The new part of the law allows businesses to send unsolicited proposals to local governments and agencies, according to the Sun Sentinel.

Projects that qualify under the new law are any that serve a public

purpose, including airport or seaport structures, pipelines, mass transit infrastructure, nursing homes, educational buildings and cultural centers or sports stadiums.

The Royal Caribbean Cruise Line partnership, which has been in ongoing discussions, is one of three proposed private partnerships that were discussed during the meeting.

Others included the new housing complex for students, which would be on the east side of the Hubert Library. If the proposed plan continues on this path, the new housing would be set to open in 2015, according to Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Jessell.

The current housing at BBC, Bay Vista, was scheduled to be demolished after the 2015 school year, Jessell said.

The cost of that demolition would cost around \$2 million and Royal Caribbean will be paying around \$2.2 million to lease the property where Bay Vista is, Jessell said.

A concern raised during the meeting was where students wishing to live at Bay Vista will be put if the deal with Royal Caribbean does go through.

James Wassenaar, director of Facilities Planning, said that Biscayne Landing is being considered as an option for students. This option will also offer a courtesy shuttle to get to BBC.

Another option for those students is the new housing at Modesto A. Maidique Campus-- Parkview. They are also looking at other options for students who wish to live at Bay Vista if this proposal goes through.

The audience of around

“

The cost of that demolition would cost around \$2 million and Royal Caribbean will be paying around \$2.2 million to lease the property where Bay Vista is.

Kenneth Jessell
Chief Financial Officer
FIU

40 people, mostly faculty and administrators, were pleased with the presentation, including Vice President of the Student Government Council at BBC Richard Azimov.

“It was a great opportunity, even though a lot of students didn't show up besides Student Government, that a lot of those questions were raised,”

Azimov said. “It was good for administrators to keep those questions in mind. It wasn't really advertised well to the student body.”

Approximately only six currently enrolled students attended the meeting. Azimov would not comment further on the lack of students in attendance at the meeting.

Krisan Osterby, member

of the steering committee and of Perkins and Will, an architecture firm hired to help the planning process, said that the committee has also taken into account the effects of sea level rise for the new housing and that he proposed placement of the new housing is the safest and driest place on campus.

The committee is also proposing two other partnerships including a hotel component, which would be next to the Kovens Center. This would be used to help conferences for faculty and staff on campus.

Bob Griffith, director of Facilities Planning, said that the committee isn't looking at the funding aspect for much of these proposals yet, just overall plans.

-brandon.wise@fiusm.com

Rose wines to brighten up your summer night

COLUMNIST



DANIELA WALTER

It is believed that most of the first wines produced probably had the same color as today's rose - a faded red - since they did not have enough information on techniques of production. In addition, wine was mainly used to be distilled in water making it then safe to be drunk. Rosé is often misclassified as a sweet and cheap wine, a fruity beverage for those who want a nice color in the glass and something sweet to sip on late afternoon. Because of this, there is still a lot of resistance from people when buying a rose.

It is true that rose is a challenging wine to buy, yet, when you find a good one you will fall in love right away. Don't fool yourself with wines that “look pink.”

This past Saturday, July 13, the theme of the tasting was “A Rose Night.” We tasted 10 wines in total but I will review only my favorite three.

At 9:30 p.m., the bottles were placed in a specific order for each wine to be

properly enjoyed. As in any regular tasting, you would first do the whites going from lightest to heaviest body and then moving to reds from lightest to heaviest as well. For this reason, the first two wines tasted were from a French region named Provence.

Provence is the largest wine region in the world to specialize in dry rose. The grapes were brought from the Greeks when conquering the area in 600 B.C. The main grape varieties are Grenache, Syrah and Mourvedre.

My favorite wine in the night was Domaine Fontanyl Rose de Provence 2012 from the Provence Region made with “Rhone blend” grapes as mentioned above. Its appearance was a pale pink with subtle hints of gold in a bottle that reflected a woman's body shape. Not much tannin was present since the color was very light - what gives a rose its color is the duration of the contact of the red skin with the grape juice.

Moreover, this wine had a great nose revealing hints of strawberry, starfruit, melon, wet stones and lavender. Its taste had an outstanding balance between fruit and acidity;

raspberry and strawberry were present, but to my amazement it was not fruity. The acidity flew along with all the elements in this wine resulting in a superb crispy and delicate beverage with a medium-light body ready to be consumed. This wine can be found for \$15 with a alcohol percent of 12.5, and in my opinion it is the one that holds the best value of the night.

The second wine was elected by the majority present in the tasting as the best of the show. It is from France as well, but from a region more known as Tavel. The wines from this region are all roses. The method used to create this wine is called “saignee” - red grapes are pressed to ferment with its skins for a short period of time, usually one to two days. The must is then separated from the skins, and in some cases are left together a little longer to obtain a higher concentration of tannin as well a deeper color.

This Tavel is produced by Pierre Henri Morel from a 2012 vintage. It is made from 100 percent Grenache grape - giving the wine more structure as a consequence. Its appearance was



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIELA WALTER

a bright dark pink, almost a light ruby. The nose was very complex with hints of white chocolate, raspberry, white pepper and lemon zest. The taste was very smooth with a well balanced acidity giving the wine a nice medium body with 13 percent alcohol content. This wine sells for \$19.

The third wine was from Monterey County, California, named Sofia in honor of the owner's daughter - Mr. Francis Ford Coppola. The vintage of 2011 was produced with 80 percent Syrah grapes

and 20 percent Grenache grapes resulting in a 12.5 alcohol percentage. The color was a bright pink. The nose had hints of cherry and ripe berries with a subtle grassy smell at the end. The taste was an intriguing one since I could notice a little bit of oxidation, yet cherry and dark berries were present with a hint of spice. It had a very pleasant mouthfeel; it was easy to drink with a short finish. This wine has an average price of \$17.

Finally, what you should expect and look for when tasting a rose is the balance

between fruit, acidity and tannin. The fruit should reflect the local terroir where it grows, the acidity should complement it by not overwhelming your palette while the tannin should give you the right texture. All those elements combined in an harmonic way can give you a perfect and elegant summer wine.

-Daniela V. Walter is a Teaching Assistant to professors Chip Cassidy and Bill Hebrank of the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management.