

DUNK TIME



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Natalie Carbonell, a sophomore psychology major participates in "Dunk a Phi Sig," where members of the sorority could be dunked to raise money for the National Kidney Foundation.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Special Election voting in the works for summer A

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Planning is underway for the Court-mandated presidential Special Elections.

According to Jose Toscano, associate director of Campus Life, voting during finals week for the election was ruled out.

Voting days have been narrowed down to the second week of summer A, and as an alternative, the fall semester.

"We met with IT and if there is going to be a Special Election, we're looking at the week of May 14 and [we would] put announcements that first week of May 7 through SGA," Toscano said.

The Special Election, which involves the current Student Government presidential candidates, is a result of the recent Student Government Association Supreme Court ruling that the 2012 presidential election was rife with voter fraud. The Court stated that the evidence revealing supporters of the Laura Farinas and Alex Castro presidential campaign gathered Panther ID's and passwords to cast votes, was enough to call for another election.

Candidates will be allowed to campaign during voting days;

however, mobile polling stations will not be allowed.

"As far as campaigning, I think everyone knows who the candidates were," Toscano said. "Between that and social media and The Beacon, I think there has been enough publicity of who the candidates are."

According to Toscano, Campus Life staff will be controlling voting through polling stations set up on campus.

"We're working on...one [station] for the first day in GC and then on the second day I would like one stationary and one rotating," Toscano said. "Unfortunately we've reverted back a few years by just having polling sites, where you can't use your iPad [and] you can't use your tablet."

He also added that because of the present electronic voting system, only students enrolled for the majority of their classes at Modesto Maidique Campus at the time of voting will be allowed to participate in the Special Election.

"It's where you are at that point," Toscano said. "The roster that comes from Panthersoft gives us what is registered on that first day [of voting]. It's the only way the system recognizes the students."

With the current SGA members

two weeks away from the end of their term, holding elections in the fall semester would require the appointment of a temporary president.

"We would take precedent from a long time ago when SGA had been disbanded and an appointment was made and that would come from the power of the president or a designee which

“There are a lot of what-ifs in this. We are looking at those time frames...[and] if we go on this route, I'll be happy if we hit a thousand.”

Jose Toscano,
Associate Director
Campus Life

is Dr. [Rosa] Jones right now,"

In regards to the Elections Board, if voting takes place in May, non-graduating members will remain in their positions.

"There are a lot of what-ifs in this," Toscano said. "We are looking at those time frames...[and] if we go on this route, I'll be happy if we hit a thousand."

FINANCE

University to accept Visa credit card payments

LAUREN ROVIRA
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Students disheartened with Panthersoft's payment options will have a new alternative starting spring 2013.

As a product of numerous requests and consumer research, the University will be adding Visa credit cards to the acceptable payment methods for students and parents to utilize on Panthersoft.

"Many people seem to have only a Visa card, or cards, and therefore can't pay tuition by credit card," said Cecilia Hamilton, associate vice president and controller at the University. "The Wall Street Daily

last year said 'Based on total volume, transactions and cards issued, Visa outclasses all its competitors. It boasts a worldwide market share of 63 percent, according to the Nilson Report. MasterCard comes in a distant second, with about 31 percent.'"

She said that the University wants to "give that 63 percent a chance to pay by credit card, if they wish to do so."

"[This] would make paying a bit easier," said Vania Pedraja, a junior majoring in public administration. "My checking account is linked to my Visa debit card so I would be able to pay off my tuition directly from my checking and not have to charge it to my [other] credit card."

The change has yet to take

effect and work remains to be done to adjust the system.

"In terms of what still remains to be done, it will require [Univer-

and processing the credit card payments on our behalf," said Hamilton.

Visa has particular rules that

“...it will require [University Technology Services] to build the 'bridge' between the Panthersoft system and the vendor who will be accepting and processing the credit card payments on our behalf.”

Cecilia Hamilton,
Associate Vice President and Controller
FIU

sity Technology Services] to build the 'bridge' between the Panthersoft system and the vendor who will be accepting

American Express and MasterCard, the payment methods currently available, do not which will also affect the students.

Visa does not allow any "merchant", in this case the University, to charge the "customer" a percent fee although Visa charges the University a percentage.

Instead, Visa allows the University to charge a flat convenience fee.

Visa requires that the University charge the same flat fee for all payment methods it employs.

Currently, students pay a 2 percent fee when they pay their student account via credit card.

Once the switch takes place, students will pay a flat fee of \$11.50 irrespective of the payment method they decide to use.

SEE VISA, PAGE 2

COMING UP | **Summer B**

Check out the The Beacon when it returns to stands every Wednesday during the summer B semester.

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NEWS FLASH

NATIONAL

Judge quits Trayvon Martin case, cites conflict

The judge presiding over the Trayvon Martin shooting case has removed herself after George Zimmerman's attorney said she had a possible conflict of interest.

Florida Circuit Judge Jessica Reicksiedler recused herself Wednesday because of a potential conflict that relates to her husband.

He works with Orlando attorney Mark NeJame, who was first approached by Zimmerman's family to represent the neighborhood watch volunteer.

But NeJame declined and referred them to Mark O'Mara, who is now representing Zimmerman. NeJame has since been hired by CNN to comment on the case.

WORLD

Bin Laden family deportation hits more snags

The plan to deport Osama bin Laden's three widows and their nine children from Pakistan ran into more bureaucratic hurdles on Wednesday, making it uncertain when they would leave, their lawyer said.

The family was detained by Pakistani authorities last May after U.S. Navy SEALs raided the compound in northwest Pakistan where the al-Qaida chief was hiding and killed him. The American commandos left bin Laden's relatives but took his body, which they later buried at sea.

Pakistan interrogated the family members and eventually charged the widows and two adult daughters last month with illegally entering and living in the country. The five women were convicted at the beginning of April and sentenced to 45 days in prison, with credit for about a month served.

– Compiled by Melhor Leonor

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 89 of *The Beacon* in the At the Bay section, the photo for the article "Professor stresses the need to 'knock on every door,'" was not taken by Andres Bedoya. It was taken by Barbara Corbellini Duarte.

In Vol. 23, Issue 89 of *The Beacon* in the Life! section, the article titled "Sensoria your senses," was not written by Alfredo Aparicio. It was written by Sandy Zapata.

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

PREVIEW

Former county manager to speak

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Pi Alpha Alpha, the public administration honor society, will hold its recurring induction ceremony on April 27, with former Miami-Dade county manager George Burgess as the keynote speaker of the event.

"Given [Burgess's] long history in public service, he can speak about what it means to make a commitment to public service," said Agatha Caraballo, former president of PAA.

Burgess, who worked as manager for the county for eight years, resigned from this position the same day former mayor Carlos Alvarez was removed from office last year. Following his resignation, Burgess became chief operating officer at Becker & Poliakoff, a law firm based in Ft. Lauderdale.

"Students are in government programs because they really have a desire to be public servants," Burgess said. "It's a noble thing [and] it's a

tough job."

Burgess has also recently joined FIU as a distinguished practitioner in residence, teaching courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels this upcoming summer and fall.

“Given [George Burgess’s] long history in public service, he can speak about what it means to make a commitment to public service.”

Agatha Caraballo,
former President
Pi Alpha Alpha

"We want [students] to hear him speak as a successful practitioner," said PAA President Nicki Fraser.

The FIU PAA chapter was reestablished in 2009 under Caraballo and

the current advisor for the society, Professor Jean-Claude Garcia-Zamor.

"We invited [Burgess] because he is the perfect role model and guide for students who plan to work in government," Garcia-Zamor said. "He is going to speak about the virtues of public service."

The GPA minimum requirement for an undergraduate student to join PAA is a 3.0 and for a graduate it is a 3.7.

"We try to explain to our students how important it is to be a member," Garcia-Zamor said. "We are an elite group [and] we are very happy to have this program."

The PAA was "formed to recognize and promote excellence in the study and practice of public policy and administration."

"We're trying to get public administration students to be more active," Fraser said. "We're hoping Burgess will [motivate] the students. We want [students] to know that there is a viable profession within public administration. Public administration encompasses everything."

Charges include flat fee of \$11.50

VISA, PAGE 1

"Here at FIU our average tuition credit card charge is about \$650. Right now a student would pay \$13 for that charge," said Hamilton. "Under the new method, the student would pay \$11.50. So it will cost less for a student who charges more than \$575."

"Unfortunately, of course, a student who charges a smaller amount will pay a higher fee than under the current method," she said.

Lelany Barea, a junior in business management said, "the flat fee of

\$11.50, when weighing the cost I believe will be better than the 2 percent charge considering classes during any given semester will normally cost a student

over \$600 dollars."

Currently, UTS is still working out the technology issues and is discussing completion time with the vendor.

"When the new method is up and running, there will be a change in the way the web page, the payment portal, looks and functions," said Hamilton.

THE BEACON

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TENNIS

Possible rematches loom as tournament gets set to start



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Rita Maisak (left) is 0-4 in her last four matches heading into the Sun Belt Tournament in Denton, Texas.

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Last time this year the Panthers were hoisting the Sun Belt Conference trophy.

After losing five out of their last six meets, the tennis team has another tough obstacle to overcome.

It wasn't easy the last time and it won't be easy again this year.

The Panthers will travel

to Texas and try to return back home to South Florida as back-to-back Sun Belt champions.

With a possible NCAA tournament berth at stake, winning the SBC would also solidify the sixth SBC

title for the program. FIU has won five out of the last seven Sun Belt tournaments. The Panthers were awarded the fourth-seed on April 17 by the conference, just behind North Texas, Denver and Middle Tennessee.

The Panthers, who have not had a match since April 6 when they lost 4-2 to Fresno State, have earned a first round bye. They will have to wait to play the winner of the Western Kentucky and South Alabama contest in the second round. The tournament host and Sun Belt leading North Texas Mean Green wrapped up the top seed of the 2012 SBC and could meet the Panthers in the semifinals.

The Panthers are no strangers to the The Waranch Tennis Center in Denton, Texas.

The Mean Green defeated the Panthers 4-3 back on Feb. 26, delivering FIU their first Sun Belt loss since the 2010 conference championship game. Coincidentally, it was the same Mean Green program that outlasted the Panthers in that 2010 title bout.

"It's been a really good break," said Lisa Johnson, who is competing in her final SBC Tournament. "As a team, we got a lot of great chances to work on some things we needed to work on for the Sun Belt Tournament. We've been working a lot more on points, playing a lot of singles and doubles points."

Despite a season entailing several losses to some of the top ranked schools in the nation, FIU managed to suffice a 2-1 record in the Sun Belt with wins coming against South Alabama and Florida Atlantic.

“

We've been working a lot more on points, playing a lot of singles and doubles points.

Lisa Johnson,
Senior
Tennis team

”

Since Melissa Applebaum-Dallau took over the reign as FIU's head coach, the Panthers have been a force to reckon within the Sun Belt tournament, boasting a 27-2 overall in tournament play.

"This year I think we really have a strong group of girls. [The Sun Belt Tournament] is what we train for all year and I am confident that this team will stay focused and perform well,"

SEE TENNIS, PAGE 4

BASEBALL

Panthers continue winning ways with extra inning win

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Whenever FIU has trailed after the seventh inning this season, the outcome was almost never good. They owned a 1-12 record. Comebacks were not in the books for the Panthers.

But after a late-inning surge on April 17 against the Jacksonville Dolphins (14-24), FIU notched win number two when trailing after the seventh inning. The 5-4 extra-inning win continued the Panthers' dominance in the month of April.

The Panthers (22-14) have won nine of the 10 games in April and on Tuesday it was the offense that did the damage.

Despite facing eight pitchers, half of the Dolphins' pitchers, four Panthers were able to record at least two hits.

Sluggger Jabari Henry moved up to third in the lineup and knocked in two runs, making him the first Panther to reach 30 RBIs this season.

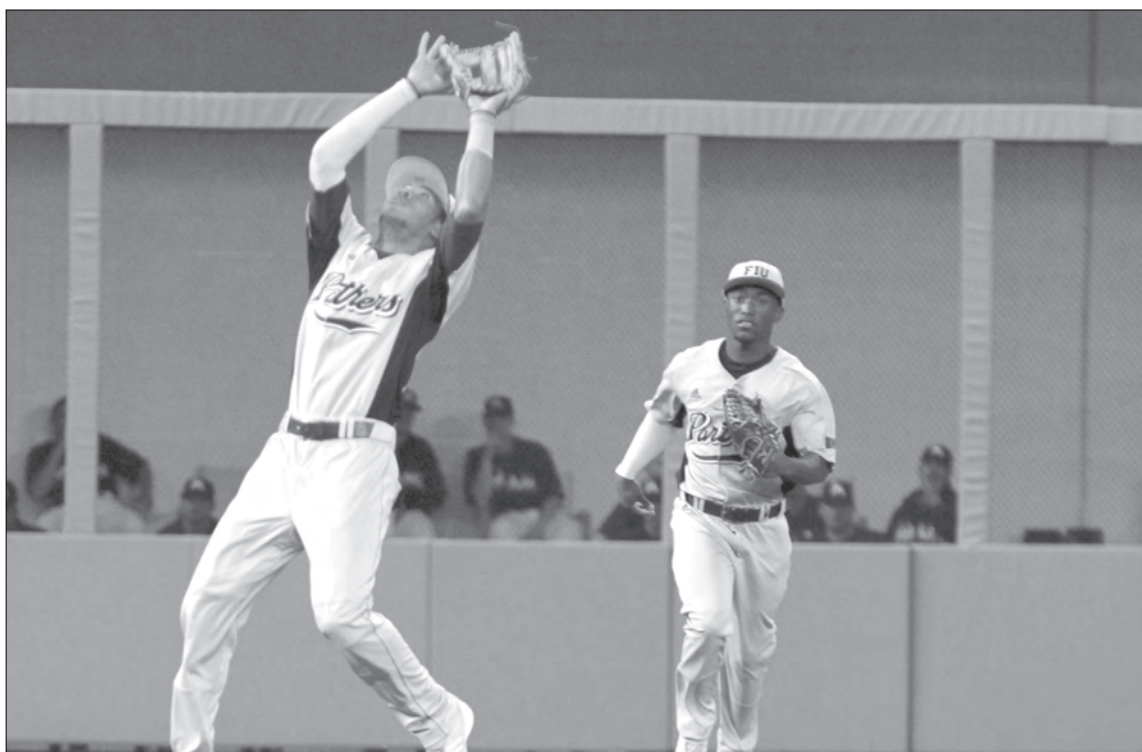
Right-hander Logan Dodds overcame a rocky start (6 IP, 3 ER, 6 BB, 5 K) and managed to keep his team in the game until Eddy Pidermann came in to vulture his sixth win of the season.

Junior Nathan Burns led off the game with his conference-leading seventh triple of the season and later scored on senior Mike Martinez's deep sacrifice fly to give FIU a 1-0 lead.

The lead did not last long as Adam Brett Walker hit a solo home run to tie the game for Jacksonville.

Head coach Turtle Thomas played small ball in the third

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 4



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

The Panthers have won nine of their last ten games in the month of April.

**BASEBALL
UPCOMING GAMES**



APRIL 20
UALR
7 p.m.
FRI



APRIL 21
UALR
6 p.m.
SAT



APRIL 22
UALR
1 p.m.
SUN



APRIL 27
USA
7:30 p.m.
FRI

SOFTBALL

Pitchers hold Blue Raiders to one run in two games

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The pitching duo of Mariah Dawson and Jenn Gniadek led FIU to a doubleheader sweep over Middle Tennessee on April 17. With the sweep, the Panthers are inching closer to second place in the Sun Belt.

FIU 3, MIDDLE TENNESSEE 1

The Panthers beat the Blue Raiders in game one of doubleheader 3-1. Dawson tossed a complete game for FIU.

Dawson carried the team on her arm as she pitched a complete game for the Panthers while giving up one run and striking out a season-high 12 hitters. Dawson, the current Sun Belt leader in strikeouts, now stands at 17-10 to go with 169 strikeouts on the year, a career-high for the sophomore.

The Blue Raiders lone run came in the opening inning as a double steal put runners on second and third bases. An illegal pitch by Dawson gave the Blue Raiders the early 1-0 lead.

Dawson later settled down and kept the Blue Raiders off the board

throughout the remainder of the game.

With the bats of the Blue Raiders silenced, FIU turned on their offense in the fifth when Brie Rojas delivered a solo home run to tie the game at one a piece.

Rojas has hit a home run in two consecutive games, giving her five round trippers on the year.

FIU then scored the winning run on a Kelsey Grabiak RBI single in the fifth inning. The Panthers also added an insurance run in the seventh inning thanks to a Middle Tennessee error.

FIU 2, MIDDLE TENNESSEE 0

After defeating Middle Tennessee in game one, the Panthers clinched the doubleheader sweep, shutting out the Blue Raiders by a score of 2-0. With the victory, FIU notches their second consecutive Sun Belt Conference series win.

Much like the first game of the doubleheader, game two was decided by pitching. Gniadek, the starter, tossed a complete game shutout, striking out four batters and only giving up four hits. With the

win, Gniadek now stands at 7-7 on the year.

The Panthers' scoring got underway in the third inning when Rachel Slowik, who reached base on a Blue Raider error, was brought home after back-to-back singles from Shelby Graves and Abigail Tewey.

FIU's final and decisive run came in the seventh inning when Erika Arcuri singled home Megan Horne, who was on second.

The team owns a 7-3 record in their past 10 games and have won three consecutive games. The Panthers still sit in third place in the conference just behind South Alabama for second place.

The Jaguars have a higher winning percentage than FIU despite both teams being six games over .500 in the conference.

With FIU's offense racking up runs at a great clip, the end of the Panthers' season may be decided on their pitching.

As Dawson continues her career year and Gniadek looking as if she may be turning things around, the Panthers could make 2012 one to remember.



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Jenn Gniadek (above) pitched a shut out in the second game of the double header.

Back and forth game falls Panthers' way

BASEBALL, PAGE 3

inning after Pablo Bermudez snuck a single past the second baseman. Thomas called for a hit and run and Burns executed it successfully.

After Burns stole second base, Henry got his second RBI with a groundout to the shortstop.

Once again, however, the Dolphins answered back. Dodds struggled to end the inning after getting two outs, walking two batters and hitting another one. The second was a bases-loaded walk to tie the game.

Errors sabotaged the Panthers in the sixth inning after two botched ground balls resulted in a 4-2 Jacksonville lead.

As fast as FIU lost the lead, however, they regained it in the eighth inning with a dominating come back.

Two wild pitches and two walks later, the bases were loaded with no outs for FIU. Martinez and freshman Aramis Garcia cashed in with singles to knot the game. In the ninth inning, Burns showcased his arm with a laser throw to home to nix what would have been the game-winning run.

FIU capitalized on momentum shift after Oscar Aguirre smacked a single to score Martinez. Pidermann shut down the offense with a perfect 1-2-3 ninth inning to complete the comeback.

University of Arkansas Little Rock (18-18, 5-10 SBC) comes to Miami tonight to kick off a three-game series with FIU at 7 p.m.



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

The Panthers' defense committed three errors against Jacksonville on April 17.

Panthers earn four seed in SBC Tourney

TENNIS, PAGE 3

Applebaum-Dallau said.

"There were some matches where I think they could have handled it a little bit better, but it is the moments of adversity that makes us stronger when we go into conference matches."

FIU will require yet another standout performance from their freshmen, Karyn Guttersman and Sarah Mclean. Mclean and Guttersmen are competing in their first conference tournament of their collegiate tennis career. Guttersmen ended the regular season with a team-leading nine singles victories.

After going a subpar, 0-4 in her final four matches heading into the tournament, Belarus native Rita Maisak must put her late season struggles aside and focus on the forthcoming conference matches.

"I felt a little short in a couple of the matches at the end of year," Maisak stated. "So it's very important that I bring my focus back and concentrate on the next matches."

The Sun Belt Conference will also hand out the 2012 All-Sun Belt Conference Tennis awards prior to the tournament at the annual conference Banquet. The awards will feature women's first and second teams as well as conference tennis player of the year.

GRADUATION

Graduating means transition

CAROLINA SOUTO
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With graduation around the corner, many things come to the minds of this year's University graduates. There is a sense of excitement in the air, with a combination of urgency and relief. For many,

walk out of school and walk into the job of a lifetime. As a result, fear is a common emotion that comes with such a big transition in life.

Kaleena Waters, while eager to graduate, said "I honestly have mixed feelings. I am very excited because it is a huge accomplishment, yet I am very scared at the same time because I am used to this

The proof of this hangs on the walls of every doctor and lawyer in business: diplomas.

While Waters does eventually want to return to school after graduating from the University, she is adamant about graduating and gaining work experience. "I do want to spend some time out in the working field, gaining the experience that I need to continue to prosper. I also have personal goals that I want to accomplish for my own satisfaction. By not being in school, I'll have more time for that."

As for Giovanni Gonzalez, also a soon-to-be graduate, said "I plan on staying at my current job so that I can eventually move into my own place. For now, I'm just going to chill and take it easy," he said. "I am still too young to go into the corporate world, but I plan on pursuing a career with my information and technology degree in a couple of years."

Soon there will be a diploma in the palm of every graduates' hand; they will march to their seats while the most classic graduation song of all time, "Pomp and Circumstance," plays in the background.

They will sit and listen to the speeches and walk across the stage to shake the hands of the professors that helped shape them into the scholars they are today. Graduates of 2012, revel in the moment; accept the praises and smile for the picture because this will be a moment to remember.

'schedule' of always being in school and having classes. But after graduation, it's like, well— now what?"

Luckily, through hours of research experience, there is always access to useful information on the internet. The Adventurous 500 provides some great advice in "10

Things To Do After Graduating College," like writing down a few defined short-term and long-term goals to keep up momentum and reminding us that sometimes failure is inevitable. Although graduating doesn't guarantee a job right away, there is comfort in having been equipped with the tools to succeed.

Giovanni Gonzalez
Class of 2012

graduation is a dream come true; it is an accomplishment, a milestone. While our brains are still busy thinking about finals, the graduates hear their approaching future in ticking clocks hanging on the walls of quiet libraries and in the whispers of scattered students saying "I can't believe it's almost over."

Undoubtedly, graduation is a beautiful time in a student's life. However, the reality is that there are some graduates who still don't have the next ten years planned out— let alone the next month.

The general consensus is that getting a degree doesn't mean you

GIVING BACK

Small class project starts charity

CAROLINA SOUTO
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Professor Paul Feigenbaum and the students of his community writing and rhetoric class of spring 2012 are on a mission to promote community activism and awareness.

As a response to the time limitation that a semester allows for any permanent progress to be made, the class decided to start a club at the University by the name of Fostering Better Communities so that their mission can reach beyond the semester and beyond the classroom.

As a professor at the University, Feigenbaum hopes that this course will provide students with a different perspective on what it means and what it takes to be socially active.

One of the course's goals is to get students to think about the civic role they can

and should play in local, national and global communities and how they can use writing and rhetoric to advance both their professional goals and the goals of various communities that matter to them.

The course is structured so that students are in a positive learning environment and are given the opportunity to participate and engage in social activism while being exposed to the different ideas that can perpetuate social involvement.

FBC will be up and running once the 2012 fall semester starts.

In addition to the club, Professor Feigenbaum's students are also in a hurry to raise funds for the club at their local Publix on behalf of the Center for Family and Child Enrichment, a private, nonprofit, community-based organization that serves children in foster care who have been abused, neglected and/or abandoned.

One of the things the course aims to teach is that community activism is possible without the sacrifice of a student's plan for success.

Andrew Barrocas, one of Feigenbaum's students, said "I think the most memorable thing I'll take from the course is just being aware that you do have a choice of whether to be civilly active or not and that something like that doesn't necessarily have to come at the expense of your career."

The course materials that students are exposed to throughout the semester attempt to defy the assumption that becoming a successful adult and becoming a community activist are incongruent.

"Peace One Day" was my favorite piece covered in class. I liked it because it gave a realistic account of the struggles an activist faces: the often lengthy trial and error process involved

in trying to achieve change and the possible outcomes that can be achieved when working together as a community," said Sandra Ore.

As for Richard Benavides, "the course dialogue has helped me think more about the process of civic engagement."

To Feigenbaum, the process is an essential step in balancing a life filled with work, home and school duties, with social activism.

This semester, the class' attempt at making a difference was met with many obstacles. Nonetheless, the process is proving to be rewarding.

Even though finals are around the corner, the students of the community writing and rhetoric class are working hard at helping their community and in providing access to the same opportunities for future students at the University.

EXPLORE INTERNATIONAL



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXANDRA SARDI

Jamaica offers a wide-array of colorful dishes.

Culture is rich in island nation

From Miami, you can find yourself basking on ivory-colored beaches, sipping delicious rum or even munching on beef patties in less than an hour's flight.

COLUMNIST



HOLLY MCCOACH

Located less than half of a thousand miles from South Florida, Jamaica offers various delights, including an active nightlife, delicious meals and beverages, entertaining sports events and hot, yet bearable weather.

Nicole Warmington-Granston, a political and international relations graduate student, was born and raised in the parish of St. Andrew located in the capital of Jamaica, Kingston—the perfect vacation spot with bustling activity and its close proximity to the beach.

Nightclubs are very active in Kingston for both tourists and locals alike. Clubs such as Fiction, Club Privilege, and The Quad are the places to go, with restaurants of various foods found nearby. Indian, Chinese, Thai and Middle Eastern restaurants are common on the island, but don't be confused. There are spots on the roadside that offer Jamaican cuisine, such as pan chicken.

Among the wide array of Jamaican cuisine is the national and traditional dish, ackee (a fruit) and saltfish.

"It's an excellent dish, especially if you add a little bit of bacon bits. One of the major dishes is also Escovitch fish with bammy," said Warmington-Granston.

Bammy is also known as cassava cake. Other delicacies include breadfruit, fried dumplings, fried plantains and holiday foods.

"One thing Jamaicans always eat at Easter is bun and cheese. It is shaped like bread, but it is very sweet," said Warmington-Granston.

Around Christmas time, Christmas cake (fruitcake), Christmas pudding and sorrel, a sweet drink cultivated from the sorrel herb, are very popular.

Fast food restaurants such as Kentucky Fried Chicken and Burger King are common there, but Jamaica's own fast food chain, Island Grill, sells local dishes that include jerk burger, jerk chicken, barbecue chicken and stew peas with rice.

Beef patties and rum are also well-known on the island. Called "Jamaican beef patties" in the United States, Jamaica's beef patties can be bought by the dozen or half dozen. Appleton Jamaican rum is the most popular among tourists and locals.

"You cannot leave without having Appleton rum to drink," Warmington-Granston said. "Once you mix it with Pepsi or cranberry juice, you're set."

Although the culture in Jamaica differs from

REEL TO REEL

Bob Marley comes to life again

It's hard not to have heard of Bob Marley at least once in your life. At the very least, you've probably heard one of his songs. For those of you who have ever had the slightest interest in his life, the documentary titled "Marley," is worth your time.

COLUMNIST



JUAN BARQUIN

The documentary, directed by Kevin Macdonald, examines the artist's life from the days of his youth to his untimely end, showing audiences not only the man everyone saw on stage, but the remarkable individual that those closest to him knew.

"Marley" starts off with information that would surprise many; the documentary reveals Marley's birth in 1945 to a young Jamaican woman and an elderly captain in the British Royale Marines. The development of his music style is showcased during his time with the Wailers and the I Threes.

His participation in the Rastafari movement had a great effect on him; its presence is as heavy in the movie as it was in his life. Reggae music was a large part of the religious culture and his determination to spread the music to the world to promote peace and love is heavily featured in this film.

Rather than simply presenting an artificial look at the musician's life in a shorter documentary, the film truly makes use of its two hours and twenty minutes to make the film as detailed as possible. Utilizing archival footage, impressive live performances and deep interviews with family, friends and others close



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAGNOLIA PICTURES

"Marley" reveals not only the infamous reggae artist's music, but lets viewers discover his persona as well.

to Marley, Macdonald shapes this film in the best of ways.

Having made multiple documentaries and scoring an Academy Award for his documentary titled "One Day in September," Macdonald was the perfect choice for director of this film; he has structured the film in such a way that even those who don't have much knowledge of the musician will find the film compelling.

While many music documentaries heavily feature the music of the artist rather than the person behind it, "Marley" balances the two beautifully. The use of music and live performances throughout the film does not take away from the narrative since the songs are often tied into the historical context that is presented in the film.

The inclusion of both the posi-

tive and negative aspects of Bob Marley's life is another interesting addition to the documentary. Many filmmakers choose to portray certain figures as gods rather than people, but the interviews with Marley's family and friends provide a balanced look at his actions, whether in terms of his music, parenting, faithfulness and even his health.

I took a chance on this documentary, not knowing much about Bob Marley and I came out pleasantly surprised. Many audience members who found inspiration in the man were moved to tears and there's no surprise as to why. "Marley" is one of the few films that truly captures the essence of the subject it investigates.

Reel to Reel will return in Summer B.

Soccer is top sport in Jamaica

JAMAICA, PAGE 5

American culture, they is still very similar. Electronics, such as cellphones, laptops and computers are the same, although some are more popular than others.

"The most popular thing in Jamaica is cellphones. Everybody wants a Blackberry," said Warmington-Granston.

With many people owning at least two, cellphones are much more popular than laptops and desktops, which are considerably more expensive in the country.

Warmington-Granston admitted that she felt a bit of a culture shock the first time she moved to Florida.

ball fans in Miami follow the Miami Heat. Yet, other sports, such as track and field, are just as significant. These sports are offered as early as primary or prep school. Cricket, basketball and netball are also popular sports.

A surprising weather fact is that Jamaica generally feels cooler than Miami, despite it being closer to the equator than South Florida. Although it is often very sunny in Jamaica, the water surrounding it allows the island to have a cool breeze, so the heat does not seem so evident.

With little change in temperature year-round, the only seasons known here are

Fans follow matches and the World Cup as religiously as basketball fans in Miami follow the Miami Heat.

Greeting people, more so strangers, with a "Good morning" gave her the impression that Americans kept more to themselves than Jamaicans. However, a presence of Caribbean identity at the University helped her warm up to South Florida.

As for sports, soccer is by far the most popular sport of Jamaica. Fans follow matches and the World Cup as religiously as basket-

rainy and dry.

"Just like Florida, we look out for hurricanes when hurricane season comes around," said Warmington-Granston.

Jamaica may be a stone's throw away from Miami, but you will undoubtedly uncover a gem that will please your vacationing fancy.

Explore: International will return in Summer B.

UPCOMING WEEKEND EVENTS

20 FRIDAY

MULTIDIMENSIONAL FAMILY THERAPY FOR ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND DELIQUENCY
WHEN: 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC AHC1 Room 140

OCEAN LIFE LECTURE SERIES: "FOUND: THE SEA TURTLE LOST YEARS"
WHEN: 6-8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Murray E. Nelson Government and Cultural Center

SENSORIA ART EXHIBIT
WHEN: 1-7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Buena Vista Building

NATURE PRESERVE VOLUNTEER DAY
WHEN: 1-4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC Nature Preserve

ENGAGE WORKSHOP: KEEPING YOUR TEAM ENGAGED
WHEN: 12:30-1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free to public
WHERE: MMC GC 314

21 SATURDAY

NEW MUSIC MIAMI AT CARTA MIAMI BEACH URBAN STUDIOS: AMERNET STRING QUARTET AND NODUS
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: This event is free and open to the public
WHERE: Lincoln Road Gallery

INTERNATIONAL SPACE APPS CHALLENGE
WHEN: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Engineering Center 2300

GREEN CRITICS' LECTURE SERIES WITH URSULA VON RYDINGSVARD
WHEN: 4-6 p.m.
WHERE: The Frost Art Museum

FIU SOFTBALL VS. FLORIDA
WHEN: 1 p.m.
WHERE: AWAY Gainseville, Fla.

FIU BASEBALL VS. UALR
WHEN: 6-6:45 p.m.
WHERE: HOME Miami, Fla.

22 SUNDAY

FIU SCHOOL OF MUSIC PRESENTS KEMAL GEKIC IN CONCERT AT CARTA MIAMI BEACH URBAN STUDIOS
WHEN: 4-6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: General Admission is \$25.00
WHERE: CARTA Miami Beach Urban Studios

INTERNATIONAL SPACE APPS CHALLENGE
WHEN: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Engineering Center 2300

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED EMAIL:

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WE WILL RETURN SUMMER B

NATIONAL POLITICS

Santorum's exit - inevitable, lacked sincerity and passion

NEDA GHOMESHI

Opinion Editor

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On April 10, Rick Santorum, former Pennsylvania Senator, made an abrupt announcement that he will be "suspending" (which really just means ending) his campaign for the Republican nomination for President of the United States due to his daughter's illness.

Basically, Santorum came to the realization that it's nearly impossible for him to win the Republican nomination so he decided to step down in a "sincere and passionate" way, as commonly referred to by conservative Republicans.

According to *Fox News*, "Santorum said the end of the campaign was a family decision."

Although he initially cited his daughter's illness as his main reason for departing - which does make him appear to possess the sincerity and passion that his platform and campaign so desperately lacked - his decision to suspend his campaign has nothing to do with sincerity or passion. His platform and campaign lacked both sincerity and passion - his departure was his most sincere move.

With his conservative views, Santorum was hoping that states not only have the right to outlaw abortion, but contraceptives too.

He's said that if a rape victim becomes pregnant, that woman should carry the fetus to term and "make the best of

“
Apparently, Santorum's definition of success is winning some states, but losing most and gathering some Republican supporters, but further discouraging moderates and liberals.”

a bad situation.” His perspective on this matter lacks both sincerity and passion.

Santorum's exit was inevitable - he was not going to be the Republican nominee for the 2012 general elections.

He's a feisty campaigner who took everyone by surprise with his win in Iowa's leadoff caucuses.

However, Mitt Romney, former Massachusetts governor and current GOP candidate for the Republican nomination, had more than twice as many delegates as Santorum.

While presenting his departing speech, he was attempting to highlight his surprising rise to the number two spot of the race.

He said that while Romney was accumulating more delegates, "we were winning in a very different way. We were touching hearts."

He may be correct about winning hearts, but that's limited to those who follow his extreme conservative views, which is not representative of the country's overall views. He finally understood that winning hearts is not the same as winning votes - hence, he formulated his decision to suspend (terminate) his campaign.

On a conference call this Monday, a week after his public announcement to suspend his campaign, Santorum provided more reasons for his exit than just his daughter's illness - maybe now he's showing a little sincerity because of his honesty.

He said, "The bottom line is we wanted to take this race as far as we could to the point where we felt that we could be successful."

Apparently, Santorum's definition of success is winning some states, but losing most and gathering some Republican supporters, but further discouraging moderates and liberals.

At least he finally admitted the real reasons for suspending his campaign: Americans don't want an ultra conservative running their country; therefore, he had no choice but to "suspend" his campaign.

Santorum's exit is a reminder to voters that politicians are politicians. Even when the time comes for them to step out of the light, they try to sugar-coat their departure.

Guillen's off-field comments irrelevant to baseball career

JUNETTE REYES

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It has only been a little over two weeks since the opening-night game at the Miami Marlins' new stadium, yet their manager is already in a whole lot of trouble.

This should not be surprising, however, given that the team has had problems before the season even started with the construction of the new stadium.

The difference between the two situations is that the predicament team manager Ozzie Guillen has found himself in has nothing to do with the stadium or baseball, which is a key fact that needs to be taken into consideration when assessing the situation.

Guillen was quoted by *Time* magazine as showing love and respect for dictator Fidel Castro for staying in power for so long, which immediately received an uproar from the Cuban community in Miami.

As a result of the protests, Guillen was forced to submit an apology to the Cuban community and was suspended for five games.

Guillen held a news conference at the Marlins' stadium on April 10 to explain that his comments were misinterpreted by the reporter, stating that "[he] was saying [he] cannot believe somebody who hurt so many people over the years is still alive."

Despite his apology, many continue to protest in order to have him fired and even threaten to boycott the Marlins' games until he is.

The Marlins' first home game on April 13 versus the Houston Astros proved how minuscule the percentage of people who

want Guillen fired is, given the more than sufficient number of people that attended along with my own attendance.

As previously mentioned, his comments had nothing to do with baseball and should, therefore, be irrelevant to his profession.

Unfortunately for Guillen, he just happened to make the comment as the manager of a team whose city almost always has something to say when Castro is mentioned.

Still, it is quite hypocritical of the protesters to react so strongly, having been exiled from a country that would respond in the same exact way should someone say something disagreeable.

It is a matter of freedom of speech on both ends of the issue in terms of Guillen being able to speak his mind and the protesters being able to state their disagreements.

However, it is getting quite ridiculous how politically correct everyone is expected to be nowadays.

There is nothing we can do about people's opinions but simply regard them as so, as long as they do not act upon them, should it result in the harming of another.

I doubt Guillen having any respect for Castro will have any effect on his career as manager, so just let it be.

Granted, he should have been careful with his comments, being a public personality and all. But, this does not call for an act as drastic as firing him.

Besides, this seems like one more thing to protest about, considering that the stadium has provoked enough uproar in the community, aside from everyone having something to say about Castro around here.

Student wrongfully expelled

ALEX SORONDO

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Seventeen-year-old Austen Carrol posted a vulgar tweet a few weeks ago, some meditation on the usage of the "f-word," that got him expelled from his Indiana high school, sparking, predictably, another first-amendment debate about the limits of free speech.

It offers the twist, however, of questioning a school's responsibilities toward students in an age of social networking and bully-awareness.

The school claims that, having posted his tweet through the school's network, Carrol triggered a monitoring system, which alerts administrators to the use of profanity and adult content on school computers.

Carrol and his mother insist, however, that the tweet was made from their home computer, and, given that it bears no reference to the school, believe that he should face no consequences.

While the school's surveillance of - and punishment for - what a student posts on their personal facebook, tumblr, or twitter feed is, without question, inappropriate, an example of the school promoting itself to the role of parent, it's easy to imagine how the school's

administration will earn the ire of students and parents alike when a case of cyber-bullying culminates in an act of school-ground violence.

“
Public schools have no business involving themselves with what goes on among their students in social media, certainly not when the student posts things from a private network.”

The community will want to know why the school allowed this to happen, why nobody was paying attention to the clues online.

That schools should therefore feel compelled to cover themselves with a vigilance that borders on voyeurism is understandable.

However, stretched so thin as they are, with a shortage of teachers and ever-diminishing funds, public schools have no business involving themselves with what goes on among their students online, certainly not when the student posts things from a private network.

They should not be burdened with the responsibility of tracking Internet quarrels, nor should they be granted the authority to punish the online indiscretions - however alarming or idiotic - of their students.

These are the responsibilities of a parent, in whose home the child is raised and on whose computer they choose network.

The banishment of sodas and vending machines, the rules against hugging classmates in hallways, the implementation of uniforms and even, in Britain, the new rule forbidding students from claiming a "best friend" make up just a handful of examples for the degree to which schools are now adopting the role of a guardian, pressured as they are by communities of hyper-sensitive parents who want them to neutralize the environment, regulate identities and discourage all displays of privilege so as to avoid the inevitable, the beneficial: a sense of self.

At the same time, they're expected to provide an education.

Parents need to decide if they want public schools to be centers for detention or education, and whether they're willing to step up and monitor, teach, raise their own child.

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts in (500 word maximum) to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

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

ACTIVISM

Forum held to discuss Trayvon Martin incident

NADRA MABROUK

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On April 18, students, University faculty and staff and the community gathered in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater for “Standing on the Side of Love and Justice: For Trayvon Martin.”

“Why do we as a society have to wait until somebody dies to decide their needs to be justice done?” said Desmond Meade, president of Florida Rights Restoration Coalition and second year graduate law student.

The discussion forum was organized by Linnea Pearson’s World Religion class in honor of the 17-year-old teenager to support Jahavaris Fulton, a University student and Martin’s brother and to comprise a petition to repeal the stand your ground law.

On Feb. 26, Martin while walking in the street, unarmed, holding skittles and a bottle of iced tea took a shortcut home through a neighborhood. George Zimmerman, the watchman for the neighborhood began following him acting upon suspicion. After a confrontation, Zimmerman shot Martin in the chest and killed him, claiming he was acting upon self-defense.

The stand your ground law states that a person may use force in self-defense when they feel threatened without retreating first. A petition was set up for everyone

to sign after the discussion forum for those who attended.

“I definitely think he should’ve been convicted from the beginning,” said Rolando Ramirez freshman psychology major. “There shouldn’t have been any doubts.”

“We will still have Trayvon Martin issues if we do not confront the issues that led to it,” Meade said. “How have we allowed our society to get to the point where hate is justified just because of the way a person looks, how they talk or economic status.”

According to Meade, some focus may be misplaced and not on the heart of the issue.

“Too much attention has been placed on the racial differences. It caused a divide between the races.”

According to Pearson, Fulton had been absent from class for a while and they did not assume anything since he has a different last name. Upon his return to class, he explained everything and the class decided they wanted to do something to help.

“This is everybody’s son and it’s scary,” said Natasha Torres junior international relations major. “Nobody wants this to happen to them.”

Gwen Margolis, Florida state senator, district I claimed this is not stand your ground if you have to run after the person to shoot him, speaking of Zimmerman. According to Margolis, interpreta-



TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

From left, Desmond Meade, president of Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, Prof. Linnea Pearson and Rev. Joanna Gabriel answer questions posed from the community regarding the stand your ground law and the Feb. 26 shooting of seventeen year old Trayvon Martin.

tions of the stand your ground law are flawed.

She urges students to vote for someone who will represent them best and have their best interests at heart.

Lama Karma Chotso invited students to breathe with her in silence during a Buddhist blessing and prayer and chant “om.”

“It’s gonna be a cycle we go through regarding profiling. This is a good opportunity to talk about

the justice system,” Meade said. “We need to come together and unite.”

According to Meade, a lot of time was spent speaking of what was wrong instead of how to fix it.

“If we focus so much on the verdict and think it’s the end all, then we are misguided.”

Sybrina Fulton, mother of Martin, addressed the students before leaving.

“I’m no different than any other mother. It hurts a great deal. My heart is heavy,” said Fulton. “As a people we are not that different. We have to love each other.”

University president Mark B. Rosenberg, greeted Martin’s mother and brother and addressed the initiative with profound condolences.

“We are hopeful that out of this tragedy we can learn lessons,” Rosenberg said.

ENVIRONMENT

Feral cat infestation brings unwanted health risks

STEPHANIE FELDMAN

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Two years ago, the closure of several popular beaches in Miami due to an infestation of hookworms made headlines across the country.

As the number of infections grew, investigations led to feral cats as being the culprits. Many of these cats were abandoned or strays left without neutering or spaying, causing them to breed rapidly.

The feral cat population has reached the Biscayne Bay Campus. Mostly near the dormitories, cats are becoming an all too common site.

Ronid Exilus, who lives on campus, reveals that in addition to feeding them, students are unofficially “adopting” them and caring for them as pets.

Exilus is not a fan of the cats and is not alone.

Deron Burkepile, a biology professor, believes that feral cats are a definite problem. He explains that both feral and domestic cats are responsible for a decline in many songbird species and are killing millions every year.

Pamela Sweeney, the manager of the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves which borders part of BBC, revealed that while the Aquatic Preserves and beaches have

“Since people intentionally put themselves in contact with these vermin...they are taking a high risk.”

Joel Heinen

Professor of Environmental Science

not had a problem with parasites from cat feces, they do worry that growing numbers of cats will threaten the safety of the many nesting birds in the area.

Many times the cats will stalk and kill birds or other small animals for reasons other than food, resulting in population decreases.

Their prey is often endangered or threatened species found near the Bay including the Least Tern, Black Skimmer, Oystercatcher and Common Yellowthroat.

Joel Heinen, professor of environmental science, believes that feral cats are one of the worst species for the environment.

Not only do feral cats tend to attract raccoons, because of the abundance of food left outside for cats, but Heinen said there is a correlation between large feral cat populations and growing rat populations.

“Many would say ‘but cats kill rats, so

they should be rarer.’ That is only true to a degree,” Heinen said. “The preferred prey range for feral cats is under 200 grams, while adult rats are typically 400 grams or so.”

Because of this, the average diet of a feral cat in the United States is mostly made up of songbirds.

Heinen also stresses that in addition to being a threat to native species, cats can be dangerous to humans. He says hookworms are not much to worry about, toxoplasmosis is a concern.

Toxoplasmosis, a bacterial disease easily transmitted to humans through exposure to cat feces, may cause miscarriages and birth defects. Feral and domestic cats are the only definitive hosts for the parasite *Toxoplasma Gondii*.

Cats often feed on the raw meat of prey infected with the parasite, which once

ingested begins to lay eggs which find their way from the digestive track to cat’s feces.

The eggs and larvae of the hookworm and the parasite *Toxoplasma* are found in cat feces, and cats prefer to bury their excrement in soil or sand.

“Since people intentionally put themselves in contact with these vermin, and feed them, they are taking on high risk,” Heinen said. “What is not known is how many may have been pregnant women who miscarry some weeks or months later and therefore make no connection to their day at the beach.”

Jeanette Basto, a veterinarian at the Aventura Animal Hospital and FIU alumni, also adds that cats can transmit other zoonotic diseases (transmittable to humans from animals) such as roundworms, sarcoptic mange, and ringworm.

According to Basto, even the smallest population of feral cats can increase dramatically due to their fertility.

Sweeney and the county parks department, along with other animal organizations, have tried to combat the increase in abandoned cats in county parks, by hosting adoption events.

And while Burkepile doesn’t think that FIU is facing a serious threat he does believe that “Their [cats] control is essential to protecting wildlife in many urban areas.”