

BIOLOGY

Science Café lecture series targets complex issues

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Making science understandable is the main goal of the Science Café, an initiative of open lectures by the University's Quantifying Biology in the Classroom program, which took place for last time this semester on April 14 in Coral Gables.

"The Science Café is a lot of work. We spend a lot of time explaining what most people turn away from, but feedback has been great," said Anna Goldina, visiting instructor of biology.

The Science Café, a lecture series by a year-long course in the QBIC, was designed to spark interest in complex scientific topics.

The QBIC program at FIU decided to follow the idea of teaching scientific issues in an informal and open setting, a concept started in 1998 by Duncan Dallas, in the city of Leeds, United Kingdom.

In previous sessions, the Science Café and QBIC have had lectures focusing on healthy eating habits, cancer and stem cells, which featured Harvard University's Matthew William Lensch.

The topics of the Science Café sessions were selected through a survey of the scientific interests of 210 people.

In its fourth and final lecture of the

semester, Science Café students took the time to teach the basics of alternative energy to children at the farmers market by the Coral Gables Museum.

"The biggest problem is explaining things to children because generally we tend to go in depth. It's a bit of a challenge to explain things in a simple way, but it's satisfying," said Danny Lunpuy, a senior QBIC student.

The students set up a booth with conceptual models of wind and thermal methods of energy production.

"The children like playing with the project; however, they all come out thinking it takes a lot of work to generate voltage," said James Roach, a QBIC student who designed a representation of how energy is made.

"The concept is made more real. They learn how much it takes to power a Playstation."

Another topic covered by the students was the basics of oil scarcity, explained with beans to represent extraction over the past 100 years.

"My kids liked gathering around the oil section. It is a nice representation of the problem of oil and it is good way to demonstrate it," said Katherine Fullerton.

"I learned about oil, and how they use it. I liked it a lot," said Margo McGuire, Fullerton's daughter.

HELLO PITINO



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

Richard Pitino has agreed to a five-year deal worth \$1.25 million to become the head coach of the FIU men's basketball team. The hire makes the 29-year-old the third youngest current head coach in the NCAA Division-I basketball.

COMMUNICATION ARTS

'Talk-Tank' challenges community in social experiment



AARON PABON/THE BEACON

Jonathan Pardo, a Political Science major at FIU, brainstorming with others to figure out what was their ideal community.

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University students, high school students and community leaders came together for a "Talk-Tank" on April 12, with the goal of building a social habitat.

Talk-Tank: A Community Conversation, presented by FIU's Communication Arts Department, was an intensive planning session to collaborate on a vision for the development on an ideal community.

The event was based off of the World Café organizational workshop, which aimed to provide an open and creative conversation on any topic to use their collective knowledge, share ideas, and gain a better understanding of the subject and the issues involved in said topic.

The participants included

FIU students and faculty, Mater Academy students, South Florida community and business leaders and clients and activists of the Miami Coalition for the Homeless.

"The idea was to bring in different stake holders involved in the Miami community to [talk about] how to design Miami," said Daniel Blaeuer, assistant professor of Communication Arts and advisor of the FIU Debate Team.

According to Joann Brown, chair of the Communication Arts Department, "This year, the National Communication Association determined that the 2012 discussion was to be on the community."

The main question asked at the start of the event was, "what is the ideal community?"

"We decided to get individuals together of various topic."

SEE TANK, PAGE 2

COMING UP | News

Check out Friday's issue for a preview of the Public Administration Honor Society's lecture featuring George Burgess, former Miami Dade County manager.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

News groups fight to open Fla. teen shooting files

A group of news organizations in Florida, including The Associated Press, on Monday filed a challenge to the sealing of records in the criminal case of a neighborhood watch volunteer charged with killing an unarmed teenager.

The news organizations filed a motion in Seminole County Circuit Court in an effort that is being led by The Miami Herald. Zimmerman's attorney, Mark O'Mara, last week asked that the records be sealed. No hearing date for the media's motion was immediately set. Records such as full police reports, autopsy reports and transcripts of witness interviews are normally public under Florida law.

The motion by the news organizations says Zimmerman's case doesn't meet the standards that are typically used to create an exemption to those laws. Those standards allow the sealing of records if their public release would create an imminent threat to the administration of justice, if there are no alternatives for protecting a defendant's right to a fair trial and if closing the records protects the rights of the person being tried.

"The closure order and the manner in which it was entered are contrary to law," the media organizations said in the motion.

NATIONAL

Romney taps longtime adviser to head VP search

Mitt Romney has tapped a longtime adviser to begin his search for a vice presidential candidate.

Romney said Monday that Beth Myers is in charge of "selection and vetting and analysis."

"I have selected someone who has been a counselor of mine for a number of years, Beth Myers. She was my chief of staff when I was governor," Romney said during an interview with Diane Sawyer of ABC News outside Fenway Park in Boston.

Romney is moving forward as the presumptive Republican presidential nominee after rival Rick Santorum suspended his campaign last week. Myers was Romney's chief of staff when he was Massachusetts governor. She currently is a senior adviser on his presidential campaign.

When asked about Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, Romney said "he's one of the terrific leaders in our party."

"But I think it's way too early to begin narrowing down who the potential vice presidential nominees might be," he said. "But we're beginning that process, we'll talk about a lot of folks, and then go through the kind of vetting and review process that you have to go through to make sure whoever you select will pass the evaluation that's required by the American people."

— Compiled by Melior Leonor

FRESH LOOK



ALEXIA ESCANTE/THE BEACON

The Fresh Food Company begins the renovation and expansion of their facilities in the Graham Center on April 16. Demolition of the walls and ceilings is scheduled to last until April 20.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Va. Tech marks 5 years since shooting

AP Staff

Students were headed to class Monday at Virginia Tech, the first year the school hasn't suspended instruction to mark the anniversary of a 2007 rampage that left 32 people and the gunman dead.

The massacre was the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

Provost Mark McNamee, who chaired a committee that planned memorial events in the years after the shooting, said the return to classes reflects the lives of those slain.

"Their passion for education, their desire to do good in the world, their commitment to their disciplines come through so strongly that we felt being in classes was one special way of remembering them onward," McNamee said. "This is what they did, this is what we do,

and it's important to us.

"My sense is that our students and our faculty are ready for it," he said.

The day will be remembered in other ways on the Blacksburg campus, in Washington, and by alumni across the country.

Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell was scheduled to address a campus-wide candlelight vigil on the Drillfield, the heart of the campus. McDonnell has issued a proclamation recognizing April 16 as Virginia Tech Remembrance Day.

The proclamation honors the 32 lives that were "hastily taken, leaving absences that will never be filled and a profound sense of sorrow in the lives of those impacted," the proclamation reads in part.

At 9:43 a.m. Monday — the time when gunman Seung-Hui Cho began killing 30 students and professors at Norris Hall —

McDonnell was calling for a moment of silence in Virginia. The Capitol Square Bell Tower in Richmond will then toll for each victim.

On campus, events will also include a community picnic on the Drillfield, a display of memorial items sent to Virginia Tech from other colleges and universities and performances. Several locations have been set aside on campus as "quiet places for reflection."

At Norris Hall, where Cho also killed himself, an open house was scheduled. The former classroom building is now home to the Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention.

The center was established after the killings at Norris Hall in 2009 "to transform a place of pain, suffering and violence that can prevent future violence," director James Hawdon said.

Participants share ideas for the future

TANK, PAGE 1

different backgrounds to talk about what makes the ideal community," Brown said. "We all live in a community, whether it is the greater Miami community, your local neighborhood, or the FIU community."

Jonathan Pardo, a political science major at FIU spearheaded his table to figure out their ideal community.

During brainstorming, they listed safety as the number one priority, along with diversity and a good prosperous environment for business and entrepreneurship.

"The Communication Arts Department teaches students about consensus building, leadership and presentation skills," Brown said. "We are hoping to see how the skills that we use to teach our students in communication courses like persua-

sion, consensus building, and conflict resolution help build on the topic of community."

"I think it is a wonderful concept," said Barbara Ibarra, adjunct professor at Miami Dade College and executive director of the Miami Coalition for the Homeless.

Ibarra was one of the many community leaders at the event to help with the Think-Tank.

"It's interesting to meet new ideas [to] help explore the future of the community," said Ibarra.

One important element incorporated into the event was a collaborative art piece made by Xavier Cortada, the director of the College of Architecture and the Arts Office of Engaged Creativity.

Cortada created a series of sketches while watching and listening to the ideas and conversations that surrounded

him throughout the event. Cortada also facilitated by asking attendees to stop during their interactions to create their own reflections on paper.

"These varying individuals are literally building our future," Cortada said. "Their

ideas for a better world are inspiring to me."

Cortada will combine all of the collected artwork into a larger art piece that will be unveiled on May 3 at the Miami Beach Urban Studios on Lincoln Road.

CLASSIFIED AD

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Pitino agrees on five-year deal to be new head coach



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

The school introduced Pitino on April 16 in a press conference at U.S. Century Bank Arena.

IGOR MELLO AND MALCOLM SHIELDS
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After an up and down week in the men's basketball program with the firing of Isiah Thomas, Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia has found his new coach. Richard Pitino has agreed to a five-year deal worth \$1.25 million to become the head coach of the FIU men's basketball team.

Pitino, 29, will be taking a slight pay cut from his \$275,000 base salary as an assistant to take his first head coaching job in Division-I basketball. The hire makes him the third youngest head coach in the NCAA Division-I basketball and the seventh head coach in FIU men's basketball history.

The school introduced Pitino on April 16 during a press conference at U.S. Century Bank Arena.

"It's been a dream of

mine," said Pitino. "I'm prepared to do this job. People always say I'm young and I tell them I may be young but I am experienced."

Pitino was an associate coach with the University of Louisville last season under his father, Rick Pitino. Under his father's wing, the Cardinals reached the Final Four where they were eliminated by eventual champion Kentucky on March 31. Garcia, who attended the Final Four in New Orleans, denies that he made contact with Pitino before the firing of Isiah Thomas.

"I was at the Final Four and I didn't hold the Final Four results against coach Pitino. But I did make contact with him about Tuesday (April 10) of last week," Garcia said.

Pitino's coaching career began in 2005 after graduating from Providence College. Pitino has had coaching stops at Duquesne University, the University of Florida and

Northeastern University. While at the University of Florida, Pitino played a role in assisting the Gators from 2009-2011 in two NCAA tournament appearances and an Elite-Eight finish in 2011.

"I won't hold that against him," Garcia joked about Pitino's stint with the Gators.

While at Louisville, Pitino played a role in recruiting and creating scouting reports for his father. Pitino was credited with assisting the Cardinals in obtaining some of the top recruiting classes in the nation to play in Louisville.

His ability to connect with players and recruits will be tested as more than half of the current players on the roster have requested to be released from their scholarship after the firing of Thomas on April 6. The status of the 2012 recruiting class is uncertain as many of the

SEE MEN'S, PAGE 4

BASEBALL

Panthers take two out of three from Louisiana-Monroe

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FIU's slate of games against University of Louisiana-Monroe this past weekend was a tight-rope walk more than anything else.

For the first time all season, the Panthers played in three consecutive one-run games against the Cajuns.

Despite having their seven-game winning streak snapped in game two, the Panthers won the April 13-15 series against last-place ULM (17-19, 5-10 SBC) to continue their dominance over the past month. FIU (21-14, 9-6) has won 13 of its last 16 games.

As opposed to their matchup against Troy a week earlier where offense was the key to a win, this series demanded that FIU starting pitching be near perfect. And they almost were.

Mason McVay (2-2), Michael Ellis (1-2) and R.J Fondon (5-3) combined to throw 18 innings, strike out 14 Cajuns and allow only one earned run for a microscopic 0.50 ERA in the series.

As a whole, FIU's pitching gave up only four earned runs in 26 innings.

FIU 2, ULM 1

McVay had arguably his best



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

The Panthers have continued to hit the ball well, including Junior Jabari Henry hit his eighth home run of the year to lead the team.

start of the season, lasting seven innings, striking out three batters and allowing no earned runs.

The team's hottest hitter, junior Jabari Henry, stayed locked in, mashing a solo home run in the fourth inning to move into a second-place tie for the home run lead in the

conference.

The Panther's defense stumbled out of the gate, a theme that would continue throughout the weekend.

In the first inning, the Cajuns' leadoff hitter reached first base on a throwing error by third baseman Mike Martinez.

McVay committed two consecutive errors to let the base runner reach third base, with a double driving him in to give ULM a 1-0 lead.

The bats stayed dormant until Henry's eighth home run of the season to knot the game at one a piece.

The Panthers were back at it in the fifth inning after Oscar Aguirre hit a double with one out. Junior Nathan Burns hit a go-ahead double that gave the Panthers the decisive 2-1 lead.

Closer Michael Gomez came

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 4

SOFTBALL

McClain breaks school's all-time home run record

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FIU has a new all-time softball home run leader and her name is Ashley McClain.

After splitting the first two games of a three-game series against Western Kentucky, the Panthers jumped over the hill defeating the Hilltoppers in the rubber game 9-5 on April 15.

The Panthers propelled to victory on the strength of two historic home runs by McClain. McClain tied Kim Rodriguez and Monique White with her 32nd home run and then broke the school's all-time softball home run record with her 33rd home run.

McClain, who is the reigning 2011 Sun Belt Player of the Year, solidifies herself as FIU's all-time leader in home runs, RBI's, doubles, total bases and batting average. McClain also passed Stephanie Wolter for second all-time in school hits with 244 and is only 23 hits shy of first place, held by Jennifer Owens who has 267.

McClain had three runs

batted in to complement her two-home run day. Jessy Alfonso and Brie Rojas joined McClain's party as they each knocked in a home run.

The Panthers solely depended on the home run ball as FIU delivered a season-high four round trippers in the game.

On the mound, both starters for FIU and WKU got off to shaky starts.

FIU's Mariah Dawson only withstood two innings of work, giving up five runs, three of which were earned. For the Panthers, Jenn Gniadek took the reins and never looked back, allowing only one run on four hits through five innings of work, earning her sixth win of the season.

Offensively, Rojas opened things up in the first with a three run blast handing the team an early lead. That lead was then quickly erased as WKU put up three in the bottom half.

FIU then went yard two more times in the second inning. But this time it was Alfonso and McClain who hit back-to-back home runs, putting the Panthers



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Ashley McClain (above) hit two homer runs against Western Kentucky, giving her 33 for her career at FIU.

up 7-3.

WKU inched closer with runs in the bottom of the second and third, cutting the FIU lead to 7-5.

But McClain hit her second home run of the game, this time a two-run shot in sixth inning, solidifying the FIU win.

With the win, the Panthers sit in third place, only one game behind The Jaguars are riding on a

three-game winning streak, while defending conference champion Louisiana has complete control of first place in the Sun Belt.

Pitino jokes about possibility of FIU-Louisville meeting

MEN'S, PAGE 3

recruits were tied to the program with the intentions of playing for Thomas.

"They have to get to know me. They're not going to going to just want to play for me without even knowing me. So the most important thing for me these couple of days is to be around these guys as much as possible. They're going to have to be recruited a little bit, and I certainly understand that. I'm confident that I can do that," Pitino said. "It's hard for me to tell you how I can get them to stay. For some guys it will be a good fit, for some others it may not be a good fit. At the end of the day that is my job to figure out what they want."

Pitino will have to repair the relationships of disgruntled players like Dominique Ferguson, who has had the appeal for the release of his scholarship denied by the university on April 13. Ferguson has vowed to never play for FIU again.

"Our interest is for the players to stay here and get their degrees, there is an appeal process on everything that goes

on," Garcia said.

Pitino will inherit a program that has gone through 12 consecutive losing seasons. Pitino though, has had some experience in being a part of a rebuilding process of a basketball program. While at Duquesne, he was on the staff that saw the Dukes improve their number of wins to double digits in 2006 and helped lead Northeastern to a 19 win season in 2005.

The hire goes along the lines of other hires that Garcia has made to other sports programs at FIU since he was named athletic director in 2006. Beginning with Mario Cristobal and Turtle Thomas, both were known for their ability to recruit talent. Pitino will be tasked to build a basketball program that has not had a winning season since the 1999-2000 season.

When asked about his father, Pitino joked about the possibility of playing him in the future.

"It's probably not going to be a daydream. It will be a nightmare. He texted me and said, 'I never got to spank you as a child; would you like to get a spanking this year?' I told him to bring it on," said Pitino.

R.J. Fondon's fifth win puts FIU in a tie for third in the SBC

BASEBALL, PAGE 3

in and pitched the final three innings to secure the win for his team and reach the 20-win plateau.

ULM 5, FIU 4

The bullpen's only blemish on the weekend not only cost Ellis a win, but it cost FIU its seven-game win streak.

Ellis pitched five innings, walked three and struck out seven batters for his team-leading 54 strikeouts. He is top five in the conference in that category.

The team's four, five and six hitters combined to go 6-for-9 with three RBIs and five walks, but it was not enough to top the Cajuns.

The Panthers jumped on ULM starting pitcher Chris Griffit early in the game, tagging him for two runs in the first inning.

After Burns led the inning off with a hit, FIU drew back-to-back two-out walks to load the bases. Junior Adam Kirsch cashed in, lining a single to give his team a 2-0 lead.

In the third inning, Martinez and Henry had back-to-back walks again and Kirsch made the Cajuns pay again with a double to drive in Martinez. Freshman

Aramis Garcia knocked in another run on a ground out to give FIU a 4-0 lead.

Once head coach Turtle Thomas removed Ellis, he brought in right-hander John Caballero. Caballero struggled with two outs, walking two Cajuns to load the bases. He surrendered back-to-back singles to see the Panthers' lead cut down to 4-3.

In the seventh inning, senior Pablo Bermudez was thrown out trying to steal third right before Martinez and Henry singled. Kirsch could not come up big a third time for the team.

An error cost FIU two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning, as T.J Shantz misplayed a ball that would have left runners on first and second base, not third and second. The Cajuns capitalized with a game-winning, two-run single.

Henry struck out swinging with a man on base to end the game.

FIU 2, ULM 1

FIU struck the ULM with a bout of déjà vu as they took the matinee matchup with the same 2-1 score as Friday's match.

T.J Shantz hit his second home run of the season and was the only player to record more than one hit.

Despite a lack of pop by the offense, senior Fondon was able to silence the Cajun bats.

The left-hander threw six innings, allowing only one run with four strikeouts to get his team-leading fifth win.

FIU opened up the first inning with Shantz's opposite-field home run to secure a 1-0 lead over ULM.

Martinez and Henry got on base and moved up on wild pitches, but Kirsch could not replicate Saturday's success and popped out.

In the second inning, the Cajuns ripped a leadoff triple off Fondon and later drove the run in to tie the score.

Burns drove in the team's final run of the game in the fourth inning with a single to give his team the final 2-1 score.

FIU avoided disaster in the seventh inning when the Cajuns loaded the bases with no outs. Thomas called on left-hander Gomez to come in and he was flawless, retiring the next three batters.

Gomez recorded the save to secure the win, his conference-leading tenth of the season.

FIU takes on the Jacksonville Dolphins (14-23) for game two of their two-game series today at 4 p.m.

ART

SENSORIA YOUR SENSES

Art students work to create unique exhibit in Miami

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The aptly chosen name of this year's art exhibition is hosted by 18 University art students. Sensoria, the plural form of the word sensorium, is the part of the brain that receives and delivers specific reactions to experiences in the world.

Every spring semester, Professor Tori Arpad-Cotta, teaches the installation arts class at the University.

The students enrolled in this class work closely with the Wolfsonian-FIU Art Museum to learn the processes' that go into making and hosting an installation art exhibit.

In addition, they will

also work with the assistance of DACRA in Miami; they enable the students with the space to exhibit their work every semester.

Griselle Gaudnik-Gibbon, art history and fine arts senior, is one of the students who exhibited her art this year.

When asked to define installation art, she said, "An installation is hard to define because anything can be an installation and a lot of times it's site specific."

At a glance, the concept and idea of installation seems vague. The fact of the matter is that the kind of art that installation encompasses can only be experienced in person.

On Saturday, April 14, the installation arts students, along with

their family, friends and onlookers, opened the doors of the gallery, located in the Buena Vista Building in the Design District of Miami for everyone to experience.

At the event, Mike Wood, father-in-law of Gabrielle Wood, expressed his sentiments of this year's event. "I think it's outstanding, there's just so much going on... this is well thought, well laid out and I'm really enjoying it."

The layout of the exhibit consists of wide open spaces, projectors, interactive rooms with an audience of three, an over-exposed room of media versus knowledge, smaller rooms with bright lights and noisy rooms with broken disco balls.

To Wood, the broken disco ball on the floor in a room filled with glitter with a Lady Gaga song playing and photos of men on the floor represents the "death of the 1960's," but to others it could have meant a million different things, which is the point of the event.

Violet Forrest, art history and arts senior at the University was also in attendance for the opening night.

"I think this exhibit pushes the limits a little more than any other exhibit I've seen in Art Walk tonight."

It is a constant push and shove of the senses, from your auditory to your visual senses; this exhibit is far from short of stimulation.

Wood, in congruence with Forrest said, "It's real noise; its visually noisy and auditory noisy. You've got excitement and then you've got that serenity."

The applied techniques and knowledge received

from the staff members and the students' professor has truly paid off.

The goal of introducing a piece of art and having it infuse your senses was conquered by all the student artists of the University.

The exhibit will run through April 21, 2012 at the Buena Vista Building, located at 180 NE 39 Street and NE 2nd Avenue in Miami.

**"It's not just a gallery, it's more of an experience."
-Violet Forrest**

HAUTE TOPIC

Denim shorts, tees and jewelry are summer staples

While scrolling through slide-shows of what the Coachella festival attendees were wearing this past weekend, I realized how much I wish it were summer.

COLUMNIST



ESRA ERDOGAN

When I say summer, I mean the sweaty, hot summertime when nothing but shorts and a crop top are appropriate. Luckily for me, spring is fading. But my closet isn't ready for summer yet.

The mistake I always make while shopping seasonally is forgetting to ask myself if I will be able to wear the clothing item next year. Since summer clothes are so basic, it makes sense to spend a teensy bit more so you can count on the piece next year. Denim shorts, gauzy tops and sandals will never go out of style while mint skinny jeans, neon flats and Ikat prints probably will.

Lately, I've been fantasizing about well-cut denim shorts, clingy white V-necks and multi-colored jewelry. Summer is a great opportunity to try on any and all jewelry to dress up the basic items in your wardrobe.

Although I'm not big on wearing jewelry, I'm trying to break out of that habit to make my summer basics more fun.

Tom Binns inspired bracelets and necklaces would be a great complement to any summer ensemble. Neon colored jewelry, whether it's braided friendship bracelets or beaded necklaces, are cheap

and easy to find at most fashion outlets.

Art Deco style necklaces with a pop of neon are funky and easy to match with almost anything. Of all places, I saw a necklace in the window at Ann Taylor that I've secretly been pining for. The great thing about jewelry is that you can find interesting pieces at almost any store if you're willing to look, even if you wouldn't normally shop there for

“Since summer clothes are so basic, it makes sense to spend a teensy bit more so you can count on the piece next year. Denim shorts, gauzy tops and sandals will never go out of style...”

clothes.

If you are looking for inspiring and affordable jewelry, check out the online shops at Etsy. I cannot praise Etsy's offerings enough and often spend many nights crouched over my laptop poking through all the independent designers' wares.

As for clothing, it's time to bite the bullet and spend a little more on basics. I know that the essential line at Forever 21 is tempting. Tank tops at the price of a cup of coffee are irresistible. But how long do those things really last you? Not very long, in my experience. This

time I'm browsing around American Apparel, Gap and J.Crew for quality basics that won't completely break the bank and will last more than a season. The following are some suggestions that will set you up for summers to come.

Look for basics with interesting cuts or details. A standard tank top is just that— standard. Beading, laser cut detailing, interesting silhouettes

and other cuts and details will make your basic white tee look not so basic. However, don't buy anything with too much detail. Otherwise you're running the risk of not being able to wear it past the summer.

Denim shorts. The number one staple of summer is nothing but denim shorts. This year, every color and print imaginable is popping up.

Stick to Forever 21 for funky and floral print shorts. Fork over a few extra dollars for a nice pair of jean shorts. Light wash, white and black are necessities.

Stay away from frayed styles; they end up shedding very quickly and lose their original shape, especially if they have a lot of holes to begin with. Instead, stick with basic shorts with a short cuff and back pockets. Dress them up with neon, leather or patent belts. With the recent crop top trend, your waist can show and a skinny belt adds a lot of personality to a plain pair of shorts.

As for footwear, you can't go wrong with a pair of leather gladiators. I'm still not over them. I've seen a lot of gladiator-like styles in major department stores. Buy genuine leather so they don't break and since you only need one or two pairs, you'll definitely get the cost-per-wear down pretty low by the end of summer.

A better quality shoe will also last you through fall and probably next year's season as well. I've also been obsessed with getting a pair of suede ankle boots in taupe. Please don't ask me why. I guess I really wanted to go to Coachella.

If you're still lacking inspiration, visit Australian blogger Geneva's site at <http://apair-andaspire.blogspot.com/>. Not only does her blog have major summer style eye candy, but her d.i.y. tutorials are cheap and original; they take on a lot of designer-inspired pieces.

Haute Topic is a weekly fashion column. Esra Erdogan is graduating this spring. The fashion column will be continued by columnist Vanessa Paredes.

RADIATE REVIEWS

The Men's nuanced post-punk hits hard and fast

Sometimes, an album leaves fans divided. "Open Your Heart" bridges the gap by providing instant gratification and contemporary measuring.

COLUMNIST



MICHAEL HERNANDEZ

The album offers powerful, relentless rock riffs and atmospheric, submersible art that shows a band that is more than just revitalized punk rock.

To juxtapose the old and new, "Open Your Heart" starts off with a track titled "Turn It Around," in which a catchy guitar lick chugs through distortion, screechy solos and throbbing drums with jet-like propulsion. "Animal" carries the same amplitude as Chris Hansell shouts "I'm an animal."

It's apropos, being that the sheer ferociousness of the song roars as loud as the guitars. What I



PHOTO COURTESY OF

"Open Your Heart" by the group shown above, The Men, is the latest effort and it reaches its full potential.

love most, or what is most endearing to me, is that they don't try to sound like a punk band or copy and paste the best parts of the Stooges, Ramones and Sebadoh and call it "original" music. The Men's sound is one that has already been established, especially from the hodgepodge of indie rock

acts called New York. To call their location "eclectic" would be an understatement and to call them a punk rock band doesn't fit their brand of rock aptly. In a good way, all breaks apart in "Country Song" as the chaos of the former tracks is suspended with a flowing piece of reverbed

guitars that are calmly paced and lucid. A cacophony of guitars swell up in "Oscillation." The guitars gather momentum continuously as to recreate one of those organic Sonic Youth epic jams. It's the garage rock aesthetic that suits The Men so well; they are not

only able to deliver the noise in full force but they also obtain this nostalgic fervor in their music that makes you think back about your own aspirations of being in a raucous rock band. That feeling comes through with "Please Don't Go Away," a song full of howling of "oh's."

The words "please don't go away" are interspersed throughout the melodic fixture of guitars that drive the song.

Mixed in with the twang of songs like "Country Song" and "Presence" that remove the calamity of guitar squalls with acoustic plucking and droning, "Open Your Heart" plants all the seeds of an album with excellent composition and direction.

It could leave some listeners feeling indifferent or alienated by the album's attempt to bring the "rock" band into "indie rock," but The Men aren't pushing away this arbitrary notion of becoming new pioneers in modern punk, such as The Strokes in the early 2000's.

The Men's method seems to be more organic and it shows in their music. The album is full of vibrant energy and a vision that The Men have created.

Radiate Reviews is a weekly music review column.



gsi.fiu.edu



GRADUATE ON TIME!

CLASS DISMISSED

Community college proven beneficial

Transfer students are sometimes stigmatized since they attended community college rather than entering a four-year institution right after high school.

However, I would like to think of them as fantastic strategists.

COLUMNIST



JASMYN ELLIOTT

The reasons for attending community college first are varied, but the most prevalent one is the economic advantage. Community college tuition tends to be much cheaper than its four-year counterpart.

Take, for example, the difference in tuition between our University and Miami Dade College.

Even with the University's relatively low price tag of \$5,678 for the average full-time student, Miami Dade College's average full-time student only pays \$3,074, according to collegeboard.com.

In essence, these students saved over \$5,000 while getting equal education over a two year period.

Furthermore, the University's acceptance rate is just under 40 percent, and University President Mark B. Rosenberg's goal of making the University more selective will likely cause that acceptance rate to drop even further.

Meanwhile, Miami Dade's acceptance rate stays at 100 percent, thus ensuring every person a spot.

When I was applying for schools, even I knew full well that community college was a safe fallback, should I not get admitted into the school of my choice.

Coupling this with the lesser cost, going to community college first seems like less of an underachiever's cop-out and more of a viable option.

Unique to Florida colleges and universities is the 2+2 Partnership Program. Since its inception in 1971, any student who receives their associate's degree in a Florida public community college is assured upper division status once they transfer to an in-state, four-year college or university.

Yes, while I nervously waited for an answer from my upper-division program, I am certain that transfer

students who received their associate's degree in my field went through the application process like water with very little uncertainty.

Lastly, community college serves as a gateway past undergraduate education.

The reasons for attending community college first are varied, but the most prevalent one is the economic advantage.

An article in *The New York Times* profiled several students who, after attending community college, are now attending highly selective schools such as New York University, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Stanford University and others, some as graduate students.

Many of these students cited that attending community college afforded them some of the benefits listed above, in addition to a relaxed environment where they could achieve the high GPA necessary to enter their respective dream schools.

To all of the transfer students: well played. Unlike the rest of us who turned up our noses at the thought of going to community college, thinking of it as a sign of failure, you used it to your advantage.

Not only did you save thousands of dollars, you also secured a seamless transfer into the University. After all, the name of the school on your diploma is ultimately what you will be remembered by.

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THE BEACON | Editorial

Special Election necessary mess

After determining that voter fraud did take place in their campus presidential elections, the Supreme Court for the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus made a rare, but acceptable decision — the results for the 2012 SGC-MMC presidential election must be vacated and issued a recommendation for SGC-MMC to hold a Special Election to determine who will be the next president and vice president.

According to the judgment in *Udhmani v. Elections Board I and II*, the Court found that the "tainted results of such a close race, raise serious doubt about the legitimacy of the election results."

We agree with the need for a Special Elections due to the ways and means of which the current SGC-MMC presidential election was held, and how due to the evidence presented before the court, the current president and vice president elects' seats have lost their credibility.

Keep in mind that the SGC-MMC president is a sitting member of the University's Board of Trustees—arguably the most powerful policy making body in the University. If the student member was unable to obtain the elected position by legitimate means, what sort of precedent would that set for her decisions that pertain to policies that would directly affect every single member of the University?

In order to restore credibility to not only the SGC-MMC presidency, but to SGA as a whole, we feel that a Special Election is not only neces-

sary, but vital for the sake of the democratic ideals upon which our society is based on.

As of press time, the details as to whether or not a Special Election will be held for the SGC-MMC presidency are still unknown. However, it must be noted that on April 20, all of the seats within SGA will be vacated due to it being the end date for all SGA members' respective terms.

Thus, if a Special Election is to be held there would be no set administrative body for said elections since the current SGC-MMC Elections Board's term comes to an end on April 20, and the new Elections Commissioner would have to be appointed by the new president, which has yet to be voted upon since the SGC-MMC Supreme Court vacated the results of the 2012 presidential election.

Furthermore, as dictated by the current SGC-MMC Elections Code, neither General nor Special Elections can be held within two weeks of finals.

Finals start in 5 days. No elections can be held during this current semester if SGC-MMC is going to uphold its own statutes.

In other words, we agree with the need for a Special Elections; Special Elections must take place during Summer A since the new government must be in place for the start of Summer B; and we agree that this whole situation is one giant mess.

But look at the brightside, Greek organizations are inactive during Summer A; there's still hope for an honest election.

College education negatively affected by consumerism

CAROLINA SOUTO
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With higher tuition costs, constant budget cuts, teaching positions and salaries at risk, universities across the country competing for students are behaving like businesses selling a product.

At the same time, today's students, who grew up in an age of consumer culture where shopping is easy and the "customer is always right," are behaving like consumers looking for the best product. These cultural trends combined affect the foundation of higher education.

Both students and universities are responsible for this shift, feeding off the prevailing consumer culture of today.

It is important to be aware how cultural trends affect our behavior, especially when it has to do with our education.

Consequently, some of the people who are making these observations are involved in academics, like Mark Edmundson, who taught at the University of Virginia, and Rebecca Atwood, writer for the Times Higher Education online.

In his essay, "On the Uses of A Liberal Education: As Lite Entertainment for Bored College Students," Edmundson's frustration in the merge of consumer-

Education was not built as a product, and how we treat our education is changing the way the government and universities treat students.

based culture and university life is apparent.

"University culture, like American culture writ large, is, to put it crudely, ever more devoted to consumption and entertainment, to the using and using up of goods and images," said Edmundson.

Since, as students, we pay for education, we should have some say as to how we receive it. We should not, however, buy our education with the same attitude in which we buy our iPads and iPhones.

Part of the consumer culture is buying into commercials that make us want a product. In order to travel along the tracks of the trend, universities now have commercials, which sell fully equipped campuses, with gyms and shops, offering degrees that guarantee success - much like Edmundson's university description.

I'm sure most of us at the University have heard the "South Florida School Connection" jingle.

However, education was not built as a product, and how we treat our education is changing the way the government and universities treat students.

Even our University and Pepsi have teamed up to provide events for students, a perfect example of how universities have given into the corporate scheme and consumer ideals.

"Students should expect to have full 'consumer rights' if universities and the Government continue to treat them as customers...growing Student Consumerism is Inevitable, says NUS," said Atwood.

Speaking at a conference on the student experience, [Wes Streeting, vice-president of the National Union of Students (NUS)] said universities could not complain about the erosion of academic values and growing consumerism while pursuing a model that makes these trends inevitable.

As students we should be aware of our own participation to a possible downfall in our own educational values.

We can now rate our teachers online, pick our favorites and choose an easy A. I've done it once before and cringed as I felt my education stabbing me in the back.

Universities, most importantly, should be a place to learn how to work hard, how to fail and how to climb the ladder of success.

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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.

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

SJMC

Professor stresses the need to ‘knock on every door’

BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE
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Juliet Pinto, assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, gives her students one particular piece of advice she wants them to remember.

“Knock on every door. Don’t limit yourself; believe in yourself and your abilities.”

This advice reflects Pinto’s personality.

Throughout her life, Pinto has knocked on doors in almost every country in Central and South America and has explored the academic studies of sciences and humanities.

Pinto started her academic career at Boston University as a physical therapy major. She decided to change her major to environmental science because she “was fascinated by the mechanisms in natural systems, and how humans fit into those equations.”

For her master’s, Pinto continued in the science field and acquired a degree in marine and coastal affairs. Even though Pinto did not know Spanish at that time, she moved to Chile to finish her master’s degree.

“They did not ask me if I could speak Spanish, and I did not mention that I couldn’t,” she said.

During her stay in Chile, Pinto worked with fishermen on aquaculture projects that were associated with changes related to a fisheries management law being implemented in the country.

“I chose that program because it had a blend of the natural science with policy and social science, which is how I envisioned the blend of looking at humans and natural



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Assistant Professor Juliet Pinto [left] helps Christina Valdes [right], senior journalism major revise a paper after class.

systems,” Pinto said.

Pinto believes that a combination of two environmental science degrees, good writing skills and some luck was what gave her a job as a travel writer for the RECOMMEND magazine, part of Worth International Publishing. For two years, she traveled around Central and South America and wrote articles directed to the business travel industry.

“I loved traveling in South America,” Pinto said. “There are too many favorites to say. But one of my favorite cities has to be Buenos Aires. Part of it is because of having family and friends there, part of it is the fact that it is such a city of neighborhoods, like New York,

London, and other areas with very strong senses of neighborhoods and communities.”

Pinto then began on a road in the field of communications that has led her to FIU.

When Pinto decided to start her doctorate degree, she made the decision to switch from the scientific field to communications. Pinto knew that she wanted to write her dissertation on investigative journalism in Argentina, and the changes since the return to democracy in the press.

“It was not easy,” she said. “But I had worked in communication professionally, so I knew it was where I wanted to be academically.”

As she ended her doctorate program at University of Miami, a

position became available at FIU and she started as an assistant professor in the department of journalism and broadcasting in the fall of 2006.

Pinto said that she always wanted to be part of the academic environment and FIU offers her everything she needs and likes the most.

“Wonderful students, the ability to do the research I am interested in and have it inform my teaching, and terrific colleagues,” she said.

Pinto is currently involved in three environmental journalism research projects. Two of them study coverage of climate change in different media outlets and the third studies concerns international environmental conflicts.

Students that take classes with

Pinto often look forward to take her again in the future.

“I love Professor Pinto,” said Sherezade Rodriguez, junior journalism major who is currently taking Pinto for a writing strategies class. “She is extremely helpful and cares a lot about her students. It is not easy to find professors like her.”

“I have to say she is my favorite professor,” said Christina Valdes, senior journalism major currently taking Pinto for an environmental journalism class. “I took her for the first time for a grammar class. Since then, I’ve been trying to take her in all classes she teaches.”

One of Pinto’s main goals when she started to work as an assistant professor was to blend her research, professional experience and teaching in a meaningful way for students. She acknowledges that so far this expectation has been fulfilled.

“What I like most [about teaching] is watching the students’ intellectual development, watching them meet challenges in terms of the class work, and then hearing about their successes afterward,” Pinto said.

Pinto believes that the public needs the information that journalists can provide to make intelligent decisions in a variety of ways, such as at the voting box, in our professions, at school and even in the supermarket.

“A free press functioning in the public interest is an essential component to the proper functioning of a democracy,” she said. “We need journalists to provide us with accurate, important information.”

She encourages students to engage in this essential journalistic role and believe in their potentials.

“The world needs you now more than ever,” she said.

REC CENTER

A night on the bay for some kayak fun

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Imagine the Biscayne Bay Campus waters at night.

Now imagine ten kayaks going through it at 7 p.m. on April 20.

On ‘Night Kayaking’, co-sponsored by Red Bull and the BBC Rec Center, will be bringing out twenty students who have registered for the event to go around Sandspur Island in groups of two’s, followed by a movie showing. According to Jonathan Torrey, departmental administrator of Campus recreation, everyone must have a partner to kayak.

Torrey suggests comfortable shirts and shorts that students don’t mind getting wet in. Paddles and lifejackets will be provided. Torrey and two other lifeguards will be present and the kayaks will

have navigational lights to make the kayakers’ journey safer and easier.

The trip around Sandspur Island, according to Torrey, takes between an hour to an hour and fifteen minutes.

No more spots are available for the ‘Night Kayaking’ trip, but the night isn’t over then.

Red Bull media house, the center of the global Red Bull media network across media channels and products, will also present the movie, Halo Effect at 9 p.m. The movie documents the journeys of extreme kayakers. Red Bull, popcorn, s’mores and water will be offered.

“The recreational component is very much so needed,” Torrey said. “So students have a place and an opportunity to stay fit and gain knowledge of activities on campus.”

GAY PRIDE



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Scott Hall, president and founder of the Gay American Heroes Foundation, shows Dalielle Caputo, Barbara Calne and Jackie Pina, all juniors and international relations majors, a scale model of the traveling rainbow memorial. The memorial celebrates the lives of gay people who were killed because of their sexual orientation.