

EXPANSION

County mayor cuts Youth Fair land swap deal

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As the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair pulled in to the area adjacent to Lot 5 for its annual event, FIU's proposal to acquire the land for University expansion fell through under opposition from County Mayor Carlos Gimenez.

The 86-acre section in the corner of Coral Way and 107th St., is currently occupied by the Youth Fair as they set up for this year's event. In about three weeks, the fair will have concluded, leaving the land unoccupied for another year.

"We sat down with the Youth Fair about 20 months ago and said that we'd like to begin a conversation in a win-win context for the Youth Fair to find another location," Rosenberg said. "We sat down with the county under the same circumstances and asked if we can set up a tri-part working group to identify possible alternative sites for a Youth Fair relocation."

FIU and the county identified 16 sites for potential relocation of the fair.

Of the 16, one site was chosen for consideration by the Youth Fair, the wetlands.

According to Rosenberg, the county was in agreement with this, which is why the University proceeded with the proposal.

A letter from the Miami-Dade Mayor to the legislation, stating his disagreement with the moving the fair to an area outside of the County's Urban Development Boundary ended the proposal.

The county originally purchased the area, worth \$3.7 million, as part of the Preservation 2000 conservation land-buying program for a water management project, which was later dismissed in 2008.

"There are varying interpretations on the use of that property," Rosenberg said. "We do not see it as an attack on the environment. We see it as a measure by which we can save property that will eventually in its totality be paved over and houses will be put there."

Rosenberg also added that the University would be respectful of the UDB. Plans for amendments to current proposal are also underway.

"This is a set of initiatives that will take ten years to get done, if we're lucky."

"We do not see it as an attack on the environment. We see it as a measure by which we can save property that will eventually in its totality be paved over and houses will be put there."

Mark Rosenberg,
President
FIU

A proposal submitted by FIU to state legislation proposed a land swap, where FIU would receive the grounds and the fair would move to a 350-acre wetland area bordering the Florida Everglades.

"If you look at the Youth Fair grounds, those 86 acres are only used 18 days a year," University President Mark Rosenberg said at a Faculty Senate meeting on March 6. "Most of us can agree that may not be the best use for that valued property."

Relocation of the fair has been in talks for more than a year, as the University seeks to expand to accommodate a growing student body.

CAUGHT LOOKING



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

The FIU Panthers got a first hand look at the new Marlins Park on March 7, losing to the Marlins 5-1 in an exhibition matchup. Only two Panthers got extra base hits, freshman Roche Woodard and senior Mike Martinez. Players were notified before the game that they would not be allowed to use the aluminum bats they are used to.

SPC

Spring concert artists announced

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After weeks of anticipation, the Student Programming Council finally exposed the artists that will be performing at this year's UPRoar concert. The rap-rock band Gym Class Heroes and hip-hop artist Big Sean will be headlining the stage at the annual spring semester concert on April 11 at

the soccer field on the Modesto Maidique Campus.

The announcement took place in the GC Pit on March 6 after a week-long contest that SPC held on its Facebook page to let students guess the artists. Pieces of the official concert poster were revealed little by little, but no student guessed correctly.

Senior Katherine Bernardoni, a public administration major, was elated to hear that Gym Class Heroes will be

performing at the concert.

"I am a huge fan of Gym Class Heroes, and I am excited to see their performance. I am hoping [they] play 'Stereo Hearts.' That is one of my favorite songs of theirs," said Bernardoni.

Erick Rodriguez, a business major, will also be picking up tickets for the event.

SEE UPROAR, PAGE 5

FACULTY

Judge overturns public pension law

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A circuit judge in Tallahassee ruled unconstitutional a recent law requiring public employees to contribute 3 percent of their pay toward their retirement.

Set up to replace state contributions to the ORP and FRS retirement programs, the 3 percent

pension requirement was established last year by lawmakers and left many public employees unsettled.

Tallahassee judge Jackie Fulford stated that the requirement violated both the collective bargaining rights of public employees and their state employment contract.

"I'm not sure what's going to happen. [Those in opposition] will of course

appeal it and it will take forever," said Kathleen Wilson, president of the FIU chapter of the United Faculty of Florida.

In her report on March 6, Wilson addressed the FIU Faculty Senate on the UFF's support for the initiative and their work toward preventing Gov. Rick Scott from increasing the contribution percentage in the future.

"[The ruling] sends a very powerful message," said Wilson.

University faculty and staff are among the 560,000 state and county public employees the law affects, including law enforcement officers and firefighters and city workers. Florida had not required workers to contribute to their retire-

SEE COURT, PAGE 2

COMING UP | News

Check out the March 19 issue for an update on the statewide budget cuts for higher education.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

FIU honors acclaimed author Isabel Allende

Author Isabel Allende is getting top honors from Florida International University.

The Chilean author's 19 books have been translated into 35 languages. On Monday, she received the Miami university's Lawrence A. Sanders Award for fiction.

Allende won instant acclaim for her debut novel "The House of Spirits." It followed the generations of a turbulent Latin American family. The book was also a thinly veiled commentary on the political upheaval under Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet. It was later made into a film starring Meryl Streep.

NATIONAL

Romney pads delegate lead with Super Tuesday wins

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney padded his lead in the race for delegates Tuesday by winning Republican presidential contests in six states.

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum added delegates by winning contests three states, while former House Speaker Newt Gingrich won the primary in Georgia, the state he used to represent in Congress.

Romney won at least 212 Super Tuesday delegates and Santorum won at least 84. Gingrich won at least 72 delegates and Texas Rep. Ron Paul got at least 22.

So far, Romney is winning 54 percent of the Super Tuesday delegates; Santorum is winning 22 percent.

WORLD

Hackers hit Spanish security co. in revenge attack

Hackers claiming allegiance to the amorphous Anonymous movement say they've defaced several sites belonging to online defense firm Panda Security.

Anonymous supporters have been rattled by a trans-Atlantic investigation that has exposed one of the group's best-known hackers, Sabu, as an alleged FBI informant.

U.S. and British officials charged six men and one adolescent with a host of computer crimes linked to Sabu's activities Tuesday, sowing anger and confusion among supporters of the loose-knit network.

— Compiled by Melhor Leonor

HEALTH

Wellness Expo 2012 exposes students to health resources

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The Graham Center was alit March 6 and 7 with a University Health Services event as a crowd gathered in GC to learn about their bodies and how to make their lives better.

Tabling all along the main corridor by the Pit were a number of local health care providers as well as University organizations focused on improving student's overall well-being.

A similar event took place at the Wolfe Center at Biscayne Bay Campus on March 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Interested students stopped to ask questions to UHS employees and participate in the events.

Upon requesting to take part in the activities, students received a card and were told to visit the booths along the corridor in order to fill the card with stickers from the various locations.

Inscribed with "Passports for a healthier you", the cards demonstrated the theme of the event for this year.

"The theme for this year is the seven areas of wellness," explained Camila Pham, senior health educator at University Health Services Wellness Center.

"These are the physical, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, environmental, occupational and social dimensions of wellness."

Once a student had acquired the necessary stickers on their card they could return to the pit and claim their prize.

UHS aims to provide access to "quality health care to the University community and to encourage

healthy lifestyles through health promotion, education, mentorship and research."

Pham explained that the event is held every year.

"I expect that students that can't afford health care, or don't have cars, can take away knowledge of the local practices that are available to them as well as those services they have right on campus," she said.

I expect that students that can't afford health care, or don't have cars, can take away knowledge of the local practices that are available to them as well as those services they have right on campus.

Camila Pham

University Health Services Wellness Center, senior health educator

Some of the booths at the event were offering free screenings. Among the screenings available were spinal, blood glucose levels and fat content.

"Students should know where they stand health-wise," Pham said.

Student Dietetic Association was among the booths offering free screenings.

SDA offered a body fat content test that would let students know how they are currently doing, and later offered students options on how to improve.

"Today we're here promoting healthier alternatives," Monika Arenas, public relations officer for SDA said.

On their booth, SDA had laid out a group of sugar cubes under

some popular beverages to show the normal sugar consumption students intake when ingesting Pepsi, Brisk and green tea.

To offset their sugar intake, students were encouraged to turn to healthier options like those offered by the SDA.

Students at the booth were handed a low-sugar content juice made with frozen fruit, orange juice and water.

"These are simple and fast options," Arenas said of the juices. "We're bring awareness to students."

Kendall Regional Medical Center was also tabling at the event.

According to Hyun K. Kang a podiatry surgical resident at the hospital, they were present to provide information to students about the hospital, its services and to inform interested pre-medical school students about opportunities available to them at the hospital.

Further along GC towards the atrium, spinal screenings and a sexual health group were available to participants.

A booth from the recently renovated FIU Health Faculty Group Practice also took part in the event.

THE BEACON

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Public pension deductions deemed unconstitutional

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ment since 1974.

"[Fulford] ordered the state to stop the deductions immediately," said Rosenberg in an email sent to the University community.

According to Fulford, the legislation "constitutes an unconstitutional impairment of plaintiffs' contract with the state of Florida, an unconstitutional taking of private property without full compensation, and an abridgment of the rights of public employees to collectively bargain over conditions of employment."

The lawsuit, brought up by the Florida Education Association, is to be decided by the Florida Supreme Court, a process that could take a year or

I'm not sure what's going to happen. [Those in opposition] will of course appeal it and it will take forever. [The ruling] sends a very powerful message.

Kathleen Wilson

FIU chapter of the United Faculty of Florida President

more.

The 140,000-member statewide teachers union made the argument that Scott and the Legislature violated the state's contract with public employees last year by ordering that 3 percent of their pay be put toward their pensions.

Last year, Scott pushed for the employee contri-

tribution requirement, originally asking for 5 percent. He emphasized that private sector workers and public employees in most other states contribute to their retirement plans.

The requirement allowed the state government to save around \$1 billion, which was used to toward last year's deficit.

BASEBALL

BOYS AMONG MEN

FIU's bats cooled off by Miami Marlins

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Miami Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton has a way of attracting attention.

An hour before the game, FIU players stared as he stepped into the batting cage and crushed home run after home run, peppering Marlins Park with souvenirs.

As each ball was hit farther and farther, their jaws dropped lower and lower. This was their competition on March 7.

And they were supposed to treat it "like a regular ball game" according to head coach Turtle Thomas.

"At about 4 p.m. it hit me that I'm actually facing the Marlins," said left-hander Logan Dodds, the Panthers starting pitcher.

On a night where more than 18,000 fans came out to watch the exhibition match between FIU and the Marlins, the score was the last thing on anyone's mind.

Before the game, Marlins closer Heath Bell invited the entire FIU team to stretch before the game, breaking the



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

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FIU batters were forced to only one run on six hits, striking out 11 times in an exhibition game against the Miami Marlins on March 7.



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Logan Dodds pitched only two innings in a losing effort on March 7.

Miami fans got what they asked for, now they must walk the talk

"The City of Events" has gotten yet another reason for fans to show up whenever they deem it

is a good night to go out. The brand new stadium that is still trying to finish up its final touch ups before its official debut when the Marlins take on the Cardinals on April 4. So the FIU Panthers got to take it for a test drive. With the local flavor, came a surprisingly large crowd.

Now, fans, prove that you deserve this stadium. Show the owners around the league why you deserve this monument. The South Florida fan base as a whole has the worst reputation of any sports city in America. There is no excuse anymore for fans to not show up to watch this team play.

Gone are the dreadful days of Joe Robbie, now Sun Life Stadium, which Marlin all-time great Jeff Conine said he did not miss one

bit. The only issue is what have the fans done to show that they will come out to a game like this.

Over the past four years, they have finished 28th, 28th, 29th, and dead last in attendance overall in the league. One game was even reported to have had less than four hundred people actually in attendance.

Fans in this area are not true die-hard fans. As we have seen at FIU over the years, it has even been a struggle to get people to come to football games. Now you're expecting people to come to a very slow-paced game and pay the outrageous ticket prices that they are sure to charge.

Fans are going to have to prove to me, and to the rest of the baseball world, that this stadium deserves to be here. Especially on this hallowed ground where the historic Orange Bowl once stood.

This gem of a park that cost \$515 million dollars to the city needs to be packed every single night that there is a game in town.

And that won't even cover the full cost this season. The stadium is going to have to host many concerts to try and help recover what this shrine to baseball's past and future cost Miami.

Not to mention other sporting events, such as small baseball games or possibly even soccer matches.

But then again: how many fans will show for that?

If tonight was any indication of what could be this season, then I may have to eat my words. Both fan bases, for FIU and the Marlins, came out to this exhibition in strong numbers.

But knowing how sports in this town work, its tough for me to imagine dramatic change from how things were in previous years.

Now, I'm not saying that the Marlins as a franchise do not deserve this stadium. That is not my angle at all. Any organization that has won at least two cham-

COMMENTARY



BRANDON WISE

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TRACK AND FIELD

Gregoire and McElveen to miss Invitational for NCAA Tourney

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FIU is set to host the Felsberg Invitational on March 10 close to home at the Miramar Ansin Sports Complex. The Invitational is an event that pays homage to the fallen track and field athlete Michael Felsberg. It will be the first glance at FIU's track and field for this outdoor season.

The Panthers will go toe-to-toe against many local South Florida universities such as University of Miami, Nova Southeastern, Florida Atlantic, Florida Memorial and Johnson and Wales.

With it also being an Olympic year, a few professional athletes have signed up to compete and train as well.

"The track meet will be a good mix of collegiate compe-

titution but you'll also get to see some of the rising stars of track and field," said FIU track & field head coach Eric Campbell.

FIU's women's track and field will be without two star pupils, Marissa McElveen and Benia Gregoire, as they are headed to Idaho for the NCAA Track and Field Championships. Both have established rankings high enough to be awarded the opportunity to compete for the NCAA Championship.

Both known for their competitive nature, Gregoire and McElveen performed exceptionally well in the Sun Belt Indoor Track and Field Championships.

McElveen finished third in the 55-meter dash with a time of 7.05 and third in the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.58, while also placing sixth in the long jump at the SBC Indoor.

Gregoire, a previous Sun Belt

Field Athlete of the week, set a new Sun Belt Championship record for the women's weight throw of 19.78 meters. In the previous Felsberg Invitational, she won the Hammer Throw with a hurl of 50.06. She also finished top 10 in both Discus and Shot Put.

Even with the absence of McElveen and Gregoire, Campbell still has confidence in his team's abilities.

"It's really just fun for us. The last thing we want right now is to have our kids feel that pressure to go out and run the world record when they don't have to," Campbell said.

Coach Campbell mentions a few of the top performers for this year's Felsberg Invitational as T'Keyah Dumoy, Sun Belt Champion Lakeisha Kelley, La'Shae White and the Outstanding Freshman of the Year Raqurra Ishmar.



SHAUN STEVENS/THE BEACON

Gregoire (above) and McElveen will miss the Felsberg Invitational.

FIU falls to Marlins in exhibition

BASEBALL, PAGE 3

ice between both squads.

"He was trying to take the edge off," Dodds said. "He told us that we're on the same field together and to have fun."

About an hour before the game Major League Baseball Players Association called the Marlins and told them to relay the message that FIU cannot use metal bats, something the University of Miami did the Tuesday night.

"It was no big deal," said Thomas. "We practice in the off-season using wooden bats and some of our players had some wooden bats with them already."

Dodds, chosen by Thomas to start because of his position in the rotation, started the first inning allowing two hits to shortstop Jose Reyes and centerfielder Emilio Bonifacio to put Marlins on the corners.

The next batter on deck was the player they saw launching home runs out of the park, Stanton. He managed to induce a double play

from the slugger and limit the damage to one run.

"He's hard not to notice when he gets in the box," said Dodds. "He is massive."

Right-hander Ricky Nolasco held the team hitless for his two innings, and it was not until Heath Bell pitched that FIU broke through with its first hit of the night.

Freshman Roche Woodard, who was stepping in for the injured Jabari Henry, notched the first hit with a double to deep right as the crowd roared as he stepped sprinted toward second base.

In the bottom of the third inning, senior Christian Malbrough stepped on the mound to pitch and allowed a single to third baseman Jeff Dominguez. After getting Reyes to pop out to left field, Bonifacio hit a home run to right field to make it 3-0.

"Home runs are not my thing," said Bonifacio before the game.

Malbrough remained in the game for the fourth inning and walked Greg Dobbs and Omar Infante to begin the fourth inning.

After recording an out, catcher Brett Hayes knocked in two more runs to make it 5-0.

The Panthers were finally able to break through with another base runner in the top of the sixth inning, as Julius Gaines reached base via an error and later stole second base.

Junior T.J. Shantz drove in Gaines with an infield single off Dan Jennings with the crowd coming back to life for FIU as they trailed 5-1.

The Panthers managed to record five more hits as the Marlins regulars were substituted for players from their minor league system, as FIU eventually dropped the contest 5-1.

"They were aggressive and that's what I asked them to do," said Thomas after the game. "I was very proud of my team today."

Marlins manager Ozzie Guillen exchanged a few words with the players immediately following the game.

"I told them I hope to see them someday playing for me."

Fans must show up to new park

BALLPARK, PAGE 3

pionships in 18 seasons doesn't need to be stuck in a place that was never made for baseball.

But the fans have refused to show up to games over the years unless there is a big buzz around the team, like in 1997 and 2003. Or even these past two years at FIU football games, where the fans will only show up to the big ones like homecoming.

From baseball to foot-

ball to basketball, this city has simply never shown up consistently. They need to come out and show to the Marlins that they will support them.

I hope that it is not a one-year fix for this city, because that is a possibility as well.

If you are a true fan of South Florida, show it. Go to these games. Wear your gear with pride. Stop being bandwagon fans and hiding your true South Florida sports apparel in your closets.



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

MEN'S SOCCER

Arena is perfect candidate for job

Kenny Arena is trading Long Beach for South Beach.

But his cross-country trek to FIU is going to be far from a leisurely walk on the sea shore.

Congratulations, Kenny. You've just been handed the reins of a program that hasn't come close to relevance in nearly two decades.

But if there is anyone who might be able to miraculously raise this program from afterthought status to respectable contenders, it's Arena.

Like Mario Cristobal when he took over the football program, Arena is very young. And like Cristobal, he is hailed as a relentless recruiter and someone who can connect with players.

Like Isaiah Thomas, he is a known commodity in his respective sport. While Thomas was a Hall of Fame player, Arena was a solid collegiate player and the son of former U.S. men's national soccer team coach. But unlike Thomas, the 31-year-old coach has a solid coaching track record at some of the best schools in the nation.

As an assistant coach at UCLA, he helped the Bruins get to three Pac-12 titles, make three NCAA quarterfinal appearances and earn a trip to the 2011 College Cup appearance.

Like Turtle Thomas before taking the helm of FIU's flailing baseball team, Arena has worked with some of the best programs in the country as an assistant coach. And like Turtle, Arena will be charged with the job of bringing soccer back to respectability.

Name recognition. Winning background. Strong recruiter. Professional connections. Young and energetic. Arena appears to be the perfect blend of each of FIU's big-program coaches and could be just the kind of outside influence the school needs to provide a jolt.

And the hire is a very good first step towards breathing life into a soccer program that came closer to winning a national championship at the D-I level than any other.

South Florida is rich in soccer talent and has one of the best youth program structures in the program. A number of high schools in the area, like Cypress Bay and St. Thomas Aquinas, are ranked among the best in the country, according to ESPN's Powerade Fab 50 Rankings.

It is puzzling why a school right in the heart of a fertile recruiting ground has been irrelevant for nearly two decades.

Expectations should be high on a coach of this caliber to shine and take the program to new heights. I'm not even talking about a national championship. Just competing in C-USA would suffice. It would be a welcome change from the bottom-dweller status the team has adapted.

Arena just might be the man for the job.

COMMENTARY



JOEL DELGADO

PROFESSOR PERSPECTIVE

Professors and their peeves

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Most students can go on and on about how annoying their professors are, but they may be failing to consider that professors have a few complaints of their own.

It is agitating to talk to someone while they are not paying attention, so imagine a professor lecturing to a class of 200 students who are mesmerized by their phones or laptops, completely invested in their social networking, talking to their friends or coming into class late.

“There’s no point of going to class if you’re not going to pay attention,” said Alan Gummerson, an economics professor. “Does it bother me? Sure, because they’re not paying attention. So what’s the point?”

Technology can serve as a good tool for learning, but some professors are so fed up by the distractions that they have banned laptops altogether.

“The reason I don’t allow laptops or I don’t like talking is because it ends up distracting other people around you. Your generation is full of distractions anyway, so my thing is, I just don’t want students to be distracted from the learning process,” said Kathryn DePalo, a political science and international relations professor.

Bad behavior in the classroom is not the only thing that upsets professors. No matter how well students think they are bluffing, a professor can usually tell whether or not their students have done the readings or other assignments.

“If somebody is texting, checking Facebook or playing a game in class, it usually means that they’re not doing the reading. They’re not paying attention to lecture—it is the symptom of the fact that people are not engaged,” said history professor April Merleaux.

Merleaux believes that in order to really gain anything from a class, students must do the assigned reading so they can participate in class and learn.

“It’s the one thing that makes me feel like tearing my hair out even after [condensing] the reading, and to me, that’s the point of college. It makes it hard to do my job, and I really take it personally,” said Merleaux.

Just like professors, students can have complaints as well. Delayed replies to important emails is a popular annoyance to some students, claiming that sometimes professors are not quick enough or tech savvy enough.

“Students kind of expect, ‘Well, I need this question answered today.’ Well, I can’t get it today because I have two meetings and a deadline for an article that is due, and I have to teach a class tomorrow or these

particular things. We want to be there for students, to answer their questions in a timely fashion. It’s just sometimes impossible when you’re pulled in different directions,” said DePalo.

Most students seem to be aggravated if a professor makes a mistake.

“Well, it’s clear that I mess up a lot in class. I don’t think any student could possibly think of me as anything but human after watching me for a couple of classes,” said Gummerson.

DePalo is disappointed by disrespectful students who are not aware of the time put into each class.

“We have feelings, so when students come in, attacking, ‘I don’t agree with your answer key,’ Well, who are you? It’s the respect factor. I don’t think students realize how hard we worked to be able to do this job,” said DePalo.

However, some professors see it differently, like Gummerson.

Both students and professors can have grievances toward each other, but when either party goes out of their way to develop a more organic connection with one another, perhaps respect will be earned more genuinely as opposed to the kind of respect that is given to an authority figure.

“I figure I’ve got to earn respect,” said Gummerson. “I hope people don’t give me respect just because I’m an authority figure.”

Survey shows hip-hop reigns

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“Gym Class Heroes is a sick group. Hopefully, Big Sean has a great performance; he has a couple of good songs. I will definitely enjoy the event with a couple of my friends,” said Rodriguez.

While some students were thrilled with the announcement, others were disappointed by the lack of variety in music genres.

Journalism student Elizabeth Rodriguez was expecting a different kind of act this year, since the past two years have also

featured hip-hop acts.

“A lot of young college students are into house music with artists like Avicii and Swedish House Mafia. I really don’t know what to expect of Big Sean, but hopefully the concert has a great turnout and proves me wrong,” she said.

Junior Ana Rivas, a biology major, was disappointed with the selection as well.

“So many other artists have made big hits this year. Gym Class Heroes and Big Sean have only one or two well-known songs. They

should change the genre so students can enjoy other styles. Not everyone likes hip-hop every year,” said Rivas.

When students expressed disappointment on the UPROAR Facebook page, SPC responded by urging students to participate in their yearly surveys to determine which artists they will bring on to perform each spring.

The surveys allow students to choose the genre of Top 100 artists they would most like to see at the concert. According to SPC, there was an over-

whelming majority who voted for the hip-hop and rap genre this year.

“As much as we want to make sure everyone is happy, we know each student has a different taste in music. But thank you for voicing your opinion. We’ll keep that in mind for next year’s concert,” said an SPC representative on the Facebook post.

Tickets to the show will be available starting March 8 in the Campus Life offices in GC 2240. Each ticket admits one student and is free with a Panther ID.

REEL TO REEL

Westfeldt focuses on unique relationships



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRIENDSWITHKIDS.COM

Jennifer Westfeldt and Adam Scott star in the film “Friends with Kids.”

Jennifer Westfeldt’s contributions to the romantic comedy genre have been anything but conventional.

With “Kissing Jessica Stein,” she explored the fluidity of sexuality far better than the Oscar-nominated “The Kids Are All Right,” and with “Ira & Abby,” she focuses on two unprepared people who rush into marriage.

Her latest feature, “Friends with Kids,” continues her trend of unconventional relationships by diving into the lives of two friends that want to have a kid together without the hassle of marriage.

Longtime friends Julie and Jason have seen the toll that having children has taken on their married friends. Both want children, but both want to avoid waiting for the right partner and having such an enormous strain placed on their relationship by bringing a child into the world.

It does not take long for them to come to the conclusion that the best option is to have a child together, while not staying together as lovers or a couple.

Their platonic relationship is deemed perfect for parenting while maintaining a romantic single life, and the two dive between the sheets to make a baby.

The writing style that Westfeldt brings to “Friends with Kids,” which many would agree is much like something that Woody Allen might have penned in his early career, allows for just the right balance of comedy and drama.

It is full of witty banter, and tackles relationships and parenting in an honest way that leaves one feeling refreshed and grounded, rather than expecting angels to sing when you meet “the one” like in every other movie.

While the film is her third time writing something she stars in, it also marks the first time Westfeldt has directed—and it is one that serves as a promising start. One might even say that in addition to her writing, the direction of this film is also influenced by Allen’s work, especially that of “Hannah and Her Sisters.”

Something that “Friends with Kids” can proudly boast is its colorful cast of characters, starting with its lead actors. Westfeldt stars alongside the talented Adam Scott

SEE KIDS, PAGE 6

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@ebertchicago: “Kony 2012,” a viral video exploding with hits, attacks a Ugandan exploiter of child warriors. Devastating. dld.bz/bajv3

Film critic Roger Ebert on the viral video campaign by Invisible Children.



COVER TO COVER

Novel highlights desires of artists

The scrawny Henry Skrimshander showed up to Westish College with little more than his prized book, "The Art of Fielding,"

COLUMNIST



KELLY MALAMBRI

which was written by his baseball hero, Luis Aparicio. After he arrives, Skrimshander's baseball career as shortstop takes off with the Westish Harpooners, and before he knows it, Skrimmer, as Henry is called by his teammates, ties his idol's record for the number of games with zero fielding mistakes.

His future seems seamless until Skrimmer accidentally hits one of his teammates on the head, which puts him in a funk he seems to be unable to escape.

This is the basis of "The Art of Fielding" by Chad Harbach, which relates America's pastime to our everyday lives and the growth that we experience as human beings.

Skrimshander's struggle with his ability to play well after his mistake is reflective of the issues and struggles that many face in life, especially in adulthood, as they attempt to find careers and opportunities that suit their talents and desires.

One of my favorite parts about this great novel is the way Harbach laces literary candy throughout, making references to the works of David Foster Wallace,

Emerson, Dickinson, Melville and more.

Harbach is the coeditor of the literary magazine "n+1," and he writes to his talents and literature fans all throughout his novel, making it richer for both those who understand the references and those that would be driven to look them up.

Besides having this intellectual element, the book is comical. Harbach's comedy comes through especially in Skrimshander's roommate and teammate, Owen. Owen is the teammate who Skrimshander's bad throw hits, and serves as comic relief throughout the play.

For example, as tension between Skrimshander and the Harpooner's previous shortstop grows, Owen helps release this tension as he poetically jokes: "For at his back his always hears/Henry's footsteps hurrying near."

The only way to truly enjoy these comedic moments is to actually read the book, but I can assure you that those looking for humor in a novel will not be disappointed in this one.

My only complaint about the Harvard graduate's novel is the same that many have about the game of baseball: it moves too slowly.

Besides a few moments, like when Skrimshander smacks Owen in the head with his bad throw, and Harbach leaves the reader thinking the lovable character is dead, the novel has few swift-moving, action-packed moments.

While the speed of the

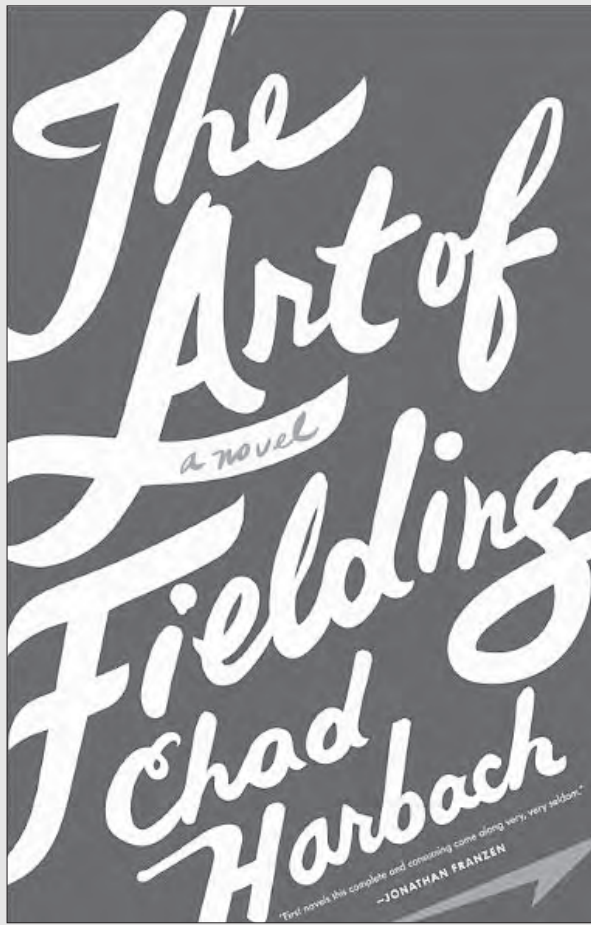


PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

"'The Art of Fielding' is a simple, easy-going read; however, it is more than 520 pages."

book is reflective of the sport, which it is mostly focused on, it left my eyes drooping at several parts throughout the novel.

On a deeper level, the novel highlights the desire of the uprising artist, student or professional to achieve perfection.

In The New York Times, Gregory Cowels compares this underlying theme to the uprising of the new novelist, looking forward to Harbach's next novel and stating, "Welcome to the big leagues, kid. Now, get out there and play."

The book is a simple, easy-going read; however, it is more than 520 pages. And like any great novel or sport, it effectively provides readers with a temporary escape.

Because of all of these facts, and even with all of its slow-moving parts, the book definitely has me, and some others, like Cowels, looking forward to what Harbach has to offer next.

Cover to Cover is a biweekly book review column. Email at kelly.malambri@fiusm.com

Unconventional film is refreshing

KIDS, PAGE 5

as the two best friends, Jason and Julie.

Both of their performances are entirely believable, making the progressing relationship between the two characters an interesting one to watch, but it is Scott who arguably gets one of the most intense scenes in the film.

The supporting cast is quite the collection, featuring a large handful of the people that made "Bridesmaids" the hilarious film it was. Chris O'Dowd and Maya Rudolph play the more lighthearted of the two couples and show audiences the hopeful side of a movie that does not seem to care much for marriage.

Kristen Wiig and Jon Hamm take the opposite route with their couple, diving into the darker themes that the film explores. Even Megan Fox, who might seem entirely out of place, finds just the right role

for her as Scott's love interest, proving that she is more than someone Michael Bay follows with a camera while robots fight.

The film does falter a bit in its ending, which features some very unfortunate closing lines that should have been cut.

It also leans a bit toward the conventional, but it leaves the door open enough for further exploration of these two characters.

"Friends with Kids" may be Westfeldt's directorial debut, but there is no doubt that it is a great effort on her part.

It is a film that avoids falling into the realm of cliched romantic comedy through its witty script and great acting, and it is one that will be a refreshing break for those who want a slice-of-life movie that is not morphed into a fairy tale.

Juan Barquin is an intern for the Miami International Film Festival.

CLASSIFIED AD

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UPCOMING WEEKEND EVENTS

9 FRIDAY

NEW MUSIC MIAMI FESTIVAL: GUEST COMPOSER SEBASTIAN MARINE AT THE SPANISH CULTURAL CENTER
WHEN: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
WHERE: Spanish Cultural Center

SPC MOVIE "CAPTAIN AMERICA"
WHEN: 5&8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC 140

WORKSHOP: WHEN CHILDREN REFUSE SCHOOL: A PRESCRIPTIVE TREATMENT APPROACH
WHEN: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
WHERE: MMC AHC 1 Room 140

ENGAGE WORKSHOP: IDEAS FOR GROWING YOUR CLUB ORGANIZATION
WHEN: 12:30-1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC 314

10 SATURDAY

IPSA - COPYRIGHT REGISTRATION EVENT
WHEN: 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC RBD 1000

DIVERSITY WEEK CULTURE FEST
WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC Pit

FIU THEATRE PRESENTS: ARABIAN NIGHTS
WHEN: 8-10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: General Admission \$15.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff \$12.00, FIU Students and FIU Alumni Association Members \$10.00
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Main Stage

11 SUNDAY

FIU THEATRE PRESENTS: ARABIAN NIGHTS
WHEN: 2-4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: General Admission \$15.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff \$12.00, FIU Students and FIU Alumni Association Members \$10.00
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Main Stage

IPSA - COPYRIGHT REGISTRATION EVENT WHEN: 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC RBD 1000

FIU BASBALL VS. FORDHAM
WHEN: 1-7:30 p.m.
WHERE: HOME

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED EMAIL:
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Students unaware of Chick-fil-A's anti-gay endorsements

PAOLO RAMOS
Staff Writer
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Our University is known for being diverse and respectful of culture and race but most students are unaware that they are indirectly supporting a prejudiced cause.

Most students at FIU will be able to tell you how good Chick-fil-A tastes. What they won't know is that by eating at Chick-fil-A, they are giving money to a company that endorses organizations with anti-gay views.

Our University is supposed to be a school where students should not feel oppressed or uncomfortable; but by choosing to do business with an organization such as Chick-fil-A, the atmosphere on campus is tainted.

Chick-fil-A was founded by Samuel Truett Cathy, who infused much of the franchise's business operations with Christian values, which is why all branches are closed on Sundays, the day of worship.

As a result, Chick-fil-A has supported and been involved with several Christian organizations, most of which have anti-gay agendas.

The degree to which Chick-fil-A supports these organizations is extensive. Since 2003, Chick-fil-A has contributed over \$3 million through the Winshape Foundation, Truett's charitable organization.

Through Winshape, Chick-fil-A has endorsed organizations including Exodus International, Focus on the Family and the National Christian Foundation, all of which



NEDA GHOMESHI/THE BEACON

have demonstrated anti-gay rhetoric.

A particular incident mentioned in the *Huffington Post* involved Chick-fil-A co-sponsoring a marriage conference by the Pennsylvania Family Institute, an organization which directly opposed and contributed to the downfall of Proposition 8 in California and the banning of discrimination legislature in Pennsylvania to include sexual orientation.

Winshape has also held its own marriage retreats, with its contract stating "We do not accept homosexual couples because of the statement in our contract," as revealed by the organization Good As You, an Lesbian, Gay,

Bisexual and Transgender news website.

As a response to the growing controversy, President Dan Cathy went on record saying, "While my family and I believe in the Biblical definition of marriage, we love and respect anyone who disagrees."

This response is hypocritical in its use of the word "respect." To respect is to accept something for what it is and to not degrade or offend; Chick-fil-A has done the exact opposite.

By supporting anti-gay organizations, they are condoning their behaviors and ideals, which inevitably reflects the company's true beliefs.

If Cathy and his company truly respected homosexuals, they would withdraw their support from any organization that discriminates against not just homosexuals, but any other minority group.

Students at FIU are probably not aware of Chick-fil-A's shady transactions. These actions are barely observable on the local level. When asked whether or not he knew of Chick-fil-A's support of anti-gay groups, senior Daniel Sandler said, "I really had no idea, but it doesn't sit well with me. If you're gay, that should be totally fine and anybody or any organization that is against it doesn't deserve to be supported."

When asked if businesses like Chick-fil-A have a place here on campus, junior Deliamary Rivera said, "Definitely not. I don't tolerate any nonsense like what Chick-fil-A has been doing. I would do away with it all together. It just ruins the image of acceptance and diversity our school is supposed to have."

If the University wishes to continue to be a place of true diversity and acceptance, then the leaders of our school need to realize that having a business like Chick-fil-A on campus does not promote a positive attitude.

Universities across the country such as New York University and Duke University have already banned Chick-fil-A from their campuses due to successful student campaigns.

FIU students need to decide whether grabbing a bite to eat is more important than hurting fellow members of their community.

Limbaugh's commentary empowered by Democrats

ALEX SORONDO
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Rush Limbaugh, the conservative talk-radio star of current media attention for calling college student Sandra Fluke a "slut," does not exist.

At least not in the way that he and his producers would like for you to think.

The Rush Limbaugh we all know – the explicitly racist, sexist, deliberately naïve Republican shoulder devil – is a radio personality. He is not only a character, but a caricature meant to embody the comic extreme of the Republican ideology.

This is the Rush Limbaugh who poses on his website's background – and seemingly anywhere else he can – with a billowing cigar and the most pompous expression a human face can manage. It's the kind of face your brother gives you after successfully lying to your parents and getting you in trouble. It's a face that suggests he's beating you at a game you don't even realize you're playing.

All of this, the offense and the radicalism and the know-it-all posturing, is provocation. If you hate him, he wants you to hate him more – to hate him to the point that you can't stop talking about him, can't stop referring to his show in conversation.

Because a large part of Limbaugh's allure to his millions of listeners, perhaps more so

than his bombastic self-assurance, is the ease, the consistency, the efficiency with which he enrages liberals.

This is part of his trick. Limbaugh is an entertainer, and a large part of his success as a showman is contingent on his ability to cause a stir now and then, to make liberals gasp and tear at their hair and flip tables and miss the toilet.

And because he's so easy to despise – with the arrogance and the pig-resemblance and the sinful popularity – his detractors can hardly help but give him the negative attention he needs.

Another problem is that, silly a character as he is and much as he – in his own words – "illustrate[s] the absurd with absurdity," a lot of people take Limbaugh seriously, which makes him dangerous.

Last week, Sandra Fluke, a law student at Georgetown University, stood before Congress to request extended medical coverage that would encompass the price of birth control.

Limbaugh called Fluke a "slut" and a "prostitute" and, ever the sage, reasoned that the only way to justify "pay[ing] for [Fluke's] contraceptives and thus pay[ing] [her] to have sex" is to have Fluke "post the videos [of her having sex] online so we can all watch."

Understandable. Whenever one of my roommates asks if I have toilet paper, I often dispense it with similar stipulations. "Leave the door open," I say, "and I'll see what I can do."

Calling a college student a slut and a hooker

“We have allowed ourselves to get upset at what he says and have thus put him in a spotlight that has carried his voice farther and made him - both in terms of fame and influence - larger than he really deserves to be.”

for wanting to use contraceptives is, however, a little over the top.

According to hollywoodreporter.com, as of March 7, 43 sponsors have pulled their advertisements from Limbaugh's show. President Barack Obama has called Ms. Fluke personally to extend his support, and the Great Jabba himself, Mr. Limbaugh, has even issued a rare public apology for his choice of words.

It's gratifying to see Limbaugh sweat a little, to see that he's facing some consequences for his inhuman shamelessness. The fault for the resonance of his words, however, is ours.

For years now we have allowed ourselves to get upset at what he says, have responded to his words as though he were something more than a corpulent little shock-jock in a padded room, and have thus put him in a spotlight that has carried his voice farther and made him – both in terms of fame and influence – larger than he

really deserves to be.

As David Foster Wallace writes in his essay "Host," "The fact of the matter is that it is not [the conservative radio host's] job to be responsible, or nuanced, or to think about whether his on-air comments are productive or dangerous, or cogent, or even defensible."

The responsibility comes, first and foremost, on the part of the listeners and the non-listeners and how much power they will choose to give a public figure, how much attention and credit. This was a responsibility we lost our grip on years ago, apparently.

Maybe it's not too late to change, though. It seems, from his current susceptibility to public outrage (at least insofar as it dwindles his advertising) that the man can still be hurt; the façade can still be cracked.

Maybe we can all still do ourselves a big favor and just stop listening.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (500 words maximum) to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year. *The Beacon* reserves the right to edit for space, content and clarity.

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FACILITIES

Kovens center provides venue for insiders and outsiders alike

ALTAGRACE L. GUSTAVE
Contributing Writer
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Opening its doors in 1996, the award-winning Roz and Cal Kovens Center, endowed by philanthropists Roz and Cal Kovens, is renowned for its location and educational environment.

Being a member of the International Association of Conference Centers makes the center adhere to IACC quality standards which promise excellent meeting experiences with proper equipment such as in-room screens, in-room audio systems and fast ethernet port per room. Considering the isolated location of the center from the rest of the buildings and general population of the Biscayne Bay community, perception is often that the Kovens Center operates as a completely separate entity from the rest of the University.

However, the Kovens Center is a part of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

It works directly with the hospitality students by training and giving them the experience that

they need for their desired hospitality-based professions, which range from catering to event-planning services.

“We use the facility for us to teach classes through the Case Study rooms,” said CSHTM Dean Mike Hampton. “Most students in other hospitality programs don’t have that so it’s a great learning lab.”

The center is a professional oasis for meetings that range from corporate, association, and government, to training-and-development, team building, and virtual nature. Their Case Study rooms are intended for training and development.

“Meetings are our business. It’s what we do,” said Kovens Center’s Director Jean Harris.

Organizations conducting their meetings at the center are the primary financial contributors responsible for its maintenance and professional set-up. According to Harris, just for the 2012 year alone, and in terms of events and conferences planned, projections are expected to be well over \$1,000,000. The center has a fully-staffed and frequently operating on-site kitchen and is subject to weekly inspections. There is a ballroom on



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

The Roz and Cal Kovens Center hosts the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management’s Advanced Food Production course until the current renovations to the CSHTM’s teaching kitchen and restaurant are complete.

the second floor for conferences, as well as countless other rooms for meetings of all set-ups, based upon how large or small the meetings.

“We use it academically and

professionally,” said Hampton.

Other than conferences and meetings, the center holds open houses and open-site inspections by the interested general public,

to inform the community that their professional meeting and events’ needs aren’t far.

Additional reporting by Andres Bedoya.

OBITUARY

Hubert library loses an invaluable team member

NADRA MABROUK
Asst. News Director
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The Glenn Hubert Library has lost a familiar face from behind its circulation desk.



HERSHOFF

Nancy Sun Hershoff, Integrated Library System Coordinator and Planning Officer at the University’s libraries, passed away unexpectedly on March 3 leaving behind a staff that

feel as though they have lost a mother.

“She always went the extra mile for everybody,” said senior Library Technical Assistant Ana Cabrera. “She was like a mother to us. She worked with each one of us at one point and made sure things were going smoothly.”

She secured work-study funds for many low-income students who, without her, would not have been able to attend the University.

A native of Taipei, Taiwan, Hershoff broke from her own binds and earned two Master Degrees from the University of

Texas in Austin.

According to Cabrera, Hershoff worked to rearrange and redesign the library and helped with hiring work-study students.

“She used to take me to all of these Chinese restaurants and introduce me to new Chinese food,” said librarian Scott Kass. “She cared about what happened to this [University.]”

A scholarship will be established in honor of Hershoff, although the details have not yet been finalized.

A service will be held today at 4 p.m. in front of the Hubert library to cele-

brate the life of Hershoff with the rest of the library staff. All faculty and staff are welcome.

“One of my favorite memories of Nancy is her involvement in planning the first FIU talent show in 2009,” said Dean of Libraries Laura Probst.

“In addition to serving on the planning committee, she was tireless in recruiting performers from among her colleagues in the FIU Libraries. Her enthusiasm was infectious, and she was able to persuade them to share their talents with our community.”

STUDY ABROAD

Students to trek through Amazon during two-week trip

FILIP PANOVSKI
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During the 2012 summer B semester that begins on June 25, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and the Department of Biological Sciences will be offering an interdisciplinary, unique experience for students of all majors: a course sporting a two-week trip to the Amazon rain forest.

Students will be able to gain first-hand experience with exotic animals and plant life and learn about Brazilian culture in Belém, one of the largest cities in the Amazon region.

The course, Science and Environmental Communication in the

Brazilian Amazon, will focus on science and environmental communication with an emphasis on multimedia. The course will be taught by Raul Reis, the Dean of SJMC and Richard Brinn, professor in the department of Biological Sciences.

The first week of the course will feature discussions and lectures, as well as selected scientific readings aimed at preparing students for the two-week trip to the Amazon River estuary.

“I created the course as a joint opportunity for students to find out about Brazil and Brazilian culture and open their horizons,” said Reis, who had been teaching the course since 2002 at California State University, Long Beach.

“Technology made it easier for students to get more reporting experience, so the course became a little more hands-on toward the end,” said Reis, referring to the inclusion of video blogs and reports which students are required to submit by the end.

Reis invited Brinn to take part in teaching the course and add a more scientific approach. Student interested in the past has been steady: an average of 10-12 students accompanied Reis each year.

While general student input on the class is positive, the price for the trip can be a setback for some. The overall expenses come out to near \$4,000 to cover the round-trip plane ticket, which students must

buy themselves. There will also be miscellaneous expenses including potential boat trips and research center visits.

“It seems worth it,” said Kleopatra Markou freshman Biology major. “Biology students get hands-on experience with indigenous species and the journalism majors can report it.”

Tariq Darwish, a freshman majoring in Computer Science, doesn’t find price to be a deterrent either.

“Price is an issue for everything anyway, so it’s not that big a hindrance,” said Darwish, noting that the course would likely be a great opportunity to explore the world in a place aside from the classroom.

Alisson Ho, a sophomore Business Management management major, feels the price is “not a turn off, but a setback.”

Others, however, seem less enthusiastic after hearing the accompanying expenses.

“It sounds like an extended field trip, honestly. It may be a good experience, but if you need your own plane ticket, you could just go on your own,” said Samantha Meteyer, freshman Public Relations major.

Reis hopes that the number of University students that will be interested will remain around the average of the past.

“Students have gained much experience and insight from the course in the past,” Reis said.