

HOLIDAY TUNES



VANESSA PAREDES/THE BEACON

Students from the FIU School of Music gathered in the GC pit to continue their annual performance of holiday music. From left to right: sophomore Nicholas Lazara, senior Angelique Aguilera, and grad student Joseph Saenz.

BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS

Second road could have environmental impact

REBECCA BURTON
Contributing Writer

While most students who attend the Biscayne Bay Campus despise the school zone that seems to go on for miles on the only street leading onto campus, the construction of a second road would have had serious environmental consequences.

Vice Provost Steven Moll believes that another road is a necessity; but environmentalists at BBC are worried that the construction will pose a threat to mangroves that are crucial to the ecosystem of Biscayne Bay.

Moll has long thought of BBC as “Biscayne the beautiful” because it is located on what used to be an abundant coastal mangrove forest on a 200-acre piece of land east of NE 151 Street. The environmental impacts caused by the killing of mangroves is creating challenges for Moll, who wishes to expand the younger campus.

Moll said with three schools on one road, the safety of 12,000 students is at stake.

The options of the new road are either an extension of NE 135 Street, NE 143 Street, or

NE 163 Street along the Oleta River.

Moll strongly pushed for NE 135 Street, but North Miami Councilman Scott Galvin is strongly opposed.

Galvin, a University alumnus, said he helped make the area of the proposed extension into a nature preserve and worked hard to restore its natural mangroves. He even had a bike path installed along the new preserve.

“I strongly oppose the extension of NE 135th Street because it is a quiet, residential neighborhood,” Galvin said during a phone interview. “To put [a road] there destroys the environment.”

The other two options also require the bulldozing of mangroves. Red, black and white mangroves are native to South Florida’s estuary system and are key species to the rest of the ecosystem in north Biscayne Bay.

Zack Jud, a University doctoral student who studies the environmental impacts caused by depletion of mangroves, specializes his research in the history of BBC.

Before this coastal oasis was

FIU, Jud said, it was one of the most dense mangrove forests in Florida. In the 1950s, in the spirit of spreading American trade to Latin America, plans for an international marketplace were proposed. Interama, as it was named, never achieved reality.

Due to political reasons under the Nixon administration and bankruptcy, only one building was constructed for Interama before the plans were cancelled. That structure today is the Hospitality and Tourism Management building.

Unfortunately, the damage to the mangroves was already done. Most of them were dug up and made into sub canals of the bay. The extra land was to be a sturdy foundation for the buildings that never made it off the drawing board. The state of Florida then deemed the piece of land be used for educational purposes and it eventually became BBC.

According to Jud, 80 percent of the mangroves that used to be here are gone, the landscape has changed dramatically and so has the ecosystem.

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NON-PROFIT

Organization aims to help Nicaraguan kids

EISSY DE LA MONEDA
Staff Writer

Helping people in need has been on the University’s radar lately. From designing shoes for children in Haiti to designing sites for children in Nicaragua, the University continues to emphasize the importance of giving back to the less fortunate.

Its most recent accomplishment was the task of assisting the Imagination Federation with the usability and effectiveness of their social networks in order to raise money and awareness on the issue of underprivileged children in Nicaragua.

The Imagination Federation is part of Friends of Students, a non-profit organization founded in 2006 by students in New York; its aim is to

address the problem of poverty and homelessness.

The federation is the Floridian chapter of this organization and aims to help with the education of underprivileged Nicaraguan children in the community of Chacaraseca. The organization seeks to raise awareness in the U.S. on the struggles occurring in Nicaragua.

Established in 2007, the Imagination Federation is a graduate class’ response to the work of Civil Rights leaders Bob Moses and Vincent Harding. Originally, the federation’s goal was to create a learning community for teachers. However, with so much interest and participation coming from students, they decided to change

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FACULTY PROFILE

Prof. Yawney takes the stage

CAROLINA ALCALA
Contributing Writer

The day had just begun and students were sipping coffee as a man in a dangling burgundy shirt, dark denim jeans, boots and a smile walks into the room.

Michael Yawney rubs his full head of salt-and-pepper hair as his eyes look eager to engage in conversation.

Yawney, an assistant professor of directing, playwriting and theatre history at the University, has written several plays, including “1,000 Homosexuals.”

But his biggest challenge every day is to confront his bashfulness.

“I’m really shy,” he said as he tucked his head under his arms like a turtle. “I’m not good with self-promotion. It’s been a really big obstacle for me because I can’t go out there and say ‘I just came

up with the next big thing!’ Even if I did it’s a job for me and it’s not something I do naturally.”

“**Growing up in poverty made me happy to just be able to do what I’m doing.**”

Michael Yawney,
assistant professor
Department of Theatre

Some of his students disagree. “There is never a dull moment with him,” said Jason Caceres, a bachelor of fine arts student in the theatre program. “He speaks about every subject that he teaches

with such passion that it is actually an inspiration to sit and listen. He is one of the most encouraging teachers I have ever had to this day.”

Given his past, that may come as no surprise.

“Growing up poor has really affected the way I deal with certain things,” Yawney said. “You know, growing up in poverty made me happy to just be able to do what I’m doing.”

“I never thought I’d leave New York. I spent 20 years of my life there and I’d never thought I’d move or learn to drive a car, but here I am.”

Yawney is always working with his students, trying to get them to think out of the box so that their work on the stage becomes a tangible experience for the audi-

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COMING UP | Grads

Check out the Graduation issue on Dec. 12 for commencement names and a peek back at Fall 2011.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Fla. Attorney General will help co-host GOP forum

Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi is going to get a chance to help interview GOP presidential candidates.

Bondi is one of three attorneys general who will join former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee for a presidential candidate forum that will be held Saturday at 8 p.m. on Fox News.

Huckabee, a former presidential candidate with his own television show, has complained recently that some of the other debates have not had candidates answer substantive questions.

The Republican Party of Florida said that so far six candidates have agreed to appear at the forum including frontrunners Newt Gingrich and Mitt Romney.

Bondi has gotten national exposure because Florida has been one of the leading states suing to overturn the federal health care overhaul pushed by President Barack Obama.

NATIONAL

House votes to ease airport screening for troops

The House on Tuesday voted unanimously to allow military travelers on official duty to get a special preference to move through airport security checks faster.

The bill, approved 404-0, would give the Department of Homeland Security six months to devise a preference system for the Armed Forces. The legislation went to the Senate.

If the bill becomes law, the earliest beneficiaries would likely be troops returning from Afghanistan next year and their family members, who also would receive preferential treatment.

The government already has initiated, and is expanding, a more intelligence-driven trusted traveler program for civilians. Participants include travelers in American and Delta airlines' frequent flier programs as well as people who are part of three other programs.

– Compiled by Melissa Caceres

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 45 of *The Beacon* in the At the Bay section, the article "SEAS creates clean water program for African villages" incorrectly refers to SEAS as the School of Environmental Arts and Sciences. It is called the School of Environment, Arts and Society.

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

ENVIRONMENT

Experts analyze state palm trees

PATRICIA POLO
Contributing Writer

Florida's warm, humid climate and abundant rainfall make it a fitting environment for palm trees, even though only a dozen kinds are native to the state.

"People view Florida as a tropical paradise, and people have brought in non-native palm trees to symbolize the tropics," said Michael Ross, an environmental researcher at the University.

"Florida has imported palm trees from all parts of the world including Asia and South America. The Coconut Palm is not a native species in Florida but is something that everyone likes to see."

It also is one of the most attractive and most valuable of the species. Its wood is pressed to extract oils for dyes and finishes and it is a key component in parquet flooring and furniture.

"The Coconut Palm produces more than 60 coconuts a year," Ross said. "[It] can be used to make medicine for problems in the heart, kidney and liver. Other uses can be for food, candles, soap and an array of products."

Florida has more imported palm trees than native palm trees.

"Native palm trees in Florida include only 12 palm tree species," said

Scott Zona, green house curator at the Department of Biological Sciences. "Some of them are the Paurotis, Needle, Cabbage, Thatch, Silver and Royal palms."

"The Paurotis Palm grows in the wetlands prominently," Zona said. "It is the most widely distributed in the Everglades."

"The Needle Palm is a trunk-less palm that is small and shrubby and grows up to five feet. It's popular in Florida's landscape for both residential and commercial. Thatch Palm is used to make tiki huts and the Silver Palm grows in the pine forest."

"The Cabbage Palm is also called the Sabal Palm and it is Florida's official state tree," Zona said. "The Cabbage Palm produces heart of palm that is like an artichoke. It is edible and used to put in salads. However, extracting the heart kills the species of the palm and eventually the palm dies."

Palm trees are remarkably resistant to high winds and floods, which is why many palm trees in Florida remain after hurricanes and tropical storms.

They play an ecological role by bearing fruit for animals. Many palm trees like the Thatch and Silver palms produce small fruit, Ross said.

Some palm trees are on Florida's endangered list due to commer-

cial development, natural events and construction in developing areas.

Some endangered palm trees are Florida's Royal Palm, Silver Palm, and Thatch Palm. Florida and federal laws protect endangered palm trees. Offenders face legal ramifications from the state and federal level. Tourists can't imagine the Florida state tree being anything but a palm and Floridians see the palm as a huge tourist attraction that brings revenue into the Sunshine State. And researchers like Zona and Ross have a third angle of vision.

"For tourists in Florida palm trees symbolize a tropical environment that seems romantic," Ross said.

When people think of a palm tree they also tend to think relaxation.

"For most people palm trees signify sun-drenched beaches, vacations, stress-free living and Margaritaville," Zona said.

"But palm trees are also a fascinating evolutionary lineage of flowering plants, with enormous diversity and important ecological roles."

This story was researched and written for JOU 3300 Advanced News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevens in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. You can see this and other class work by going to thenews-wave.org.

Theater professor plays two roles



CAROLINA ALCALA/THE BEACON

Michael Yawney directed the recent fall production "The House of the Spirits" and has written several plays himself.

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ence. He wants the viewers to be able to feel, taste, smell, hear and see each emotion the actors go through.

"He's a really smart guy and well trained," said Wayne Robinson, associate professor of acting and dancing. "But I think what defines him is his ability to create an atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable, where everyone feels creative and is able to work."

The professor likes to keep himself busy and always has.

each one a story," he said as he motioned his hands on the table as if he had cars in them. "I mean, I don't know if every boy did that when they played, but each car had its character. I know now that what I was doing was directing them."

The artistic man who thought he would have to work in something like retail to make a living has spent his entire career doing what he loves, right out of high school.

He got into the "Experimental Theatre Wing," a four-year professional training program at New York University, where he graduated with a bachelor of fine arts. He then went on to graduate from Columbia University, where he earned his master of fine arts. Yawney got work within two weeks of graduation and started his own theatre company, Dock, with some classmates.

"It was a fast-paced production company and it actually survived," he said.

Yawney moved to South Florida to deal with family issues and began handling finances at Coral Gables Theater. He later got a teaching job at New World School of the Arts and became a full time professor at FIU shortly thereafter.

"He's a genius. He's literally a human theater encyclopedia," said Cassandra Escandell, one of his former students at the University.

The playwright enjoys writing about things he

doesn't quite understand. "1,000 Homosexuals" was inspired by Anita Bryant's anti-gay crusade of 1977, which prompted legislature to ban gay adoption.

"How can this woman think she's right? How does she convince herself that she is a morally driven person when her actions and thinking are so corrupt and morally bankrupt? I like to write about things like that because it helps me understand," he said.

Yawney is currently writing a play about an under-aged girl dating a man who is old enough to be her father. On Nov. 20, he finished directing "The House of Spirits," adapted by Caridad Svich.

Yawney continues to be the humble kid with a dream who grew up in New York. "A young lady once showed me the Gap [retail store] payroll and I thought to myself 'if I were working there, I'd get paid more, put in less hours and have a much more comfortable life,'" he said.

"But it just wouldn't be right. It's not for me. Nowadays, we struggle between money and the soul. We just need to do what's right."

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

HOME COOKING

Panthers look to extend their winning streak at home



SERGIO NASER/THE BEACON

Cameron Bell [above] goes up for a layup against Florida Memorial on Nov. 9.

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

After their last second victory against Coastal Carolina, FIU will play their second game in a three day span, having traveled to Atlanta on Dec. 1 to face Georgia State. Now the team is returning home for a game against Alabama State on Dec. 3.

TIMELY DEFENSE

Although Coastal Carolina shot 50 percent from the field against the Golden Panthers, FIU was able to make an important defensive stop down the stretch. The key moment before the game winning shot by Jeremy Allen came in the final 10 seconds of the game.

With the game tied at 62, the Golden Panthers were able to force Anthony Raffa to miss the jumper. Credit for the key defensive stop can go to film study that FIU had on Coastal Carolina in their

previous game against Clemson.

"They ran a play against Clemson where they cleared it out over the top... We had gone over that and we reminded the kids in the huddle that that could possibly be the play that they run," coach Isaiah Thomas said.

"They ran the clear out up the top and Jeremy happened to be the one guarding the guy at the top and he did an excellent job."

ALLEN LEADS THE WAY

Senior guard Allen is off to a quick start in the first five games of the season. His 15.8 points per game average leads the Golden Panthers.

In Allen's first five games last season, he averaged only 8.8 points per game. On the defensive end, Allen has made his presence felt. Allen's 3.6 steals per game is tops for the Golden Panthers

in his second season after transferring from Central Michigan.

"His defense is spectacular," coach Thomas said of Allen. "I think he's one of the top defenders right now in the country at his position. From when we first got him, his confidence has steadily grown. He's knocking down shots and giving us good leadership."

SCOUTING REPORT: ALABAMA STATE

Alabama State comes to U.S. Century Bank Arena on Dec. 3 looking to right themselves after a rough start to their season. Offensively, the Hornets are led by Termaine Butler, who leads the team with 15.5 points per game.

Kenderek Washington follows with his 14.3 points per game and three steals per game average. In their first four games, the Hornets were defeated by an average of 15.7 points per game.

FOOTBALL

Panthers must sit and wait for bowl fate on Sunday

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

All season long, FIU had control of their own destiny. Where the team ended up at the end of the year depended on the performance on the field, not any other game. Their fate now lies in the hands of other teams who are trying to bid for a bowl spot.

As of Wednesday, there were exactly 70 teams that were bowl eligible. The maximum number of teams that can be eligible after Saturday is 75 and at least 71. Anywhere from 1-5 teams that become eligible will not make a bowl.

WVU AT USF

As FIU fans sit at home watching the final week of college football games, they will have to cheer for other teams besides their own. It all started yesterday when West Virginia played USF. A Bulls loss will eliminate them from bowl contention, thus helping FIU in their hopes for a

bowl trip.

UCLA AT OREGON

The Pac-12 title game features Oregon vs UCLA (6-6). Even though the Bruins have six wins, they will not qualify to be bowl eligible if they lose, because they will not have at least a .500 record.

However, UCLA could get a waiver to be in a bowl anyway, making the loss mean nothing. Nevertheless, still go for the Ducks in this one, just in case UCLA does not get accepted if they fall to 6-7.

SMU AT HOUSTON

Eyes should also be locked onto three noon games on Saturday. Root for Houston to beat Southern Miss in the C-USA title game.

If Houston wins, they will go undefeated and lock up a BCS bowl, leaving C-USA with some spots to fill for their bowl tie ins. The only reason to be



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

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The Panthers will have to wait at home this weekend for the bowl selection show this Sunday, Dec. 4, to find out their destiny.

FANTASY CRUZ

As season ends, Rodgers continues to produce for owners

Between Black Friday and the NFL, it seems as though Americans are stepping away from the traditional Thanksgiving, where families spend all day together eating and reminiscing the year's past. I feel there's nothing wrong with a little shopping and football.

COMMENTARY



JOEY CRUZ

This can possibly be the only day during the entire year that America caters to both men and women. Who doesn't love the NFL and Black Friday?

Thanksgiving Day brought a plethora of lovely games where fantasy team owners were bound to be excited. As usual, the Green Bay Packers went on a tear, dismantling the Lions 27-15.

Aaron Rodgers celebrated his "discount double-check" dance twice on Thanksgiving, throwing the ball for 307 yards as well.

The second game on Thanksgiving featured a must win game for America's team: The Dallas Cowboys, who pulled a nail biting 20-19 win over the sympathetic Miami Dolphins. The star of the game was newly resurgent Laurent Robinson, who had an impressive 84 yards and two touchdowns on the day.

This was definitely a receiver's game, seeing that Brandon Marshall had nearly 130 yards and a touchdown. Jason Witten



MIKE ROEMER/AP IMAGES

Aaron Rodgers [above] has thrown for 3,475 yards and 33 touchdowns so far this season.

had a mediocre game with only 43 yards, but had a vintage sports jock moment when he was tackled into a Cowgirl cheerleader and immediately helped her up afterwards.

The last game of the night included the "Harbaugh Bowl," where both Jim and John Harbaugh went head-to-head for the first time in their NFL careers. It wasn't pretty, but the more NFL experienced Harbaugh got the job done.

The Ravens won 16-6. Joe Flacco had an impressive game throwing for 161 yards and a touchdown against a top-three

defense. The Ravens defense completely dominated the 49ers offense with nine sacks on the game.

THE TRASH BIN

Dexter McCluster (Kansas City Chiefs)- Thomas Jones and Jackie Battle are making McCluster look terrible. McCluster got first dibs at the starting job when Jamal Charles was left injured for the season. He quickly lost his job to Battle and Jones. The small back is showing no signs of elusiveness. Trash him.

Isaac Redman (Pittsburgh

Steelers)- Dwyer has caught the eye of Mike Tomlin and has kicked Redman to the curb. With Mendenhall on his way back to the starting job, Redman's career will be lost hope. Basura.

Pierre Garcon (Indianapolis Colts)- Not only are the Colts defeated for the season, but now Painter has lost his quarterback/receiver relationship with Garcon. Their offense isn't working and Garcon isn't in the mix. Trash him.

UNDER THE CRUZAR

Roy Helu (Washington Redskins)- The running back

situation in the country's capital is really starting to get confusing.

Just start Roy Helu since last week's performance was above and beyond every other Skins back. He has been the most productive back in a season that went from something to nothing. Washington Roulette.

Riley Cooper (Philadelphia Eagles)- With five catches for 75 yards and a touchdown, for the time being, Cooper is the number one target in Andy Reid's offense.

It looks like Tim Tebow isn't the only Florida alum making a name for himself this season. Vince Young loves the former Gator and will continue to throw to him. Swamp Thing.

Johnny Knox (Chicago Bears)- With no Jay Cutler pulling the trigger, Mr. Haney is really catching a liking for Johnny Knox, who had nearly 150 yards and a touchdown last week. Cutler is missing the rest of the regular season due to injury, and Haney's confidence in Knox isn't going anywhere. Here's Johnny.

CHASTISING CHAD

Chad obtains a meager 201 yards on the season to go along with a wretched 11 receptions. I don't understand why the Patriots haven't parted ways with Chaddy boy. They would have with anyone else.

Maybe Chad will come alive in the playoffs, but I highly doubt it. This guy is a waste of any owner's time.

Christmas Eve in Hawaii may be a bowl option

BOWL, page 3

interested in the Syracuse (5-6) vs Pittsburgh (5-6) game would be to see who FIU might face if they end up in the Beef O' Brady's bowl. Whatever team wins could play the Panthers as the last Big East team.

The team that loses will be out of a bowl. In the last noon game, go for Cincinnati to beat FIU defensive coordinator Todd Orlando's old team, Connecticut (5-6).

LSU VS. GEORGIA

LSU vs Georgia for the SEC Championship will not knock either loser out of bowl eligibility, but the Tigers remaining undefeated and going to the national championship will help.

It may be longshot, but

if LSU wins, then it will likely be LSU vs Alabama in the BCS title game, leaving an open spot in the SEC bowl tie ins that FIU could grab.

BYU AT HAWAII

There is an old expression that goes, "You can't have your cake and eat it too." In FIU's case, it's possible. Hawaii (6-6) is tied into the Hawaii bowl only if they win seven games in a season.

If they lose to BYU in the season finale, then that will leave an open spot in the Hawaii bowl that the Panthers can take.

So not only can FIU make a bowl, but it will be in Hawaii on Christmas Eve. Fans may have to gather loose change and start looking up tickets just in case.

NBA

Lebron excited over end of lockout

RACHEL COHEN
AP Staff Writer

With hundreds of boxes of food sitting behind them ready to be distributed to Brooklyn families, LeBron James and his famous friends were determined to stay on message.

More than two dozen media members crowded around James, Dwyane Wade, Carmelo Anthony and Chris Paul on Nov. 29, and question after question came about the NBA with a tentative deal in place to end the lockout.

Will Paul leave New Orleans to join Anthony with the Knicks? Are the new rules designed to prevent stars from abandoning smaller-market teams as James and Anthony did?

"As far as the ins and outs about the deal, we won't discuss today," James said. "We're going to discuss about how excited I am, how excited we are, about the game of basketball being back and about all the people who have been out of jobs

and the fans who have been out of watching basketball for the 140-plus days from the lockout. It's a great moment for all of us."

Paul can become a free agent after this season, and the new agreement would still allow the Hornets to send him to another team through a sign-and-trade deal to get something in return if it appears he's determined to leave. New York has been his long-rumored destination.

Paul insisted "my heart is in New Orleans."

"Ah, man, I have no idea about that different type stuff," he said. "I think right now the thing I'm most focused on is getting all these boxes out of my house in North Carolina and getting everything shipped back to New Orleans so I can get ready for the season."

Paul was in New York — at a community center in Brooklyn — for this day to help distribute 800 meals to local families through Anthony's foundation in conjunction with Feed the Children

and Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

"These guys are not even from around here, they don't even play here, but they came back to somebody else's community to give back, and I think that should be the topic of discussion today," Anthony said.

No such luck.

Anthony was asked about the scandal swirling at his alma mater, Syracuse, where long-time assistant Bernie Fine was fired after molestation allegations and coach Jim Boheim has heard calls to resign.

"My heart goes out to the families. I have no comment about the Fine situation or the Boheim situation," Anthony said. "That's a sensitive situation, a sensitive topic right now that I don't even want to go into."

NBA players and owners reached a handshake agreement early Saturday, and the four stars said Tuesday they were hopeful their counterparts would vote to approve the deal. Games would start on

Christmas, including Boston at New York and Miami at Dallas.

Somebody noted that James' and Wade's Heat had longer than normal to stew after losing in the finals. Wade agreed, though Paul interjected: "Not as long as us." Indeed, the Hornets and Knicks each lost in the first round of the playoffs.

"We're excited about another opportunity," Wade said of his Miami team that so polarized fans after James and Chris Bosh joined him there. "Hopefully everyone stays healthy and we just get an opportunity to come out every night and put our best team on the court and see what we get."

Weighty expectations also confront Anthony and the Knicks — with or without Paul — after he was traded from Denver during last season.

"We had a short run last year," Anthony said. "And now we get a training camp together. We get time to jell."

REEL TO REEL



PHOTO COURTESY OF BBC FILMS

Michelle Williams brings Marilyn Monroe to life in "My Week with Marilyn," a film about a young British actor getting to know the complex and iconic starlet.

Williams' captures essence of icon Marilyn Monroe

Capturing the essence of the magnetic woman, Marilyn Monroe, has been a great challenge. How does one portray one of the greatest female icons of the 20th century and do her justice? The actress must put aside the pedestal of perfection and show an innocent and lost woman, rather than the lavish star that many imagine her as.

"My Week with Marilyn" tells the story of Colin Clark (Eddie Redmayne), a young man who decides to use his family connection to Vivien Leigh (Julia Ormond) and Sir Laurence Olivier (Kenneth Branagh) to break into the

film business. He starts off as a simple production assistant on the set of "The Prince and the Showgirl," working as a gopher and flirting with the young wardrobe assistant, Lucy (Emma Watson).

It isn't until the star of the film, Marilyn Monroe (Michelle Williams), arrives that things turn around for him. In an attempt to escape the pressures from work and Hollywood, Marilyn spends a week experiencing the pleasures of British life with Colin.

Most of the charm of "My Week with Marilyn" lies in its lead actress, Michelle Williams. One cannot deny that Williams has talent, as seen in previous roles in "Brokeback Mountain" and "Blue Valentine," but tackling on a woman as complex as Monroe would seem like

an extraordinary challenge to most.

During the film, there are times where the viewer almost forgets that this isn't actually Marilyn because of the sheer likeness in expression. From the opening song and dance number, one can truly see how comfortable Williams really is in Monroe's shoes.

Putting her own spin on such a well-known actress was risky, but she delivers such a stunning performance that one can't help being completely enamored by her — just as the characters in the film seem to be.

She jumps from the sexy starlet to the struggling actress, shining brightly while also embodying the vulnerability that encompassed this woman.

However spectacular (and

MARILYN, page 6

What seniors wish they had known as freshman

SYLVIA SIMIONI
Staff Writer

Picture this: a mountain of paperwork on your desk consisting of applications to grad school, transcripts and 4000-level term papers; an updated, classier wardrobe with no trace of the gym shorts you wore for an entire month; and finally, the unsettling mentality that asks, "Where do I go from here?"

If you're a senior, all of the above holds true. You are graduating.

The saving grace of your anxiety is that you've already been through the process of adjusting to a new environment and hidden under your sleeve are the tips and tricks to four successful years at the University.

"The first thing I wish I knew are the addresses to the bars that don't card," jokes Stephen Meadows, a psychology major. "Really though, if there's something I wish I knew as a freshman, it's getting rid of my University Core Curriculum requirements as quickly as possible."

"See an academic advisor as soon as possible. Otherwise you're looking to stay here an extra year or two than intended — personal experience."

The mandatory courses listed under the University Core Curriculum are designed to give students a well-rounded base in their college career. It rests upon the faculty's belief that a foundational curriculum fosters intellectual development and enhances personal, social, intellectual and academic relations.

"Get your hands on the Plan of Study sheet for a few majors you're interested in," suggested Meadows. "If the majors you're pursuing are distinctly related, you'll most likely find that the same requisite fulfills both tracks. It will save you time and money."

Seniors also stress the importance of knowing the lay of the land.

Carlos Martinez, a computer science major, remarks, "I know this sounds ridiculous, but take advantage of the campus tours conducted by your peer advisor at [Freshman] Orientation. Every year I end up taking some class at a building I've never

been to and I never get a chance to look for it until the first day of class."

Some freshmen become intimidated by the power and mastery of their professors in the subjects they teach, but seniors advise not to cower in a corner — of the classroom, that is.

"I'm an athletic and fairly big guy: six feet tall and around 200 pounds. That didn't stop me from my contemporary international problems professor — all 5 feet and 8 inches of him — scaring the living daylights out of me for the first few weeks. But then I worked up the courage to meet with him during office hours to discuss a paper, and I was blown away by how helpful and sincere he was," shared Manuel Ortega, an international relations major.

"Most of your professors want to share their knowledge with you. They were once undergrads just like you and me. They understand."

Academics aren't the only layer of brick and mortar in the college experience that

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AP IMAGES

NON PROFIT

Students help Imagination Federation with marketing

IMAGINATION, page 1

the focus of the organization to a more global perspective.

Nicaragua was of immediate focus because so many members of the organization had ties to the country. Alex Salinas, Emily Sendin, Carlos Morales and Paul Feigenbaum run the federation.

"We want to benefit Nicaragua as well as the people involved and show them how to deal with these types of issues. We want to think of others rather than ourselves and teach people to be selfless," said Morales.

The Imagination Federation has taken eight trips to Nicaragua since they first began. The trips bring the children of Chacraseca food, clothes and

most importantly, an education. The federation has funded five homes and opened a secondary school in the area, since most schools are located miles away from the homes in Chacraseca.

In addition to the donations and new constructions, the federation created the Tengo Un Sueno or I Have a Dream project. The project supports 34 kindergarten and first grade students by providing them with uniforms, school supplies, lunch, teachers, school organizers and tutoring.

The project is a 16-year agreement among parents, teachers and school organizers to provide the kids with any necessary tools for academic success. The project's main goal is to support the

children from primary school to college. The federation provides \$20 a month per child in order for them to attend school and it does not include teachers' salaries.

With so many children to support, it is no surprise that donations and awareness are major contributors to the federation.

They have not had much success, but fortunately Professor Ben Lauren came across the federation after searching for service learning projects for his technical writing class.

Fellow educator Feigenbaum heard he was looking to help and told Professor Lauren about the organization's situation.

"Paul told me about the feder-

ation and it seemed like a worthy cause. I felt like students would understand and support the organization. The federation needed things that we could provide for them," said Lauren.

He assigned his class to redesign the federation's website, blog, newsletter, logo, website and blog content.

Without much experience in usability, the sponsors of the federation have not been able to achieve the level of awareness or money they require in order to keep helping the children in Nicaragua.

The federation hopes that the technical writing class can help them achieve that with more user-friendly, attractive utilities.

The class' main goal is to

provide the federation with sites that are easy to navigate, content that is easy to understand and, most importantly, an efficient and practical way to raise awareness and donations to pursue their cause for a better future for the children of Chacraseca.

When asked how she felt about doing this project, freshman Martha Altamiranda, a member of the blog design team, said,

"I'm glad we got the opportunity to help an organization with a great cause. Our skills as a class have allowed us to be part of a bigger picture. Now that my team has designed them a new blog, they will be able to transmit their experiences effectively and hopefully gain the attention and support they need."

FIT FOR LIFE!

Trendy HGC diet does enable weight loss, but at a price

Imagine losing a pound of weight a day while having a sound stomach for a month. H C G dieters see it as dream come true; I see it as a dieting danger.



RATASHA IRIBARREN

The HCG diet has grown in popularity because of its fast results, hunger suppression, and exercise free regime. HCG, or Human Chorionic Gonadotropin, is a hormone released during pregnancy that guarantees the attaining of necessary nutrients for proper fetal growth by using up the mother's stored fat, regardless of her caloric intake.

Dieters can either take injections or drops of the hormone three times daily to help suppress hunger and

burn stored fat instead of muscle. But with every diet, there comes a twist.

In addition to taking the drops, dieters must also consume only five-hundred calories a day. The HCG diet claims that by using a combination of HCG drops or injections, and sticking to a five-hundred calorie diet, clients can drop up to thirty-six pounds in one month. The diet works in three phases: The Loading Phase, The Maintenance Phase, and The Stabilization Phase.

PHASE 1: THE LOADING PHASE

During the first two days of the HCG diet, clients are asked to eat as much as possible. The rationalization behind this is that the surplus of fat will be stored away for essential nutrients and energy that the client will need later on in the program.

Also, the dieter must start

taking their HCG doses 3 times daily.

PHASE 2: THE MAINTENANCE PHASE

Following this food splurge is the most difficult part of the process. The dieter is now asked to reduce their caloric intake to just five-hundred a day and continue taking their HCG drops.

In addition, dairy, carbohydrates, alcohol, and sugary, caffeine containing drinks are strictly prohibited.

Instead, people on the HCG diet consume their calories from organic meats, vegetables, fruits, and fish. Also, they are only allowed two-hundred grams of lean meats and up to 2 servings of fruit a day to curb sugar cravings, and are restricted to specific low-calorie vegetables like spinach, asparagus, and cucumber.

This is where the dieting danger arises. Although there

have been many positive testimonials on weight loss from the diet, not everyone is feeling a decrease in appetite and an increase in energy levels.

Kimberly, a member of the Dr. Oz studio audience, was on the diet for forty days and lost twenty-five pounds. But she also lost her hair, and suffered from irritability and nausea while on the program.

"It was very difficult to sustain over that period of time. I felt deprived, I was hungry," she said.

Another studio audience member, Nicole, also suffered side effects from the HCG diet.

"About a week into it, I was extremely lethargic, I was tired, I had headaches, I didn't feel good. And two weeks into it I passed out"

Nicole consulted her physician only to discover that while on the diet, she

could be placing her health and life in jeopardy. As advised, she took herself off the program immediately. Her menstrual cycle vanished for a period of four months.

In addition to the side effects already mentioned, injections of the hormone can lead to blood clots, leg cramps, constipation, and breast tenderness. Extremely low-calorie diets in general can cause severe bone and muscle loss, electrolyte imbalances, and gallstones.

PHASE 3: THE STABILIZATION PHASE

The last stage of the HCG diet allows consumers to increase their daily caloric intake to eight-hundred for women, and one-thousand for men. Consumers are asked to continue this phase for twenty one days before returning to a normal healthy diet, and stop their HCG intake.

In order to refrain from

the common side effects mentioned earlier, Dr. Oz recommends never restricting your caloric intake below 1,200 calories without consulting a doctor.

According to Weight Loss Center.net, men need about 2,700 calories per day and women need about two-thousand calories per day to maintain their ideal weight.

A normal healthy diet consists of two-thousand calories for men and 1,400 for women a day. This is equivalent to about one pound of weight loss per week. (1 lb fat=3,500 cal).

There is no doubting that many people have lost weight on the HCG diet. But with a starvation diet of a measly five-hundred calories, it does not take a brain surgeon to see why it works.

Fit for Life! is a bi weekly fitness column. Look for it every other Friday.

Undergraduates should study abroad, take advantage

SENIORS, page 5

the University's upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time and attend that Club Fair they passed by at the Panther Pit or tailgate at the winning game of 2010's SunBelt football championship.

Mary Puppo, an anthropology and English double major and ambassador to the Univer-

sity's chapter of the International Student Volunteers program, encourages freshmen and sophomores to pay a visit to the Office of Education Abroad.

"Study abroad! Now is the time in your life to travel. Every summer I go to either Australia or New Zealand and volunteer for a conservation project and get to go white water rafting and sea kayaking. FIU has the advan-

tage of catering different overseas programs to a large amount of majors. There's something for everyone."

"You know that tango classes banner that's by the Wells Fargo ATM in Graham Center? I see it every single day and I imagine thousands of other people do, too! I've attended a few sessions and they're amazing!" said Janine Toledo, an education major.

"Pick up a few of those flyers you see pinned all over the Green Library and Viertes Haus. FIU is a giant school. Everyone can find their own 'niche' without feeling like they have to impress someone under false pretenses."

According to Toledo, that's what freshmen should keep in mind.

"Take a deep breath and enjoy the trip."

Poor writing and editing take away from believable acting

MARILYN, page 5

likely to score an Oscar nod) Williams is in the film, the rest of the cast has their ups and downs.

While Eddie Redmayne has looks and charisma, his character acts primarily as a catalyst to lure the audience into the loose story. We see much of the film through his perspective and are given his personal view of the lovely Marilyn.

Kenneth Branagh is terrific as Olivier, delivering plenty of one-

liners that add just the right amount of comedy to the film. Judi Dench is as respectable as always, playing the kind-hearted Dame Sybil Thorndike. Emma Watson, in her first role outside of the Potter world, does just fine in her barely existent role — proving to us that she can in fact be someone other than Hermione Granger.

Julia Ormond, who plays Vivien Leigh, lacks the command and presence that a star like Leigh knew she had, and Dougray Scott's Arthur Miller doesn't contribute much to the film.

With performances aside, "My Week with Marilyn" doesn't quite live up to the hype. It does an astounding job of setting up the mood of the '50s with its costumes, set design and music, but the film falters heavily in the writing.

Adrian Hodges, who has written for television, gives us a movie script that looks like it was made for television; this script is just what happens to be the vehicle for Michelle Williams' performance. Many have even gone as far as swapping "My Week with Marilyn" for "My Movie of the Week

with Marilyn." The new title is rightfully so in terms of its TV style.

We can see that the actors did the best they can with a mediocre screenplay, but there was no chance for the movie to reach any sort of emotional climax; such a screenplay leaves you teased and disappointed with the conclusion.

Sadly, Simon Curtis' directing isn't getting any better. One might expect a lot from a veteran television director, but Curtis seems to have settled for less than perfect with many of the bland

scenes.

It is really a shame that certain scenes are so choppy and awkwardly pieced together because, while the potential for a great and touching moment exists, the viewer can't feel much. Even with its poor editing and writing, "My Week With Marilyn" is still worth a watch, if only for the glorious Michelle Williams who has just enough magic to keep you under her spell.

Reel to Reel is a weekly movie review column.

ART BASEL WEEKEND EVENTS

FRIDAY, DEC. 2

- **F**k Me I'm Famous! by Cathy and David Guetta:** 11 p.m., LIV, \$200 via wanttickets.com, ages 21 and over
- **Fab 5 Freddy and Ninjasnik:** 7 p.m., Fountain Art Fair Miami, one-day tickets cost \$10 and weekend passes cost \$15 at the door
- **Entrepreneurship Workshop: Developing a Killer Business Plan, Part 1: Customer Value Proposition and Business Model:** 8:30-11:30 a.m., College of Business Complex, Special Events Center, \$50 per session
- **Keyboard Arts Series: Music For Piano:** 7:30-9:30 p.m., Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall, \$15.00 General Admission, \$10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, \$5.00 FIU Students/Alumni

SATURDAY, DEC. 3

- **Basel Castle 2011:** 5 p.m., Overthrow Castle, tickets cost \$10 at the door, ages 18 and up
- **Tom Tom Magazine's Art Basel Showcase with Holly Hunt, Snakehole, The State Of, and others:** 8 p.m., Churchill's Pub, tickets cost \$7 at the door
- **FIU New Music Ensemble at Art Basel Miami Beach:** 7:30-9 p.m., The Betsy Hotel, free and open to the public
- **Choral Arts Series: Holiday Festival Choral Concert:** 7:30-9:30 p.m., Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall, \$15.00 General Admission, \$10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, \$5.00 FIU Students/Alumni
- **FIU Men's Basketball vs. Alabama State:** 7:30-10:30 p.m., U.S. Century Bank Arena

SUNDAY, DEC. 4

- **Crosstown Rebels present Get Lost Art Basel with Damian Lazarus, Clive Henry, Lee Curtiss, and others:** Noon, Electric Pickle, tickets cost \$35 plus fees via residentadvisor.net, age 21 and up
- **Hard 2 Leave:** 11 p.m., Goldrush Miami, tickets cost \$10 plus fees via eventbrite.com, ages 21 and up
- **Breakfast in the Park with Joel Perlman:** 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum
- **The FIU New Music Ensemble:** 7:30-9:30 p.m., Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall, \$15.00 General Admission, \$10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, \$5.00 FIU Students/Alumni

WRITE TO CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED!

SGC-MMC COMMENTARY

Final council meeting of semester presents setbacks

A part from granting \$164 to the Theater Department, a portion of the necessary funding for production rights to "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf," the Nov. 28 Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus meeting, the last of the Fall 2011 semester, yielded little more than the same meandering contention of its inglorious past.

The issue was political parties again, though this time it was unintentional. The debate was prompted by

Senate Resolution 1113, the motive of which was a handful of benign alterations to the election code, nothing more radical than the addition of "required polling stations at the Engineering and Computing Center."

But, in presenting the elections code on the senate chamber's projector, attention was drawn to Section 6.05, which acknowledges political parties.

The section was written by the 2010 SGC-MMC before there was any discussion of implementing a political party system.

Inspired by the verdict of Mujica vs. Elections Board, which established that students cannot be kept from convening to form political parties regardless of order or disorder,

the parties section of the current elections code says just that: students have the right to form parties.

There are no restrictions, exceptional stipulations or structures to which they must adhere, other than that they follow the registered procedures of all other student organizations.

Still, in passing over it, a senator suggested that the entire section listing said rights should be excised, given that without yet knowing how our ostensibly upcoming party system will function, we should not have pre-existing statutes.

Had the senators arguing for its excision actually read the section, had they even seen it before the meeting, they would have known that it would bear little influence on whatever shape

"The Nov. 28 Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus meeting, the last of the Fall 2011 semester, yielded little more than the same meandering contention of its inglorious past."

our party system takes.

It is beginning to look as though a party system of any shape or effectiveness is going to have to be drained from the senate, if it is to be had at all.

SGC-MMC had a shoddy start this semester, and was well-deserving of more criticism than praise, but its performance has improved considerably.

To see them stunted now from

excelling, from keeping with the track they were on, because they have to devote so much time to a project that the entire senate seems apprehensive about endorsing in the first place just makes it seem like it isn't worth all the effort that's going into it.

SGC-MMC Commentary is a feature that evaluates the student council's performance. Look for it every Friday.

Smoking ban needs revision

JUNETTE REYES
Staff Writer

The University should alter the tobacco-free regulation on all campuses to confine smokers to certain smoking zones instead of banning smoking altogether.

We are a smoke-free university without an official punishment for those caught defying the tobacco-free ruling made effective on Jan. 1, 2011.

As stated in Miriam Arias' article for FIU Student Media, published on Oct. 25, "...if found violating the tobacco-free regulation, students are generally asked to refrain from doing so again," until an actual punishment is decided upon.

While lacking an official punishment only encourages smokers to continue their habit, administering one for smoking is harsh and somewhat absurd.

I do agree, however, that non-smokers on all campuses should not be jeopardized by the actions of smokers, which leads me to suggest the usage of smoking zones as an alternative to the banishment of smoking.

The initiative "to ensure a healthier environment in the University," although theoretic-

cally good, is flawed, especially in the idea that this regulation can also serve as a way to help smokers quit their addiction.

The University has taken smokers into consideration by offering several services to assist those affected.

"The level of smoking can be reasonably regulated with the compromise of allowing students, faculty and staff to smoke on campus but only within certain smoking zones."

While helping smokers stop their addiction is ideal as a result of this regulation, it is unrealistic as well as intrusive to assume smokers on campus will want to change their habits because it is a possible outcome.

Smokers are not ignorant to the dangers of their habit, and if

they did not have any intention of quitting before the regulation, it is unlikely they would quit once the regulation was made effective.

Of course, the regulation would make it difficult for them to smoke during their time on campus, but the lack of an official punishment still leaves an opportunity open for them.

Still, the idea of a penalty for smoking seems ridiculous. If it is a slight punishment, then it can be ignored by smokers; if it is a severe punishment, then it is too much of an outrageous punishment for such a petty crime.

I think the level of smoking can be reasonably regulated with the compromise of allowing students, faculty and staff to smoke on campus, but only within certain smoking zones.

Non-smokers' right to breathe well will not be violated, nor will smokers' right to continue their habit be violated.

It is ideal to help smokers with their addiction, but only they can realize the harm their habit presents and change their ways. Enforcing a rule and punishing them for violating it is not the way to go about it.

University manages waste

ANTHONY PEREIRA
Staff Writer

We should strive to understand as much about our school as possible, and one important issue we should know about is how what we do in the learning environment affects the natural environment.

How we educate ourselves on the steps that are being taken around us to take care of our environment is a great way to display this social consciousness.

A serious issue that our school deals with on a daily basis is hazardous waste.

Hazardous waste is the name given to certain substances that can cause large amounts of damage to the environment in even the smallest of doses.

These substances are perhaps the most important things in the school when pertaining to how they are disposed of.

Homes, businesses and schools all require cleaning, and if the school is large enough it will most likely require a certain amount of landscaping.

Cleaning products and landscaping alone require very hazardous products that can damage the environment if not looked after properly.

There are many laboratories which all deal directly with large amounts of different chemicals such as ammonia, EDTA, chlorine, and phosphate reagents.

According to planetagenda.com, when many of these chemicals are not disposed of in the proper manner, it does harm to surrounding ecosystems.

What our school is doing to prevent these negative occurrences is working with the Interdepartmental Chemical Exchange Program.

This program was established through the Department of Environmental Health and Safety, and its sole purpose is to minimize chemical waste at the University.

Basically, what this program does is establish a network where different labs from different departments share information with each other on what specific chemicals they need and which ones they have an excess of or do not need.

Each department is required to keep an inventory and know how much of each chemical is needed and exactly how much would put them over the required amount.

What this does is ensure that chemicals do not go to waste, and it minimizes the amount of capital spent on these substances each year. It is a simple win-win situation for everyone.

The University is making sure to dispose of these chemicals after they have been used as safely as possible.

According to Environmental Labs Manager Seema Sah, the Environmental Health and Safety Department has established a team that goes in and collects the used chemicals, then gives the chemicals to independent contractors who dispose of the chemicals at their specific location.

Something that we might not be the most responsible about is the amount of chemicals that go into our local bodies of water via pesticides and fertilizers that we add to our grass.

While these chemicals are considered to be hazardous as well, there is not much of a safety net in place for them, as it is very difficult to tell just how much of these chemicals seep into our grounds.

A clear example of this is in the small pond just across from the northwest corner of the Owa Ehan building. Since there is no movement in that pond, chemicals from the pesticides and fertilizers allow for eutrophication and speeds up the growth of any plant life in the pond, sucking all the oxygen out with it.

This is a problem, and it is one that will not be easily solved, seen as how the natural alternatives, such as animal manure and composted food, often produce foul odors and would make walking around school a very unpleasant experience.

Our university, like any other, has its share of environmental issues to look after, and the key to those issues being moved forward is an understanding of how we are dealing with them, or not dealing with them. We have many improvements to make, like any other institution, but for now it seems we are on the right track.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Gerrymandering paralyzes democratic system, stifles change

There's been a lot of concern about the perverse influence of well-monied interests in this country, and how they erode our democratic system. But there is another problem that is equally damaging to the integrity of our political system - gerrymandering.

By altering districts to suit their respective parties, politicians have reduced our options for representation and curtailed the ideological competition that is vital to a healthy democracy.

As a result, in the last decade, nearly 80% of districts have remain unchanged in power, locking in the partisan divide that is paralyzing our system.

-Romney Manassa, FIU alum

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

RELIEVING THE STRESS



BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE/ THE BEACON



As part of release week, on Nov. 30 students were able to get their hair, make-up and nails done and even get a 10 minute massage all for free. **[Left]** Shanell Lemon, full specialist, is gets her make-up done as **[Top right]** Tashana Lewis, junior journalism major, is getting her nails done by Alexandra Zeno, freshman full specialist, and **[Bottom right]** Joleen Barry, cosmetology student, does Sofia Haspel's, freshman criminology major, hair.

One of a kind, underwater lab used to study reefs

REBECCA BURTON
Contributing Writer

Key Largo is home to one of the world's most vibrant coral reef systems, but overfishing of important herbivorous fish could threaten the health of these wonders that divers and snorkelers alike hold dear.

Deron Burkepile, 34, assistant professor of marine biology and oceanography at the University, discovered this in 2004 during a 10-day research mission on board the only underwater sea research vessel in the world, the Aquarius Undersea Laboratory.

Located in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, the Aquarius sits about 60 feet deep at the base of Conch Reef, about four miles from Key Largo. Aquarius is operated by the University of North Carolina Wilmington and is owned by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.

By living in the submarine-like pressurized habitat, divers' bodies become saturated with the maximum partial pressure of gas possible for that depth, a technique called saturation diving. Once their body tissues are saturated, they can dive for up to nine hours in one day, and avoid the deadly decompression sickness known as "the

bends."

After a long day of diving, scientists, also called aquanauts, sleep, eat and even use the Internet for days at a time, something unheard of in any other laboratory in the world.

This is possible from the Life Support Bouy that sits at the surface and is about 30 feet in diameter. The LSB is a platform that is connected to the sea lab and provides all of the gases needed for breathing underwater. Although convenient, the experience may not always be the most comfortable.

"The hardest part is being cold all the time, and constantly losing body heat," Burkepile said, referring to the heavy air conditioning used in the lab to keep the correct air balance.

Joseph Pawlik, 51, professor of marine science at UNC Wilmington, has conducted four missions since 1995 but has never been an aquanaut himself.

"I get cold too easily," Pawlik said. "But I never have trouble finding interested students to send down. The hardest part is denying students the opportunity to go."

The prolonged experience allows divers to conduct extensive research that would be impossible if they had to return to the surface often. It is also more

cost and time efficient. In Pawlik's most recent mission, he sent students to monitor Caribbean barrel sponges. The information the aquanauts found could be important to monitoring the future effects of the BP oil gusher in the Gulf of Mexico.

Scientists who want to conduct research using Aquarius submit grant proposals to NOAA. If the proposals are deemed useful, scientists are invited to conduct their missions. The research they find is to help benefit the marine habitats not only in South Florida, but also around the world.

The Aquarius was built in 1986 and was first placed in the Virgin Islands. Thirteen missions later, it was moved to Wilmington to be refurbished after damage from Hurricane Hugo. In 1993, it was moved to its current location, and has since been home to more than 90 successful missions, including Burkepile's.

The director of Aquarius, Thomas Potts, 46, said that since its time in Key Largo "scientists have acquired a long-term dataset that is essential to comprehensively and intimately studying and documenting changes in a coral reef ecosystem that could not be attained by disparate research projects alone."

Burkepile's mission is proof of

that.

His mission was to reveal the need for diversity of herbivorous fish in coral reef systems. Burkepile and his group made small cages up and down Key Largo's reef system to study how different fish eat different seaweeds.

"We got to eat, sleep, and dive," Burkepile said. "It was awesome."

After nine hours of diving for 10 days, Burkepile and his group of scientists found that certain species of seaweeds aren't eaten enough and their overgrowth could potentially harm the corals. He and his team also concluded that overfishing of certain herbivorous fish was affecting the seaweed balance and, therefore, the health of the coral systems.

Burkepile's missions along with others at the laboratory have helped produce more than 300 peer-reviewed scientific publications, but scientific research isn't the only use for the Aquarius.

Potts said the sea lab is also used for undersea technology development and for ocean education and outreach as well as a national training facility for scientific divers.

Unlike Jules Underwater Hotel in Key Largo, not just anyone can stay at Aquarius. Divers must go through five

days of additional SCUBA training.

"We had to go through intense training," Burkepile said. "Our instructors would mess with us, pull off our masks, and imitate actual emergency situations."

Potts credits the stationary position of the Aquarius to its success.

"I think the biggest benefit of the Aquarius is that it has been in place for 20 years in one location," Potts said. "We can document long term changes and have long term data, which is very rare."

Pawlik agrees.

"Key Largo is an excellent location with a great reef system," Pawlik said. "There is a lot of topography and internal waves. The longer the laboratory is there, the more valuable information we can get."

This story was researched and written for JOU 3300 Advanced News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevens in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. A version of this story also appeared on the website of the national conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists at the University of Miami. You can see this and other class work for SEJ at themiamiplanet.org or by going to thenews-wave.org

City councilman says University is 'stuck at this point'

NEW ROAD, page 1

"There are few natural mangrove forests left in this part of town," Jud said. "There are restoration projects being done, but not nearly what it used to be."

Jud, a specialist in marine life, said the real importance of the mangroves is to stabilize the shoreline and provide habitats for fish and other aquatic species.

"These trees provide crucial habitats for fish that we find economically and ecologically important," Jud said. "Fish we like to eat such as lobster, snapper, grouper

and stone crabs spend their juvenile stages living in the mangroves. By depleting them, we're depleting the fish."

Deron Burkepile, associate professor of marine biology and oceanography, agrees with Jud. He said coastal areas covered with mangroves produce more than 2,000 percent more fishes.

Burkepile also said the killing of mangroves can indirectly cause bleaching of coral reefs.

Certain herbivorous fish, like parrotfish use mangroves as their homes. When

mangroves are depleted, so are these herbivorous fish. Without these crucial plant-eaters, there is an abundance of algae that invades the corals. This then causes the coral reefs to become, in essence, "algal reefs," Burkepile said.

Moll understands the delicacy of the environment the campus resides on, but is made to face a tough decision.

"I don't want to destroy a seedling," Moll said. "But I am also responsible for the safety of the students."

Moll also said the ideal solution would be to build a

bridge over the mangroves, but money is proving to be the restricting factor.

Galvin said there is no money for the extra roadway right now anyway.

"I know what challenges they face at FIU, and the reality is that they're stuck at this point," Galvin said.

Though the plans of the supplementary road are nowhere near finalization, many "green" employees at the University are actively working to restore mangroves around campus.

Jennifer Grimm, environmental coordinator at the University, said that this

university, in partnership with Miami-Dade county schools, has committed to restore about 15 acres of mangrove habitat on BBC.

The beginning of the process began with removing about seven acres of Australian Pines, which are an invasive species, in order to replant mangroves in their place.

"The restoration will provide more habitat for wildlife, such as birds and fish," Grimm said. "Additionally, these ecosystems will absorb more water from sea level rise compared to that of an open area, such as

a beach."

Grimm also said there are plans to restore a portion of BBC into a mangrove-wetland system that will serve as a living learning lab for the university.

"This habitat will be protected for perpetuity," Grimm said.

This story was researched and written for JOU 3300 Advanced News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevens in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. You can see this and other class work for SEJ at themiamiplanet.org or by going to thenews-wave.org