

## Students falling victim to identity theft often

**JACKIE SKEVIN**  
*Staff Writer*

Below the Gulf of Mexico deep in South America, someone in Brazil pays a \$70 restaurant bill. The prepaid card is theirs, but the information is not. It was obtained by copying a different card's data and saving it onto a credit card machine, most likely at a gas station.

"I've heard about this before, but I never thought it would happen to me," said Vanessa Jerez, a senior hospitality major.

Jerez was a victim of identity fraud last month, but her problem didn't end there. Earlier this month, a second physical credit card was stolen and used to purchase \$217 worth of items at a CVS in Maryland.

Her bank notified her both

times through text message alerts – Jerez is not alone.

The Federal Trade Commission reported South Florida as the number one Metropolitan area in the nation for identity theft and identity fraud in the last two years.

And federal authorities in South Florida recently charged 45 people, in 30 separate cases of identity theft, responsible for at least 22,000 stolen or compromised identities. The identities were used in attempts to claim more than \$38 million in fraudulent tax refunds. Authorities say many were insiders that used jobs at places like schools to gain access to identities.

"While baby boomers are the biggest demographic to be targeted, college students are just as vulnerable if not more vulnerable" said Paige Hanson,

manager for education programs at Lifelock, an Arizona-based company that provides comprehensive individualized identity protection to customers nationwide.

"They are often at [graduate] school and job fairs which ask for their social security number on many of their forms, but just because they ask, it doesn't mean you should list them."

She advises students to protect themselves by limiting the personal information they give out, never leaving their wallets or personal information out on display in their dorms or apartments and running a yearly credit report on [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com) through Transunion, Experian or Equifax.

**SEE CRIME, PAGE 2**

## WINE TO WATER



MARGARITA RENTIS/THE BEACON

Dickson "Doc" Hendley (above), founder of the non-profit organization and author of "Wine to Water" – this semester's book for the common reading program – spoke to students about his journey providing clean water to 16 countries, some of which are UN no-go zones.

## Campus State Farm Lab offers financial guidance

**ADRIAN SUAREZ**  
*Staff Writer*

Anthony Da Silva, a junior majoring in finance, said he invested over \$300 in a stock that he said he was sure would skyrocket.

"Unfortunately, my wallet has a \$300-size hole today still," Da Silva said.

Situations such as the one in which Da Silva found himself are not uncommon in the lives of college students. Every semester students agree to the terms and conditions of loan contracts and some bravely tackle the complexity of handling stocks online without understanding the mechanisms.

Although the student population can

certainly ace a University-wide reading test, the outcome measuring students' levels of financial literacy would be best kept out of transcripts for fear of destroying a decent GPA.

"The reality is that students concentrating in any academic area need to have

"I am drowning in credit card debt."

Xiao Liu  
Senior  
Chemistry major

a basic sense of knowledge of how to build credit responsibly, understand the effects of student loans and gauge the consequences of defaulting," said Deanne Butchey, senior lecturer in finance.

"Students should have a strong understanding of credit – how easy it is to acquire and how difficult it is to pay back," Butchey said.

Credit is the building block of ensuring possession of capital assets in the future after college, such as a car and house. Understanding the importance of building credit and how to repair a poor credit score is essential to allow a student to be financially stable in the future, according to Butchey.

Though credit cards are popular posses-

sions among students on-campus, several students who own one seem to agree that they have difficulties when it comes to comprehending policies or simply paying for the cards on time.

"I am drowning in credit card debt," said Xiao Liu, a senior chemistry major. "But it's my fault because I didn't even know what I was getting myself into when I got the cards."

Liu is not alone.

Several of the students interviewed shared the same sentiment, adding that they would have appreciated some form of guidance when taking out their credit

**SEE FINANCES, PAGE 2**

## Panthers making an international difference in Nicaragua

**DESTINEY BURT**  
*Contributing Writer*

Women and children in El Crucero, Nicaragua, journey down a steep hill with old containers to fetch green water from a reservoir to do their laundry.

Each spring break, students from the International Business Honor Society take a week-long trip to the town to help these people. Last year, they recognized the lack of clean water in the San Julia village and the treacherous three-mile trip people had to make to retrieve it and decided to make it their mission to help.

"This is a huge challenge for a small organization, that's why we are looking at it as a University-wide campaign," said Maria Del Caprio, an international business

graduate.

To alleviate the San Julia village's quest for water, the society recently launched their campaign One Student, One Dollar. The goal of this campaign is to raise money from University students, in hopes that it can raise a dollar for each student enrolled – about \$50,000 – to build a well in San Julia.

San Julia is a small village made of 300 people in El Crucero, Nicaragua. The group that aids their village is made of 16 women who have been working together to fight circumstances of extreme poverty in the community of 63 families.

A lasting visual that Luis Terron, senior international business major, will never forget is the living conditions of the villagers.

**SEE BUSINESS, PAGE 2**



PHOTO COURTESY OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS HONOR SOCIETY

International Business Honor Society students say goodbye to the people of San Juan village in Nicaragua during last year's spring break mission trip.



## WORLD NEWS

### Chemical weapons inspectors in Syria miss deadline

International inspectors overseeing the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons stockpile have missed an early deadline in a brutally tight schedule after security concerns prevented them from visiting two sites linked to Damascus' chemical program. Experts from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons were to have checked all 23 of Syria's declared chemical sites by Sunday, but the organization said Monday that inspectors have visited only 21 because of security issues. While there are no consequences for missing the deadline, the group's failure to meet it underscores the ambitious timeline as well as the risks its inspectors face in carrying out their mission in the middle of Syria's civil war.

### Israeli leader faces uproar over prisoner release

Israel's prime minister faced a political uproar from across the political spectrum on Monday over the planned release of 26 Palestinian prisoners, all according to authorities convicted on murder charges connected to deadly attacks on Israelis. Tuesday's release is part of a U.S.-brokered agreement that restarted peace talks with the Palestinians over the summer. It is the second of four planned releases of the longest-serving Palestinian prisoners held by Israel in the coming months.

The overnight announcement of the prisoner names triggered a storm of criticism.

### Europe mulls sanctions against US over spying

The United States could lose access to an important law enforcement tool used to track terrorist money flows, German officials said Monday, as Europe weighs a response to allegations that the Americans spied on their closest European allies. Spain became the latest U.S. ally to demand answers after a Spanish newspaper reported that the National Security Agency monitored more than 60 million phone calls in that country during one month alone. The report Monday in the daily El Mundo came on the heels of allegations of massive NSA spying in France and Germany, including Chancellor Angela Merkel's own cellphone. With European leaders dissatisfied with the U.S. response so far, officials have been casting about for a way to pressure Washington to provide details of past surveillance and assurances that the practice will be curbed.

For more world news, check out  
[FIUSM.com](http://FIUSM.com).

# Identity theft growing concern

## CRIME, PAGE 1

However last semester, FIU Chief of Police Alexander Casas said that in regards to petty theft on-campus "people are just leaving their stuff around. It's an opportunistic crime where someone will go use the bathroom and leave their laptops and stuff like [that]."

Non-traditional forms of theft can easily occur on smartphones and tablets. Websites like Amazon give them the option to create an account and a credit card profile, but students shouldn't be so quick to do it even if it's one they use all the time.

"Your smartphone conserves data and is always looking for a strong wireless connection. You don't know if that network is secure and people are always looking for ways to grab your information anonymously," said Hanson.

The Javelin Strategy & Research reported that familiar fraud accounts for 12 percent of victims – 12.6 million cases.

"Since close friends and family are often involved, many hesitate before reporting them," said Hanson.

“Students falling victim to identity theft.”

Vanessa Jerez  
Senior  
Hospitality major

"The authorities can make this call, but many still don't press charges."

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act guarantees privacy of students education and personal records including social security information, tax returns, addresses and phone numbers to all state or local education agencies that receive federal education funds.

The University's regulations in relation to FERPA state: "The University will not release or permit access to educational records and personally identifiable information kept on a student except as otherwise permitted by law and this regulation."

If a students wants to release their records, they must fill out a form at their institution explaining the reason

and what specific part of their record they wish to release.

Cumulative Academic Records and Student Financial Aid records are kept by the Office of the Registrar and the Director of Financial Aid respectively. Both are the likeliest to have the information needed for someone to be a victim of identity theft.

Hanson says if a student finds themselves in an identity theft or fraud situation, they should contact the police, make a report and send a formal letter to one of the credit bureaus explaining what happened so their score is not affected by possible fraudulent purchases.

Afterwards, they should also report it to the Federal Trade Commission at [ftc.gov](http://ftc.gov) so that law enforcements can use these cases to track future ones.

"After these incidents happened to me, I researched what to do online," said Jerez. "I was surprised how easy it is. Now I will make sure to get an alert on all my accounts after a certain amount is spent."

-jackie.skevin@fiusm.com

# Financially illiterate can now seek help

## FINANCES, PAGE 1

cards.

Along with the issue of credit card debt, student loan debt seems to loom over students' heads just as much. The idea of the college experience is so enticing that students disregard the fact of whether or not they'll be able to pay off loans in order to maximize their four-year enjoyment.

"Getting out of high school, I was all about the idea of going to college and getting a dorm, without thinking about how I was going to pay for it all," said Stephanie Borrelly, a senior majoring in religious studies. "So I ended up taking out too many

loans my freshman year."

But fear not, Panthers: help is available.

"The State Farm Financial Literacy Lab is an open resource for students to get assistance in making sound financial decisions," said Katherine Grau, Lab manager of the State Farm Financial Literacy Lab. "Although the Lab aims to educate high school students primarily on how to become financially literate, college students are welcome to come in and receive guidance from the student interns."

According to Grau, students are able use the lab to conduct financial research and learn how to navigate through the

## STATE FARM FINANCIAL LITERACY LAB SCHEDULE

Monday:	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday:	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday:	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday:	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday:	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday:	1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday:	12 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Modesto Maidique Campus  
College of Business Complex 252

Bloomberg database it has available. this will serve me greatly when I am in the business world."

"Because of the lab I know how to work with Bloomberg," said Stephanie Corteguera, a junior majoring in finance. "And

-adrian.suarez@fiusm.com

## THE BEACON

### EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
BRANDON WISE

PRODUCTION MANAGER/  
COPY CHIEF  
JENNA KEFAUVER

NEWS DIRECTOR  
MADISON FANTOZZI

ENTERTAINMENT DIRECTOR  
DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS

SPORTS DIRECTOR  
FRANCISCO RIVERO

OPINION DIRECTOR  
JUNETTE REYES

PHOTO EDITOR  
STEPHANIE MASON

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

# International Business Honor Society students help Nicaraguan village

## BUSINESS, PAGE 1

"The houses had a huge impact [on me]— they are small, worn down and they have to cook the old way with fire and black smoke filling up their house from the burner," Luis said. "They brought their water up a big hill, similar to how they do in Africa."

Last spring, the society helped with a coffee farm the women created to provide for their community. The women of San Julia did not have coffee bags to sell their finished product and 70 percent of their profit would be lost if sold raw.

The society provided them with the coffee bags and created a logo for the product to maximize profits. Though that seems like a small difference, it

went a long way in San Julia.

"One little thing doesn't seem like it makes a difference, but making a logo is easy for us and challenging for them, so they were very appreciative," Del Caprio said.

Working to harvest the coffee farm, the students saw scarcity of water in the village.

San Julia, located in a rural area with unpaved dirt roads, has a difficult trek to access fresh water.

"The water source was very scarce and rainy days often made it impossible for them to walk the three miles to go find water," Del Caprio said.

The students of the International Business Honor Society want to help out the village of San Julia by doing something more than giving charity –

they want to provide the village with business analysis.

They want to help San Julia by addressing one issue at a time and in order to do that, they need help from the University community to have the funds to do so. The International Business Honor Society will be holding three happy hour fundraising events next month.

"There are so many things to improve in the village, that it sometimes gets overwhelming," said Del Caprio.

Students can donate to the International Business Honor Society's cause on its website at [ibhs.fiu.edu](http://ibhs.fiu.edu).

-news@fiusm.com

## The perks of group work at the University level and beyond

**MOISES FUERTES**  
*Staff Writer*

Most of us begin our courses with a syllabus in hand which includes a group project.

From my experience, the majority of students dread the

resources expert of the Society for Human Resource Management, “few understand how to create the experience of teamwork or how to develop an effective team.”

There is, however, a very distinct difference between work groups and teams. In

everyone relies on one another to get the work done. This type of group has the highest potential to become a team. Incidentally, teams are known to produce the best results in any work environment.

The key here is that everyone must be a manager of sorts while working with a team. The playing field can only be even if everyone is responsible enough to work hard, swap roles on the go and emphasize the team above their own ambitions. This is the direction I believe our courses at FIU lead group work, and each semester I see groups struggle and some students fail miserably.

Students don’t seem to realize that successful teams create their reality through hard work.

I’ve had members who never communicate, never show up to the class and don’t even bother to come to team meetings. These students all have one main thing in common: irresponsibility.

They all rush at the end of the semester to try and get

with the group, perform poorly in the work that they do and always disappoint everyone involved. I think this type of experience is why students dislike group projects, as there is a chance of ending up with a team member that is useless.

Here is some advice: let them sink.

A person that shows that type of attitude in the workplace would be fired. It’s that simple. Consider it a learning experience for that member and move on.

Inversely, I’ve had members that rise to the tasks, communicate effectively and interchange their roles to fit all situations. In these cases, the experience has been positive and fulfilling, and it has shown itself through the work done.

This too is part of the experience that these projects are meant to give us, all while giving us insight that we will likely use after we graduate.

The lessons are there for those who wish to see them.

*moises.fuertes@fiusm.com*

“Perhaps the most valuable, and real world, experience our courses attempt to emulate are those that revolve around groups.”

assignment.

They shouldn’t.

Perhaps the most valuable, and real world, experience our courses attempt to emulate are those that revolve around groups. The reality is that wherever we end up working, we will have to do so with other people. Yet, according to Susan M. Heathfield, a human

resources expert of the Society for Human Resource Management, “few understand how to create the experience of teamwork or how to develop an effective team.”

There is, however, a very distinct difference between work groups and teams. In

## Deciding whether to eat in or dine out

**ADRIANNE RICHARDSON**  
*Contributing Writer*

“Money doesn’t grow on trees, and even if it did, we would spend it on food alone!”

My mother is infamous for this statement and, as I grew older, I began to understand this saying – especially in college.

The love I had for food before I started college was irreplaceable and never ending.

Food was my company all the time. I would even make way for midnight snacks and go out to eat on occasion. But, I wasn’t paying for food at the time and so I never really thought about the cost of it.

Food adds up!

Freshman year, I would long for my mother’s homemade food, but that was just preference.

The meal plan included Panther Bucks which made it easier to buy food on campus or go to Fresh Foods. Now, I am a sophomore and I no longer have a meal plan. I have to pay extra to obtain one and the funds just aren’t there.

I used to purchase food on campus,

not realizing how the dollar amount slowly adds up.

If you buy food on campus you are likely spending \$5 or more, depending on where you go.

For example, I love Subway but I had to cut back because \$6 a sandwich made it seem like there was a hole in my bank account.

Often, I complain about being hungry or not having enough money at the moment to splurge on food like I want to.

Since I don’t have a meal plan, I have to buy groceries nearly every two weeks so that I can cook for myself when I’m in my dorm.

Even though I have food, I have no money for anything else. Sometimes I don’t even see my paycheck.

If I am living on campus and am struggling because of the price of food, I know students who live off campus are!

“Rushing from home and driving to school for class, I want to eat something. I have money but sometimes the price of food is ridiculous.... I end up having to buy it anyway because I don’t have time to make something at home. This isn’t elementary school,” said sophomore nursing major Wedline Jean.

The only solution I can give to this issue is to prepare food before going to class, whether you live on campus or off.

At least pack a granola bar. You’ll need it or you’ll fall victim to the price of food.

Every now and then you can buy something, but not every day. That’s not a smart decision, unless you have money like Bill Gates.

Nowadays, I find myself eating for substance and not for pleasure like I used to. Times are hard and I appreciate my parents more and more because they provided food for me without me knowing the difficulty of it.

In conclusion, pack those lunches and start saving your dollars until we find money trees! To the freshmen, manage those Panther Bucks and share them with nice upperclassmen if you can find it in your heart to do so. The luxury won’t always be there and one of us may help you when that luxury of a meal plan goes away.

Cheers to a full stomach and great semester!

Thank me later!

*-opinion@fiusm.com*

**THE BEACON** | Editorial

## Traffic lights/parking problems need to be addressed

The University’s Department of Parking and Transportation needs to reconsider who handles its University-wide communication.

Student Media has noticed the department has failed to successfully and timely notify the University of certain parking lot and garage closures, especially during the weekdays.

Without proper and timely notification of lot/garage closures, students are left at a disadvantage when scrambling for parking spots in the morning hours, trying to get to class on time. This can lead to tardiness to a class or exam. Should such an event occur during mid-terms or finals, a student may run the risk of missing an examination, all due to not being able to find a parking space.

Many times, students are never notified that parking spots are blocked off for special events on campus until they pull in. People won’t find out until they reach the top floor of the parking garage before being directed to go back down because of “X Event.”

Another area that the department also needs to improve on are the traffic lights on 109th Avenue and University Drive. Despite being present for at least a year, the traffic lights are improperly coordinated, leading to a daily morning traffic jam of vehicles trying to cross the intersection. Even on the weekends, the lights lengthiness creates lines of cars at a time of the week when vehicular traffic is considered to be at its lowest.

While that intersection is very important for pedestrian traffic to be able to cross out of PG5 and Red Garage, drivers need to be given proper time to get through the intersection without wasting time waiting on a red light. The lights should not take as long to change during peak hours as they do during later less-congested hours of foot traffic.

While we do recognize that the department has maintained a good record of warning housing students of lot closures due to football games, the same cannot be said for special events that are dispersed during the week.

While we previously asked that the department improve the manner in which it sends out communications advising the community of lot and garage closures, it seems that a change is yet to occur.

All community members should be notified at least 24 hours in advance of partial/full parking garage closures. We also ask that time be taken to improve and fine tune the sluggish traffic lights. The department should take the time to analyze when there is a high amount of vehicle traffic and when there isn’t.

These changes may not be simple and quick to implement but we feel that they are necessary in order to create a more harmonious flow of vehicles throughout campus.

### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

### DISCLAIMER

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

### EDITORIAL POLICY

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



## Five movies to watch this All Hallows Eve

COLUMNIST



MARTELL HARDING

“Darkness falls across the land. The midnight hour is close at hand... Creatures crawling in search of blood... To terrorize your neighborhood...” Most of you are familiar with this famous monologue from Vincent Price on Michael Jackson’s famous song that brings back memories of past Halloweens. Terror and excitement are near so prepare the candy, the cheesy music, the costumes and the Thrillers.

All quotations aside, we’re not talking about music here. Halloween is the season of slashers, sci-fi horrors and paranormal activities. As we suit up to do some overaged trick or treating, we watch old favorites in hopes of reminiscing about love at first fright but, let’s be honest, you’re bored with the cliché Jason, Michael and Freddy. Well, I’m here to give you my personal

rundown of Halloween movies to check out this All Hallows Eve.

1) “Nightmare Before Christmas”

The Tim Burton classic is a must see for anyone with little ones in their lives. Although scares are still imminent this classic Disney wonder covers the delight of not one but two favorite holidays. This is always on my list for the fact that watching the opening sequence still sends shivers down my spine... from childhood memories, of course.

2) “Frankenweenie”

If you haven’t seen this hidden treasure, it’s time to take a trip to your local video store. What makes “Frankenweenie” essential to your Halloween experience is that it combines every classic horror film from the ‘50s in clever “easter eggs,” which proves enjoyable for both adults and kids. Even if you aren’t familiar with the references, it’s a Tim

### FIGHTING WITH FOOD



JAHREL FRANCIS/THE BEACON

Sigma Alpha Lambda looks to support the fight against breast cancer by selling goods, sharing pink ribbon pins, fluffy cotton candy and giving shirts to survivors. The cheer team and band visited as SAL sold Publix sponsored baked goods.

Burton film, so you should watch it anyway.

3) “Cabin in The Woods”

This is one of those surprisingly great cult classics. What may seem to be your normal slasher or zombie film quickly turns into something wildly unexpected but extremely entertaining. Without

exposing any spoilers, I will say that ten people can watch this movie together and each person will find something to fear.

4) “Evil Dead (2013)”

This one is for all you horror freaks out there who were waiting for this article to get a little more twisted. This film is dark, terrifying and will prob-

ably leave you crying to mommy when the credits roll. As far as remakes are concerned, this ghouling experience takes the cake. Be warned, DON’T WATCH IT ALONE.

5) “Troll 2”

“What the heck is ‘Troll 2,’” you ask? What about “Troll 1?” Sometimes it’s better not to ask. Crowned

as “the best, worst movie ever made,” Troll 2 will leave you confused with every plot turn, but that’s the glory of this dreadfully awful yet hilarious horror film. What will scare you most is knowing that this movie was actually in theaters once upon a time.

-martell.harding@fiusm.com

## On-campus residents encounter the paranormal

ARIEL WEINSTEIN  
Contributing Writer

As Halloween approaches, students are becoming increasingly excited for the festivities and ghostly atmosphere at the University.

How spooky can the atmosphere become, however, until things start to feel real?

Students who live on campus in several dorms have reported unexplainable activity within their rooms.

Halloween is the time to be scared and scare others – but when there is no one involved in the pranks being conducted, maybe it’s time to start believing in ghosts for real.

Vicky Garcia is a sophomore majoring in psychology.

Last year, she lived in Panther Hall with her roommate Sofia Rodriguez, an advertising sophomore. Both Garcia and Rodriguez started to believe in a University ghost on September 1, 2012.

On the eve of Rodriguez’s birthday, the two girls were relaxing in their Panther Hall double suite.

As they were focused solely on their homework, a vibration occurred and their attention was averted from their work. The vibrations continued, and they began to question each other thinking that the other’s phone was going off. Looking

down however, both phones were on their beds. As time passed they grew more curious and began searching for the source of the vibrations.

They realized the vibrations pulsed from in between their desks, and as they searched they found nothing. Soon enough, the vibrations stopped and they gave up with the thought that it must have been someone’s phone who came over that night.

As time passed the mysterious phone was not found or claimed, but it did ring again. A few weeks after the first event, it vibrated again; this time being more peculiar. For the simple fact that if the source of the vibration was a phone, or any electronic, the battery surely would have died out weeks later.

So, quickly, they followed the noise to the same spot and searched more frantically only to find nothing again. This unanswered phone continued to vibrate at any given time, when they were together or apart, and the source of it was never found.

When questioned about the events both Garcia and Rodriguez agreed on the creepy feeling as said by Rodriguez: “the creepiest part was that the object never died, it just kept vibrating, and when we moved the desks around we found nothing – just nothing. It was really like there was a ghost in the room making those noises

just to scare us. It was just creepy.”

This year, the two girls live together again on the tenth floor of University Towers dorm. Since moving in, they have found unexplainable behaviors in Towers as well, also witnessed by their current roommates.

One evening while Rodriguez was out and Garcia was in bed, Marisol Gutierrez, a sophomore business major, and Caroline Sanchez, a public relations major, were watching a movie in Gutierrez’s room when they heard the main door to the suite

“...some supernatural being had opened the door...”

open from the inside and close.

When, two seconds later, someone yelled “Hello,” they figured it was Rodriguez just getting back, and said they were in the room. Nothing else happened or words exchanged until the next day when Rodriguez walked in and Gutierrez asked why she didn’t stop by the room to say

hello.

When Rodriguez claimed she was unaware of what she was talking about, as she had stayed the night at a friend’s, Garcia insisted the door never even opened that night.

After a long debate as to whether the door had opened, Gutierrez and Sanchez became frightened, believing some supernatural being had opened the door, swearing they heard a voice and the door had opened.

Sanchez exclaims, “I know the door opened that night. Marisol heard it as well so we’re not crazy.”

Garcia, however, who insists she wakes up at the slightest footstep in the suite, explains there is no way the door would have opened and she not hear it – especially if someone had called out, “Hello.”

Once again the girls came to the conclusion that the only logical explanation was that there was, without a doubt, a ghost within the walls of the dorms at the University.

-life@fiusm.com



# “Sky’s the Limit” fails to take off and impress

COLUMNIST

IN HER WORDS

ROBERTO TRIGO-LOPEZ

In the album “Sky’s the Limit,” a superhero artist by the name of Capeech Cappuccino comes to the rescue to save the masses from crime, villainous fake rappers and oppressors of the poor with his fresh flow, microphone of Mjolnir and superb beats. Robert Douglas (Cappuccino’s real name) was born and raised in Toronto. The album “Sky’s the Limit,” according to the masked avenger, focuses on being close to God, rising above adversity and growing up in the concrete jungle to become your own superhero. Douglas started rhyming after his friend became the victim of gang violence.

The two songs that really stand out on the album are the tracks “For You” and “Patty Cake.” “For You” is about the

struggles of poverty and how the situation hasn’t changed since the times in which slavery was prevalent. The strong control the weak in this world where the weak are forced to live hard lives among violence and gangs. The premise of this song is solid and manages to work pretty well; however, the song is a bit lengthy for a mostly strophic form. In addition, in the song “Patty Cake,” Cappuccino speaks of the time that he was forced to deal drugs to make a living and that the act of making drugs was like “Patty Cake,” a children’s game.

However, the rest of the tracks are whack. The beats in every track are uncreative except for “Patty Cake,” “Little Child” and “Sky’s the Limit.” The rapper does not seem like he is having fun or actually creating art, but instead raps in order to get to a life of fame. He does not take risks or rap from the heart, instead he raps

“  
He does not take risks or rap from the heart, instead he raps to appeal “likes” on Facebook, desperately trying to get attention.”

to appeal “likes” on Facebook, desperately trying to get attention. For example, the song “Tribute” is monotone throughout and the words are incomprehensible due to his bad articulation.

The beats in this song are extremely bland. Overall, the song is solely comparable to the noise created by an analog TV with no signal.

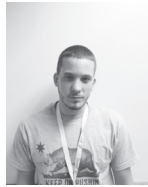
The album has an excellent premise and does in fact have moments of greatness, however the overall quality of the album is mediocre at best. Cappuccino’s flow is not fresh, but instead very predictable and awkward.

And as for poetic premise he leeches off the stereotypical conflicts of the ghetto without creating any emotion or putting the listener into his situation. The tragic hero “Capeech Cappuccino” falls to the temptation of fame and sells his soul out before actually creating any work of genius. Cappuccino comes dressed up to the show as a superhero, but falls flat on his face tripping over his own cape.

-life@fiusm.com

# The unnatural feeling of becoming a naturalized citizen

COLUMNIST



RUBEN PALACIOS

Becoming a naturalized citizen of the United States is a little like turning 21 in that you die inside with the anticipation, but don’t really feel any different once it happens.

This past Friday, I sat in a room with 170 people from 38 different countries, and we were all there for the same reason: to become U.S. citizens.

But, other than that, we had very little in common.

These people were all much older than me. They had lived the majority of their lives in another country, and were now beginning new endeavors here in the United States.

I, on the other hand, arrived here from Cuba when I was five years old, and have lived the vast majority of my life in America. I, unlike the 170

people in the room with me, did not need a certificate to feel like an American.

The process as a whole was a little out of the ordinary.

When I first appeared at the immigration office to take the exam that would determine my citizenship, I encountered many people similar to those at my ceremony.

As I waited to be called upon to take my exam, I observed these people in nervous states of mind. Their insecurities wouldn’t let them stop flipping through their practice workbooks. This was a big deal for them, and a lot was riding on that exam. They reviewed the potential exam questions to themselves in butchered English and often answered in their language of origin.

I was finally called upon to take my oral exam, and felt no more nervous than my last trip to the dentist.

I was prepared for this exam, not because I studied

rigorously, but because the information that was going to be asked is such that any typical American would know.

After all, I am your typical American.

As I sat down, the immigration officer in front of me wasted no time asking questions.

“How long have you lived here?”

“16 years,” I replied, startling him with fluent english.

“Why do you want to become a U.S. citizen?”

“Well, I’ve lived here all my life. I think it’s time I take the plunge,” I said.

“Let’s get started then. First, I want you to write down the answer to this question. Where does the president live?”

“The president lives in the White House,” I wrote, feeling a bit demeaned.

“Good, I can tell this is going to be quite easy for you,” he said.

It was very easy. But I won’t forget the

disappointed faces of those who had failed the exam, and realized they were not going to become Americans, at least for the time being.

See, it’s easy for me to know that the governor of Florida is Rick Scott, that the first Ten Amendments of the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights and

that everyone is entitled to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

But for the 170 people in the ceremony room with me, this process was much more than passing a test. It’s about learning what it means to be an American. It’s about embracing new customs and new ways.

Today and for the rest of

my life, I am officially an American.

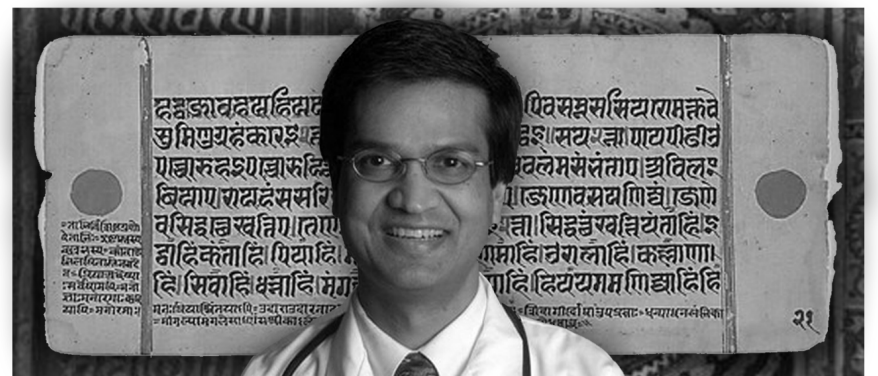
It was a seamless transition, as I embraced this country and accepted it as my own 16 years ago.

And on Oct. 25, 2013, this country accepted me as its own, too.

-ruben.palacios@fiusm.com

## Jain Studies Program

School of International and Public Affairs



The Second Annual Mahavir Nirvan Lecture

## Applying Jain Principles in Medical Practice

Lecture by Manoj Jain, M.D., Emory University

November 4, 2013 | 6 PM | Frost Art Museum

Dr. Manoj Jain is an infectious disease physician, a writer, and an adjunct clinical assistant professor at Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

Sponsored by  
Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship in Jain Studies

Co-sponsored by  
Program in the Study of Spirituality  
Center for Humanities in an Urban Environment  
Jain Education and Research Foundation

The event is free and open to the public

To RSVP, please call 305-348-7266

Please join us after the lecture for a traditional Indian vegetarian dinner

LOVE TO WRITE?  
ENJOY TAKING PHOTOS?

JOIN THE  
BEACON!

Pick up an application at MMC, GC 210 or  
BBC, WUC 124 or online at [fiusm.com](http://fiusm.com).



## Coley carries Panthers despite rough start



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Behind 45 points from senior guard Jerica Coley, FIU was able to get a 75-69 exhibition win over Nova Southeastern University.

### STEVEN ROWELL Staff Writer

Senior Jerica Coley didn't even wait for the regular season to start to erupt on a team. Like Coley did many times last season, she led her team in scoring en route to an exhibition win against Nova Southeastern University.

Behind 45 points from the All-American point guard, FIU overcame a slow start and defeated Nova 75-69 in the first of two exhibition match-ups on Sunday at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Coley, playing the entire game, started off shooting 2 of 9 from the field before heating up and making five of her next seven shots to

end the first half including a buzzer-beating three-pointer from the top of the key to give FIU a 9-point lead heading to the intermission.

Coley's hot streak continued into the second half as she scored 21 points on 7 of 11 shooting in the second half.

Senior center Marita Davydova, last season's

second leading scorer for the Panthers, finished with a double-double, scoring 17 points and pulling down 13 rebounds. The senior, along with Coley, helped spark a 9-1 run that turned Nova's largest lead of 9 into a 25-23 FIU advantage at the 5:40 mark. After the Sharks led 17-8, the Panthers outscored Nova 35-17 and ended the half on an 11-3 run.

"That team played for 40 minutes and we did not, I thought we dropped a little bit and didn't execute well, we missed so much underneath the basket, but then it was about calming down, squaring up and taking good shots," Head Coach Cindy Russo said. "I was happy with effort overall, it was sloppy, of course, but two of our guards are out that played last year, so we are playing kids that never played as guards, but I think we did a nice job."

The Panthers maintained a steady lead throughout the second half in large part of Coley and tightening up on defense holding the Sharks to 13-36 shooting in the second half. Russo had particular praise for the

Sharks's Jasmine Wilkins.

"We did a much better job, that number 35 (Wilkins) gave us a clinic in the first half, but we did a much better job in the second half," Russo said.

Wilkins tallied 17 points with only two coming in the second half.

Despite that, FIU's missed free throws and fast break lay-ups in the closing seconds, Nova pulled within four points. The Panthers hung on for the victory and despite the late game struggles with free throws; FIU finished 23-32 at the charity stripe.

With it being first game of the year and many players seeing extensive playing for the first time, sloppy play was evident. The Panthers turned the ball over 19 times with 13 of those coming in the second half.

For the Panthers, two freshmen saw their first action of basketball on the college level. Freshmen Karrah Johnson played 11 minutes grabbing five rebounds and Nikolina Todorovic played 11 minutes and grabbed three rebounds. Both were held scoreless.

"Karrah played a nice ballgame, she had five rebounds and played some really nice defense," Russo said. "Nina [Todorovic] she did some nice things, got rebounds, played good defense and she's comfortable with the ball so I was real happy with her."

Leading the way for Nova was the Sharks's third leading scorer last season, Amanda Burakoski, with 18 points. It was Burakoski that helped sparked a late game push for the Sharks to climb within four points at 63-59 before FIU held on.

"I think we just lost focus and concentration, and we can't do that," Russo said.

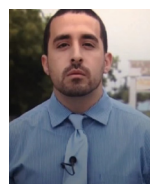
In addition to the victory, Russo was pleased with the effort on the boards as the Panthers racked up 21 offensive rebounds and out-rebounded the Sharks 52-33.

The Panthers will host one more exhibition game on Nov. 1 against Barry University before FIU opens the season against in-state opponent Florida Gulf Coast right on the Panthers's home court on Nov. 8.

-sports@fiusm.com

## Panthers fail to produce both on and off the field

### COLUMNIST



PATRICK CHALVIRE

The presence of the biggest name to come out of the football program wasn't enough to help the Panthers against Louisiana Tech.

T.Y. Hilton, arguably the most successful Panther in the NFL to date, was unable to attract fans or even what looked to be some players to FIU Stadium as the Panthers fell to the Bulldogs 23-7.

Once again the Panthers failed to muster any kind of momentum coming off their second bye week of the season. And such as previous home games, you could have easily played connect the dots with the number of fans in attendance Saturday night.

Mental lapses in judgment also contributed to the demise for the Panthers, giving up over 200 yards on seven penalties. It seems as if this team is past the point of no return as it finished the game with 197 total yards, compared to the 333 for the Bulldogs, a common occurrence in every game this year.

The bye week also seemed to do no better than just give fans and players a week to focus on studies, or so you would think. The offensive line has yet to produce midway through the season, as they allowed five sacks in Saturday's contest.

The offense also seems to struggle to find openings for running backs Lamarq Caldwell and Silas Spearman, and as the backs fail, so does quarterback Jake Medlock.

The lone positive output from Saturday's game came as a touchdown pass from Medlock to Jonnu Smith, who led the team with 54 yards, on two catches. For those who don't follow the sport of football, two catches for only 54 yards to lead a team isn't saying much.

As the season continues, it comes to question if and when the coaching staff will take some of the blame for the debacle of the team. Does Head Coach Ron Turner still fall under the first-year coach excuse or has he been at the helm long enough to take the bulk of the blame?

There just aren't enough fingers on a person to point them to. It doesn't follow in rapper Drake's footsteps, because, in this case, it all started from the top. Executive director of sports and entertainment Pete Garcia has yet to come out and speak to the fans, or what's left of them, about the direction of the team.

With a website calling for your head, many people in favor of the site are questioning why Garcia has kept quiet during the whole ordeal.

New buildings are being built on campus but maybe time and money should be placed on rebuilding the football program. Ticket sales seem



JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

After collecting 197 yards of total offense and producing yet another mediocre showing, the FIU football team now has a record of 1-6, and a conference record of 1-2.

to continue to take a nosedive and plummet to the bottom of the ocean floor and there doesn't seem to be an answer in sight.

Even the attempt to bring in one of the youngest stars in the NFL couldn't fill half of the stands. To give athletics the benefit of the doubt, the game was during a weekend where everyone brings out his or her inner fantasies through costumes.

Teams have been known to hit rock bottom once they begin giving away free tickets, example being the Marlins down in Little Havana. But when tickets are already free for current and former students alike, what more can you offer besides the kitchen sink?

So far, opponents have clipped the nails off the claws of the Panthers, who are now starting to look more like cubs. A Panther is

supposed to intimidate its enemy, but these Panthers only seem to be intimidating people from entering the stadium.

As repetitive as it may sound, for those who have been following this team since January, only time will tell if the next game will bring back life to the corpse that is FIU football.

-patrick.chalvire@fiusm.com



# Post season nears for the Panthers; C-USA is watching

COLUMNIST



GIANCARLO NAVAS

There is one game left. One game to seal a division title in Conference USA. It's been marvelous to watch a group of girls who started the season 2-7-0, lead their division.

Heading into the Panthers' season finale against Marshall University at home, FIU has a chance to nab a number one seed in the conference tournament in Houston and make some noise in it.

A win would clinch the number one seed the Panthers have worked all season for. The current number one seed, FIU, is only separated by two points from the number four seed, East Carolina. The top four seeds in each division make the playoffs.

From Ashleigh Shim to Nicole DiPerna to Paula Zuluaga to Johanna Volz to Kim Lopez, I could go on and on about the great depth this soccer team has. They have caught everyone's attention.

If they pull a win this Halloween against Marshall (8-6-3) they could ride into Houston with a 8-10-0 record and with a swagger that is uncommon for a sub .500 team.

If you give me the entirety of sports to choose from, I cannot find a team who has parlayed a 2-7-0 record into a number one seed. It's something surreal. Words cannot state how amazing that is.

Looking at that rough start, this team had some deserved criticism. They weren't scoring and had a habit of getting shut out. Since losing to Charlotte 2-0 and having four shutouts on the season, FIU has only been shut out twice- a sample spanning over eight games.

The biggest change I have seen transcends statistics. If the Panthers lose, its

not because they play awful or the other team steamrolls them. Any loss this team has suffered since the win against Old Dominion has been earned.

The Panthers fight for every loose ball, every goal and every win. Nothing is given away with this team. If the Panthers lose, another team earns it.

This team has improved and as much criticism and questioning as it deserved early, they have earned praised and celebration today. Regardless of the outcome of the Marshall game, this season has been a success.

One game should not determine whether a season is a success or not. The Panthers did what they had to- make the postseason. And once in, anything can happen.

A one and done playoff tournament makes for a sense of randomness. It isn't like the NBA which does a best-of-seven series to weed out the weaker team. It's more like the baseball. Just get into the postseason and anything can happen.

The postseason can be cruel. You may be the best team, but you can still lose in the first round.

Riding into Houston, the Panthers have a goal: to win a championship. It's that simple. Win or go home. To go from 2-7-0 to hoisting a trophy in their first year at C-USA. If it was a storied program, this might have been made into a documentary.

The story is extraordinary, and most definitely not over. There are chapters left to write and scenes left to be directed. Choreographed by coach Thomas Chestnutt and his FIU Panthers.

The ballet of the playoffs will soon begin on November 6th. A few more dances girls. Your final curtain call is waiting.

-sports@fiusm.com

## Beasley's new start in Miami has arrived

TIM REYNOLDS  
AP Writer

For the first time this season, the Miami Heat practiced Sunday with only 15 players on the roster.

Michael Beasley was one of them.

The cuts have been made, the team for opening night has been selected, and Beasley has his first victory of the season. He's still in Miami. There was no guarantee that he would stick with the Heat, even after he decided to accept a one-year non-guaranteed contract. But when the team's braintrust gathered Friday night to decide how many and which players to keep, Beasley remained in the mix.

So he'll be there when the Heat get their rings and see their championship banner raised Tuesday night. Beasley won't be getting a ring, of course. What he said he will get that night is inspiration to be a real part of one of those title-savoring parties sooner than later.

"Regardless of the year or who you have returning from your roster and who you're bringing in, it's always so many

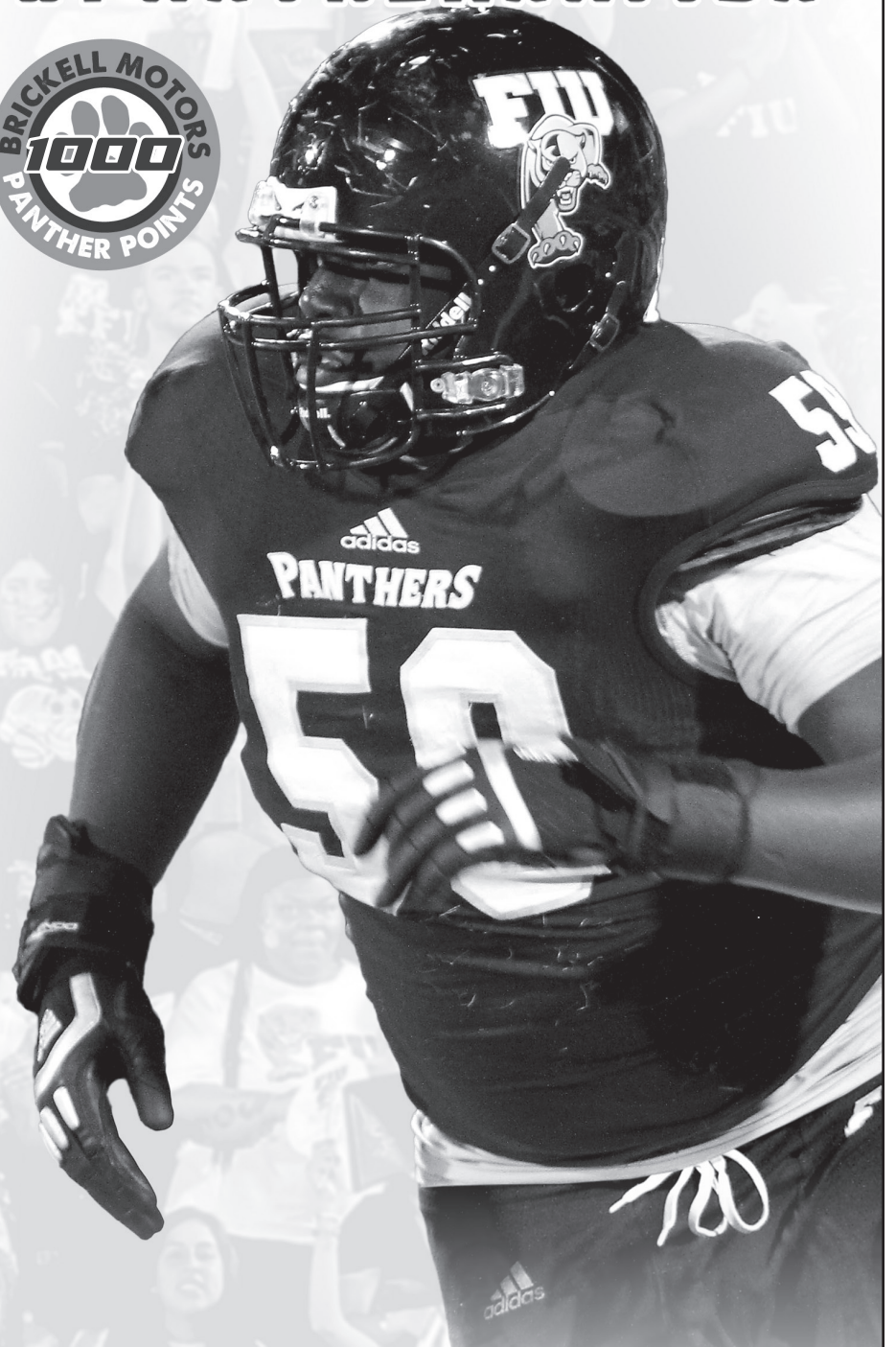
tough decisions," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "I sat in (Friday night's meeting) for about an hour. They stayed there until about 3 o'clock in the morning, talking about the roster and the last few spots. It always comes down to it. I don't know why. Now we've got our 15 and we're looking forward to starting the next step."

Beasley played with Dwyane Wade, Udonis Haslem, Mario Chalmers, James Jones and Joel Anthony during his first stint in Miami. Combined, they will have a total of 12 Heat championship rings by the time Tuesday's ceremony ends. Beasley is still waiting for his first.

But given the potential of this Heat team, albeit with Beasley in a far different role than what he had the first time around in Miami, that wait could end about a year from now.

"We can't play 82 games tomorrow and play a whole season in the next week," Beasley said. "I'll continue to work hard, continue to do my part, continue to gain the trust of my teammates. If I get that chance, I get that chance. Just trying to take it day by day."

# #PANTHERNATION



VS



**SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>  
6:00 PM  
AT FIU STADIUM**

GAME PRESENTED BY



**C-USA**

**305.FIU.GAME  
FIUSPORTS.COM**



## World Hunger Day Dinner at the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management

ALEX BLENCOWE  
*Contributing Writer*

The signs are everywhere: "Will Work For Food," "Please help, need food," "HUNGRY." According to the CBS documentary, "Hunger In America," there were 20 million hungry in 1985, 37 million hungry in 2007, and this year there are more than 49 million hungry in the United States—the worst in USDA history.

USA Today says the government-approved \$20 million cut from the reauthorization of the farm bill has "taken away food stamps from millions of poor Americans [as well as] restored the eligibility requirements of the food stamp program, ending dramatic expansion in the number of people dependent on government."

However, due to the economic collapse of 2008, there are more people dependent on the government now than ever.

To raise awareness about the increasing issue of world hunger, the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Management's Restaurant Management Lab held an experimental event in partnership with the School of Business on

Thursday, Oct. 24, at 6:30 p.m., in which three dinners were served: a three-course meal (consisting of shrimp bean stew, chicken with 40 cloves of garlic, couscous salad with cranberries, wine, bread and lemon tart crumble for dessert) for the wealthy; rice and beans with water for the middle class; and stale bread with cold water for the poor.

Attendees of the social experiment were divided into three classes depending on colored cards passed out to each guest.

A guest of the middle class table, event planning senior Caroline Hardenbergh-Perry, said with income limits lowered, it has become systematically harder for people to get social services and food stamps, especially in Florida.

"It's almost like the government is saying, 'These people have no right to ask for help,'" said Hardenbergh-Perry, one of the millions of Americans in the food stamp program, who has boycotted against various multi-national food-distributing organizations who throw away countless amounts of food every day, rather than give the food to the homeless and hungry.

Professor Judith Williams,

whose class managed the restaurant that night, said the experimental event is supposed to help facilitate discussion about the issue of hunger and encourage others to change the way they

made him feel guilty sitting at the wealthy table and seeing the poor table nearby.

"Think of the fact that congress allows people not to have basic food. It is something

“

We want students at the wealthy table to say 'Forget it; I'm going to go sit with a poor person and share my food.

Judith Williams  
Professor  
Hospitality

”

see hunger.

"We want students at the wealthy table to say 'Forget it; I'm going to go sit with a poor person and share my food,'" said Williams.

After the dinner, a clip from "Hunger In America" was played and a discussion about the event followed.

For retired attorney and guest, Michael Boyd, 73, the event

we should all be ashamed of," Boyd said. Boyd's wife, Therese, is the director of Student Health Services at BBC.

Ludovica Vigil, guest and worker for Student Health Services, said the experience did have an impact.

For her, being hungry and sitting at the poor table made her realize: "Wait, I'm still thinking about me... When there are food

drives, I know I haven't been giving enough myself."

Lorena Garcia-Duran, 34, who works for Ashoka Miami and helped facilitate the event, says there is so much we can do to make a difference and be participants in our lives, in big ways and little ways.

"We want people to find that kind of courage, to buck the system," said Seema Pissaris, who also organized the event and is a professor in the College of Business.

Pissaris encourages her students, the main attendees of the event, to think about how they can help inflict change.

The Chaplin School of Hospitality is also in the process of building a cabinet in the Restaurant Management Lab where students and faculty can donate food that will be available for students who cannot afford food on campus.

"Changing the world is not about giving money," said Garcia-Duran. "It's about taking action... It's never too late or too soon."

-bbc@fiusm.com

## "Dead Connection" to give a Halloween tour of campus

BRANDON WISE  
*Editor-in-Chief*

This Halloween, the Student Programming Council at Biscayne Bay Campus will host "The Dead Connection" featuring psychic Chris Moon who uses a "Spirit Phone" to communicate with the paranormal world. The campus is one stop on Moon's college tour that began Sept. 23, that will not-so-coincidentally visit the University for a tour of its history and ghostly haunts on Oct. 31.

During this event, Moon will take students on a tour of the campus to give them a chance to hear what SPC leadership director Joshua Carrasco calls BBC's "eeriness."

"[Moon] will be walking throughout the campus, hearing spirits and telling stories from certain time periods," Carrasco said. "Usually 30-50 students

will walk with him. Some students truly believe in it and some want to be aware of the history."

According to Moon's website, the psychic had his first personal experience at the age of 7.

"Daily occurrences from that time on included objects disappearing and reappearing; doors opening and closing on their own fruition, strange shadows and light anomalies and nightly haunted sonnets on the family's one hundred year old grand piano," his biography states.

Moon uses his "Spirit Phone" when conducting his tour of an area.

The machine is believed to be the completed version of Thomas Edison's legendary "Telephone to the Dead."

"This invention facilitates actual two way communication with the spirit world. The Spirit Phone requires a very

specific Psychic Medium's energy to work correctly," according to Moon's website.

Carrasco said that he

thinks it makes sense to host this event on Halloween.

"Students should attend whether they believe in spirits or not," Carrasco

said. "I'm curious about the spirits around BBC and the history of this place."

The event starts at

12:30 p.m. in the WUC Ballrooms.

-brandon.wise@fiusm.com



**Problem:** You can't get the courses you need at your own school.

**Solution:** Take ours online. Transfer the credits. Graduate on time.

 University of Phoenix®  
Continuing Education

866.771.2952  
phoenix.edu/graduate

While widely available, not all programs are available in all locations or in both online and on-campus formats. Please check with a University Enrollment Advisor. The University's Central Administration is located at 1625 W. Fountainhead Pkwy., Tempe, AZ 85282. Online Campus: 3157 E. Elwood St., Phoenix, AZ 85034.  
© 2013 University of Phoenix, Inc. All rights reserved. | CONED-02445