

Permaculture club works to restore environmental reserve by BBC

SELIMA HUSSAIN
Staff Writer

The cottage stands in the large yard, alongside two mango trees, two avocado trees, oregano plants and rosemary herbs. A large black labrador, Mu-Rain, roams around, searching for his best friend and owner, Joao Garcia.

When Garcia emerges from the cottage, clad in lime green swim trunks and baggy white T-shirt, Mu-Rain pounces with excitement. Garcia sips on a homemade fruit and vegetable smoothie made from avocado, watermelon, papaya, grapes, almonds and spinach. His long, tight curls are damp from an ocean swim – nature is his shampoo of choice.

Garcia, a 22-year-old environmental engineer major, is the president and founder of the Permaculture Club.

After his breakfast of what he calls “baby food,” Garcia will head to campus to oversee his first official Permaculture Club meeting.

“Permaculture is just a new way of doing old things,” said Garcia. “We take degenerated, devastated land, and we regenerate it –

help it cure itself.”

Permaculture, or permanent culture/agriculture, is an ecological design that mimics patterns seen in nature. By applying these to the environment and the community, Garcia said he hopes to create a functioning, flourishing space at the University.

Garcia’s interest in permaculture came at a time of deep stress. Bonnie Quiceno, Garcia’s yoga instructor, suggested that he find his deepest passion.

“From the moment I met Joao, I knew he was a gentle person with a sweet spirit,” Quiceno said. “I call him Gentle Giant in my mind. I know he’s going to do great things.”

Angela Garcia, his mother, said Garcia’s passion for nature was clear from his childhood days.

“I recall one trip to Disney when [Joao] was around six,” Angela said. “He was more interested in the geckos at the bus stop than looking forward to going to the parks.”

J. Garcia does not own a TV, claiming it to be “tell-a-lie-vision.” Instead, he practices yoga and plays musical instruments, mainly

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SELIMA HUSSAIN/THE BEACON

Sam Van Leer(left) and Joao Garcia and his labrador Mu-Rain (right) explore Arch Creek East Environmental Reserve as they work to remove dangerous plants and plant mangroves.

Alumni, the ‘bread and butter’ of the University

MARIA BRITOS
Staff Writer

Every semester thousands of undergraduate university students leave college life, become alumni and enter the “real world” – what Duane Wiles, associate vice president of Alumni Relations and the executive director of the Alumni Association, calls the “bread and butter of the institution.”

With the University’s most recent and largest donation – a whopping \$400,000 to the University College of Law by alumnus Abraham Ovidia – Wiles said alumni help to financially support the University.

“We need the alumni to go out there and tell the FIU story.”

Duane Wiles
Associate Vice President
Alumni Relations

“[The donation] doesn’t have to be large. It could be anything from five dollars to 10 dollars to 20 dollars; whatever amount they can give, that money helps,” said

Wiles.

FIU Foundation, Inc.’s fundraising goal to raise \$750 million in ten years will reach out to alumni in its third phase of the campaign.

According to Wiles, alumni are not only expected to give monetary donations, the association highly encourages participation within university related events. Such programs consist of volunteering to serve as mentors to university students and to other alumni through the new alumni to alumni mentoring program managed by the Career Services.

Alumni can also volunteer by serving on the close to 30 alumni chapters nationally and interna-

tionally. These chapters, active in cities like New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, consist of groups of former students who organize events to help support the University and celebrate the Panther pride.

Other ways that alumni give back to the University is by providing student scholarships. Just recently, Pamela Silva Conde, former student and alumna of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, established the Pamela Silva Conde Scholarship for first-generation students in the journalism program. The Univision co-anchor was recently named alumni of the year and is one of the many lifetime members of the Alumni

Association.

“They have so much to offer as far as their expertise and certainly can be a resource for our current students,” said Wiles.

But alumni not only serve as a support system, part of the reason their involvement is so important is because they can help as recruitment tools for the next generation of incoming students, said Wiles.

“We need the alumni to go out there and tell the FIU story,” said Wiles.

Spreading the message to the world via graduates can help increase and build affinity for the institution. It’s the school

SEE ALUMNI, PAGE 2

University sociolinguist debunks Miami English stereotypes

ALONSO MONTANO
Contributing Writer

It is heard every day in local classrooms, the workplace and at home. It has a distinct sound, an almost tropical rhythm and in most recent years it has been popularized by de facto Miami Mayor Pitbull – it is called Miami English and it is spoken by friends, family and colleagues.

Yes, people do speak English here in Miami.

Phillip Carter, a sociolinguist in the department of English, has been conducting research focusing on Hispanic-English dialects. He has been presenting his findings and debunking certain misconceptions associated with Miami English.

For example, Carter highlights the fact

that Miami English is a native dialect, not an accent, based on standard American English but its pronunciation and rhythm is strongly influenced by Spanish.

“It is spoken by native English speakers, mostly second-, third- and fourth-generation Latinos, who learn it as their first language variety,” said Carter in a recent interview with FIU News.

One important characteristic of Miami English is its vocabulary, which is greatly influenced by Spanish. Words like “oye,” “dale,” “mami” and “chonga” are commonly heard around many parts of Miami on any given day. Phrases such as “pero like,” “pobrecito” and “ah bueno” are also frequently used.

However, these words and phrases are not used exclusively by Latinos. Many

non-Latinos find themselves speaking Miami English and using some Spanish words in their everyday activities.

“‘Dale’ is trademark Miami,” said Alex Simeonov, a business major from Bulgaria who has been living in Miami for many years.

Simeonov also explained how he has had to learn some Spanish in order to get by in Miami. “When I buy food I have to use Spanish words like ‘empanada,’ ‘arepa’ and ‘croqueta.’”

Another main aspect that makes Miami English unique is its vocalic system and the use of certain consonants.

According to Carter, in English there are about 11 to 14 different vocalic pronunciations; whereas in Spanish there are only five, so many people in Miami tend to use a variation of the Spanish system which is simpler.

Additionally, consonants like the letters L, R and S are pronounced a little different sometimes.

“Despite the fact that for most speakers this influence is ultimately very light, it can be extremely salient for English speakers unfamiliar with the dialect,” said Carter.

Angela Torres, a senior majoring in nutrition and dietetics, thinks that people in other parts of the country could probably notice she is from Miami.

“By the way I say things and conjugate things,” said Torres. “We in Miami also don’t like beating around the bush.”

Popular videos on Youtube, like “Sh*t Miami Girls Say,” have also popularized certain phrases and words which are common

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WORLD NEWS

Pope expels German ‘luxury bishop’ from Diocese

Pope Francis expelled a German bishop from his diocese on Wednesday pending the outcome of a church inquiry into his 31 million-euro (\$43-million) new residence complex. The Vatican didn't say how long Bishop Franz-Peter Tebartz-van Elst, 53, would spend away from the diocese of Limburg but it refused calls to remove him permanently. It gave no information on where he would go or what he would do. The Vatican said the bishop was leaving pending the outcome of a German church investigation into the expenditures and his role in the affair. Fellow bishops and lay Catholics in the diocese, however, expressed doubt that he would ever be able to return.

‘White Widow’ lived near other Kenyan mall

One of the world's most wanted women, a British-born convert to Islamic extremism, lived close to one of Nairobi's major malls in 2011 but likely wasn't carrying out surveillance on it, a Kenyan security official said Wednesday. Last month Interpol, acting at Kenya's request, issued an arrest notice for 29-year-old fugitive Samantha Lewthwaite, not in connection with the deadly terrorist attack on Nairobi's Westgate Mall but over a 2011 plot to bomb holiday resorts in Kenya. Lewthwaite - dubbed in the British media as the “white widow” after her extremist husband carried out a suicide attack in London in 2005 - was mentioned widely in connection with the Sept. 21 attack on the upscale mall. But security officials have since said they have no evidence Lewthwaite took part in the four-day siege that killed 67 people. She managed to escape Kenyan police twice in 2011, once in Nairobi and again in Mombasa.

For more world news, check out FIUSM.com.

CORRECTIONS

In Volume 25, Issue 29, in the “Mars One applicant talks space exploration in astrophysics,” astrophysics is spelled wrong.

In the same issue, in the “Donate to dunk” caption in the Life! section, the caption incorrectly referred to Lambda Chi Alpha as Alpha Chi Alpha.

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

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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Eco-warrior to study BBC, located near landfill

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the tambourine and the flute.

“[Joao is] an observer, patient with details and stripped from material values,” Sergio Garcia, his father, said. “He enjoys anything related to the joys of simple moments from nature, like having a rain shower, watching the full moon, [or] observing the plants growing.”

J. Garcia's love for the environment – combined with his spiritual, theological and scientific views – create a unique and holistic outlook on life.

In his living room, a cross, candles, a few paintings and a series of colored rocks lay scattered across the coffee table in a swirl formation. Everyday, J. Garcia burns rosemary incense and carries one of the vividly colored “power rocks” in his pocket to bring positive energy.

“Religion and science are like twin sisters,” J. Garcia said. “One can't exist without the other. One attempts to explain the other.”

Aside from being a very spiritual person, J. Garcia also makes various fruit and plant juices to maintain optimal health. Some of the ingredients are found in his own backyard.

One of the beverages he makes is chlorophyll juice, which consists of two blended apples and a series of J. Garcia's favorite greens.

“It's like the energy of the sun and Earth fused into a liquid,” he said.

Through research and sheer curiosity, J. Garcia came across permaculture. From June 24 to July 7, he visited Southern California to conduct research and take classes at Quail Springs Permaculture farm.

“[Quail Springs] used to be flowing with rivers and vegetation,” J. Garcia said. “After about 100 years of cattle grazing, the land turned into a desert.”

J. Garcia said that programs offered by Quail Springs aim to restore the area through planting crops, such as grape vines, that can grow easily in Southern California's climate.

J. Garcia plans to restore Arch Creek East Environmental Reserve – a dry, parched land behind Biscayne Bay Campus – with the Urban Paradise Guild

“Right now, we're acting as nature's white blood cells.”

Sam Van Leer
President and Founder
Urban Paradise Guild

to remove deadly, threatening plants.

Australian pine, the Brazilian pepper-beret tree and heavy air potatoes that hang off tree branches are just a few of the dangerous plants in the preserve.

Sam Van Leer, president and founder of Urban Paradise Guild, said he is looking forward to teaming up with J. Garcia's club to resurrect Arch Creek East.

“Arch Creek East has an infection,” Van Leer said. “Right now, we're acting as nature's white blood cells.”

Van Leer said the danger in plants

like Australian pine and the Brazilian pepper-beret tree is chemical warfare. He said these non-native plants release underground chemicals that kill native plants, structures that act as food and even shelter for the animals living in the area.

Fish, birds, butterflies, manatees and a vervet monkey are just a few of the creatures residing in Arch Creek East. J. Garcia and Van Leer are working to plant mangrove trees, a supplemental source of food and shelter for the animals, around the park.

In addition to the Arch Creek East project, J. Garcia said he wants to focus on researching the tap water and grass at the campus.

“We're located on a landfill, so we don't really know how toxic our tap water or grass is,” J. Garcia said. “Eighty-five percent of our efforts in the Permaculture Club will be to research. We want to know what we're working with before we act.”

J. Garcia also said that community outreach is a major part of what the Permaculture Club wants to achieve. He said this thought is based on the three principles of permaculture: care of the earth, care of the people and reinvesting the surplus.

“Nature is what I love,” J. Garcia said. “The forest is a self-sustaining life force, and not every tree bears fruit, but everything has its purpose.”

This story was reported and written as part of a class assignment in JOU 3300, Advanced News Writing, taught by Professor Fred Blevens.

-selima.hussain@fiusm.com

Alumni priceless for current Panthers

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spirit and pride for the alma mater that reconnects alumni back to the University as well as helping to promote and making the institution's name recognizable to the world.

As part of another alumni project, the Alumni Association is also hosting the first Panther Alumni Week during February 2014 where alumni are invited back on-campus to visit and talk to current students. The

project is still in its planning process.

“The more engaged our alumni are, the stronger our University becomes and that only helps to increase the value of your degree,” said Wiles.

Last year's gifts included \$2 million for the Alumni Center, \$1 million for the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and \$900,000 in support of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

“These are but a few of the many examples of the outstanding generosity of our FIU family,” wrote University Advancement's Campaign Communications Director Andra Liwig in an email.

Howard Lipman, president and chief executive officer of FIU Foundation, Inc., was unavailable for comment by press time.

-maria.britos@fiusm.com

Spanish and English infused in Miami

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in Miami English. According to the video, characteristics of Miami English include the overuse of the words “super,” “like,” “bro” and the use of words such as “irregardless” and “supposedly.”

“I use a lot ‘like’ and ‘super,’ and ‘oh my god’ too,” said Torres.

Also, literal translations from Spanish to English like “get down from the car” from “bájate del carro” are quite common as well. Word elongation is also common in phrases like “no way” where they elongate the Y and

“Every dialect has its own history, and no one language variety is more or less correct than another.”

Phillip Carter
Sociolinguist
Department of English

“that's crazy” where they elongate the A in crazy.

And even though it is being widely accepted as a native dialect, Miami English is still seen as “broken English” by many and there are some stereo-

types that go along with that idea.

“Other people are probably going to think you don't speak English right,” said Hanna Stern, a sophomore majoring in nutrition and dietetics; she is a native from

Colombia.

Carter believes these stereotypes are just misleading notions and hopes people will learn more about the origin of the dialect.

“Every dialect has its own history, and no one language variety is more or less correct than another,” said Carter.

In recent weeks, Carter has been featured in interviews on national and international media channels such as CNN, El Nuevo Herald, The Miami Herald and Caracol Radio in Colombia.

-news@fiusm.com

FIU Student Financials, please get your three different stories straight

ITZEL BASUALDO
Contributing Writer

I decided to come to FIU not because it was inexpensive, but because it meant my clothes could be expensive.

Allow me to explain.

With a couple of scholarships on board and my parents' blessed decision to invest in Florida Prepaid, I, like many other students, receive a refund from FIU every semester. This would've been a considerable amount in my case, or so I thought.

It was May 30 and time was running out. I had less than 24 hours to decide which college I was going to attend. It had come down to the final two: UF and FIU. I wasn't a big fan of either school. I didn't feel that "Gator pride" so many other freshmen rambled about excitedly, nor was I too ecstatic about calling FIU my Alma Mater (sorry FIU-enthusiasts).

FIU's financial aid package was rela-

“ I decided to come to FIU not because it was inexpensive, but because it meant my clothes could be expensive. ”

tively appealing and made me gawk a little. UF's package, however, was just vapid. No scholarships, no grants, zip, zilch. My parents were willing to help me out and take out a couple loans for me, but UF just wasn't buying me.

So in order to verify the beauty and extraordinary nature of my FIU financial

package, my mom and I made a visit to Student Financials, Undergraduate Admissions, and the Financial Aid office at FIU. We spoke to a person at each office regarding my financial package. We asked about the how's, when's, why's, and what's of everything. When would Florida Prepaid kick in? How much exactly would I be refunded? What was going to cover my tuition? What about Bright Futures?

I was hearing a great deal. Prepaid would come in first and cover my tuition. From then on, I would be refunded my FIU scholarship, Bright Futures and also my dependent waiver (God bless my mom for being an FIU employee). Study abroad would be paid for without a problem, no more working, Coachella and Bonnaroo were in the foreseeable future, impromptu getaways to visit my out-of-state friends... and this is why I'm writing this article—because none of that is happening and probably won't happen, either.

When the day arrived, the day so many of us anxiously waited for, Sept. 7, nothing happened. I waited a week. Two weeks. I visited Financial Aid: "Your FIU scholarship hasn't been disbursed. Check back later." No sign of Bright Futures either. My credit card bills were piling up: I had put all my textbooks on a card and had yet to pay it back (because I was relying on the arrival of my FIU refund).

My mom, furious and puzzled with the delay of the money, called a friend who works at Financial Aid. They explained to her the inane problem they experienced that caused a delay in the scholarship disbursements and they told her I had nothing to worry about. She was told that I was going to get all of my money's worth and I just had to wait.

-For the full column, go to fiusm.com

Digital news gains paid readership

MOISES FUERTES
Staff Writer

Since the digital age started, the newspaper business has been in decline, which is no surprise to me. History has shown time and again that when a new medium of communication flourishes, other mediums stagnate until they adapt to the new one.

As a result, the newspaper business has started to adapt to the online scene. Everything is easier now due to how effective the Internet is, particularly when it comes to publishing online.

There is, however, a shift in the way news is accessed online recently. Digital versions of newspapers today are beginning to input paywalls for the content, as opposed to before, when the news was posted online for free.

According to the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, a 2013 report on digital news showed that people within the age range of 25 to 34 are most willing to pay for digital news throughout several coun-

tries, while older groups are more reluctant, with only five percent of users 55 years old and older willing to pay for digital news. The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism additionally reported that "Nearly half (49 percent) of 18 to 24 year olds read a digital newspaper — the highest reach of any age group."

"I see myself paying for digital news," said senior English major Alejandro Viera, "I find the accessibility worth paying for."

"I read most of my news online," said senior and political science major Diana Hernandez. "Having the content available via the Internet is better because it allows a person from any country to read any publication at any time."

However, Hernandez would prefer the news services remain free online, with revenue coming from advertisements on the page. She did mention that she wouldn't like it if the advertisement became too personalized or intrusive.

Many newspapers are also developing applications

for smartphones and tablets, which has ultimately aided the entire news industry in reaching not only the digital market, but also the mobile market. The same report on digital news by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism shows that individuals using mobile devices, particularly Apple devices, are 50 percent more likely to pay for digital news.

Whether I'm getting the news on my smartphone or my computer is irrelevant to me; I just care that I have access to it online. I do read print publications, but it simply does not compare to the amount of reading I do online.

The way I see it, this is not only a positive gain for the newspaper industry, but also a clear insight that digital natives (those born after 1980) prefer reading online over print. It is also evidence that we will continue to see a shift in the way people communicate as the digital revolution solidifies itself into our daily lives.

-moises.fuertes@fiusm.com

Laws on underage drinking and their repercussions

SHEHRYAR EFFENDI
Contributing Writer

It was 2 p.m. when the discussion erupted over a slice of cheese pizza at the Fresh Food Company. "If we're old enough to vote, to face the consequences of our actions, to get married and to raise a family, then why can we not drink?"

This question appears to be the issue many undergraduate students who reside in dorms struggle with, simply wanting to relax on weekends and blow off steam over a game of beer pong.

Juan Nicolas, a freshman studying engineering, was part of the discussion, having started the conversation by narrating an incident from the past week. It was the night of Sept. 19 when Harry and a couple of his friends decided to go out and party to celebrate Harry's birthday. The night came crashing down when Harry collapsed at a local park in Miami. The drugs they bought were bad, which caused one young adult his life.

This incident not only affected Juan but all of us. We all know that one guy who might follow in the footsteps of Harry. As a freshman at the University, I know that drugs like "molly" and "MDMA" are readily available and accessible all over the United States. It is easier to buy these hard drugs compared to a six-pack of beer. Laws prohibiting consumption of alcohol under the age of 21 exist in the

country, but they result in teenagers and young adults resorting to secondary choices which they believe will make them feel "ecstatic."

It is hypocritical to allow 18 year olds to be eligible to join the army and expect them to be responsible for their own actions and choices but prohibit them from consuming alcohol. This gives rise to the consumption of hard drugs that in fact have worse side effects than alcohol. It was reported in the Miami Herald, published in March, that three patients were diagnosed with brain hemorrhages upon arrival at the hospital after they ingested the drug. These patients had no past records of any brain disorder.

Laws such as these promote more bad than good. Such laws need to be revised to be applicable to the time in which we live today. There is no doubt that peer pressure, lack of interest from parents and no proper knowledge of drugs has a considerable impact on the consumption of such drugs. However, alcohol being illegal under the age of 21 poses to be one of the huge factors that contributes to such vices in the society.

Along with consideration and revision of previous laws, steps should be taken towards highlighting the side effects of such hard drugs in the long run and programs should be set up that educate parents to actively take part in the life of teenagers.

-opinion@fiusm.com

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to 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.

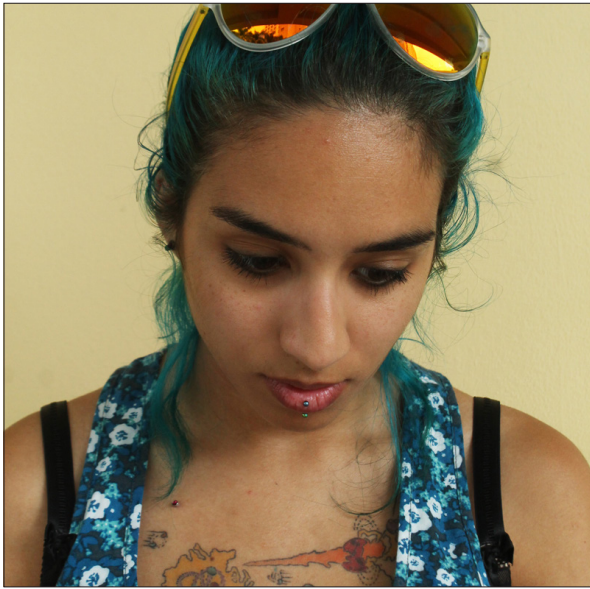
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Hair won't define you, but enhance you



Alexia Stark, junior in physics, expresses herself with teal hair dye.

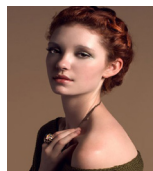


Jacqueline Rucker, sophomore studying education, shows off her long, thick braids under a stylish hat.



Claudia Vega, senior studying psychology and sociology, uses her hair color to express her fashion sense.

COLUMNIST



ASHLEY GARNER

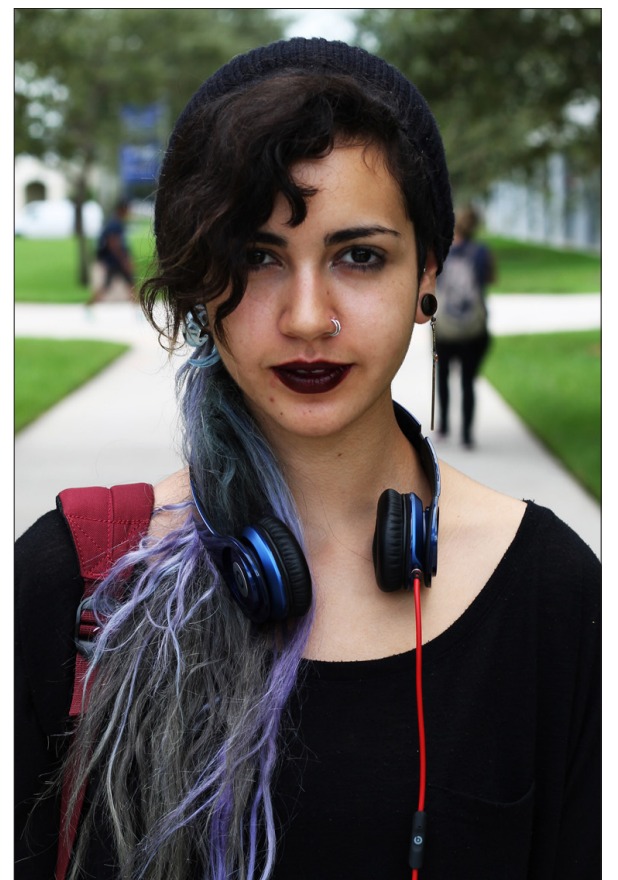
When I was 8 years old I asked my local hairdresser who at the moment was fluffing my curls to cut my hair up to my shoulders (it was currently at my hips). She seemed nervous about my request and before anyone could blink twice my dad ran up and denied my desire for short hair, reassuring me that I would regret it once it was done, and so life moved on. That is until I was 14 and that desire for short hair was all that I could think of, especially after laying eyes upon Carrie Bradshaw from *Sex and the City*'s short curly bob that struck my spontaneous and rebellious adolescent fire in such a way that, despite everyone's warnings, I got

all my hair chopped off from a mid-back length to chin length, or lack thereof. My mother supported me, my hairdresser was ecstatic and my dad raged that no boy would ever want to date a girl with short hair. Much to his demise I got my first boyfriend two weeks later. Since then I have done many things to my hair such as dying it blue to pumpkin orange, had it teased, relaxed and even glued in extensions. I have lived by the philosophy of India Arie's song "I Am Not My Hair" but as much as I believe that many people only know me as "that red head," reinforcing the idea that we are, in fact, our hair. I have some friends that are so attached to their hair that they are completely unwilling to even get half an inch trimmed off, as

though they would lose a part of their soul in the act. Then I have others that can't stand for their hair to stay the same for longer than a few months, turning their hair into a symbol of their constantly fluxing personality. Hair plays a very different role in our lives than it did thousands of years ago when its sole purpose was warmth and protection. In the 21st century, hair has become an accessory—like a purse or a piece of jewelry—but it is easily the most personal accessory of them all. It is our crown and while some people's crowns are grounded, classic and never changing, others are in an endless state of evolution and re-imagination. They cut it, braid it, twist it and turn it, dye it pinks and blues one week and then greens and purples the next.

Some may argue this statement I've made and say hair is just hair and physically, yes, hair is just hair. But it's the significance of a psychological sign system we give it today that makes hair more than just hair. It has become a symbol for you and your lifestyle and that is how we read it whether we are consciously aware of it or not. Shaved head, dreads, bed head, un-natural colors and afros or pin straight they all have connotations of certain lifestyles that we read into them. As much as I still believe I am not my hair, I do realize that my hair is a symbolic representation of me whether I want it be or not.

-ashley.garner@fiusm.com



Mya Saez Flores, freshman in Asian Studies, sports a colorful ponytail that contrasts with her dark lipstick.

ASHLEY GARNER/THE BEACON

"The Good Wife" remains one of the best dramas around

COLUMNIST



JUAN BARQUIN

There's no lack of drama programming on network television, but CBS in particular has never really been at the top of the game. Yet, there is one hidden gem relegated to Sunday nights that offers audiences some of the best drama and female characters on television right now. This show—a blend of politics, sex and courtroom drama—is none other than "The Good Wife."

Good, however, doesn't even begin to cover what an engaging and strangely addictive series this truly is. "The Good Wife" follows Alicia Florick (Julianna Margulies), a politician's wife, who decides to rekindle her law career after having her husband's sexual affairs revealed to the world.

Over its last four seasons, though, "The Good Wife" has evolved in ways few would have ever expected. There's no easy way to draw a line down the middle of how the series divvies up its time between courtroom and family drama, but it does so with the utmost care. On one hand, it shows the ins and outs of the law, along with plenty of joking and tension, to propel the narrative forward and often ignoring the procedural plot style that most dramas rely on. The other hand, however,

focuses on the human side of the show—the relationships between lawyer and client, mother and child, husband and wife, boss and employee—that keeps viewers coming back for more. What keeps "The Good Wife" a notch above the rest of CBS' programming is that it's so much more than the courtroom drama it often presents itself to be. The show utilizes the sort of quick wit you'd find in some of Aaron Sorkin's earliest works, addressing and satirizing all kinds of modern political situations in ways something like "The Newsroom" could never hope to achieve. Further proof of their superiority to that series is in the way that creators Robert and Michelle King have managed to create some of the most fascinating female characters on television. The women on the series are all as fully-formed as they come, with personalities that actually provide some semblance of depth. Alicia Florick is not the only one, with Christine Baranski's Diane Lockhart and Archie Panjabi's Kalinda Sharma rounding out the main female cast. The fact that they experience a real range of emotions rather than exist as blank slates for the men around them makes them a step above most other CBS shows, espe-

cially its tactless comedies, with the stellar writing for Joan Watson on "Elementary" being among the best as well. Each one is a powerful representation of women in three very different places in life; the roles of wife, head litigator and investigator all being explored. They may be at the same law firm, but each has her own life, her own troubles and her own personality, entirely separate from that of the men in their lives. Of course, the men are always present—offering story progression through their schemes, sex and stupidity—but they often take a backseat to the women, something that has served the series well. This immense dedication to making a politically charged law-based series that heavily focuses on women is really what has kept "The Good Wife" at the top of the game. It's smart, it's funny, it cares about its ladies and it's remained one of the most consistently interesting shows on network television over the last four years. With Sunday night programming not being all that strong at this point in the year and its first four seasons being available for free on Amazon Prime, there's no reason not to be watching "The Good Wife."

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-juan.barquin@fiusm.com

Prayer, meditation and innate practices in India

CONSUELO NARANJO
Staff Writer

Sometimes, the invisible and untouchable is vital for human existence and survival such as air, love or hope. I learned that in India, while meditating in the middle of a small hummed room fulfilled with faith, vagueness and mosquitos. A low tone voice asked me to sit on the floor, cross my legs, close my eyes and rediscover what I subconsciously do every second of my life, breathing. While trying to find that energetic spiritual light around my body, waves fulfilled with uncontrollable thoughts caressed my mind. An unstoppable tickling, started from my feet, traveled around my sweaty body, as I wondered if one day I will reach the same level of detachment and freedom that some spiritual souls, walking around earth had achieved.

Practicing meditation seems to be one of the most challenging processes; however, I do believe that it is completely attached and inborn as part of our nature. Finding your inner-self while communicating with nature or the supreme, which belongs from the act of contemplation, in my experience, is the same as praying—by closing your eyes, holding hands or raising them in the air. When we are laying our knees on the ground while singing or reciting spiritual mantras coincidentally or sub-coincidentally we are meditating.

In some Asian cultures, mental and physical arts are basic for the ones who are looking forward to a better lifestyle, longevity and good health. In India there are many religions that promote the practice of meditation along with

breathing exercises.

While living in the Jain community, one of the most ancient religions in the world, I discovered the practice of Preksha meditation, also known as Preksha Dhyana. This is a unique technique within the practice of nonviolence and respect for every living being. It is a mixture of knowledge from variant antique religious practices, modern day science and spiritual experiences.

Preksha meditation was created and mastered by Terapanth Svetambara Jain Acharya Mahaprajna, one of the most important spiritual leaders for the Jain community. The main goal of this type of meditation is helping humanity by eliminating stress, relaxing the body and the mind as well of connecting inner self into a stage of tranquility and awareness. According to Mahadev Lal Saraogi, A.A. Science of living, Preksha, the utilization of this method purifies emotions, self-consciousness and creates awareness of the self-existence by clearing the mind. In addition, people who practice this kind of meditation will experience mental balance and peace.

After immersing myself into the path of meditation, I realized that this process does not have a minimum or a maximum time constraint. Much like praying, this technique connects us to the present and allows us to relieved pain and suffering. I encourage you to, no matter what religion or belief you follow, take a few minutes of your time, close your eyes, breathe deeply and be grateful for the positive energy that you have around. Be thankful for being alive and an indispens-



CONSUELO NARANJO/THE BEACON

University student Stephanie De Leon meditating in the middle of a sanctuary located in a northern area of Ladnun, India.

able part of our world. Meditate for the wellness of others, the ones who are far from or near us.

“Prayer is not asking. It is a

longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one’s weakness.

It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words

without a heart,” - Mahatma Gandhi

-consuelo.naranjo@fiusm.com

Concert preview: Nine Inch Nails’ comeback



JUNETTE REYES/THE BEACON

Trent Reznor singing during the Wave Goodbye tour at the Cruzan Amphitheater on May 8, 2009.

JUNETTE REYES
Opinion Director

Nine Inch Nails is coming back to Florida for the first time since having performed at the Cruzan Amphitheater in West Palm Beach during the NIN/JA (Nine Inch Nails and Jane’s Addiction) leg of the Wave Goodbye Tour in 2009.

The current tour, Tension 2013, marks the comeback tour for NIN and also serves as a platform for the recently released album, “Hesitation Marks.”

Trent Reznor, the mastermind behind NIN, took a break from constant touring as soon as the Wave Goodbye Tour ended, pausing any further developments for NIN. Reznor instead tried his hand in movie score composition, having teamed up with director David Fincher for the films “The Social Network” and “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo.” The former earned

him an Academy Award for “Best Original Score” while the latter earned him a Grammy Award for “Best Score Soundtrack for Visual Media.”

Reznor continued making music beyond this, this time for the band “How to Destroy Angels,” which is fronted by his wife Mariqueen Maandig. He couldn’t stay away from touring for long either, with a HTDA tour having started earlier this year on April 10.

Throughout this time, Reznor was clearly working on what would soon be titled “Hesitation Marks” and surprised fans with the announcement of the album, with tour dates soon following.

Several songs from the album have been performed live since before Tension 2013 kicked off, as NIN appeared in many festivals since the announcement. This means that the live band, comprised of frontman Reznor, drummer Ian

Rubin, guitarist Robin Finck, pianist Alessandro Cortini and bassist Pino Palladino, should be quite comfortable with the new album.

Besides hearing songs from the new album live, the audience should also expect performances of rarely played songs, such as “Sanctified” from the debut album, “Pretty Hate Machine.” Live rehearsal recordings as well as clips from several festivals have shown the band performing “Sanctified,” which has been given an update from the original composition. An update, I must admit, that has given new meaning to the song.

Rarely played songs were also a theme during the Wave Goodbye Tour, with fans having heard songs such as a cover of David Bowie’s “I’m Afraid of Americans” during the West Palm Beach show.

-junette.reyes@fiusm.com

Louisiana Tech faces the Panthers in first matchup

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Saturday will bring some familiar faces to FIU Stadium. Head Coach Skip Holtz brings in the 2-5 Bulldogs of Louisiana Tech University for the first ever matchup between the two teams.

Senior defensive tackle Isame Faciane will welcome his cousin, Bulldog redshirt sophomore defensive lineman Malcolm Pichon, to Miami.

"We have been trash talking each to each other since we found out that this upcoming game was on the schedule," Faciane said. "You know, when you go against your family you are going to talk. We played together for three years on the defensive line at our high school and we had one of the best units in the state."

Faciane, a native of Slidell, La., received an honorable mention for the "Player of the Week" accolade given by the College Football Performance Awards weekly for his performance against the University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles, which was highlighted by the end of the game play where he and fellow defensive tackle Mike Wakefield blocked a possible game winning field goal attempt.

Holtz is also no stranger to several coaches that will be on the Panthers sideline.

Assistant Coach Kort Shankweiler, whose father is Panthers offensive line and run-game coordinator Steve Shankweiler, played for and was a four year letterman during his tenure at East Carolina University while Holtz was the head coach. K. Shankweiler lined up at quarterback, fullback, and tight end while he was a player for the Pirates from 2003 to 2006.

Holtz has also been involved in coaching and playing against other members of the Panthers

staff in Head Coach Ron Turner, Linebackers Coach Tom Williams, Special Teams Coordinator Kevin Wolfhausen, Defensive Line Coach Andre Patterson and S. Shankweiler.

"It is just a game between two Conference USA opponents," Kort said. "It just happens to be that he is my former coach. We haven't prepared any differently this week as we have before."

First year running-backs coach for the Bulldogs Jabbar Juluke also will see two familiar faces when he makes the trip to Miami in former players defensive tackles Darrian Dyson and Leonard Washington. Juluke coached the pair during his tenure at New Orleans's Edna Karr High School in Louisiana.

Saturday will also mark a return of arguably the best football player to go through the Panthers football program. Indianapolis Colts wide receiver T.Y. Hilton will be the team's honorary captain. Hilton and the Colts are on a bye week following a win against the Denver Broncos.

Holtz spoke on the Panthers as a whole this season and how the two programs have been compared this season in the Bulldogs weekly press conference.

"Playing against FIU will be a great challenge this week coming off difficult loss where we continued to make some of the same mistakes. We are playing a team that scores 24 points the last two weeks. I do not think you can look at the full season of work, I think you have to look at the progress they have made. On the road early they played Louisville, Maryland and Central Florida who have proven to be good football teams. They are getting better and better as the years gone by. The last two weeks I have really been impressed with what they are doing," Holtz said in a statement.



JASEN DELGADO/ THE BEACON

The Panthers (1-5) will host the Bulldogs of Louisiana Tech University (2-5) in the team's first ever meeting on Saturday, Oct. 26.

Holtz also broke down each side of the ball for the Panthers.

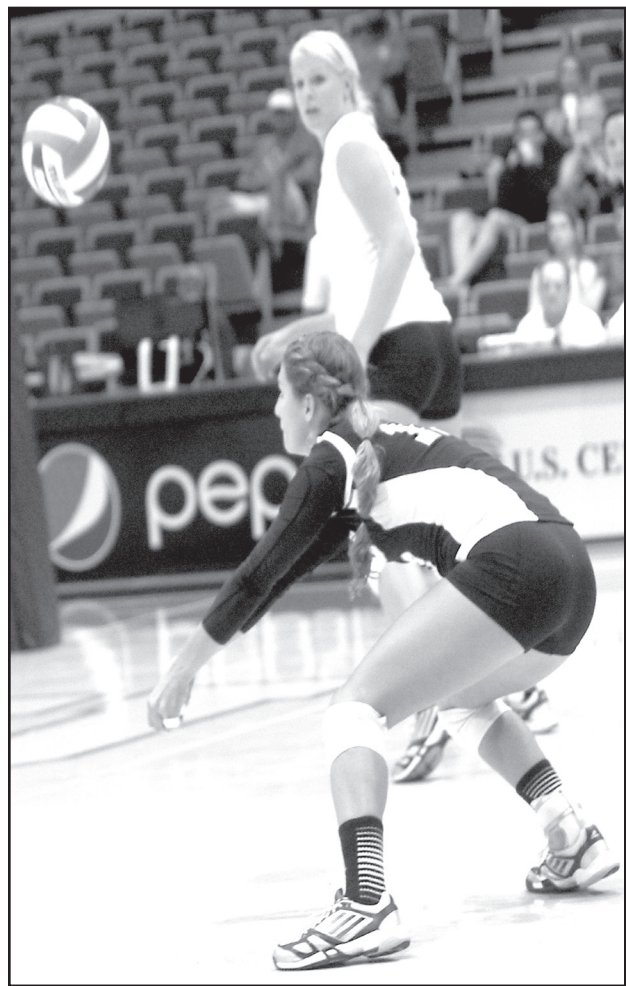
"Defensively, it starts with their first team all-conference lineman. They put him on both sides of the field, defensive lineman Greg Hickman. I think he is the best football player on the field when their defense is out there. Regardless of who they play, they can rush the passer and constantly put pressure on the quarterback which has not been our strong point, which something we have to get corrected this week," Holtz said. "Offensively, they have a returning starter at quarterback. Their tailback

is rushing for 90 yards a game at this point. They are getting better and putting points up on the board. For the third week in a row we are facing some very dangerous return men. Cornerback Sam Miller their punt returner is doing a great job. Also, their young talented kick returner is doing a good job. He has a lot of shake and wiggle. Those are going to be guys that challenge our dirty dozen."

The game will kickoff at 6 p.m. at FIU Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 26.

-rhys.williams@fiusm.com

Panthers face adversity as they come into their own



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

The FIU women's volleyball team looks to end the season strong as they enter their final few games with a record of (9-12).

OSCAR BALDIZON
Staff Writer

Jessica Egan has been the story for this FIU volleyball team recently. The redshirt junior from Germantown, MD., has seamlessly transitioned to the setter position and really changed around what this team can get done both offensively and defensively.

Standing at 6-foot-2, she is a taller setter than freshman Anabela Sataric or sophomore Ashlee Hodgskin, the two players who had been splitting time at the setter position before the team made the move to Egan as the dominant setter.

"She has amazing court vision," said senior Kim Smith. "we have great chemistry together and she is a very intelligent player. With the ability to set it right to our hands; as a hitter that makes everything so much easier because we know we don't have to worry about a bad set from her."

As one of the best blocking teams in Conference USA, the added

height to the lineup only helps their cause and adds even more blocks. With 52 assists in just the last two games, Jessica Egan is showing why she will be the setter for this team come post season play.

Blocking their way to success

Currently ranked second in the conference in total blocks as a team, the Panthers are beginning to show their grit on defense. With over 67 blocks for the season, and averaging over 3.5 blocks per set, the Panthers are looking to make their mark on this season as most great champions do, with their defense. Currently ranked fourth and fifth in blocks in C-USA, respectively, senior Cece Spencer (32) and senior Kim Smith (29) have led this effort for FIU this season.

"We have played all top teams in the conference, NCAA tournament bound teams, and we are moving along. We have found our groove and our identity as a huge blocking team which we will focus

on more and get better at still," Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett said.

Internal Struggles

At some point during the season, even athletes can get irritated or bothered with each other. They are humans just like us and make mistakes like anyone else.

Last week, a day before their rivals, Florida Atlantic University, came to our campus for a match there was a dispute between two players on the team.

About halfway through practice a dispute broke out between redshirt junior Ksenia Ksukhareva and junior Sylvia Carli. The two were separated from the rest of the team and spoke with Buck-Crockett for a brief period of time before the team met as a whole on the middle of the court.

Both individuals haven't played since and the team has been unavailable for comment.

Ksukhareva was billed as the go to offensive player for the Panthers

before the season started, and to anyone that watches her play, its obvious she possesses a lot of talent and versatility at multiple different positions on the court, but that hasn't been the problem for the Russian this season. Easily flustered throughout games when she makes mistakes, teams have been able to key in on her terrible body language and attitude when she is mentally distracted and that has caused to her underperform.

On a team loaded with talent at the outside hitter position, it could be a while before we see Sukhareva take the court. And when the coach is a former Olympian who is known not to deal with nonsense, she is going to have to find that resolve and fortitude a player with her talent needs to execute properly and help a team win.

-sports@fiusm.com

Hilton to return for first game

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer



T.Y. HILTON

The Panthers greatest statistical player, T.Y. Hilton, will return and be the honorary captain for the game against the Bulldogs of Louisiana Tech University on Saturday.

Hilton, currently one of the leading receivers for quarterback Andrew Luck and the Indianapolis Colts, will return for his first game back during the Colts bye week to watch his former team play.

The Colts most recently ended the winning streak of the Denver Broncos, who are led by Peyton Manning who was the Colts quarterback for 14 seasons.

Hilton, who is etched in the University record books, holds five of the top 10 places in single game receiving yards – such as his 201 in the game against the University of Louisville Cardinals in early Sept. of 2011– and

holds four of the top ten places for receiving yards in a season, with his highest total coming in his senior year at 1,083 receiving yards.

He was also used in the backfield, has marks in the top ten for most rushing yards in a single game at 158 against Troy University and ties for second in longest touchdown run with his 80 yard run in a game during the 2010 Sun Belt Conference Championship season against Troy.

Hilton also holds eight of the top 10 spots in single game all-purpose yards, which includes four of the top five. The top five season marks for all-purpose yards have four of the five spots being held by Hilton – the most being 2,163 yards in the 2008 season.

He totaled 7,498 all-purpose yards in his career for the Panthers. That number puts him leading by far for the Panthers. The second leader in career all-purpose yards, Chandler Williams, racked up a total of 3,203, which is 4,295 less than Hilton's total.

-rhys.williams@fiusm.com

Greek Flag Football

Top five fraternities and sororities going into the postseason

Fraternities:

1. Phi Sigma Kappa (5-0)
2. Phi Gamma Delta (4-1)
3. Sigma Phi Epsilon (4-1)
4. Sigma Chi (3-2)
5. Pi Kappa Phi (3-2)

Sororities:

1. Ball Snatchers (5-0)
2. Alpha Omicron Pi (3-1-1)
3. Phi Sigma Sigma (3-1-1)
4. Alpha Xi Delta (3-2)
5. Sigma Kappa (2-3)

Winless Bucs eye opportunity against Panthers

FRED GOODALL
AP Writer

National TV, a chance to shine with the rest of the NFL watching.

The winless Tampa Bay Buccaneers can think of no better stage to prove they're not nearly as bad as an 0-6 record suggests heading into Thursday's prime-time test against Cam Newton and the surging Carolina Panthers.

The Bucs have lost 10 of 11 dating to last season, six straight at home, and frankly are running out of competition for the label of worst team in the league.

Tampa Bay and Jacksonville are the only teams who've yet to win this season.

"Desperate, that's kind of like the last straw isn't it, if you don't have a win?" defensive tackle Gerald McCoy said.

"The Giants won (Monday night). I was like: 'C'mon now ... another team with a win.' We've got to get one," the fourth-year pro added. "We don't want to be the last ones. We've got to get it."

Coach Greg Schiano hopes playing at home in a short week in which Tampa Bay doesn't have to travel will help against Carolina (3-3), which has won three of

four following an 0-2 start.

Newton completed 81.4 percent of his passes the past two weeks while throwing for four touchdowns and no interceptions in lopsided wins over Minnesota and St. Louis.

"First and foremost, we desperately need a win, right? ... But I think what's most important is the guys recognize that every other NFL player watches this game; at least if they're a football fan they do. The Thursday night game is part of their week," Schiano said. "It's a big part of our league."

Carolina coach Ron Rivera can relate to Tampa Bay's struggles. He inherited a team coming off a 2-14 season in 2011, and the Panthers have endured some bumps while improving to six wins two years ago, seven in 2012 and rebounding after losing the first two games this season.

"It's hard to win in this league. You go watch the games they play and they've played some good football teams, and they've lost some tough games," Rivera said.

"Believe me, I've gone through it. I know exactly how they feel. ... You can play great and have something crazy happen. You can have a ball bounce the wrong

“

They're a good football team, it's just a matter of time, keep pushing and keep working. That's the way it is in this league.

Ron Rivera,
Head Coach
Carolina Panthers

”

way. You can miss a kick, they can make a kick, they can make a great catch," Rivera added. "They're a good football team, it's just a matter of time, keep pushing and keep working. That's the way it is in this league."

Five things to watch for as the Bucs seek their first win and the Panthers try to climb over .500 for the first time since the end of the 2008 season, when they were 12-4 and last made the playoffs:

EFFICIENT CAM: Newton has suddenly turned into Mr. Efficient. He completed 15 of 17 passes for 204 yards and a touchdown in last week's win over St. Louis, and is 35 of 43 for 464 yards, four TDs and no interceptions over his last two games. The NFC South rival Bucs have taken

notice.

"He's starting to become an NFL quarterback. He came in the league on fire, but he still had college-style playing. People didn't know how to react to it. Last year, he still was more college style and people knew how to handle it because they had dealt with it the year before," McCoy said. "Now he's starting to become an NFL quarterback, and that's scary. With as athletic as he is, as strong an arm as he has, he's starting to understand the game more. That's scary to have to deal with that for a long time."

ANOTHER STEP FOR GLENNON: Rookie Mike Glennon makes his fourth start at quarterback for the Bucs. No one's

attempted (130) or completed (76) more passes in his first three games than the third-round draft pick out of North Carolina State.

LOOKING FOR JACKSON: Glennon threw 44 times during last week's 31-23 loss to Atlanta. He targeted WR Vincent Jackson 22 times, connecting 10 times for 138 yards and two TDs. Jackson's looking for his third straight game with at least nine receptions, 100 yards and a pair of TDs.

NO MARTIN: The Bucs likely will be without RB Doug Martin, who injured his left shoulder last week. Rookie Mike James probably will make his first start, with veteran Brian Leonard backing him up. James has 17 carries for 57 yards. He was a sixth-round pick out of Miami, Fla.

KNACK FOR TURNOVERS: Carolina forced three turnovers against St. Louis and has 14 for a plus-5 takeaway/giveaway margin — tied for third in the NFC. The Bucs are even, which puts them right in the middle of the league, and had Schiano wondering why their record isn't closer to .500. "Usually when you're even, your record's pretty even. You're 3-3, 2-4, 4-2. We're 0-6."

Sean Taylor half-sister knew alleged killer

CURT ANDERSON
AP Writer

The half-sister of slain Washington Redskins star Sean Taylor testified Tuesday that she knew the alleged shooter and that another suspect in the case saw Taylor give her a \$10,000 cash birthday present weeks before the November 2007 slaying.

Sasha Johnson, 27, said that 23-year-old Eric Rivera Jr. once played for a little league football team in Fort Myers coached by her father. Johnson also testified that at the time of Taylor's killing she was dating the brother of another man charged in

the killing. Altogether, five men were charged in the case.

On Oct. 1, 2007, Johnson said Taylor threw her a birthday party at his Miami-area home attended by her boyfriend, Devon Wardlow, and Jason Mitchell. Mitchell is accused in Taylor's killing, along with Wardlow's brother Charles Wardlow. Prosecutors say the killing happened during a botched burglary attempt.

At the party, Johnson said Taylor gave her a purse stuffed with the cash and that Mitchell clearly saw it.

"Everything was in the purse. When I pulled it out,

he was right there and he saw it," Johnson testified.

Prosecutors say Rivera and the others drove across the state to Miami intending to burglarize Taylor's home, believing he kept large amounts of cash there. But, prosecutors say, the group didn't realize Taylor was home with an injury instead of at a Redskins game that Thanksgiving weekend and he was shot during a confrontation after they broke in.

Rivera, Mitchell, Charles Wardlow and Timothy Brown have all pleaded not guilty. The fifth suspect, Venjah Hunte, pleaded guilty to

second-degree murder and burglary and may testify against the others. Rivera, the first to go to trial, faces a potential life prison sentence if convicted.

Also Tuesday, another acquaintance of Rivera's testified that she saw Rivera and Charles Wardlow drive away from a car rental facility in a rented black Toyota Highlander that investigators say was used in the crime. Alexia Anderson said the mother of a mutual friend rented them the vehicle because they were underage. Rivera was only 17 when Taylor was killed.

"They drove away in it," Anderson testified.

"Who was actually driving?" asked Assistant State Attorney Reid Rubin. "Eric Rivera," she replied.

Another witness, Miami-Dade Police Department forensics expert John Mancini, said footwear impressions at various places in Taylor's home matched specific types of Reebok and Nike sneakers. Prosecutors say Rivera was wearing Nike Shox sneakers that night and Mitchell had on the Reeboks, which were seized from his home.

Mancini also said two identical 9mm bullet casings were found inside the home, one outside

Taylor's bedroom and one on a sofa near a rear sliding glass door downstairs. Investigators say Rivera shot out the sliding glass door so the group could escape. But the gun itself, they say, was thrown into the Everglades and has never been recovered.

Taylor, 24 when he died, was a Pro Bowl safety for the Redskins who had previously been a popular, locally grown star at the University of Miami. The Redskins drafted Taylor with the fifth overall pick in the 2004 draft and he signed an \$18 million contract.

University to hold safe driving seminar

ALEX BLENCOWE
Contributing Writer

More than 7,000 Americans died in motor vehicle crashes, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Board. In Florida, at least 85 crashes by distracted drivers turned fatal in 2010 and 2011.

Counseling and Psychological Services, Student Health Services and the Florida Department of Transportation is hosting CAPSapalooza 2013 just in time for National College Alcohol and Drug Awareness Week.

CAPSapalooza, in partnership with the FDOT's Put It Down Campaign, will feature two events: "Get It Straight" and "Get Crashed."

The events are an interactive and preventative approach to helping students to think about situations that put them at risk, wrote event organizers Xuan Stevens, University psychologist, and Silva Hassert, psychology intern, in an email.

"Get It Straight" will feature special guest speaker Laura Finley, vice president of the Humanity Project Board of Directors and assistant professor of criminology and sociology at Barry University, who will share her inspirational story

about the dangers of drug abuse and irresponsible behaviour.

"Get Crashed" will feature a rock-climbing wall and a bounce house that Stevens and Hassert say will be part of an "educational experience geared towards changing students' negative association and inappropriate use of the bounce house while intoxicated."

The Florida Department of Transportation, the American Automobile Association and AT&T are also bringing some interesting attractions: a distracted driving simulator, a roll-over simulator, motor squads, a BAT mobile and more. Delicious Capri-Sun "mocktails" will be served at the "Get Crashed" event, and "they are most certainly non-alcoholic," says Hassert.

Students from local surrounding high schools are invited to join the events. According to Hassert's findings, about 662 students attended in 2011 and there were about a thousand attendees in 2012, with more expected this year.

Carlos Sarmiento, community Traffic Safety Program Coordinator at the Florida Department of Transportation, District 6, says the "Put It Down" campaign has visited high schools, colleges and universities for the past three years, and has reached 4.2 million people so far. This

year the FDOT hopes to get new data on how effective the recent Florida ban on texting and driving has been in making roads safer.

"The Put It Down Campaign and CAPSapalooza is an opportunity for students to learn and share experiences about what they do when they drive," said Sarmiento.

Funding for CAPSapalooza is provided by CAPS, the Victim Empowerment Program, Student Government, Campus Recreation, Student Health Services through the student health fee, and Campus Life through the student activities fee.

In attendance will be members of the Florida Highway Patrol, Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Miami-Dade Metropolitan and Planning Organization, South Florida Commuter Services, as well as officials of various police departments such as Bay Harbor Islands, Aventura and Sunny Isles, to name a few.

CAPSapalooza "Get It Straight" will take place on Oct. 30, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Bay Vista Housing at BBC, and will be video-conferenced to the Parkview Multipurpose Room at MMC during that time. CAPSapalooza "Get Crashed" will be held from 10:00 a.m. to

CAPSAPALOOZA

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Oct. 29 | "Get Crashed"
10 a.m.- 4 p.m.
ACII Breezeway BBC |
| Oct. 30 | "Get It Straight"
6:30 - 9 p.m.
Bay Vista Housing BBC,
Videoconference Parkview
Multipurpose Room MMC |
| Oct. 31 | "Get Crashed",
10 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Betty Chapman Plaza
MMC |

Event is free.

4:00 p.m. on Oct. 29 in ACII Breezeway at BBC and on Oct. 31 at Betty Chapman Plaza at MMC.

Sarah Kenneally, senior health educator of Student Health Services Wellness Center, says it's not just about drugs, alcohol and texting while driving.

"We want students to be more responsible with the decisions they make and the consequences of their actions," Kenneally said.

-bbc@fiusm.com

Swimming and Diving: the hidden success of FIU

COLUMNIST



LUIS BARROSO

When we talk about FIU Athletics and successful programs, who do we think of? Maybe past football success, baseball, I would guess the soccer team has won a couple of games, right?

Well, all of these might be right, but the dark horse of the university that nobody talks about is the swimming and diving team. Yes, FIU does have a women's swimming and diving team. As of this point in the season the Panthers have won their first two competitions, in incredible fashion to say the least.

The Panthers hosted the Florida Atlantic Owls earlier this month, only to come up with a 175-102 victory over the Owls. Setting a program record against one of its South Florida rivals, the Panthers were led by senior Sabrina Beaupre as well as freshman Lily Kaufman in the diving division.

Beaupre was the top scorer in the one-meter dive as well as the three-meter dive with scores of 295.2 and a 294.45 respectively and right behind came Kaufman recording 265.2 in the one-meter and a 258.67 on the three meter. Swimming session was led by senior Sonia Perez winning three events and earning nine points for the Panthers.

Another notable swimmer was Kiara Anderson who took two individual events and two relay victories.

When it came time to go on a visit to the University of North Florida, the Panthers picked up where they left off, by downing the Ospreys with a score of 140-98. FIU won 11 out of the 13 events that took place during the day to take the victory against UNF.

Perez again led the way for the Panthers by winning two individual competitions, blowing away her competition in one relay event. In the diving category, FIU was led by Kaufman who won her first career diving event which came via the three-meter diving platform. These performances earned Perez and Kaufman the Conference USA weekly awards of Swimmer and Diver of the week, respectively.

These are the first C-USA weekly honors for both of these athletes, although Perez was a two-time Sun Belt Swimmer of the Week.

This success was not just built over night for the Panthers, it has come in great part on the coach's foundation over years. Head Coach Randy Horner has been working throughout his first three seasons as a coach, as well as bringing international talent to South Florida as FIU's current team is composed by athletes from 10 different countries.

Last season Horner led FIU



BEACON FILE PHOTO

The FIU women's swimming and diving team has started to raise eyebrows as the team has won its first two matches this season in convincing fashion, handily defeating FAU 175-102 and UNF 140-98.

to a conference-high six first-team, all conference selections, to go with another two third team selections. Athletes that led the Panthers to a third place finish in the Sun Belt Conference Championships with 711.5 team points.

Another leader for this team is diving coach Rio Ramirez. He is entering his second season as the FIU diving coach and brings experience

to the program. The four-time NCAA Diving Champion and three time All-American out of the University of Miami, made an immediate impact on the program by earning the 2013 Sun Belt Diving Coach of the Year in his first coaching season. Ramirez, a native of Cuba, has definitely been a major addition into the coaching staff in order to build the success they now have.

The Panthers ranked in the top five of the Sun Belt Conference the past three seasons, and with the new transition to the C-USA, I would have FIU with the bullseye on their back coming off their previous success and starting this season 2-0.

Next time you debate as of what is FIU's bright team, you might want take the Swimming and Diving

team into consideration and with all their accolades and prospects, they might be the only team with a legitimate chance this year to put FIU into the NCAA map, for a long time.

-The FIU Swimming and Diving team was unavailable for comment on this story due to inclement weather.

-bbc@fiusm.com