

'THIS IS GONNA GET SOLVED'

President Obama visits the University for town hall on immigration

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The University boasted an executive presence on Wednesday, Feb. 25.

"It is wonderful to be with the Golden Panthers," said President of the United States Barack Obama during his visit to the University for his discussion on immigration reform.

Hosted by news anchor Jose Diaz-Balart, the event was organized by MSNBC and Telemundo.

"We've had a system for a very long time that nobody's happy with," said Obama in regards to immigration.

He commenced by calling attention to the idea that businesses are being deprived of outstanding workers because of poor immigration reform, adding that, as a nation, we should be deploying more resources on worrying about felons and national security, than on worrying about domestic issues concerning immigration reform.

For over six years he has been trying to reach out to Republicans in Congress to push for comprehensive immigration reform that would strengthen the nation's borders and make sure that businesses had the necessary workforce and the ability to pay workers adequately without depriving them of overtime, he informed the audience.

He admitted that for the time being he would use all of the authority he has as chief executive of the United States to make sure that the nation was prioritizing the issue of immigration without sacrificing what was already

being done.

According to him, his approach of the executive action is not new, as it has been used by Democrats and Republicans throughout the nation's modern history.

Obama commented that he wants to expand the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program so more people can be eligible for its benefits. Those who have not been able to receive benefits from the program should be able to apply for it and not have to live in fear of deportation.

As Obama phrased it, although people across the country thought his executive order was a good idea, its progress was nonetheless halted by Judge Andrew S. Hanen from Texas, who halted the President's order by issuing an injunction, according to WND.com.

He commented that for the time being, instead of Republicans holding hostage the funds from the Department of Homeland Security, they should make these funds available and focus on working toward a more comprehensive immigration reform law.

Obama admitted that even if Mitch McConnell or John Boehner have a vote on whether what he's doing is legal or not, he will veto that vote because he believes what he's doing is right. In the meantime, Obama promises to continue pursuing all legal avenues to ensure that changes are made.

In addition to expanding the benefits of DACA and creating initiatives for undocumented parents, Obama said his administration will work to change how the Immigration and Customs



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

President Barack Obama spoke at the University on Wednesday, Feb. 25. University members watched the town hall through a live feed in GC 140. **For more photos from the event see fiusm.com.**

Enforcement (ICE) and the U.S. border patrol system operates, as the administration doesn't want to allocate resources in a wasteful way.

Obama said that he aims to have these border patrol agencies focus not on targeting undocumented families but criminals who may pose a threat to national security.

Diaz-Balart interjected by saying that sometimes these orders are not always followed by border patrol agencies.

President Obama responded by saying that every time that a large bureaucracy changes its policies there will be several instances in which people will not follow orders.

immigrants who embrace American ideals, Obama commented, "All the things that we take for granted in this country, these were built by immigrants."

He told Narvaez that for the moment, due to Judge Hanen's injunction, his mom will be blocked from registering for relief programs.

If she qualifies for these benefits, then the government will still ensure that she is not targeted for deportation. Obama added that, in the long-term, there needs to exist a pathway for people like Narvaez's mother to become a legal citizen.

Until the government passes a law through Congress, the executive actions taken are only temporary, said Obama. There will be some jurisdictions and individual border patrols who will not pay attention to the government's initiatives, but they will be answerable to executives in Homeland Security, Obama assured. "I'm using all of the legal power vested in me in order to solve this problem," Obama said.

Interested in knowing more about Obama's plans, Diaz-Balart asked the President if he had a contingency plan in the case that other forms of halting the executive action are taken.

Obama's response? He will simply appeal to a higher court, believing that the law is on his side.

He did admit, however, that in order to ensure that this change is permanent, the government needs to pass a bill.

Boris Gilles, an international student at the University, was also afforded

the chance to ask the President a question.

He confessed to Obama that he and other international students oftentimes feel left out of discussions of reform and wanted to know how Obama could include international students in his executive order.

Obama answered by saying that for this to happen, more is needed than just executive actions. Congressional laws, those that do not violate current statutes need to be passed.

When called out by Diaz-Balart saying that even when he had absolute control of Congress he didn't do much for immigration, Obama countered by saying that during that time the nation had the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.

According to Obama, while he and his administration were moving forward aggressively for a number of issues, it could not get the votes to get things done for immigration.

For Obama, the responsibility to make change happen belongs to voters as much as it does to lawmakers.

He commented that during the last presidential election, only one-third of eligible voters casted ballots.

"Over the long-term, this is gonna get solved because at some point there's gonna be a president Rodriguez or there's gonna be a president Chin," Obama said, adding that as a nation of immigrants, our political leadership will one day reflect this.

His message to the next president is to not just think about the short-term because it's politically convenient, but to think ahead of his or her time to solve issues.

Domestic violence discussion hosted by Greek organizations

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When one of the sisters of Alpha Chi Omega sorority, who wished to remain anonymous, was in an abusive relationship, she was in denial.

In an effort to call attention to domestic abuse, the brothers of Theta Chi fraternity and sisters of Alpha Chi Omega met on Feb. 23 to host a domestic abuse forum titled, "Sacred Purpose: Breaking the Silence," at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

Fidel Urbina, a junior business administration major and vice president of health and safety for Theta Chi's Iota Omicron chapter at the University, was in charge of coordinating the event.

His intention was to target the University community in order to spread awareness of the issue, an issue he believes is oftentimes ignored.

"I believe that the topics that are done through the Greek

community, like cancer and Alzheimer's are also really important, but I feel like domestic violence is something that people don't really cover, and it's something that people basically silence," he said.

In the process of coordinating the event, Urbina spoke to Alpha Chi Omega sorority, whose philanthropic efforts are targeted at domestic abuse. He also spoke to the University's Victim Empowerment Program and The Lodge Miami.

The Lodge Miami, which was opened on May 14, 2004, by Victim Response, Inc., serves as a shelter for those individuals who have been victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or rape in Miami-Dade County, according to the Victim Response web page.

Operated privately and funded publicly, The Lodge Miami represents the future of what may be accomplished as a result of both the public and private sectors coming together to work simultaneously on addressing issues that affect the community.

A gender-neutral center where all services are free and

confidential, The Lodge Miami helps abused individuals get referrals to different agencies, identify transitional housing and identify therapy centers, among other things.

The Lodge assists with the whole process of helping abused individuals get back on their feet without leaving them to depend on someone who is making them go through a violent situation, according to Eliana Vazquez, victim advocate at The Lodge Miami who presented at the event.

Vazquez believes that spreading awareness of this issue in college environments is particularly important.

"This is the time that people are becoming independent and they are becoming their own, they're trying to discover themselves, so this is information that they can use on themselves and to the people that they are going to be working with when they get out to the real world," she said.

The anonymous sister of Alpha Chi Omega believes that

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

With Islamic State threatening, Turkey abandons historic tomb in Syria

After months of siege by Islamic State extremists, Turkey early Sunday sent an armored column into Syria to evacuate troops that had been guarding the tomb of Suleyman Shah, the grandfather of the founder of the Ottoman Empire.

The government announced that nearly 600 soldiers were deployed to the site on the Euphrates river late Saturday.

The troops removed Suleyman

Shah's sarcophagus, and then destroyed the mausoleum. Turkey said it would house Suleyman Shah's remains in the Ashma region, close to the Turkish border, after a new mausoleum is built.

The operation ended what in effect was a long-running hostage crisis, which began when Islamic State forces captured the area surrounding the enclave about a year ago.

Army to send headquarters group to Kandahar in first sign of revision to Afghan withdrawal plan

In the first official sign that the Pentagon plans to keep a U.S. military presence in southern Afghanistan after this year, the Army is sending the 7th Infantry Division headquarters from Joint Base Lewis-McChord on a year-long deployment to Kandahar Province this spring.

The deployment follows Defense Secretary Ashton Carter's weekend visit to Kandahar, where he acknowledged in a meeting with soldiers that the Obama

administration was reconsidering the pace of its planned withdrawal of the 10,000 U.S. troops who remain in Afghanistan.

The deployment is small, fewer than 100 soldiers.

The division's deployment has been an open secret at the base for months. The Pentagon in December announced that it was adding staff to the headquarters to help it reach a deployable strength.

Clinton to women: It can still feel like 1955 out there

Hillary Clinton, the first female candidate to seriously vie for the presidency, told thousands of Silicon Valley professionals Tuesday that despite strides in the United States for women, the economy in many ways is still operating like it's 1955.

"That not just a problem for women," Clinton told the audience of

5,000, most of them women. "It's a problem for everyone."

Clinton peppered her 35-minute speech here with personal anecdotes as she pushed women to work together to elevate more females to leadership positions, secure benefits in their workplace and change society to be more welcoming to families.

Greek organizations partner to educate on domestic abuse

ABUSE, PAGE 1

informing the community on these issues is very important.

"I feel that, not only with my sorority, but events like this, it promotes the awareness of other [forms of domestic violence] that go around campus," she said.

She credited the event for informing those in attendance about the flags of domestic abuse, indicators that reveal that a person is involved in an abusive relationship. She admitted that during the time of her relationship she wasn't even aware of the flags she was exhibiting to her friends and family members.

When she noticed the changes in her life during the relationship, particularly the negative mindset that she was developing, she decided to get help.

She believes that support from friends and family members is just one of many resources that one may resort to.

In addition to visiting college campuses, The Lodge Miami also visits high schools, elementary schools, as well as LGBTQ clubs, which Vazquez says is important because members of this community are oftentimes forgotten.

When dealing with people of different cultures, Vazquez admits that drawing attention to cultural factors is critical. She mentioned

that although a lot of people think it's okay to be treated aggressively because the behavior is normal in their respective culture, it's not okay when it involves violence.

Among the many topics that Vazquez covered were the definition of domestic violence and what it entails, what an abuser does, the dynamics of textual harassment, teen dating violence, and what a healthy relationship is.

One of the statistics that Vazquez shared was that 73 percent of domestic violence victims are female and that the same percentage of domestic violence cases go unreported.

Vazquez commented that some of the women that visit The Lodge Miami arrive in yoga clothes in order to disguise their intention to seek help from abusive partners.

She added that individuals in abusive relationships are in situations that are not easy to escape.

According to her, people oftentimes don't understand that when a person tries to leave an abusive relationship the lethality of the situation increases, as the abusive partner may become more violent.

The anonymous sister feels that knowledge of one's own feelings is just as important as knowledge of the dynamics of abuse.

"I think it's really [about learning] about yourself. What do you feel, and how you should feel, to know or be aware that you are in the domestic violence relationship," she said.

Masters program celebrates 20 years

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"They come from doing wonderful things and here they are able to develop their creativity and their personality, to reflect all they have done. Some simply come for a first experience in the field," Vigon said.

Like Vigon, who is from Spain, many of the program's professors also come from different Spanish-speaking countries, making the program exceptionally diversified.

Claudia Gonzalez-Soto, a Colombian student in the program, has been interested in studying journalism for

years. However, at the time of her undergraduate years in Barranquilla, Colombia, there were no well-known journalism programs.

She came to FIU with two masters degrees in Mental Health Counseling and Clinical Psychology. Now, she wants to put her expertise in the field of journalism.

"Even though I studied psychology, I want to use it in mass communications. What motivated me the most is that everything is taught in Spanish," Gonzalez-Soto said.

"I think that journalism is a lovely career where we can do a lot of good to society," Gonzalez-Soto

said, "because we have to inform people about the reality of what is happening. That's why I think this career is very important."

According to Diament, the future of journalism is uncertain with changes in technology, for example. However, the program is willing to prepare the students for that.

"Our challenge is to prepare professionals who are going to work in that future and train them and give them the ability to adapt to this unknown future -- no matter what the changes in the media landscape may be," Diament said.

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Meet and greets don't deliver the whole package

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It is pretty standard that musical artists offer meet and greet or VIP packages during their tours. It gives fans the opportunity to meet the musician, or all the members of a band, for a short while and is a great experience. However, it comes at a high price, literally.

Depending on the popularity of the artist, packages can range anywhere from \$50 to thousands of dollars and often those packages do not include a general admission ticket. While there are benefits to purchasing the packages, they do not outweigh the

shortcomings.

Meet and greets are fun. The anticipation is exhilarating, the encounter is surreal and it can make the performance more enjoyable. They also give the buyer the advantage of early admission into the venue, which is crucial.

However, the expense for these packages can break the bank and for that amount of money spent, the experience can feel impersonal and rushed. A lot of people purchase these tickets and because the meetings occur right before the show, time is limited. These packages give fans just enough time to have their memorabilia signed and picture taken before being shoved out of the way to make room

for the next group to be shuffled through.

While the tickets for the VIP packages are limited, there is a solid amount sold. By the time half the group has been admitted the artist seems to have lost their enthusiasm. It is like they revert to autopilot. The whole experience is narrowed down to signing whatever is shoved in front of them and smiling for a picture. Interaction with the fan becomes secondary.

As a fan, it feels as though I annoyed the artist with my very presence. I feel the need to apologize once my time is up, as if my appreciation for their music came off as offending. Granted, there will be those understanding bands that genuinely enjoy

the time spent with their fans, but they are few.

This is not to say that VIP packages should not

able to afford them besides a select few. However, the meet and greets should be revised.

“

These packages give fans just enough time to have their memorabilia signed and picture taken before being shoved out of the way to make room for the next group to be shuffled through.

”

be an option. There has to be some kind of a system to them or the process would fail. The packages can't be free or there would be no show. On the opposite side, the prices should not be raised or no one would be

For example, instead of standing in line just to have a piece of paper signed, bands could spend that time interacting with the fans. I have experienced this kind of meet and greet once and it was, by far, the

best. The group was more relaxed—as relaxed as you can be around celebrities—and it was more informal. Everyone took their own selfies with the band and was able to have an actual conversation with them.

Another option could be to schedule meet and greets at different times throughout the day; devoted fans will show up undoubtedly. Singer Rou Reynolds of the band Enter Shikari wrote, “If someone believes it is morally justifiable to charge you to meet them, you have to ask yourself the question, ‘Do they deserve to be met?’ In fact, do they deserve to meet you?”

Terrorism does not originate from religion

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President Barack Obama directed the nation and millions around the world this week at the summit on Countering Violent Extremism. It was truly a poignant speech, clearing up misconceptions many have about the Muslim faith. He rejected the notion that terrorism stems from Islamic values, and urged us to do the same.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, a terrorist organization, claims to be motivated by Islam; they commit hateful crimes in the name of Allah. President Obama discredits their claim. He says they are motivated by violence and not by any religious ideals. This fallacy leads many people from different faiths to fear Muslims and discriminate against them.

“If you kill one innocent person, it's as if you killed mankind,” Obama quoted from the Quran.

If it wasn't obvious before, I think this speech clarified any false pretenses people had about the Muslim faith. Their religion does not endorse violent acts of terrorism.

Terrorism emerges from corrupt political regimes, a declining economy and alienation in society. ISIS creates

animosity among religions and gains power when we ignorantly fear the unknown. As President Obama stated, ISIS wants to cause a clash of civilizations by pinning religions against each other.

“

If you kill one innocent person, it's as if you killed mankind.

Barack Obama
United States President
Quoting the Quran

”

It isn't about religion, it's about power. Obama claims that building schools and promoting economic growth for families abroad will encourage anti-terrorism by keeping children out of trouble and away from the hands of ISIS.

Terrorism is much more complex than the economy and education. Political corruption and oppression has led

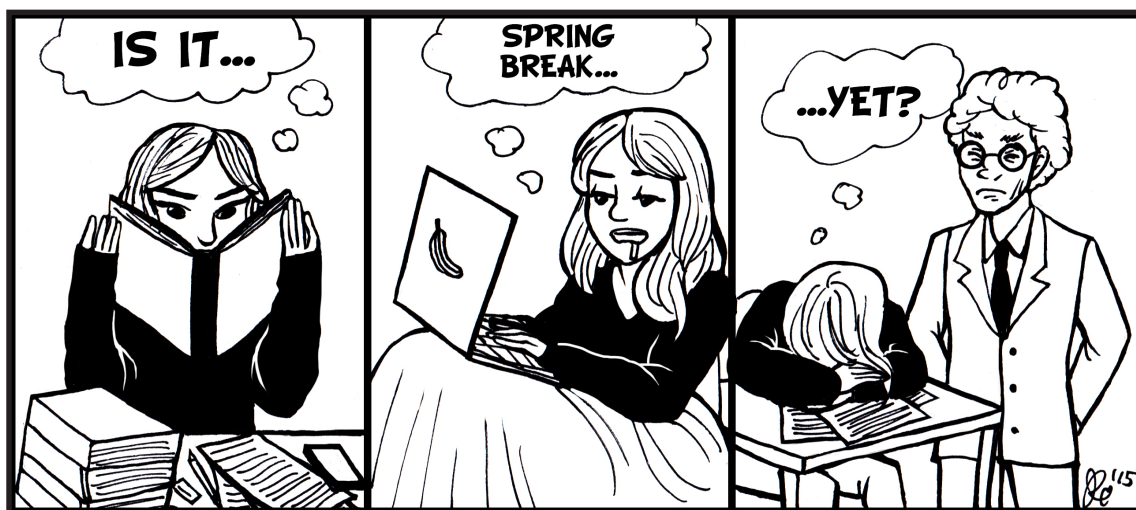
individuals to radicalize for centuries. Despite economic status or religion, political instability has forced rebels to emerge. For instance, Obama noted that Osama Bin Laden came from a wealthy background, and still became one of the biggest names in terrorist history. Economic growth itself will not eradicate terrorism. Only democracy can do that.

Obama admitted there is something everyone could do to help stop terrorism, including ordinary people. By not taking part in racial profiling and eliminating anti-Muslim sentiment, our focus can be on preventing terrorists organizations from emerging.

Alienating Muslims or acting out against them will only empower groups like ISIS and goes against what our country believes in. We are a country based on freedom of religion. Thus, rather than judging religions or races, we should judge their motives.

Many presidents have given speeches about countering violent acts of terrorism. In my opinion, none have tackled it as effectively as President Obama. In order to prevent a future “clash of civilizations,” we can't be bystanders. There is something each and every one of us can do to help tackle the fight on global terrorism, one kind gesture at a time.

JUST SAYIN'



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

Spring Break

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“Rumors” spreads to University

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Premiering at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center’s Mainstage Theatre Feb. 27 and running through March 8 is Neil Simon’s “Rumors,” a twisted farce both in its comedy and its plot.

To provide a glimpse into the play, two lead actors, Danny Leonard and Natalie Brenes, both senior theater performance majors, shared their thoughts.

“The play is really fun, really funny and very active. It’s a great production,” Brenes said. “I think the audience will really, really enjoy it. It’s for the masses, it’s a mix of slapstick and witty humor. It appeals to everyone.”

“I think the audience is going to have a great time, it’s a lot of farce comedy,” Leonard said. “Opening doors, closing doors, one person is coming in, one person is going out ... it will keep the audience guessing and laughing.”

“Rumors” has been produced by dozens of theaters, including Broadway, since its premiere at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, Calif. Since every venue brings something new to a show, the students at FIU decided to tackle the play, as well.

“Everything except the costumes is student designed,” said Leonard. “The lights, the set and the sound. There hasn’t been a play like this before in the last five years, the modern setting of it makes it more accessible and relatable.”

“It’s a show that keeps you on the

edge of your seat. As soon as you think something resolved itself, something happens. You’re never going to fall asleep,” said Brenes.

According to Leonard there are 12 characters in the play, but the audience becomes the 13th.

“Their reaction, when they laugh, will help the play move along. We want the audience to enjoy the show, so its going to be a new show every night since we have new audience members.” Leonard said.

Director Matthew Glass also spoke about his upcoming production.

“Directing a farce is very difficult: its all about the timing,” Glass said. “You have to be exact and find a structure that is rigid and can’t bend, yet gives the actors enough room to play. It’s all about the

door slamming at the right time to cue the next bit that’s going to happen.”

Despite the difficulties, Glass assures that the play is funny.

“Neil Simon has a bad rep, but turn on CNN and take a look around at what’s happening in the world. I think audiences will welcome two hours of just laughter. They don’t have to do anything but enjoy and laugh ... I want the audience to dance out of the theater, happy,” Glass said.

Tickets for “Rumors” are \$10 for students, \$12 for seniors and staff and \$15 for general admission.

“We need the audience,” Glass said. “We want an audience and we’re ready. It’s something I don’t often say when directing a play.”

Student success in swimwear line KOKOAKINIS

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Isabella Soto is a digital media studies major at Florida International University, who has always been into owning a small business. At the age of 19, after various occasions of trying to start one, she saw the opportunity to launch her own swimwear line, and she didn’t think twice before doing so.

“A couple years ago, I used to buy old jeans at thrift stores and I’d cut them into shorts and sell them on Etsy

[A small business website],” Soto said. “Then I started my own fashion blog, but it’s expensive to maintain so I didn’t do it as often.”

It wasn’t until Soto launched KOKOAKINIS in December 2014, that she grasped on to the success of a fast-growing company.

“When you start off your business, you never think it’s going to do so well. I get e-mails from people in Hawaii or Sweden with questions about my swimwear. It’s kind of surreal,” Soto said.

She says a major part of her

growth since it was launched, less than three months ago, has to do with her marketing and photography choices. Soto created the concept behind KOKOAKINIS, as a line that any girl of any size and body type could identify with and want to wear. The models she uses for her swimwear are girls of all shapes and body types.

She emphasized the fact that her customers should identify with the organic beauty of her models. Soto accomplishes this by doing minimal editing to her images

and focusing on the bikinis’ style complementing the model’s body.

“The first collection was all over the place. I didn’t have a theme. I was just picking what I really liked and thought would look good,” Soto said.

Soto began her business with the help and lead of her mother, Paula Lopez, who she describes as her backbone in the process. Lopez came up with the name “KOKOAKINIS,” from what Soto said sounded “catchy” and they decided to keep it.

Her mother, a Colombian native who has been living in the United States for 15 years, studied fashion at the Miami International University of Art & Design. At a young age, Soto would watch her mother work on fashion pieces for school projects. She recalls going to one of her mother’s fashion shows when Lopez was still enrolled in the fashion school.

“My mother is living vicariously through me [with KOKOAKINIS],” Soto said. “She has always wanted to own a business of her own.”

After graduating, Lopez began designing a sportswear line. She hired a seamstress in Barranquilla, Colombia to make the clothes for the business. The sportswear line was discontinued after a short time.

Soto, being curious about



PHOTO COURTESY OF ISABELLA SOTO

Isabella Soto, a digital media studies major, draws on her notepad the latest designs of her swimwear line.

owning a business, thought that bikinis were a good way to go, especially in Miami.

“People are always going to want to buy bikinis,” Soto said.

She then asked her mother for the seamstress’ contact in Barranquilla and in November 2014, she began sketching the designs for the swimsuits that would make up KOKOAKINI’S first collection.

With her mother’s guidance, she learned where to buy fabrics, how to select colors, prints and designs.

“It’s been a learning process along the way,” Soto said. “But when I wake up every morning the only thing I want to focus on is my swimwear line.”

The second collection, “Spring 115,” will launch in early March of this year. It will include three different sections divided by color themes: one with only black pieces, another with earthy, more subtle tones and the third will have versatile brighter tones keeping KOKOAKINIS true to Miami’s liveliness and beaches.

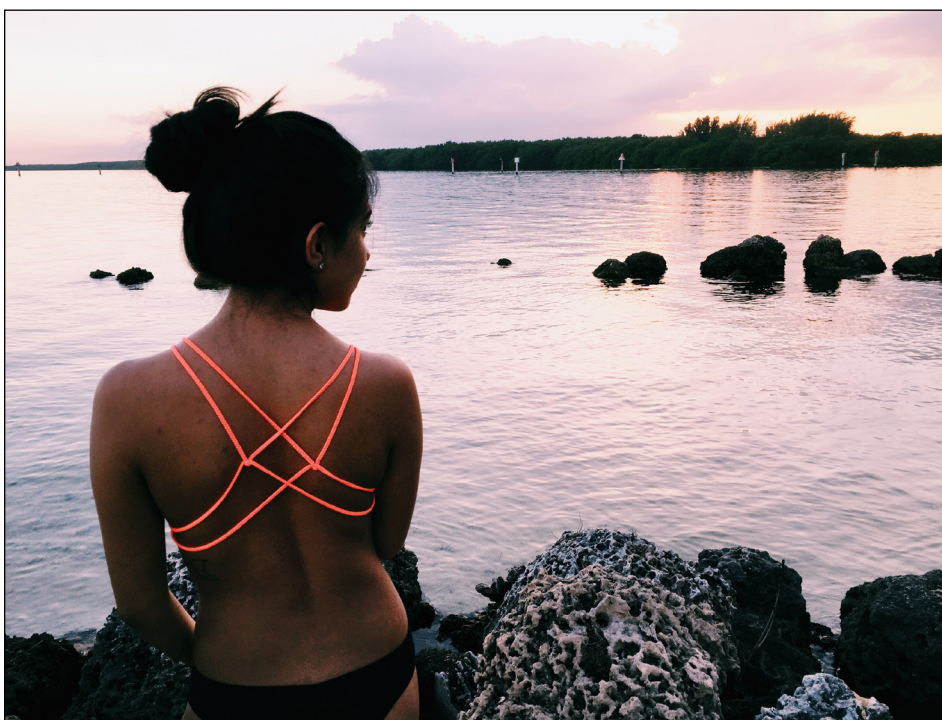


PHOTO COURTESY OF ISABELLA SOTO


Isabella Soto has models show off her swimwear line, she uses girls with all shapes and body types because she wants her customers to identify with organic beauty.

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Rolling Loud festival features local artists Johnny Billionz and Chief Oyabun

TOO BOLD TO GAMBLE

JOSHUA K.K. NICHOLS

It appears EDM has held onto the Miami spotlight long enough. We have become all too familiar with EDM, and now it's time for hip-hop to seize the moment and dazzle everyone with its brilliance in the Rolling Loud festival.

Ultra was only the gateway for music enthusiasts that crave for a grander, over the top music celebration.

To understand the level of greatness the Rolling Loud Festival aspires to be, think of it as Ultra's hip-hop fraternal twin, especially with the announcement of a performance lineup including Schoolboy Q, Juicy J, A\$AP Ferg and Travis Scott. These are household names that have been dismantling the rap game, bar by bar, for years.

However, the leaders of Dope Entertainment are not satisfied just with mainstream names. They take pride in creating a magical experience that highlights the undeniable,

yet-to-be-recognized talent. This hip-hop festival is a chance for local rappers to be seen and blow up their fan base. Tariq Cheriff, co-founder and CEO of Dope Entertainment intends to use this hip-hop festival as a way to put the 305 on the global stage.

The Rolling Loud Festival sounds like a hip-hop music buffet. Over 100 acts have been announced, so there should be no shortage of that underground Miami sound, especially with notable local artists such as Johnny Billionz and Chief Oyabun.

These are two spectacular upcoming Miami artists who could be the potential future of hip-hop. Johnny Billionz is known for his latest album "Dreams Made True" which dropped last Oct., while Chief Oyabun, who opened for the Nipsey Hussle Concert, has an upcoming tour in Calif. performing alongside artists like Denzel Curry and Quest.

Despite not having the same presence in the music business as other artists, the creative minds at Dope Entertainment recognize these artists' impending fame and gave them their

chance on stage. Both artists are taking advantage of Tariq Cheriff's vision, and plan to capitalize on it by giving the public a memorable performance that will rival all the big names performing in this year's festival.

Chief Oyabun views the festival as a competition for fans.

"As an artist fighting for the same thing, we are all competing for the crowd even though we're all friends," Oyabun said.

In my interview with Johnny Billionz, he said that he feels that he doesn't have the same name notoriety as Schoolboy Q and that he has to be working harder than him, which will be hard to do but he plans to really stand out and make people remember him.

Each artist has high expectations for Rolling Loud and aims to outperform the other, which brings even more excitement for this hip-hop extravaganza.

Don't miss out on Chief Oyabun who has prepared a peculiar surprise for the audience. He is expecting to create a "dope experience" and told his fans to expect

him to be "Malcolm X going ape on stage."

And don't dare forget about Johnny Billionz who also prepared a memorable gift for the crowd by performing a brand new track called "No More," which he teased about dropping this Friday.

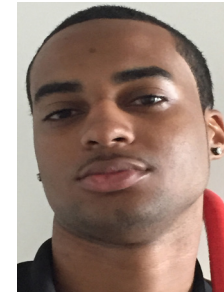
Each artist plans to deliver a must-see performance that will catch Miami by surprise. Those who care about hip-hop and music culture will applaud Dope Entertainment and their efforts to book great local talents like Johnny Billionz and Chief Oyabun.

Too Bold to Gamble is a column by Joshua Kawainqui Kasanova Nichols, a finance and informational technology major. He follows local performances around South Florida and is a DJ at WRGP known as Y2K. His show, Las Vegas Sinners, is known to play alternative hip-hop. Make sure to tune in to his show every Monday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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P.O.T.U.S.

University students react to the President's Town Hall at FIU



Sanford Barbee II
 Class of 2015
 Criminal Justice Major

"It's great for the school to get exposure, but I thought he could have interacted with the students more."

Edianys Santoyo
 Class of 2019
 Psychology major in a pre-med track



"Honestly it caused a lot of traffic. I was late for my class and I missed my PLTL session [a test for biology majors]."

Dante Baldassari
 Class of 2015
 International Relations



"It's very cool to have a president in the same area that I am in. That's the first time that happens. Unfortunately I wasn't able to see him, to listen to him whatever he had to say, so honestly I feel disappointed because of it."

Mike Neira
 Class of 2019
 Communications Major



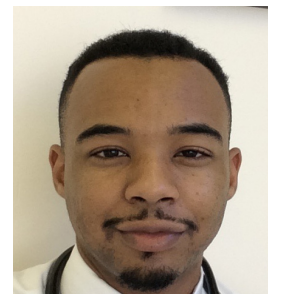
"I think it's cool stuff. I just want to know when he's legalizing marijuana."

Justin Ritkes
 Class of 2019
 Accounting



"I think it's really good that he came. What he's speaking about it has a lot to do with hispanic people and the legalization reforms, so this is a good place for him to come and speak because it matters to a lot of people here."

Raphael Harris
 Class of 2018
 College of Medicine



"I think immigration reform is serious topic and by being addressed it shows Obama is doing what he's suppose to be doing as a president."

SULU SPEAKS



JINETTE GARCIA/THE BEACON

Actor George Takei, famous for his role as Hikaru Sulu on Star Trek, talks about life experiences that made his fame a platform for social justice activism on Tuesday, Feb.24.

FOOTBALL

Tim Harris Jr. officially named running backs coach

JACOB SPIWAK
Staff Writer
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After the report last week by The Miami Herald that FIU added Booker T. Washington High School's head football coach Tim Harris Jr. as the new running backs coach, the university officially announced the hire on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

While a lot of buzz has been surrounding this coaching acquisition since the story came out last week, nothing was official until FIU's announcement.

His resume at the high school level surrounds this hire with optimism, Washington High School was ranked No. 4 in the nation in USA Today's high school football poll at the end of his tenure.

In just one season as head coach, Harris brought the Tornados to a perfect 14-0 record and a third consecutive state championship win. This remarkable season led to Harris being named the Class 4A Coach of the Year, among many other awards and nominations.

In the five seasons prior, Harris was the offensive coordinator at Booker T. Washington, leading the nationally acclaimed football team to a lot of offensive success.

Head coach Ron Turner was clearly very excited about the hire, displayed by his comments in the official press release.



BRIAN TRUJILLO/THE BEACON

With the acquisition of new running back coach Tim Harris Jr., he looks to take running back Alex Gardner - No. 1 - under his wing and prepare him to have an incredible sophomore campaign.

"[Tim] is a tireless worker," Turner said. "He has done an outstanding job at a highly-successful high school program. He comes from a strong coaching background with his father, Tim Harris, Sr. He has a tremendous knack for communicating with his players on and off the field. He's a disciplinarian who holds his kids

accountable for everything they do."

Harris also seemed extremely happy to be working with FIU and eager to start the job.

"I'm really excited and thankful for the opportunity Coach Turner has given me and my family," Harris, Jr. said. "FIU is a great destination. This is a program that

kids want to be a part of and the direction Coach Turner and his staff have FIU football going in is something special."

This coaching change is not only expected to help the young Panther backfield improve, but Harris will also be looked to when it comes to recruiting.

Kerry Dixon II, the former running backs coach who left to coach wide receivers at University of Florida, was credited as one of the main factors that got top talent from Miami-Dade County to sign with FIU.

Due to his experience coaching at arguably the top high school football program in the country, Harris surely has connections and pull that will help FIU attract players from South Florida.

One of the highly rated Miami-Dade recruits added to the roster in 2015 is quarterback Maurice Alexander, who Harris coached in high school.

Alexander took to Twitter to display his excitement, first tweeting a picture of he and Harris and then saying, "[b]lessed to be going to the same college as my head [high school] football coach!"

There are countless other talented players in the county that have played for and against Harris over the years, which seems to give FIU a strong edge in recruiting in-state talent.

BASEBALL

Panthers ready to take on Manhattan for home series

ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE
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After coming from a 2-3 road trip this past weekend, the Panthers will come back home and battle it out against non-conference opponent Manhattan College. FIU will play against them this weekend in a four game series starting on Friday night.

Going into this game the Panthers have an even record of 4-4 and look to capitalize on a struggling Manhattan team. Even though these games are non-conference games, it still gives FIU a chance to get their record over the .500 mark and have a winning record when they actually enter conference play.

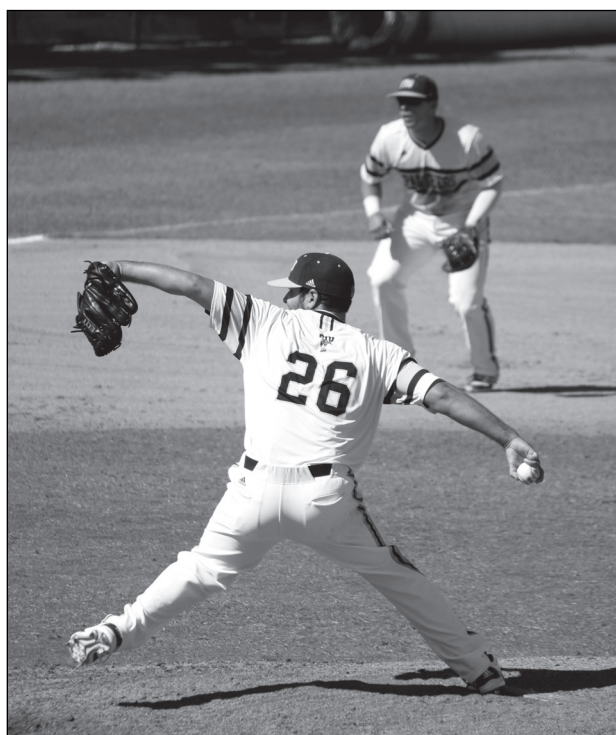
This season for Manhattan has not started the way they expected to as they have dropped their first four games in a row. In those four games they have been outscored by 30 runs.

In total they have given up 39 runs and have answered those runs by only scoring nine runs of their own.

This shows that the pitching staff for the Jaspers has been struggling as of late and have not been able to keep the games low scoring which is obviously why Manhattan has a 0-4 start. With the pitchers giving up that many runs it puts more pressure on the hitters to score more runs and that is a recipe for disaster that no baseball team wants to experience.

This series is set up to be in FIU's favor to take the series since they have been playing good baseball as of late and are entering this series versus the Jaspers on a two game winning streak.

Expect the Panthers to be headlined by their pitching staff to silence Manhattan's struggling bats. The pitching rotation is going to be heavily depended on since they will be playing four games in three days which includes a



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Sophomore right handed pitcher Chris Mourelle looks to lead the baseball team's pitching staff against Manhattan College and get their record back over .500.

doubleheader on Saturday so its all hands on deck for the Panthers. Games like this against struggling teams like Manhattan need to be automatic wins

for FIU and they need to take advantage of the opportunities they get to win ball games now and for the rest of the season.

UPCOMING BASEBALL GAMES:

Manhattan College

Feb. 27 - 7 p.m.

Feb. 28 - 2 p.m.

March 1 - 1 p.m.

Home

Miami Marlins

March 2 - 1:05 p.m.

Jupiter, Fla.

Away

Univ. of Connecticut

March 6 - 7 p.m.

March 7 - 6 p.m.

March 8 - 1 p.m.

Home

Seton Hall

March 10 - 12 p.m.

Port Charlotte, Fla.

Away

St. Joseph's

March 10 - 4 p.m.

Port Charlotte, Fla.

Away

Univ. of Southern Mississippi

March 13 - 7 p.m.

March 14 - 3 p.m.

March 15 - 1 p.m.

C-USA Opener - Away

ATHLETICS

University hate needs to stop: have a little pride for your school

RHYS' PIECE



RHYS WILLIAMS

We are not the University of Miami. We are not the University of Florida or Florida State University.

We are Florida International University.

However, you wouldn't know that if you just took a look at our student body.

Walking around the Modesto A. Maidique campus a clear majority of the gear worn, besides greek letters, is from different universities.

There is no spirit, or general good feeling, for the university that most of these students will graduate from.

I have personally heard the arguments that UM was the "dream school" or that "I'll get there eventually" from different people. Yes, I get that it was your dream school, but were some of your other

dreams like being a famous childhood actor/actress or marrying a famous athlete at 18 fulfilled?

“
Quit making excuses because if it truly is your "dream" you will do anything to achieve it.

No, and like those, neither was your dream of being a student at UM, at least for whatever portion of your schooling you are in now while taking classes at the University.

My only two reasons I would accept

for those statements are if you got your bachelor's or other such degree there and are here at the University for a graduate program or if your parents/parent or significant other goes or went there.

Those are the only reasons I personally accept.

If you want to leave the University to go to some other university go ahead and do it. Quit making excuses because if it truly is your "dream" you will do anything to achieve it.

You are not a Hurricane or a Gator or a Seminole. You do not go to a university in one of the "Power Six" athletic conferences. However, you do go to a NCAA Division I school in Miami with some pretty good athletic teams.

Our University's swimming and diving team just won the 2014-2015 Conference USA title. Our baseball and softball teams are slated to finish at or near the top of C-USA play this year.

We also have a slew of other sports gaining momentum to be great at the University.

However, how would you feel if you were at your job, working your hardest, and someone came up to you showing support for another company that does your same job but at a higher level? It would suck. That is exactly how some athletes at the University feel about seeing students wearing gear from other universities at their games, meets and tournaments.

I, who participated in tailgates for football games, not only saw hundreds of students not even go into the game, but also saw persons, that I personally know to be students at the University, wearing gear from both UM and FSU on multiple occasions.

Why is this ok?

Oh wait. It's not.

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NATIONAL

Miami makes magic happen again, helps set up biggest boxing match in sports history

LOUIS AGUDELO

Staff Writer

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For the second time in five years, multiple stars have chosen South Beach as their place to come together at once and cause a big splash. And after five long years of waiting to see if the two greatest professional boxers of the age would agree to into the ring with one another, all it took was both happening to be at the same basketball game on a Tuesday night to get Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather to get things moving in the right direction. Back on Tuesday,

Jan. 27 of this year, the Miami Heat were facing the Milwaukee Bucks in a regular season matchup while both teams were, and still are, fighting for a playoff spot.

The interest was focused on opposite sides of the court, but not those of the visiting and home teams. The real attention was on the courtside locations of World Boxing Champions Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao.

Congressman and eight division world fighting champ Pacquiao was in Miami to judge the Miss Universe Pageant which was held at the US Century Bank Arena at Florida

International University, along with 19-time Grammy Award Winning musician and producer Emilio Estefan, NFL pro-bowler Desean Jackson, Creative Director of Marie Claire Magazine Nina Garcia, Entrepreneur Rob Dyrdek, Real Housewives of Beverly Hills star Lisa Vanderpump, TV heartthrob William Levy, Former Laguna Beach star Kristin Cavallari, Fashion Journalist Louise Roe, and Miami Marlins \$325 million man Giancarlo Stanton. The Pageant was held Sunday, Jan. 25, and a couple of nights later, Pacquiao found himself across the court from Mayweather, who also

happened to be at American Airlines Arena to take in the game, coincidentally.

During the game, once the arena became aware that the two men who have been seemingly playing a game of cat-and-mouse with each other for almost half a decade, both were picture on the jumbotron above half-court, with the words "Coming in 2015?" above the live-feed of them in their seats taking in the game.

By halftime of the contest, the fighters, much like the rest of the sporting world, grew too tired and restless to wait for at least an inch of ground to be made in this potential

match of the century, and they made their way to half court to speak face to face. The conversation didn't seem confrontational, as the two exchanged numbers and met up in Pacquiao's hotel room later that night to talk business.

The boxers have spent a large amount of time going back and forth to get the fight to happen, arguing and disagreeing on who should get the majority of the revenue and other specifics of the sort. The entire world has grown tired of waiting on the two to put their egos aside.

A case can be made that the fight is long overdue, and might not even be

worth the hype, as both men are said to be long past their primes. Regardless of any of this, fact or not, everyone is excited.

After a few more weeks of fans waiting and boxers talking, it became official on Friday, Feb. 20, that the two would face off at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on Saturday, May 2.

If you don't have a \$250,000 credit line with the MGM Grand for ringside seats, the Pay-Per-View is being rumored to cost around \$100 dollars, as this is estimated to be the biggest boxing event in the sports history. It will likely shatter any existing revenue records.



**WANT TO BE A REPORTER?
JOIN THE BEACON!**

**APPLICATIONS:
GC 210
WUC 124
FIUSM.COM**

The **BEACON** is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don't be shy.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The University Activity and Service (A&S) Fee Committee will be holding public hearings on

Thursday, February 26, 2015 BBC
WUC 155 at 2:00pm

Monday, March 2, 2015 MMC
GC 140 at 2:00pm

The objective of these meetings is to give interested individuals an opportunity to hear arguments pertaining to the proposed increase to the Activity and Service fee. The amended fee will become effective in the Fall 2015 term. Students and other interested individuals are invited to attend these meetings.

A CULTURAL AFFAIR



WALTER RIVERA/THE BEACON



MARCIA AKSU/THE BEACON



NATALIE REYES/THE BEACON

TOP RIGHT: Tibetan monks visit the BBC campus to celebrate the Chinese new year as part of the Affair of the Arts kick off on Monday, Feb. 23.

TOP LEFT: Monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery (top left) work on a Mandala Sand

Painting in Panther Square.

BOTTOM LEFT: The monks use a variety of sand for the Mandala sand painting. The painting was worked on throughout the week as part of the Affair of the Arts week.

REC Center Adventure X hosts Kayak Day on the Bay

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To encounter the Biscayne Bay Campus in a different light, the BBC Recreation Center will host Kayak Day on the Bay, a sport kayaking excursion through Biscayne Bay and the Mangrove Trails of Oleta State Park.

The first spring Kayak Day on the Bay will be held this Saturday, Feb. 28 as part of the center's Adventure X watersport program, and according to Jonathan Torrey, BBC Recreation Administrator, no experience is required to participate.

"If you're thinking of kayaking, you would think: Saturday, daytime afternoon, the sun is shining, the waters nice, go out with some friend. You know, your typical kayaking experience," said Torrey.

According to the BBC REC Center

website, there will be expert staff present throughout the trip to lead and to demonstrate students the basics of kayaking. The event is offered once a month with two separate trips. The first at 10:00 a.m. and the second at 12:00 p.m., each an hour and thirty minutes long.

Torrey said that the trips can last for almost two hours, depending on the skill set of the group. "We don't leave anyone behind and no one jumps ahead," Torrey said. "We move together as one unit for safety."

In a previous FIU Student Media interview, Torrey said that the center started out with a single kayak that was used for summer camps. Overtime, the number of kayaks grew to allow more students and the community to participate in activities on the bay.

"What was kind of our initiative in the beginning of the whole program was to find a way where, not only student can enjoy going out on the bay, but the community also,"

Torrey said.

In addition to Kayak on the Bay, the center's Adventure X program hosts Kayak After Dark, as well as Panther Paddle, Night Paddle and private excursions on the bay.

Kayak After Dark is held at 7:00 p.m. once a month, "an evening of excursion kayaking under the Biscayne Bay stars," states the center's website.

Torrey said more people participate in the daytime kayaking event because they feel more comfortable. "[During] daytime, because it doesn't have the nighttime element, we get more people. The scenery is different," said Torrey.

"People feel like they have to do the daytime one first in order to feel comfortable for the nighttime kayaking."

Kayak After Dark also comes with nervousness because people hear splashes in the water, said Torrey. Unlike Kayak on the

Bay, its nighttime version has only one trip. It is recommended that students try kayaking during the day first.

"I like being by the bay and I think it makes the campus more interesting," said Uriel Cordoba, a sophomore biology major. "I've never done it, and I'm sure none of my friends have done it. So I think it would be a great time," he said.

To sign up, participants must reserve online at active.com. For each trip, students pay a fee of \$5.00 while non-FIU students pay \$10.00.

Torrey said he definitely encourages students that have never gone before to come out and get the experience.

"Come out and enjoy it. If it's your first time, come get the feel of it so that if you decide to come back again, you will be very familiar," Torrey said. "It's not a dead summer trip -- just come out and enjoy it."

Masters program celebrates 20 years, brings diversity

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
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At the heart of South Florida, the city of Miami continues to be a major hub for Latin American journalists.

However, according to Argentinian journalist, Mario Diament, many are ill-equipped to take on the media landscape. This year, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications celebrates 20 years of helping to prepare Spanish-speaking journalists through its Spanish-language Master's Program.

The program is taught entirely in Spanish and can be completed in one year.

Diament, associate professor and founder of the unique program, came to FIU in 1992 with a scholarship from the Freedom Forum in Washington D.C. to study the state of the Spanish language in the country's media.

According to a 2014 study done by the American Society of News Editors, the number of Hispanic news professionals has declined 32 percent during the last six years.

His findings intrigued the University who then asked him to develop a master's program in journalism. He accepted the challenge and in 1995, launched the program, the first of its kind at the time.

"[The media] had two kinds of [Spanish-speaking] journalists: those who knew the profession, but didn't know Spanish [well], and those who knew the language, but were not very professional," Diament said.

"I thought that Miami, and FIU in particular, were extraordinary places to start such a program that would be the first Spanish-language masters in the country," Diament said.

Hundreds of students have graduated from the program. According to Diament, many students come as experienced journalists from different countries like Puerto Rico, Mexico, Argentina and Nicaragua, to study at the University. Others,

to improve their Spanish in the field.

Despite the different usage of words and accents, the program allows students to express themselves freely in their knowledge of the language.

"It's an enormously enriching experience. We let everyone express themselves in the way they've learned their language," said Diament. "As long as they express themselves correctly and speak right in a grammatically correct language."

According to Mercedes Vigon, associate professor at the SJMC, there are students who come with much experience, but want to integrate themselves into the U.S. and put their knowledge into service.

"Instead of starting from zero, they are able to learn about the country's system. They come with distinct ideas and bring a lot, each with their own rich diversity," Vigon said.

SEE MASTERS, PAGE 2