

University to offer degree in disaster management

ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA
News Director
adrian.suarezavila@fiusm.com

Ruben D. Almaguer has been present to help in disasters that have taken place locally, nationally and internationally.

As the assistant vice president of the Department of Emergency Management and the executive director for the Academy for International Disaster Preparedness, Almaguer has helped pave the way for a new master's degree program in disaster management, which is expected to open in August of this year.

Having arrived at the University with a background in the fire service as a paramedic firefighter, Almaguer has also had experience working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance aiding in international rescue efforts.

According to Almaguer, working with FEMA and the U.S. OFDA allowed him to develop a passion working with relief efforts for disasters in order to coordinate rescue teams, among other responsibilities.

He cited that the realization that he could make an impact not just locally but internationally made his heart change and made him want to pursue other opportunities with helping communities

following disastrous events.

Despite this desire to continue learning, he realized that educational opportunities in disaster management were few and far in-between.

He realized that there was no formal education in the profession, that knowledge of the field was developed mainly, and almost exclusively, through hands-on experience in the fields of law enforcement, fire rescue, and medicine.

Over a year ago, following conversation with University officials, Almaguer was able to establish the Academy of International Disaster Preparedness under the School for International and Public Affairs.

Douglas Wartzok, the University's former provost, provided the approval for Almaguer's proposal for the master's program.

Wartzok's approval, however, was just the first step.

The master's degree also needed the approval of the University's Board of Trustees, which provided the green light for the program during its last meeting in January, according to Almaguer.

The program proposal is now under the examination of the Florida Board of Governors, whose office staff will be charged with deciding whether or not the program will be approved.

Almaguer doesn't doubt that the degree program

will be accepted.

Although the Academy established by Almaguer will, for the present moment, only feature the master's degree in disaster management, Almaguer hopes to add a graduate certificate in disaster management in the future.

If both the master's degree and certificate programs prove to be successful, then Almaguer will look into perhaps establishing an undergraduate degree in the discipline.

Almaguer says that according to surveys and research conducted by his department, the upcoming master's degree program seems to be ideal for working professionals who wish to add a graduate degree to their set of qualifications.

Among the ideal candidates that Almaguer cited were emergency managers, members of public health organizations and non-governmental organizations, law enforcement officers and firefighters.

The program, which is set to open in late August, will be organized as a 12-month, 30-credit program in the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

It will be divided into five 8-week mini terms throughout an entire year, and classes will only take place on Saturdays, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The degree's cost is currently set at \$24,995, a figure that

HANDS-ON LEADERSHIP



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

Felicia Spann, school security guard for Miami Northwestern Senior High School, tries her hand at solving the puzzle at the Principal's Leadership Development Program for Miami Northwestern Senior High School in collaboration with FIU's Center for Leadership on Tuesday, Feb. 17. The workshop encourages non-instructional staff to build leadership skills with team effort activities, such as solving the puzzle.

includes tuition, books, parking, and covers all other University fees.

Almaguer admitted that several degrees offered by the University are worth over \$30,000.

He added that since people in this field will not likely be wealthy as public servants, he and his team

members wanted to keep the degree cost reasonable.

He anticipates the program to be around 25-people strong.

The curriculum includes courses in vulnerability analysis and hazard mitigation, disaster response and recovery and disaster field operations.

Almaguer said that, with time and through students' suggestions, he and members of his department hope to add more courses to the curriculum.

According to Almaguer, while there are other master's degrees of its kind

SEE DEGREE, PAGE 2

Lecture to share the consequences of global warming

AMIN COLOMINAS
Contributing Writer
news@fiusm.com

A distinguished professor of meteorology will be coming to the University to discuss issues of global warming and the impacts it has on the world.

The lecture hopes to give the audience a stronger grasp on global warming and what its effects can mean for southern Florida, and many other parts of the world.

Michael Mann, climatologist and geophysicist, is one of the most foremost experts on the debate involving global

warming. As the current director of the Earth System Science Center at Pennsylvania State University, Mann has made many and great contributions to the scientific understanding of historic climate change.

Through his work with theoretical models and observational data to better understand Earth's climate system, Mann has pioneered techniques to find patterns in past climate change, and to isolate climate signals from "noisy data."

His research has shown the rise in global temperatures and their direct correlations to industrialization and the use of fossil fuels.

Mann has authored more than 170 peer-reviewed and edited publications, and has also published two books: "Dire Predictions: Understanding Global Warming in 2008" and "The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars: Dispatches from the Front Lines."

Mann's extensive and exhaustive pursuit of knowledge in the field of climatology has earned him numerous awards, going as far as making Bloomberg News' List of the 50 Most Influential People of 2013.

The lecture aims to provide the community with useful knowledge.

This information is especially important for residents of Miami. Extensive research

done into rising sea levels shows the possibility of the entirety of the southern portion of Florida being underwater.

This possibility is shown to be a nearly guaranteed future unless immediate work is done to reduce the use of fossil fuels.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has stated that the rising concentrations of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere can be expected to increase Earth's average temperature, influence the patterns and amounts of precipitation, reduce ice and snow cover, raise the sea level and increase the acidity of our oceans.

SEE LECTURE, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

In Israeli elections, U.S. political consultants become an issue

Israeli advertising entrepreneur Nimrod Dweck was no stranger to marketing when he started Victory 2015 (V15), a campaign to unseat Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the elections March 17.

Yet Dweck turned elsewhere for what he called invaluable advice: American political consultant Jeremy Bird, who was national field director in Barack Obama's 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns.

Bird's office "sent an Excel sheet with a graph, showing how many people you need to go door to door, and how many doors you need to knock on every shift, and how many pledges you need to collect," said Dweck, who recruited 10,000 volunteers to canvass homes in his anti-Netanyahu campaign "I was shocked. You can really calculate everything ... and we started doing all the operation according to those numbers."

Syrians are deeply split after years of warfare, survey finds

As the United Nations' special envoy for Syria is reporting progress toward a cease-fire in embattled Aleppo, a new survey suggests that divisions in the country have deepened and few civilians on either side see much hope in a negotiated settlement.

The sampling of views across the political spectrum may not encourage the efforts of U.N. envoy Staffan de Mistura, who told the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday that President Bashar Assad has agreed to suspend

air and artillery attacks on Syria's biggest city in a six-week truce. Opponents and backers of Assad said they favored a fight to the finish.

"We must follow through and end the rule of this tyrannical regime," said a 27-year-old Sunni opponent of Assad from Aleppo. A 55-year-old Damascus woman who backs Assad had a similar sentiment. "The fighting must continue until the Syrian army takes its victory," she told an interviewer.

Different views in Greece, Germany drive Europe's latest financial crisis

Greece, perhaps at German urging, might decide to leave the eurozone—the group of nations that use the euro as their currency—as early as Friday afternoon.

Greek officials have submitted a proposal to extend the repayment terms on their most recent European bailout, and Germany appeared to be leaning toward rejecting it. So

Greek officials countered that it was a "take it or leave it" proposition.

The European consensus is that if Germany sticks to its guns, Greece will be forced to exit the eurozone, a "Grexit," as some pundits put it. The departure would likely be destabilizing to the European Union and its currency—but devastating to Greece.

New degree coming to FIU

DEGREE, PAGE 1

around the country, he knows of none in the state that provide the specific focus that the University's will provide in the fall.

He added that two other Florida universities provide similar programs, but only as specializations within another discipline.

Almaguer cited the University of South Florida as having a master's degree in public health with a specialization in disaster management, and Florida State University a graduate degree in public administration with an emergency management track.

He expects that the design of the degree program will attract candidates from Dade, Broward and Monroe counties. He sees, perhaps, the possibility of hosting the program online partially or in the classroom in other countries as demand increases in the future.

Students shared their thoughts on the program.

"FIU is really stepping it up," said James Fairfield, a freshman majoring in sociology. "Although I'm not interested in the program, it seems like it will do a lot to help prepare people who actually are interested in working to help people deal with disasters."

"Disasters have happened, happen, and will continue to happen," Almaguer said. He added that, as such, it's important to fill the need for formal education in the field of

disaster management.

A key factor of the program that he wishes to emphasize is the quality of the faculty members who will teach the courses in the curriculum. According to Almaguer, the professors are trained professionals with actual field experience.

"[Disaster management] is one of those fields that we really want to get, not just the great faculty here, but augment [the curriculum] by bringing people in who have the experience hands-on."

The final course of the program will function similar to a capstone project, where field-based training will provide the opportunity for students to apply what they learned throughout the curriculum.

Among the things that Almaguer wants students to learn is how to work around helicopters, set up field latrines, conduct field assessments, go over hostage negotiations and work with satellite equipment by setting up a base of operations.

Once approved by the Board of Governors, the application for the program will go live.

Students interested will just need to complete the standard graduate-school application for the University and submit a resume.

"It's such a specialized field that we're actually looking for anybody who's got a heart to better prepare the community for disasters," Almaguer said.

Lecture to raise awareness for South Florida

LECTURES, PAGE 1

The actual magnitude of these changes will be dependent on many factors, including the rate at which levels of greenhouse gas concentrations in our atmosphere continues to increase, how strongly features of the climate respond to the expected increase in greenhouse gas concentrations and natural influences on climate and natural processes within the climate system.

The EPA predicts these changes will impact our food supply, water resources, infrastructure,

ecosystems and even our own health.

Ashley Planas, a freshman biology major, sees this lecture as a major learning opportunity.

"When it comes to climate change, you never really get one clear story," she said. "Some say the effects of global warming are understated, and others that the media has sensationalized the whole topic. It'll be refreshing hearing all the facts from a definitive qualified expert."

Jonah Ghazal, junior finance major, shares a similar sentiment.

"It's pretty clear that the world as a whole needs

to come together to tackle the global dilemma of climate change," he said. "While it may not be our most immediate problem today, it can grow to nearly insurmountable proportions for future generations."

This event is co-sponsored by the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies and the School of Environment, Arts and Society.

The lecture will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015 at 2 p.m. in Graham Center Room 140 at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. The event is free and open to the public.

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ALFRED SOTO

CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-5 PM
(305) 348-2709
news@fusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus:
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-5 PM
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fusm.com

Fax:
(305) 348-2712

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
junette.reyes@fusm.com

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

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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.

Do transgender women have an unfair advantage in sports?

JESSICA FERNANDEZ
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

LGBT equality issues and rights have become a huge topic in recent times. As a country, we have made significant strides towards more equality and acceptance of the LGBT community; however, there are still some issues that have not been completely figured out when it comes to transgender or transsexual people.

One of those issues is whether transgender athletes, specifically women, should be allowed to compete in sports with the gender they identify with, rather than the gender that they were born as. Some pose the question of whether or not this will present unfair physical advantages when playing sports.

Over the last 20 years, members of the LGBT community have been able to express their sexuality more freely. Great progress has been made when it comes to gay marriage as well; about 37 states have approved gay marriage, including Florida. When it comes to transgender people, many people accept acknowledging them by the gender that they identify with.

Most professional sports where people are competing against each other are separated by gender.

Men and women never compete against each other in these sports. Basketball

has the National Basketball Association for Men and the Women's National Basketball Association. The UFC also separates men fighters from women fighters. They are segregated in a sense because men and women are born with different bodies that possess different abilities. If men and women played against each other, men would have an unfair advantage against the women.

woman, even if she had sex-reassignment surgery. The transgendered woman is clearly stronger and could really hurt the woman she is fighting against, whereas she probably wouldn't have gotten as hurt had she fought against a woman who was born a woman. Basically, she is fighting with a man who had physically changed her gender on the outside, but on the inside, she possesses just as much strength and

“Most professional sports where people are competing against each other are separated by gender. Men and women never compete against each other in these sports.”

This is where the issue arises: Transgender women are born male, and therefore have the genetic makeup of a man, so would it be fair for transgender women to compete against women? A male who identifies as a woman – a transgender woman – still has the biological makeup of a man.

Transgender women who have sex-reassignment surgery may argue that they are now physically a woman, but sex-reassignment surgery does not change their genetic makeup or physical abilities. When it comes to the UFC, for example, it would be completely unfair for a woman to fight against a transgendered

agility as a man. The same problem can arise in any sport, such as basketball or tennis.

So how far does gender acknowledgement go when it comes to sports? It will be interesting to see how professional sports associations handle this issue on transgender women. They may accept transgender women competing against other women depending on the sport that it is. They may come up with a way to compensate for the advantage that transgender women have over women in sports. It is important for sports associations to find a way to include transgender athletes who want to compete in a fair way.

Losing calluses, gaining experiences

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer
rhys.williams@fiusm.com

All of my calluses are gone.

I can remember being a kid and never wearing shoes, coming home only when it was too dark to keep playing basketball or football. My calluses came from running on the hot asphalt, beginning at noon or earlier, not even noticing the heat after a half hour or so and then staying there until night time, besides maybe a quick five or ten minute break to grab something to eat.

In the many years of doing this, probably over a decade of my life, I built up thick soles on my feet and had thick calluses on my hands from all of the outdoor activities over the years.

Now, the calluses are gone.

I noticed when I went to South Beach with some friends from out of the country; I was walking on a harder, more shell-filled area when I realized that my feet were hurting and even had some cuts. That really hit home, and not just because of the pain.

That experience helped me to realize that we, as millennials, are getting less and less time to be ourselves due to the college life.

That may sound strange, but in a way it explains everything.

We get to college and try new things to see if we want to do them. For me, that involved working on a political campaign in 2012, beginning my career working at FIU Student Media and even partying. Of course, not all of those things are long term but they add up. I'm not saying to not try new and different things.

Add in time for classes and studying, sleeping and other necessary things, and the amount of hours we need in a day increases; this doesn't even include the pressure to find an internship for most, if not all, degree programs in order to become more employable.

All of these things take away from letting us be free and they are weakening our generation in my opinion.

In my thought all these things hinder us from being able to stay in shape if we have to devote a larger amount of time to school and work. I know this goes both ways though. Some people eat nothing during the entire work day because they are so focused on their jobs or people eat many more calories than they can burn from just sitting at a desk or doing most other jobs.

Not to mention a large amount of the people that I know would rather sit around drinking and on their phones in the middle of the day than go out, maybe throw a football around, go to the pool, or shoot some hoops.

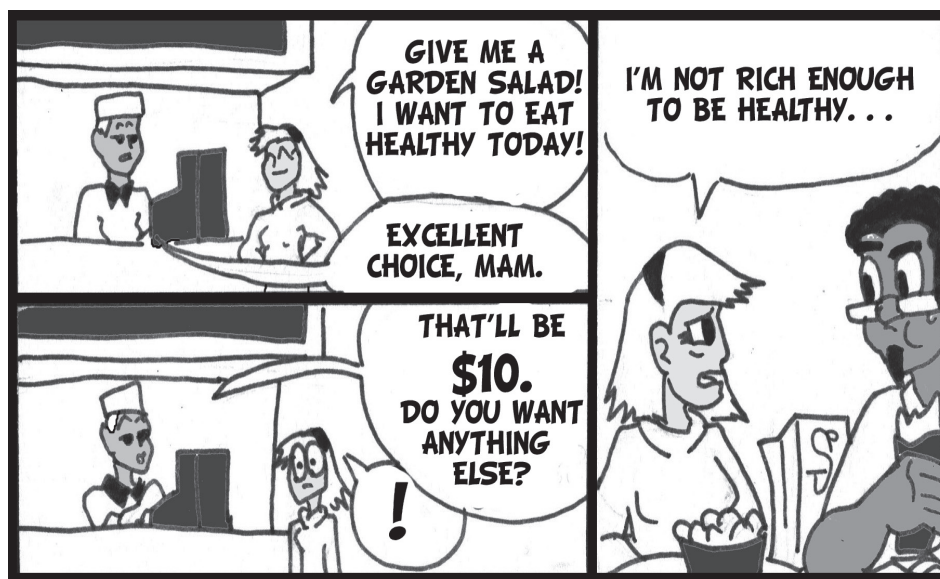
Again, don't get me wrong, I enjoy time playing Clash of Clans every now and again but believe me I would much rather spend my free afternoons outdoors throwing a football with some friends, or even strangers. This is not a plug to say something cheesy about meeting new people but if you do, you do.

“That experience helped me to realize that we, as millennials, are getting less and less time to be ourselves due to the college life.”

Yes, the argument will always exist that you can set your own free time in college but that is not the case. However there are a lot of students, including myself, that schedule a majority of their classes at night or early in the morning to have the rest of the day free, most of those students do so because of work, major-required internships, or other personal reasons.

Yeah, we need job experience, but let us live through the cliches of the “best years of our lives” and “discovering ourselves” for a little while before we get into the nitty-gritty of working and the real world.

FRANK AND IRENE



Healthy Diet on a Budget

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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University sponsors new fitness studio near MMC

KRYSTAL PUGH
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

People are calling him the newest fitness sensation. The name everyone's talking about – Jamie Bernard.

Jamie Bernard is the director of the new fitness studio, 360 Fitness, located a few blocks south of the campus.

Bernard has built an insurmountable reputation in the fitness community throughout Miami. He travels and instructs different fitness classes. Almost every class he instructs reaches a capacity of 150 students.

Students come to enjoy his remarkable fitness aura and technique. Bernard who is also referred to as JRB offers a wide range of classes such as; JRB Bootcamp, JRB Hip-Hop dance, JRB Sweat workout, Late Night Salsa, Belly Dancing, Mommy and me

workout, KidzFit and many more.

A schedule of the different classes and studio hours is available on the website, 360.FIU.edu. Students can also download Bernard's fitness app, Jamie Bernard Fitness, for latest updates and information regarding the studio and helpful fitness tips.

Bernard is among other ambitious personal trainers and instructors at the fitness studio who is putting in the work in efforts to uplift the community and instill healthy habits for happy living.

"My favorite thing about what I do is simple; watching people's faces as they leave the studio. No matter what, it's almost always with a smile," said Bernard

One of our very own panthers Ms. Grisell Sotolongo, director of continuing professional education, discovered Bernard.

He was instructing a class that Sotolongo attended at LA Fitness. Sotolongo enjoyed his class and wanted to introduce him and his classes to our panther family.

The fitness studio earned the name in honor of being more than just a gym; It is a fitness community. Students can go to 360 Fitness, work out and even sign up for sessions with personal trainers. Sessions with personal trainers will include detailed information such as fitness goals and how to reach them, making healthy eating habits and how to maintain these efforts outside of the gym.

"It's not just for trained dancers, it's an actual gym. I mean, we have bootcamp every morning," said Bernard.

This summer semester here at FIU we will be able to call Mr. Bernard one of our own Golden Panthers as he will join the panther family and study



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMIE BERNARD

Jamie Bernard is the director of the new fitness studio, 360 Fitness, located a few blocks south of the campus.

communications.

"It's just in my blood to communicate and be around all people," said Bernard.

If Bernard is half as great as a student as he is fitness instructor, he will be a roaring panther making big noise.

CONTACT INFO

WEBSITE:
360fitness.fiu.edu

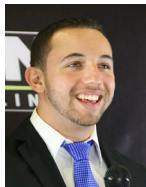
INSTAGRAM:
JamieRBernard

MOBILEAPP:
Jamie Bernard Fitness

PHONE:
(305) 348-4837

Major plot twist causes turmoil for characters

DC ON TV



CHRIS SANTIAGO

"The Flash"
[Spoilers]

I've never had a show that made my brain hurt more than "The Flash." I mean, science talk, extreme plot twists, new villains and backstabbing

left and right.

I don't know how much more this show can make my brain keep guessing what will happen next.

This episode picks up exactly where we left off last week after Firestorm's massive explosion once Barry and Caitlin attached that atomizer device to his chest in hopes to split Ronnie and Dr. Stein back into two.

Turns out that plan worked and each man had their own bodies and minds back in proper fashion. Of course, watching all this go down is the military general we all know and hate, General Eiling.

Eiling has already caused trouble in the past and he's back to dish out some more.

He wants to take control of Firestorm's powers and use it for weaponry and to "eliminate nuclear warfare."

We can all assume that he's, of course, lying. But he's officially been killed by the hands of our great and furry friend, Gorilla Grodd.

Yes, I said it. Gorilla Grodd. At the end of this week's episode, Dr. Wells became the Reverse Flash for a bit, kidnapped the general from his base and basically fed him to Gorilla Grodd inside the sewers.

Just seeing Dr. Wells remove his Reverse Flash mask and reveal himself made my heart sink.

It further cemented in my mind that he is the man in the yellow suit, and that bothers me because he's portrayed as a dark character that could have this better side of him.

But alas, he's the man in yellow, the Reverse Flash. I'll still be that guy who sticks to the belief that things are not what they may seem. Also, to end this Flash piece, time travel is officially a thing.

I can't wait to see how Barry will tap into the Speed Force and go into the future or into the past.

I'm already seeing the Flashpoint paradox come into play and I'm very excited.

"Arrow"
[Spoilers]

On "Arrow," if you watched the first two seasons, this would have been an episode full of nostalgia. It was for me.

This was an episode that I could never miss because of Slade Wilson.

Wilson, also known as Deathstroke and played by Spartacus star Manu Bennett, made his return to "Arrow" for the first time in nearly a whole year.

He wreaked havoc on the island where Oliver and Thea were staying and made their time there a living hell.

And who released him? Well, of course, none other than Malcolm freaking Merlyn.

Coming from a Manu Bennett fan's perspective, this was an awesome decision by Merlyn because I got to watch Manu Bennett be a cold and ruthless mercenary,

SEE ARROW, PAGE 5



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‘Hot Tub Time Machine 2’ follows traditional sequel formula

COLUMNIST



CAYLA BUSH

Most raunchy comedies follow a formula that’s plagued the movie industry for years: make a crude, slightly stupid comedy, score big at the box office then milk the success as long as possible by making sequels. The formula has been tested and, often, failed miserably, with sequels rarely living up to their predecessors and becoming more of a nuisance than comedy gold.

This was my expectation when I sat in the theater to watch “Hot Tub Time Machine 2,” the sequel to the cult hit about a hot tub that allows its drunken enjoyers to travel through time. Sadly, I was not disappointed, and true to other films following the tradition, the second installment is an offensively raunchy, almost-there attempt at

besting the story and success of the first movie.

Don’t get me wrong, there are more laughs than I expected, touching scenes and a vague attempt to develop characters, but at best, the movie is decent. This is, in part, due to the film’s continual reference to Adam (played by John Cusack in the first film) despite him being nowhere to be found in the sequel. Had the movie focused on the search for Adam, similar to the “Hangover” series, the movie might have a fighting chance.

As far as returning characters are concerned, Nick (Craig Robinson) delivers again as the hopelessly lovable goofball, Jacob (Clark Duke) remains uninteresting and unimportant and the character development of Lou (Rob Corddry) simply fails. Without Cusack in the film, it’s hard to find Lou lovable; he’s tolerable at best.

The crudity in the film, although slightly muted, is more for a cheap thrill than anything

else and the concept and storyline is complex enough to be a farce of the “Back to the Future” series. At the very least, the cheap references to Adam throughout the film led to a subplot that should have been explored throughout the movie, but to my dismay, it was not.

Although Adam is missing, the crew has the misfortune of finding his son, Adam Jr. (played by Adam Scott), who serves as a pitiful substitute for the missing fourth member of the friend group.

The movie’s take on time travel has all the necessities of a macho-comedy, replete with technology specific to the male genitalia and half naked or barely dressed women. There is also offensive mocking of homosexuality (including a scene involving two members of the quartet being forced to have sex with each other on national television) and dressing in a traditionally feminine manner (men wearing skirts and capris

are, for some reason, a big deal in the film).

If a dude-bro, “I’m only here for the laughs” kind of movie is all you’re after, and you’re OK with offensive jokes, “Hot Tub Time Machine 2” is the movie for you. It does not disappoint in the raunchy comedy formula -- there are enough laugh-worthy moments to make the movie worth paying for if you have no other purpose for seeing the movie than needing mindless entertainment.

If, for some odd reason, you’re searching for something more from a raunchy comedy, this is not the movie to choose, although if you’ve kept up with the formula for this type of film, I’m sure this comes as no surprise.

Film: Hot Tub Time Machine 2

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

The plot thickens for both ‘Arrow’ and ‘Flash’

ARROW, PAGE 4

once again.

I got into Spartacus because of my brother. There, I watched Manu Bennett play Crixus the Undefeated.

Then, I saw him move on to “Arrow” to play Slade Wilson/Deathstroke and I love that character.

Slade Wilson’s voice sends shivers down my spine. I’ve missed his character.

To continue, Ollie and Thea wind up fighting Slade and defeat him. Now, this was a crucial character development moment in the episode.

Thea had learned from Oliver, earlier in the episode, that it was actually her who killed Sara back at the beginning of the season.

This shook her up, allowed her to start believing she’s a cold-hearted killer, even though she was under the influence of Merlyn’s drugs.

She now has to carry this burden for the remainder of her life.

When the two siblings defeated Slade, Thea grabbed Slade’s gun and held him at gunpoint, leaving her with a massive decision: be the killer she believes she is or be the good person that she actually is.

While the decision seems obvious, it was a pivotal moment in the episode because of what was at stake.

Next week, we’ll only be having a new episode of “Arrow.” Then, we have to wait until March 17 for new episodes.

Have patience, fellow DC soldiers. Great things come to those who wait.

“DC on TV” with Chris is a column covering the latest episodes of the ongoing series The Flash and Arrow.

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FOOTBALL

Football team adds Tim Harris Jr. to coaching staff

JACOB SPIWAK
Staff Writer
jacob.spiwak@fiusm.com

FIU football made more changes to their coaching staff on Thursday, highlighted by the expected addition of Tim Harris Jr. as running backs coach that was first reported by The Miami Herald.

Harris formerly held the head coach position at local Booker T. Washington High School, where he led the team to a perfect season and third consecutive Class 4A state championship.

Prior to becoming head coach of the no. 2 high school football team in the nation, according to the USA Today ranking, last season, Harris held the offensive coordinator position at Booker T. for five seasons under his father, Tim Harris Sr., the former head coach.

The expected hiring of Harris as running backs coach will fill the void left by Kerry Dixon II, who left earlier this month to coach wide receivers at UF.

Dixon was heavily credited with bringing in many of the Miami-Dade recruits this offseason and the former head coach of arguably the best high school team in the county figures to be a very solid replacement in that aspect.

Though they won't be working together directly, Harris will be reuniting with his high school quarterback Maurice Alexander, who officially signed with FIU

on National Signing Day.

In addition to the news about Harris, which has yet to be confirmed by the university, head coach Ron Turner announced three confirmed changes to the new-look coaching staff.

Greg Moss has been around the program for years, spending the last three seasons as a defensive quality control assistant. He worked mostly with the defensive backs during this time, giving him experience with the unit he'll be asked to coach moving forward.

Coach Turner spoke very highly of Moss in the media release from this morning's announcement.

"Greg has a tremendous passion for FIU football," Turner said. "He has been with us for the past few years and has done a tremendous job. He is a driven, self-motivated individual who is an excellent teacher and communicator. We are thrilled to have him on our staff coaching our cornerbacks."

During the 2002-2004 seasons, Moss was a key player and defensive captain for the inaugural Panthers football team. He was one of the premier cornerbacks on the roster and also returned punts and kicks.

Before beginning his coaching career, Moss also spent four seasons playing professionally in the Canadian Football League. He spent two seasons with the Ottawa Renegades between 2004-2006, and the 2007 and 2008 seasons with the



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIU ATHLETICS

Greg Moss will now be in charge of the defensive backfield for the Panthers. He got the promotion from defensive quality control assistant to the defensive back position.

Winnipeg Blue Bombers where he won the Grey Cup.

His coaching debut came at the high school level at Nova High School in Davie, FL. He was an assistant coach with defensive backs and returners there before becoming the defensive backs coach at Miramar High School.

After being the FIU tight ends coach for the past two seasons, Kort Shankweiler was named the new quarterbacks and wide receivers coach.

Similar to Moss, Shankweiler was a successful college football player before beginning his coaching career. He was a four-year letterman at East Carolina University, and helped lead the Pirates to a 2006 PapaJohns.com Bowl victory.

Before joining the FIU staff in 2013,

Shankweiler was the running backs coach and recruiting coordinator at Central Michigan University for three seasons.

Filling Shankweiler's old position as tight ends coach will be Jason Brooks, the former defensive backs coach.

Brooks filled that position at FIU for the past two seasons. Before that, he was an assistant to the offense with the Baltimore Ravens, who won a Super Bowl during his time there.

These moves look to improve the constantly changing FIU coaching staff. Over the course of the offseason, the Panthers have had to replace a defensive coordinator, linebackers coach, and various other assistant coach positions.

NATIONAL

Miami Heat make noise on historical NBA trade deadline day

LOUIS AGUDELO
Staff Writer
louis.agudelo@fiusm.com

The Miami Heat have gone from being the favorite to reach the finals in the last four seasons, to hanging on to a playoff spot this season by a thread.

The Heat has struggled all season, missing Dwyane Wade for multiple stretches, not getting enough production out of Maximum contract-beneficiary Chris Bosh, and losing Josh McRoberts for the entire 2014-2015 season.

Not only have the Heat needed max-contract production out of Bosh and not gotten it, but he's had to miss games already this season with a calf strain.

Head Coach Eric Spoelstra will take low numbers over no numbers at all, and he might get a whole lot more of nothing, now that Chris Bosh potentially has blood clots.

The team is awaiting a test on the Power Forward/Center's

lungs, after being admitted to a hospital on Thursday, assuming he had a cold/flu. Bosh didn't make even make the trip with the rest of the team for their game on Friday in New York. This spells trouble for the Heat team going forward, as Bosh could miss the rest of the season with the possible ailment.

This, and a slew of chemistry problems, and lack of general production brought the Heat into the All-Star break below .500, a mark that hasn't even been a concern for the team since the 2009 and 2010 season, before LeBron James came and went.

As the trade-deadline on Thursday neared, the 22-30 Heat were hanging on for dear life to the eighth seed in the Eastern Conference, they needed something big, to make a big push in their last 30 regular season games to try to secure a playoff spot.

Goran Dragic was a high, if not the most highly sought after trade possibility at the point

guard position this season, a position that Miami has been in desperate need of for five seasons now.

The Heat got their man via a three team deal, sending Norris Cole, Shawne Williams, and Justin Hamilton to the New Orleans Pelicans. The Pelicans sent University of Miami alum John Salmons to the Phoenix Suns, while the Suns also received two first round draft picks and Danny Granger from the Heat. In turn for all this movement, Miami not only got Goran Dragic, but also his brother Zoran.

Pat Riley and the Heat are hopeful that these moves can help secure a playoff spot, as well as coincide with the emergence of new Heat star Hassan Whiteside, and hopefully take them to their fifth straight finals. Goran was third team All-NBA last season, and averaged 20.3 points and 5.9 assists per game. He'll have to match, or at least near that mark with the Heat, and Whiteside's



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEITH ALLISON, VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

New Heat acquisition point guard, Goran Dragic, is ready to run the offense for this new and revamped Heat lineup and solidify their spot in the playoffs.

already large role with have to increase just a bit more with Bosh out.

Now all Miami has to

do is make sure to figure out any chemistry problems with the new additions and fill in for what seems to be a roster

missing half of its players to ailments these next thirty games, as well as actually win a few along the way.

THE HIALEAH HAMMER



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Forward Adrian Diaz grabs the offensive rebound and rises over the Rice defenders to put back the shot. During the Feb. 20 game, the FIU Basketball "Throwback

Thursday" special was about Diaz playing basketball in his high school, where he was nicknamed "The Hialeah Hammer."

BOXING

Boxing Club fighting to make a name for itself

PETER HOLLAND
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

When you think of collegiate athletes, you think of football, basketball, baseball or soccer players. FIU holds twenty-eight different sports clubs provided by the recreation services. There's one specific club that's trying to resurrect their sport since it fell off the radar for most viewers, the FIU Boxing Club.

The Boxing Club was resurrected by current president Kittiya Harris.

"I just want to bring back boxing and put FIU on the map," Harris said.

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I just want to bring back boxing and put FIU on the map.

Kittiya Harris
President
Boxing Club

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While the football players are currently training for next season in their team facilities, the boxing club trains outside the parking garage without a current coach, a private gym or access to the Academic Health Center to get treated.

Even without a scholarship or the perks of a student athlete, 74 members have joined since last year, fully committed and invested, with their blood, sweat and boxing gloves.

Julian Martinez, another club member

and their top fighter, joined the club as soon as he heard about it. Martinez comes from a family of boxers in Chicago, where he's from. According to Martinez, his grandfather fought professionally, and his dad and uncle fought as amateurs.

"I believe my dad's record was 52-2 with at least 37 knockouts, and my uncle finished 67-3," said Martinez. "I want to put FIU on the map for boxing; you can look at other Florida schools like FSU, UM, UCF, Nova; they have boxing as a collegiate sport, and we just want to be a part it."

Each member has their own unique reasons for joining the boxing club, whether they want to fight professionally, are looking for competition or just want to train to stay in shape.

"Everyone can join as long as you are able to commit and stay discipline as a member," Harris said.

The boxing club is currently training in preparation for the United States Intercollegiate Boxing Association tournament, held at the University of Michigan on Thursday, April 9. They are planning fundraisers so they can make the trip to Ann Arbor, Michigan.

"We haven't decided on a date yet for our fundraiser. We are still working on the details, but what we are planning to do is to have people find some old clothes, shoes or things they are not using and donate to the FIU Boxing Club," Harris said.

If you love what you do, you have to start somewhere. Sometimes you have to start underground before you can turn mainstream. Even current professional boxers like Floyd Mayweather or Manny Pacquiao didn't have a silver spoon in their mouths when they picked up gloves.

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New BBC housing approved

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
BBC Managing Editor
camila.fernandez@fiusm.com

Waiting anxiously at the Board of Governors Meeting, the University finally received approval Thursday, Feb. 19 for new housing construction at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

According to Jim Wassenaar, Director of Facilities Planning and Operations at the Division of Student Affairs, construction for Bay View Hall will commence next month and is expected to be completed by fall 2016.

The approval allows the private developer, Servitas, to sell the bonds to fund the project. Servitas was chosen by housing committee last year for its affordable rental rate and it produced a product that was conducive to FIU's culture.

"The company, in terms of its vision, understood the context of the campus and really produced a building solution that really helps students to maximize the views of this beautiful location," Wassenaar said.

The new apartment would include fully furnished units with single bedrooms, a common living room, full kitchen and a choice of private or shared bathrooms. Study rooms, a computer lab, two classrooms and a resort style pool are just a couple of its additional features.

Construction was expected to be completed by fall of this year, but there were delays in terms of project development.

According to Wassenaar, this was due to a process of validating the financing plan of the project. A pause was needed to secure the proper financing

JEOPARDY



MARCIA AKSU/THE BEACON

Black Student Union Coordinator Anastasia Vaughan(middle), a Senior of Communications Arts, reads the question to contestant Gianni Coto(right), a junior studying biology during the BSU Jeopardy on Thursday, Feb. 19. Coto won the competition.

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In order for those visions to be realized, it was important to deliver to this type of amenity so that we can attract the students that will ultimately become a part of enhancing this wonderful campus and our academic programs.

Jim Wassenaar
Director

Facilities Planning and Operations of Student Affairs

Affair of the Arts Week opens with the Chinese New Year of the Goat at Affair of the Arts Week

SUDYEN NAVARRETE
Contributing Writer
bbc@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus will be celebrating the many faces that art has to offer with the Affair of the Arts Week -- created for students, professors and faculty to explore and enjoy the arts.

The Arts Week is an event celebrated annually by the Student Programming Council of BBC bringing together different types of arts, such as music, culture and paintings.

The five-day event will open with the Chinese New Year Celebration -- since it has approached.

The Arts Week is providing students with information about the Chinese New Year, in which they're welcoming the Year of the Goat which begins on Feb. 19, 2015 through Feb. 9, 2016.

The Chinese-theme event comes along with dragons, cultural food, entertainment and monks. "Tibetan Buddhist monks will construct a Mandala Sand painting, which includes a breath-taking opening and closing ceremony," said Michael Aquino, Cultural and Fine Arts Director of SPC.

Mandala Sand painting is mainly practiced in Buddhism and Hinduism, and is done for spiritual and ritual purposes. A small group of monks gather around

a wooden surface to begin outlining the mandala -- takes a day for the outline to complete -- from there, sand is poured from "chak-purs" or metal funnels causing the surface to vibrate and for the sand to flow around creating a painting.

The monks will be on campus for the first four days of the Arts Week to finish off the sand painting. Many students are not familiarized with Chinese culture or their art; this event is the perfect chance to

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We want to be able to target every student as much as we can.

Kaytien Franco
Graduate Student
Public Relations

experience it, as well as for those who are into the arts.

After asking students if they knew what the Chinese New Year is about, the majority weren't quite sure of the meaning behind it or why China celebrates the New Year different from our American traditions.

Some students did know though.

"I think it's a nice tradition to celebrate every year, they wear the same color,

families get together and everyone eats the same meal. I wish in the United States, there will be a nice tradition like that," said Traci Clayton, a student majoring in Psychology.

SPC wants to ensure that students learn and enjoy the events mutually.

"We want to be able to target every student as much as we can," said Kaytien Franco, a graduate student of public relations and SPC collaborator.

“

For SPC it is important for FIU students to open their minds to different cultures and diversity. SPC will host the Chinese New Year celebration along with other events that will expose students to the performing, visual, experimental and musical arts.

According to Aquino, students will be able to learn how to dance bachata, salsa, kompa and belly dancing, and experience

campus and our academic programs," Wassenaar said.

"We had always felt that we had made an error, that we had placed the students in the background of the University's beautiful environment and setting that we have here at the Biscayne Bay Campus. That they deserved to be living on the Bay Front and to fully enjoy the beauty of this campus."

the first ever Tunnel of Oppression. The Tunnel of Oppression will be a challenging experience for students to open their minds.

According to Franco, the tunnel will be very interactive and the Wolfe University Center Ballroom is going to be designed into a tunnel with different rooms covering different topics, such as LGBT rights, to demonstrate that oppression is something that must be addressed, but only society can put an end to it.

Then there's "Motown: The Musical," a Broadway hit that will entertain and tell the story of Berry Gordy, a music and record producer from Detroit, Michigan whom rose to the top with his record label and associations with artists such as Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross and Michael Jackson.

According to Aquino, the Arts Week started in 2011. It launched as a single event and from there it has grown into a one-week art celebration. SPC has been able to involve students into these events by making it fun and exciting along with food and great giveaways.

"FIU-BBC is definitely worlds ahead with their varied forms of programming," Aquino said.

The Chinese New Year Celebration will be held at BBC Panther Square from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 23. It's free for students, professors and faculty.