

## Raises bring good news for faculty, staff

**RAUL HERRERA**  
*Staff Writer*

As the fall semester rolls on, University employees and faculty find themselves receiving a new perk.

An email to all university employees, President Mark B. Rosenberg wrote that contract negotiations between the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union and the University Board of Trustees led to across the board salary increases and bonuses for in-unit employees.

"The increase for the union

was a 2.5 percent salary increase or a \$2,000 increase, whichever was greater for all the employees that are under the union contract," said Georgina Gonzalez, events coordinator and AFSCME union member.

"Also there was a 1 percent salary bonus that would be reflected [...] in the June 13, 2014 pay statement," said Gonzalez.

Rosenberg also stated that Florida Legislature provided funds that would support across the board salary increases for all those that are eligible. Thir-

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## COLE WORLD



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

The Homecoming concert included a unique mix of performances from local artist DJ Zog, hip-hop artist J Cole (above) and electronic music producer and DJ Zedd.

## Delaying graduation can drive up tuition costs

**JACKIE SKEVIN**  
*Contributing Writer*

Students who decide to stay in school longer may see their bills lengthen as well, according to state laws.

In fall of 2009, the Florida Legislature implemented the excess credit hour surcharge policy. Their goal is to motivate students to complete their bachelor's degree as quickly and efficiently as possible.

"It is not just a way for the University to make more money off of students," said April Lewis, senior academic advisor at the Academic Advising Center.

An official count from the Office of the Registrar regarding how many students have been billed and when exactly the first students saw changes to their accounts was not available.

"The statute has been on the books since 2009, so not too many students have been affected yet," said Lewis. "It is too early to tell if this will improve graduation rates."

Types of courses that count towards the excess surcharge are failed courses, classes dropped after the add/drop date, any course taken at another institution that is accepted and classes retaken with or without the forgiveness policy.

Courses attempted a third time garner a repeat surcharge and thus, the student is not required to also pay the excess surcharge.

Charges will vary depending on when a student entered the University. Those who entered between fall 2009 and summer 2011 and maintained continuous enrollment will be charged 50 percent of their tuition per credit if they go over 144 credit

hours.

Based on a 120 credit hour degree

“It is not just a way for the University to make more money off of students.”

April Lewis  
Senior Academic Advisor  
Undergraduate Education

program, students that entered between

fall 2011 and summer of 2012 would pay the surcharge per credit after surpassing 138 credits. Students who entered after last fall would be affected after enrolling in more than 133 credit hours.

Reactions across campus vary.

Orlando Rodriguez, who entered the University in the fall of 2012 and is double majoring in political science and international relations, is already a junior by measure of credits.

"I don't think the policy will motivate students to stay on track because freshmen are not thinking that far ahead when they get to college – graduation is four years away," said Rodriguez.

According to Interim University Registrar Andrea Jay, "if a student is double majoring, their limit will be based on how

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## Leading authority in positive psychology to give lecture

**ADRIAN SUAREZ**  
*Contributing Writer*

The Center for Leadership will kickstart its leadership lectures series on Oct. 18 with a discourse delivered by Martin Seligman, professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, titled "Positive Psychology: The Cutting Edge."

Seligman works in the field of positive psychology, which focuses on methods to allow individuals to lead meaningful and fulfilling lives.

Elected as president of the American Psychological Association in 1998, Seligman is the author of 24 books and 250 articles related to personality and incentives.

Seligman is also the recipient

of the Laurel Award of the American Association for Applied Psychology and Prevention, and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Society for Research in Psychopathology.

During the lecture, Seligman will touch upon a variety of subjects pertaining to his psychological research, including how to build and measure positive engagement, relationships, emotion and how educational and health institutions are utilizing positive psychology.

"I started reading about Seligman's research during my freshman year and I think it's amazing that he will be visiting. His work has so many applications," said Marilyn Figueroa, a junior double majoring in sociology and women's studies.

Other students also shared Figueroa's enthusiasm.

"As college students, it's so easy to be brought down by the pressure of doing well," said Anais Prieto, a senior biology major. "I think this lecture will do a great deal to shed some light on the possibility of leading a happy and healthy lifestyle in college, and I'm happy knowing that it's made accessible to students."

Seligman's lecture will be the first in a series of five Leadership Lectures for the 2013-2014 academic year offered by the Center for Leadership, which coordinates the lectures to allow students and others the chance to hear from prominent figures in

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### POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY LECTURE

**WHAT:** Center of Leadership's "Positive Psychology: The Cutting Edge"

**WHEN:** Friday, Oct. 18 at 10 a.m.

**WHERE:** MMC, Graham Center Ballrooms

Students can register at <https://lead.fiu.edu/engagement/lectureseries/leadership/>.

Admission is free.

## WORLD NEWS

### Americans, German-American Win Medicine

Two Americans and a German-American won the Nobel Prize in medicine on Monday for discovering how key substances are transported within cells, a process involved in such important activities as brain cell communication and the release of insulin. James Rothman, 62, of Yale University, Randy Schekman, 64, of the University of California, Berkeley, and Dr. Thomas Sudhof, 57, of Stanford University shared the \$1.2 million prize for their research on how tiny bubbles called vesicles act as cargo carriers inside cells. This traffic control system ensures that the cargo is delivered to the right place at the right time and keeps activities inside cells from descending into chaos, the committee said.

### North Korea Rushes To Finish Lavish Ski Resort

The secretary-general of North Korea's ski association views the sprawling alpine landscape before him with unabashed pride. Facing a strong, cold wind, he points to a dip in the rugged, tree-covered mountains and says the sunrise there is a sight of unmatched beauty, worthy of the nation's supreme leader, Kim Jong Un. This is the Masik Pass ski resort, North Korea's latest megaproject, the product of 10 months of furious labor intended to show that this country, so often derided for its poverty and isolation, is as civilized and culturally advanced as any other.

### Divers Recover 17 Bodies, Death Toll Hits 211

Italian divers recovered 17 more bodies Monday from a smugglers' boat that capsized and sank to bottom of the Mediterranean Sea with hundreds of migrants on board. That brought the confirmed death toll from Thursday's tragedy to 211 before poor weather off the southern island of Lampedusa again halted the recovery operation. Only 155 people of the estimated 500 on board survived the sinking. Scores of bodies are believed to be still trapped in the hull of the 18-meter (59-foot) boat, which is resting 47 meters (154 feet) below the surface. Monday was the first day that divers entered the hull.

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

# University rewards employees and faculty for hardwork

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ty-five percent of University employees would also qualify for bonuses.

According to the email, negotiations with bargaining agreements for different departments would begin on respective dates.

Joann Cuesta-Gomez, director of Employee and Labor Relations, clarified the legislature's increase.

"What the state legislature provided was two types of increases. One is called across the board increase which is \$1,400 for anyone who makes \$40,000 or less, or \$1,000 for anyone who makes more than \$40,000," said Cuesta-Gomez. "The other is a bonus that's [going] to be paid in June 2014 and that is a merit bonus."

Cuesta-Gomez said that this merit bonus would identify the "top performers" employed at the University.

"Supervisors will be the ones who determine who the high performers are in their respective areas," said Jaffus Hardrick, vice president for the Division of Human Resources, on the merit bonus.

"We have a process that we have to follow to make sure that these employees

are truly deserving the award. And I think that [...] the majority of our employees are. We really do have a great workforce here at the University," said Hardrick.

A subsequent email by Hardrick and Provost Douglas Wartzok said that the Florida legisla-

increases, effective Sept. 14, 2013.

University employees like Gonzalez view this as positive.

"It's a big incentive," said Gonzalez. "It says a lot about the University."

Gonzalez later mentioned she and some employees that have

employees should be eligible for those bonuses and that how State bonuses are dispensed depends on their performance evaluations.

"Any time that you reward performance, you're going to get a better performance," added Nuninga.

Hardrick indicated his belief that the incentive to work better for the University does not solely depend on bonuses.

"Even if we didn't give the bonuses, I think people have that desire to always provide quality service. And that's one of the things we're really pushing here at the University: service excellence," said Hardrick, who later clarified that these incentives are what he calls "motivating and maintaining" the University workforce.

"These increases are truly awesome, and I think it just goes to show the level of respect that our Board of Trustees and our President have in our workforce here at the University," said Hardrick.

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“It’s a big incentive. It says a lot about the University.”

Georgina Gonzalez  
Events Coordinator  
AFSCME union member

ture's bonus would be a one time benefit of \$600. The bonus provided by the Board of Trustees' contract with AFSCME is equal to 1 percent of salaries, according to Hardrick and Wartzok.

According to this very same email, President Rosenberg and the Board of Trustees have granted out-of-unit employees – those who are not covered under AFSCME's bargaining agreement – 1 percent across the board

spoken to her, are quite happy about the raise and bonuses. She expressed gratitude to the Board of Trustees for coordinating the AFSCME contract renewal with the Florida Legislature's increase.

Senior Superintendent of Custodial Services Joost Nuninga agreed.

"I'm happy about that, of course," said Nuninga, when asked about how the out-of-unit increases and benefits would affect him.

Nuninga said his

# Psychology lecture on looking at the glass as 'half full'

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leadership.

"Each year, especially for the leadership lectures, we try to pick businesspeople, researchers, professors or anyone in an active leadership role who can bring something to FIU and our community, offering insights on leadership," said Headley.

"Positive Psychology: The Cutting Edge" will allow students

to hear about a scientific application of motivation in every day matters that don't necessarily involve business activity, and set the foundation for thinking about psychology in a manner that doesn't put mental abnormalities at its core.

"When I was studying psychology, I was studying maladies: what's wrong with people and how to fix them. But here is a perspective with a different focus, that is more mean-

ingful today," said Garth Headley, associate director of the Center of Leadership.

At the end of the lecture, guests will have the opportunity to ask Seligman questions concerning his philosophy and how it may be applied to achieving an effective sense of happiness in college and beyond.

-news@fiusm.com

# Tuition increases with excess classes

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many credits [are] needed for both majors."

Credits taken towards a minor also don't count, provided that they are taken only to satisfy the requirements of the minor.

Students who believe certain courses should be removed from the Excess Credit Counter are permitted to submit a

written appeal to the Office of the Registrar. This especially applies to transfers.

"I don't agree with the policy because it's not that affordable," said Rodriguez.

Internship credit courses, remedial courses taken at other colleges, classes needed for certificate programs and courses taken while participating in a Reserve Officer's

Training Corps will be among those considered for exemption.

Regardless of the stipulations, many students feel that they are being punished for taking on additional programs or trying to further their education.

"They charge us enough as it is," said Joanna McNamara, senior advertising major. "We

pay tuition, fees, books and parking even if we don't have a car or live on-campus. Why should we be penalized for taking more credits."

-news@fiusm.com

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## Is walking at commencement ceremony worth the price?

**ADRIANNE RICHARDSON**  
*Contributing Writer*

Graduation is what most students look forward to when attending college because it proves that you have made it through the trial of paying tuition and fees.

Paying \$6,506.18 for in-state tuition is not easy, and personally, I pay an extra \$3,500 for on campus living. My heart breaks every semester.

I really feel for out-of-state students who have to dish out \$18,905.18 and add another \$3,000 plus for living on campus.

As students, we agree to pay these amounts because we really want to earn a degree and be successful.

But what if I told you that we have to pay graduation fees if we want to attend our commencement ceremony? I know this may not come as a surprise to most of you because we all know that nothing is free. But, what if I told you that I see nothing wrong with the prices of graduation?

Call me crazy, but I have my reasons.

I feel that paying for graduation is not an issue because no one is making you pay—you pay if you want to! Plus, FIU has packages that students can choose from for their graduation expenses. According to commencement.fiu.edu, the cheapest grad-pack is \$62.99 and it includes a cap and gown, tassel with the year, one year alumni association membership

and various alumni gifts.

What more do you need? I am not the only crazy one.

Justin Griffin, who majored in marketing, recently graduated from FIU in Spring 2012 and he agreed that the price was reasonable.

“I spent around \$90; I got the basic stuff though. It was affordable. In my opinion, it could have been worse,” said Griffin.

College is really expensive and out of all the colleges around the world, we are not the only students who suffer from heartbreak every time we view our bank account status at the beginning and end of a semester; for some of us, it’s even during the semester.

I view graduation as a cele-

bration and a cure for the entire heartbreak we go through for four years.

College is an opportunity that none of us are forced to take, but we choose to take. Graduation is also an opportunity that you are not forced to take, but some of us will choose to take, and I’m telling you it’s worth it!

You have time to think about this but I guarantee that \$62.99 will start to seem a whole lot cheaper the closer you get to graduating! You will make so many people proud, including yourself. So, instead of asking “Why pay for a commencement ceremony?” ask “Why not?”

Thank me later.

-*opinion@fiusm.com*

### THE BEACON | Editorial

## Social Media: an unnecessary distraction in the classroom

Although we might not always admit it and instead pretend to be the perfect, attentive student, every single one of us has at one point or another allowed our minds to wander away from the lecture before us.

For some, it is as simple as daydreaming in the middle of class. For others, it is the complicated task of switching back and forth from social media to the sometimes monotonous professor at the front of the room.

The actual complexity of this task might vary from student to student, but it still raises the question of whether or not this is something to condone or an unnecessary distraction.

From our perspective as students, it is very easy to say it should be overlooked and tolerated.

Regardless of where you are in your university career, we have all been in that one class that is the equivalent of being tortured by the sound of fingernails scratching a chalkboard.

What makes it worse is that the source of this torture is almost always a combination of the subject itself and the professor leading the lecture, in addition to that one student we have all come across that drags the class further.

Be it Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and any other social media site in between, they have all served an honorable purpose of relieving us from that class we just cannot help but zone out of.

Now, from the perspective of the professor, and sometimes even our fellow peers, one can be very quick to say the use of social media in the classroom is indeed an unnecessary distraction.

For our professors, it can be considered blatantly disrespectful when their students completely ignore them.

This is especially true in a class on a subject that requires students to be fully engaged and interactive for class discussions. Most of the time, professors find themselves at the front of the room staring back at a class of blank faces, saying “Anyone, anyone?” like in “Ferris Buehler’s Day Off.”

The question now is whether something should be done about this.

We doubt students would voluntarily give up their use of social media in the classroom, which is why some professors have enforced rules regarding the use of electronic devices. Some have completely banned them while others have been a bit more lenient.

Leniency is really appreciated, as it shows that professors are willing to meet us on our terms. At the same time, we should be putting the effort as students to be more respectful and cooperative with our professors.

So, put the phones and laptops away for the time being, unless they are absolutely needed.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### RE: PIKE’S LACK OF COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

I found it absolutely appalling that members of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity have refused to cooperate with law enforcement following an investigation that involved drug deals, hazing and explicit, inappropriate photographs of (allegedly) underage women. As a result of their “closing ranks” and refusal to “snitch” on their fellow brothers, no arrests can be made. This infuriates me as a woman, because those who were photographed without their consent did not deserve to have their images ridiculed or ogled over the Internet.

This infuriates me as an alumna, because I did not attend a university and earn a degree to subsequently become embarrassed and disgusted by a select number of degenerates who happen to be fellow Panthers.

While I applaud President Rosenberg for disbanding the fraternity, I have to say shame on those individuals, those cowards who would rather be loyal to their brothers instead of the values their fraternity and, by extension, FIU strives to uphold.

The ideal PIKE member, as described on the fraternity’s website, is one who “challenge[s] all brothers to uphold” the code they follow — of integrity, leadership, and respect — and “hold accountable those who do not.”

Preventing justice within this investigation clearly demonstrates their complete disregard for this code, as well as their own selfishness and cowardice.

Iris A. Febres  
Alumna, 2010  
B.A. in English

### CREATIVITY

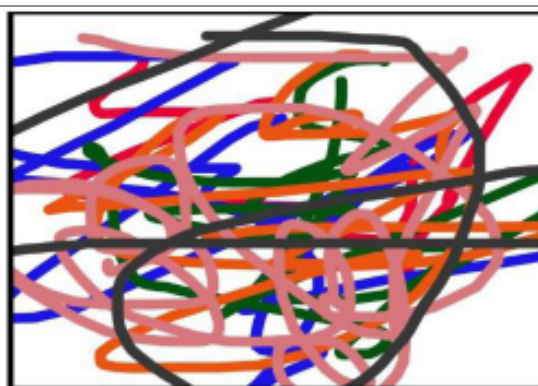


ILLUSTRATION BY GIOVANNI GARCIA/THE BEACON

## An open letter to FIU’s drivers

**JENNA KEFAUVER**  
*Staff Writer*

To the students who sit to the right of the turn lane and cut off lines of traffic in the turn lane: you are irrelevant.

You are not important enough that lines of 15 cars should bow down and allow you to pass. You are single-handedly responsible for the traffic at

the intersection of 151st Avenue and Biscayne Boulevard.

You are also single-handedly responsible for ruining my mornings. And don’t flick me off after you do it either. That’s just irrational.

And this is all from the point of view of a passenger. I can’t even begin to imagine how it feels to actually be one of the drivers sitting in that

line. Maybe like my anger fifteenfold.

Maybe the cop who is sitting there at the other corner of the intersection could, I don’t know, do his or her job and stop this from happening? Um, yeah... that’d be great.

But I do understand. Miami traffic sucks, maybe you’re late for class.

But you know who else is

now late for class? The plebeians you cut off in your royal Trans Am with your awful spinning rims.

I get it; you think you’re important.

But you know what?

I don’t care if you’re LeBron James, you can get in line like the rest of us.

-*jenna.kefauver@fiusm.com*

### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

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## Gravity Film Review – “A visual wonder that will lift you out of your seat.”

**MARTELL HARDING**  
*Contributing Writer*

How often have you gazed at the stars wondering what it would be like as an astronaut floating through space, hovering above the big blue ball we call home?

Well, “Gravity” serves as a warning to all who have ever wondered while simultaneously giving us the most detailed and accurate visualization of space exploration any of us has ever seen.

Visionaries of popular shows of the 50’s such as “The Twilight Zone,” “The Outer Limits,” the infamous films “2001: A Space Odyssey” and “Star Wars” are easily put to shame in terms of vastness, solitary and deadly silence.

Visually speaking, “Gravity” has set the bar with special effects so

stunning and accurate that you will look back on your favorite sci-fi cult classics and realize they didn’t quite hit the mark.

“Life in Space is Impossible,” the dreadfully honest quote of the opening lingers in the back of your mind as Dr. Ryan Stone (Sandra Bullock) and Matt Kowalski (George Clooney) struggle for every deserving breath against uncontrollable measures in this depth-defying joyride.

What defines “Gravity” as one of the best films of the year is its ability to show us in scary detail the dangers and obstacles astronauts face every mission. Evading shrapnel speeding towards you at the speed of light and being spun completely out of control are just the beginning.

All of this action is

matched with breathtaking suspense as director Alfonso Cuarón (Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban, Children of Men) proves his genius by not only putting us in the situations with point of view shots and extended scenes of tension and grief, but also by genuinely evolving a common pleasure into a newfound enemy. That enemy is silence.

It would be withholding to suggest seeing this film without highly recommending watching it in its 3D or IMAX format. Films such as this one give us an excuse to take the trip to the theater, consider spending the extra five to ten dollars for 3D and IMAX and leave not regretting it simply because adding those extra elements create the experience.

Gravity will lift you

### GIMME A HAND



ANTHONY IZQUIERDO/THE BEACON

Julie Vanegas (left) was among several students who paid a dollar as donation to Pi Kappa Phi’s Push America organization which benefits those with disabilities in America. Donors got to add their handprint to a banner supporting the organization.

off your feet and jolt you back into your seat again and again. This sci-fi thriller creates an experience unlike anything

you’ve seen before; regardless if you mistakenly thought that this genre has been played out. This film is rated PG-13 for

intense sequences, brief strong language and some disturbing images.

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## American Horror Story: A Bewitching Travesty

COLUMNIST



JUAN BARQUIN

There’s an urban legend in the world of television that always scares the pants off me. There’s a name you say three times in your bathroom mirror while all the lights are off, and once the spell has been cast, it results in a tactless new

television series.

That name is Ryan Murphy.

This is a name synonymous with some of the most unbelievably popular shows on television, from the teen tunes of “Glee” to the not-so-sexy surgery of “Nip/Tuck.” FX, the channel on which “Nip/Tuck” once aired its six seasons, is home to another one of Murphy’s series.

A long way from the privileged white gay world of “The New Normal” is the dark, dreary and disturbed “American Horror Story.”

While its existence is rare considering the lack of horror based programming, the delightful “Hannibal” and tiresome “The Walking Dead” as other inclusions, by no means is it one that stifles the need for more genre works on television.

Murphy, with co-creator Brad Falchuk, has created an unstable experiment of a series, one that finds pleasure in showing audiences the most ridiculous things without an ounce of real love for horror. The series is split into stand-alone seasons, offering a new cast, location, period and theme every year.

The first was “Murder House,” the second was “Asylum” and this week kicks off the third, “Coven.” Each season may be its own work of art, but one thing remains the same: the sheer laziness of the writing.

While “Coven” remains to be seen as problematic or praise-worthy, both seasons of “American Horror Story” have been riddled with issues.

Casual sexism and racism are the least of worries when it comes to the series, as each season’s story overwhelms one with disgust when they realize exactly what’s wrong with it.

What’s wrong is that “American Horror

multiple asylum patients and workers in the sixties, as her character arc was.

Given, the random moments and characters are sometimes a blessing, as they draw away from the dreadful main story unfolding at a snail’s pace.

“Murphy has created an unstable experiment of a series, one that finds pleasure in showing most ridiculous things without an ounce of real love for horror.”

Story” uses provocation to disguise the fact that its an amalgam of every horror trope and stereotype strung together through a series of unrelated, incredibly gratuitous, acts of sexual assault and murder used for the sake of shock value.

As much as I might enjoy watching all sorts of gore, torture and supernatural insanity on film, the show makes a strong case for why it doesn’t work as well through the medium of television.

The series finds itself twisting and turning aimlessly, desperately trying to fill its thirteen episode length with filler characters who are introduced and disposed of within an episode or two.

One such character from “Asylum” is that of Anne Frank, or at least a woman who believes she is the Holocaust survivor, who exists for the sole purpose of establishing a character as a Nazi. This fact is as useless to the series, which focuses on the lives of

So why, exactly, is it that “American Horror Story” is such a popular series that I’m somehow drawn into watching on a weekly basis? Because there’s always a light in the darkness for those who press on, or at least that’s what a bunch of movies have told me. That light is a cast of actors who actually make for a show that’s damn entertaining to watch, regardless of how shamelessly bad the writing is.

Whereas something like Aaron Sorkin’s “The Newsroom” is just plain bad on all levels, “American Horror Story” is lucky to have a cast of women (and James Cromwell as a much-appreciated male addition) that, by some black magic, lift it up to a level of pure entertainment.

Solely sticking to the recent “Asylum” - because blocking out the memory of all the latex ghost rape in “Murder House” is something I’m still trying to do - it’s really a special treat to just watch some of the cast

go camp and crazy while others sadly stick to being serious.

It’s nearly impossible to deny the fact that Sarah Paulson, Lily Rabe and Jessica Lange are the shows most valuable players, with one suffering constant abuse, another embracing a gleefully devilish possession and the last being the only one who actually seems to understand character development.

“American Horror Story” will never stop being Lange’s game, always delivering an interesting performance regardless of the writing, and her involvement in its third season is reason enough to go on watching.

As a matter of fact, after weeks and weeks of frustration with “Asylum,” it is her talent that delivers what could be considered the only genuinely great thing to come from the series to date: a musical dream sequence in which Lange sings and dances to Shirley Ellis’ “The Name Game.”

It’s just as messily crafted as the rest of the series, but it is a moment of pure camp that is like a breath of fresh air amidst all the disappointment.

With “Coven” drawing near, I begin to wonder how Murphy and Falchuk will make a mess of things this year. Considering the themes include “witches, incest, slavery and voodoo,” it shouldn’t be hard to imagine the train wreck that’s coming. Much like a train wreck though, I’ll keep watching “American Horror Story” as I drive by slowly and crash myself.

It may be the cast, it may be my penchant for bad television (I’m looking at you, “Scandal”), or maybe, just maybe, the Ryan Murphy urban legend is real and I’ll never escape the curse.

“American Horror Story: Coven” premieres October 9 on FX.

-juan.barquin@fiusm.com



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## Win for Panthers shows promise in multiple aspects

Faciane and Spearman III come up big in win against USM

**RHYS WILLIAMS**  
*Staff Writer*

Last Saturday brought something that many in the Panther nation did not expect out of the football program this season – a win.

The Panthers beat the University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles, who now have lost 17 consecutive games, 24-23.

“One of our sayings is, ‘guys, we’ve got to believe before this happens.’ At some point, though, you have to have the evidence, so it’s nice to be able to get a ‘W,’” said Head Coach Ron Turner. “I’m sure, like the other side, all our guys have been working their ass off. It was good to see them be rewarded. I’m sure if that field goal went through, they’d have said the same thing on the other side.”

### *Spearman III has breakout performance*

Going into the game against the Golden Eagles, running back Lamarq Caldwell had the

majority of the carries for the Panthers with 153 total yards on the season.

After the game, Caldwell had only added 32 yards on 12 carries to bring his season total 61 carries for 185 yards.

In comes Silas Spearman III to the game, running for 136 yards on 29 carries, scoring a pair of touchdowns.

Spearman, who now has 169 total yards on 49 carries, leads the running back core with average yards per carry (minimum 10 attempts), long run (32 yards) and touchdowns with the two he had in the win against the Golden Eagles.

“It was a combination of both offensive line and running back play. You can’t run the ball if you block anybody and you can’t run the ball if you block people, but you don’t get it up in there. I thought Silas was really hitting it up in there. The last three weeks, he’s really practiced well and he took it to the field,” Turner said.

Spearman III entered this game off of a less than great game against the Cardinals of the University of Louisville in which



JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Silas Spearman III (above) lifted FIU against the Golden Eagles this past Saturday with 136 yards rushing to go along with two touchdowns.

he put up only 12 yards on 14 attempts.

### *Kicking game by committee*

In the spring, Turner said that the kicking game was Sergio Sroka’s to lose.

He has not lost the whole of it, as he still does the kickoffs for the team, but the job of kicking

the extra points and field goals has all but been taken over by freshman, Austin Taylor.

Between Sroka and Taylor, the Panthers have made only two of five field goal attempts throughout the season, the longest being a 32 yard kick by Sroka against the Terrapins of the University of Maryland to open the season.

The pair is better in the point after touchdown, converting on five of the six attempts so far this season with Taylor making four of his five attempts.

Punter Chris Ayers, who took a majority of the punts this season along with kicker Taylor

**SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 7**

## Freshmen Panthers stand out in first C-USA win



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

After coming off their first Conference USA win and first season win, the Panthers look to continue their success against the University of Alabama at Birmingham this weekend.

### COLUMNIST



PATRICK CHALVIRE

The losing streak continues! For Southern Mississippi, and not the

previously 0-4 Panthers.

Their losing streak is over!

The Panthers got their first win of the season Saturday, along with their first win in Conference USA against the University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles. Though it was against a team who hasn’t seen a win since 2011, a win is, in essence, a win.

Now, what made this win impressive was the fact that the stars of the game were freshmen. Guys who just a few weeks ago got their feet wet for the first time in college football.

Panther fans, say hello to freshmen runningback Silas Spearman III and tight end Jonnu Smith. It is early to say this but for sake of debate and because I can, I will. Could either of these two be the new star or stars for this program?

Spearman III got the nod to start at running back and didn’t disappoint, racking up 136 yards on 29 carries, 55 of those yards in the fourth quarter alone.

With only the bulk of the first half under his belt, Smith had a team-high four passes for 43 yards, though he missed most of the second half due to an injury.

Now everyone knew this was a young team and that it would take some time to get these men involved in a new offense, but if Saturday’s game had anything to say for it, Head Coach Ron Turner and his staff may have found the answer they needed.

With issues at the running back position, it was only a matter of time until someone stepped up to the plate and took the reigns. With the losses to Kedrick Rhodes and Jakhari Gore due to legal issues, Lamarq Caldwell had been seeing most of the reps from behind the line of scrimmage.

Caldwell has shown that he’s more of a “bruiser,” the type of running back that is better suited fighting through lineman and getting the rough

and tough yards. And with a conservative style of offense the Panthers have been showing of late, Caldwell has needed every second of rest he can get.

Moving forward, I’d expect to see Spearman III more as the team’s running back, with Caldwell being moved to fullback. A position change that may suit the team better, assuming the game against the Golden Eagles wasn’t a fluke.

The biggest concern was and has continued to be the mental game for the defense. Trick plays and even simple play action plays have gotten the best of them.

Such plays have always kept the Panthers linebackers frozen, guessing to choose where to go and in football, that one late step can cost you points.

On the offensive side of the ball, quarterback Jake Medlock went down once again to what appeared to be an apparent concussion.

This led to backup E.J. Hilliard coming in to fill in, clearly a better time to come into a game, rather than facing a team like the University of

Louisville.

Another concern for the Panthers was the protection, or lack thereof, for Medlock and Hilliard. Hilliard was sacked twice and when he wasn’t, forced throws to avoid a sack were evident.

Take all of that out of the picture and if you are a glass is half full type person, then your prayers for this team may have been answered, at least for one game.

Clearly it is too early to say anything about these freshmen. They’ll now most likely feel the pressure to have those types of games and more will be expected from them, but if they can carry the load, this may be the turn around the guys needed.

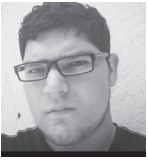
There are still plenty of plugs that need to be filled in this sinking ship of a football team, but they’re still afloat. Spearman III and Smith seem to be repairing what is needed, slowly but surely. Time to see if these young bloods can keep the ball rolling when they come back home for their homecoming game.

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## Women's soccer by the stats

Team being led in dismal season start by forward and goalkeeper

### COLUMNIST



GIANCARLO NAVAS

The early season for the women's soccer team has not been a walk in park, or on the field.

The Panthers are drowning this season in their own shortcomings.

They have a 4-8-0 record and are close to last in nearly every statistical category in Conference-USA.

To name a few, the Panthers are second to last in shots per game with 11.09, second to last in goals scored with 1.09 and my personal favorite, dead last in the conference for goals allowed with 2.27.

To maybe put these stats into perspective for you here are the statistical leaders in each of the categories I previously mentioned.

The University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles leads the conference with 18.38 shots per game, the Golden Eagles also lead C-USA with 2.97 goals per game and Tulsa allows only half a goal a game.

I know what you're probably thinking. Why aren't we Golden Eagles fans, right?

Well, on the bright side junior forward Ashleigh Shim is ranked in goals scored with four and is two goals removed from second place, where she is currently ranked 10th in the conference.

The only other Panther that is ranked in a statistical category is redshirt junior goalkeeper Paula Zuluaga.

She is first in the conference in saves per game with six.

Unfortunately for Zuluaga she is a talented player on a defense which is last in its conference in goals allowed.

Aside from being last in the conference in goals allowed, the most concerning stat for this Panther team is the shots per game. When you have a defense that is very young like the one FIU fields, you need to put more emphasis on your offense.

Tilt the math in your favor by being more aggressive in order to protect your defense.

When you know you have the worst defense in your conference you cannot be conservative with your offense as FIU has done.

You need to take advantage of the talent you have in Shim and be more aggressive in looking for shots.

We see a correlation in shots taken per game and goals scored, by looking at the Golden Eagles team. They lead C-USA in both fields.

It's simple really. Shoot more, score more.

Obviously there are consequences with a more aggressive offense; you leave your team vulnerable for counter attack leaving your defense fighting transition offense.

While true, how much worse can the worst defense in the conference get?

You have a goalkeeper in Zuluaga who makes correct reads and is capable of making saves and you have a player in Shim who can score with the best in the conference.

With an offense designed to get shots we might be talking about Shim as the second leading goal scorer in all of C-USA.

Clearly this FIU team has had struggles this season and is looking to get on the right track for this season and others to come.

A change in system and philosophy might be something to give this team life.

To do a job correctly you cannot have fear of losing. You need to play to win. Do all it takes to find a system to tilt math in your favor.

Do something, don't do nothing.

For the sake of the FIU's inaugural C-USA women's soccer season, I hope they do something.

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## Football shows vast improvement in victory

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 6

and quarterback Jake Medlock, had his slowest game against the Golden Eagles only being used six times with a long of 45 yards and an average of just under 34 yards.

Ayers is currently listed on espn.com tied as the eighth most used punter with 36 on the season to date.

He is tied with Sean Kelly, the kicker and punter from Florida Atlantic University, who the Panthers will face in the final week of the season in Boca Raton, Fla.

### Faciene saves the day

The Golden Eagles started the final drive of the game with only one minute left on the clock at their own 28 yard line.

After three downs, the Golden Eagles converted on fourth and 10 with a completion from quarterback Allan Bridgford to wide receiver Markese Triplett to gain some momentum.

Following that play, the Golden Eagles marched down the field and were aided by two Panthers defensive penalties, an offsides call and a pass interference on cornerback Sam Miller got the Golden

Eagles into field goal range.

This is where defensive lineman and NFL prospect, Isame Faciane, got into the middle and blocked a 44 yard attempt from Golden Eagles kicker and punter, Corey Acosta, with six seconds left in the game.

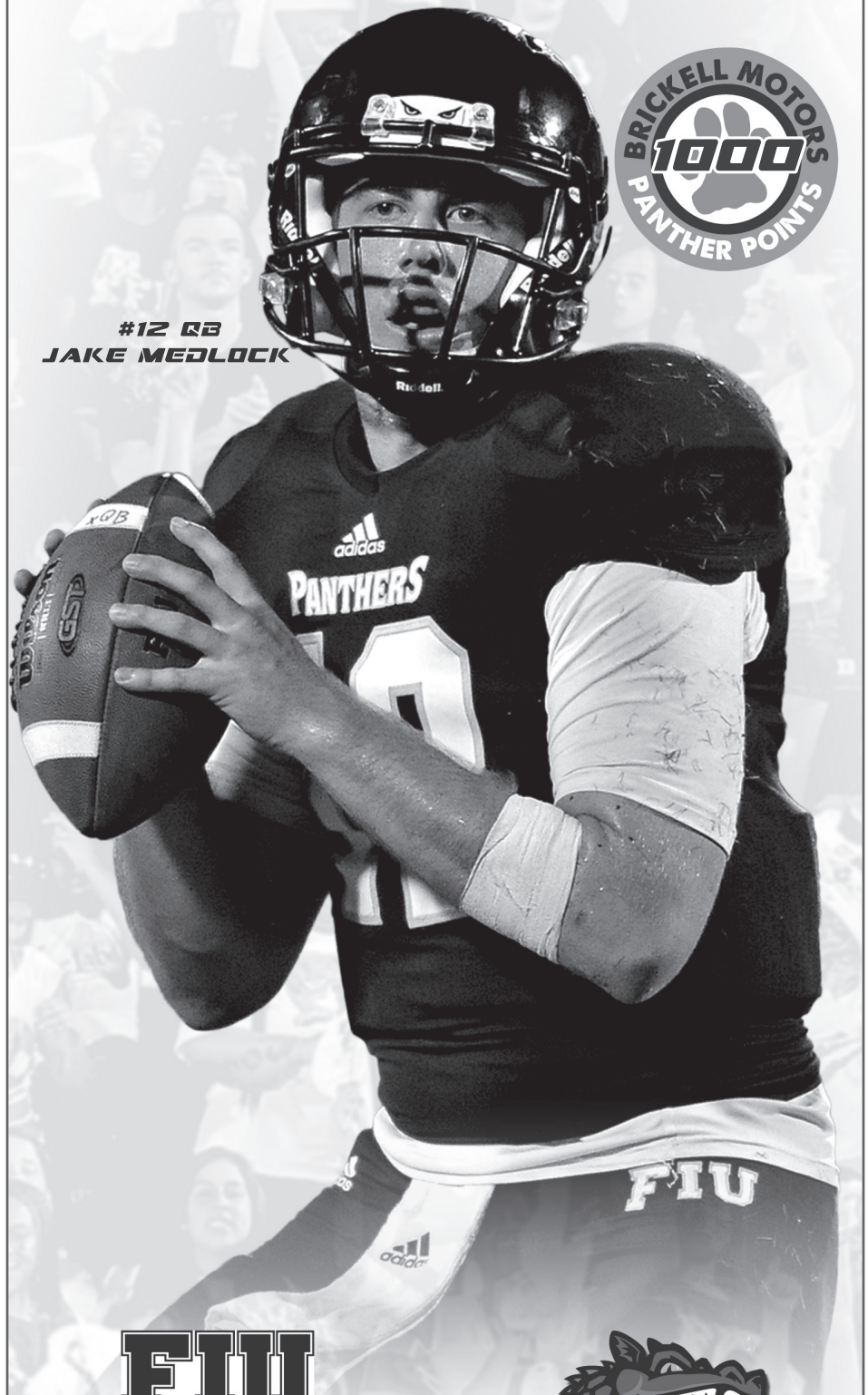
"Me and [redshirt junior defensive end Michael] Wakefield, we have a responsibility to blow up the guard and we looked at each other and were like, 'Man, we got to get this, we got to go through there and we got to block this.' And I'm like, 'Shoot, I'm going to block it, bro, I'm going to block it.' We got low, put both our hands on him, drove him back. I just jumped up, stuck my hand up and it hit all four of my fingers and fell short," Faciane said.

Due to the team playing in Miss. and timing for publication, all quotes were courtesy of the Athletic Department of the University of Southern Mississippi.

The Panthers will face the University of Alabama at Birmingham for the annual homecoming game on Friday, Oct. 12 in Miami.

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## #PANTHERNATION



#12 QB  
JAKE MEDLOCK



VS



**SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup>  
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GAME PRESENTED BY



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## Campus event gives LGBTQA students a voice

JACKIE SKEVIN  
*Contributing Writer*

Students in the community who face difficulty expressing their sexual orientation or gender identity now have an outlet and a source of support.

National Coming Out Day, held annually on Oct. 11, started in 1988 as an anniversary of the March on Washington for lesbian and gay rights.

At FIU, it's the first year that events are happening all day on both campuses and "is the first time its organization is such a concerted effort," said Gisela Vega, associate director for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning/Queer and Ally services.

"There are so many issues affecting the community," said Vega. "Homelessness among the youth, family and culture" and "bullying that is magnified due to prevalence of social media and regional values, depending on what part of the country you're at."

Events will be held in different parts of Biscayne Bay Campus' Wolfe University Center and the Graham Center Pit at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus starting at 9 a.m. on both campuses.

Members of the LGBTQ community and their allies will begin their day at BBC at 9 a.m. with breakfast. At MMC, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. they will have food and giveaways.

The Coming Out Campaign will be held for the second time this year. Students previously submitted their testimonials of their coming out experience and starting this year their pictures will be featured right next to them.

"When I think about Coming Out Day, I see strength and unity," said William Stirrup, sophomore marine biology major, who is on the planning committee this year and president of the Gay-Straight Alliance. "Students want to feel safe on-campus and need the resources to do so."

At BBC, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Ally Awareness Day 3D Series will

be hosted. It's a monthly program that focuses on one topic or issue that LGBTQ members face in the real world, and this month's topic focuses on issues in the workplace. Questions will center around hiring and promotion discrimination and stigmatization in the workplace.

"The Defense of Marriage Act may have been struck down, but that is not the end of the difficulties future employees face," said Vega. "Cross cultural issues also have a huge impact both inside and outside the workplace."

"My ex-girlfriend is Cuban," said Patricia Figueroa, a Nova graduate and intern at the LGBTQA Initiatives Center. "It was unfortunate to see that even though she was out, there was still some homophobia from her side due to the culture she was raised in. I feel like the culture down here could often be detrimental to LGBTQs getting hired."

One new component to this year's events will be the Mentoring Program Kickoff. It will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Career Services at BBC and GC 316 at MMC. Twenty-four trained mentors have been paired up with 24 LGBTQ students and have created a list of goals and expectations for the year. The mentors will provide positive role models and give back to a group that is often marginalized.

The night will wrap up with the Homecoming Dance starting at 7 p.m. at BBC. Anyone interested can pick up a white T-shirt at the breakfast portion and join the group.

"Coming Out is one of the fall semester signature events of the LGBTQA Center. It promises to give a voice to those who previously felt invisible and a support system for those without one."

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## HUMAN STRESS METERS



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Vinson Pressley (above and center) fills out a questionnaire to determine his levels of stress and anxiety. The purpose of the event was to introduce students to Counseling and Psychological Services, a program whose goal is to provide professional care to each student by providing free counseling. C.A.P.S. is funded by the student health fees which is included in the semester's tuition.

## Drinking the layman's wine

COLUMNIST



DANIELA WALTER

Sept. 26, I was transported to Greece through a wine selection from the store, Mas Vino. The store on Hallandale Beach offered a wine class on Greek wines, hosted by George Spiliadis from Estiatorio Milos Restaurant. Estiatorio Milos is a well-known worldwide restaurant, with its newest location in Miami.

I became familiar with Greece by taking "History of Wine" last fall with William Hebrank, adjunct lecturer for the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. According to Hebrank, the Greeks were the first ones responsible for making wine popular and available to the masses. Prior to that, wine was considered only a beverage of the privileged, such

as queens or kings. Previously, ale was the choice for the layman.

I became enchanted with the tales Hebrank shared of ancient gods and wine. My favorite was of Dionysus, also known as Bacchus, which in modern Roman society is considered the god of wine, harvest and fertility. Dionysus, a woman's god, let them free by consuming this miracle beverage, wine. It took them out of their daily misery; life was rough in those days and women were slaves to their men. Dionysus was their unique release. Wine then transformed into the layman's drink, not like in Egypt where it was reserved for religious purposes for the aristocracy.

For the full column, visit [fiusm.com](http://fiusm.com).



### Join us for a conversation with

# Idan Raichel

Renowned Israeli singer-songwriter and musician

**Thursday, October 17**  
1:30pm • WUC100  
FIU Biscayne Bay Campus

Q & A following the presentation

For more information on this free event, call Or Lee Kaidar at 305-917-3221, or email [hillelyad@marjcc.org](mailto:hillelyad@marjcc.org)

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