

Politically correct term coined for Florida's mentally disabled

RAUL HERRERA
Staff Writer

The state of Florida has unanimously passed a law this summer changing the word "mental retardation" for "intellectual disability." This means that government forms will now reflect such a shift.

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities said the term "intellectual disability" applies to individuals who were previously diagnosed with mental retardation, and clarified that those with developmental disabilities may also apply if said impairment has a cognitive effect.

Amanda Niguidula, director of the University's Disability Resource Center, believes that this is a step in the right direction.

"Being a university where we have a high value of how students identify themselves, anything that helps stop the use of a potentially

derogatory label is a step in the right direction," said Niguidula.

Melissa Resillez, a junior English student, agreed.

"It could be insulting to a lot of people," said Resillez, "'Mental retardation' is a negative term. It sounds like an insult."

Niguidula pointed to the fact that, while many students who come in already know what label applies to them, the change of legal terminology is of interest to the Disability Center. She also conveyed her suspicion that this change in government terminology might affect the social use of the term.

"Forms and processes [now] have to reflect [the new] word usage. As the use of required language begins to permeate the practice, administrations, services and things like that, I think it

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MEDITATING PANTHERS



VINCENT RIVES/THE BEACON

Meditation Instructor Kevin Ellerton meditates on a sunny hilltop with Tricha Hoffman, phd in chemistry, and Jovanna Be, junior in psychology.

Summer graduation now a "hot" commodity

SIMONE GARVEY-EWAN
Contributing Writer

Some students trade in their sunscreen and beach balls for textbooks and scantrons as summer graduations reportedly rise.

According to Ivette Duarte, the interim director of Career Services, seniors enrolled in summer A, B and C term graduate in August and face a better job market.

"Students seem to have a new optimism about the future," said Duarte. "The job market is better around the end of the summer, class sizes are reduced and the competition out there isn't as intense."

Duarte herself has a new optimism about next year's summer graduation, partly

because of the 170 employers who will be in attendance at the Sept. 18 Career Fair.

According to Duarte, "students will finally have more jobs."

Some students, like Brooke Jones, a senior majoring in health services administration, consider themselves very lucky to have an early graduation. She is supposed to be graduating in spring 2015, but met her requirements before the anticipated date.

"I came to FIU with college credits and took classes each summer so I'm ahead," said Jones.

Typically, there are six summer graduation ceremonies that occur. According to the Sun Sentinel, 3,500 students graduated this past summer, as opposed to 4,000 last

winter and 4,300 last spring.

According to Duarte, the colleges with the largest amount of graduates are the College of Arts and Sciences along with the College of Business.

Eve Desorme, a senior biology major, will be graduating a semester late due to the unavailability of certain classes.

"I'm scheduled to graduate in the spring but the classes that I would take now or in the spring are full or they conflict with my schedule," said Desorme. "For example, there is only one class opened for Statistics II this semester. Why would they do that?"

According to various students, the summer is used to retake failed classes.

Simone McPherson, a 2013 graduate

in the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, took advantage of summer classes to take her final three classes because she didn't want to have a heavier class load in the spring.

"I didn't get a break. As soon as I graduated, I went right into graduate school," said McPherson. "However, attending graduate school so soon after forced me to remain very focused."

Major companies usually do their recruiting in the fall and spring. To further prepare summer graduates for life after their degree, Career Services hosts internship fairs in the fall and spring semesters.

-news@fiusm.com

LGBTQA community to host awareness workshops

MARIA BRITOS
Staff Writer

This past June, the country witnessed a historic win for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and ally community when the Defense of Marriage Act was struck down by the Supreme Court. Across the nation, communities and supporters celebrated as this victory marked a step closer for the gay rights movement to gain recognition by the government.

Multicultural Programs and Services LGBTQA Initiatives at the University celebrate on another level. The organization is hosting a set of workshops aimed to provide awareness and education to students and faculty about the issues arising that are affecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and ally

community. Participants will be able to "dine, discuss and deliberate" the most controversial topics over free food and drinks.

The 1-year-old organization has accomplished not only workshops, but provide support to students who identify as LGTBQA. On Sept. 19, another workshop will be targeted to those LGTBQA members in the Greek community at the University.

The DOMA will be the topic of one of the many sessions that will be offered throughout the year.

"There are folks that want to know what is there now for Florida?" said Gisela Vega, associate director of LGBTQA Initiatives. "And there's only a piece of the iceberg that we're talking about with this topic."

Special guest speakers will be discussing the future

of same-sex marriage and related issues, particularly in Florida. Jose Gabilondo, associate professor at the College of Law, along with Safeguarding American Values for Everyone Dade will deliberate policies involved in helping the LGBTQA community acquire desired rights in Florida.

Florida is one of the many states that does not recognize same-sex marriage. Marriage isn't the only issue affecting them; such problems arise when couples want to be properly recognized by the government but are limited due to the laws against them.

"When DOMA got overturned, there were a lot of celebrations in Florida, but at the same time Florida sort of realized that we have a lot of work to do," said Vega. "Although DOMA has been squashed, the Florida

constitution does not allow same-sex marriages in the state of Florida."

them," said Serrano.

Fortunately, Miami-Dade county laws and the Univer-

“When DOMA got overturned, there were a lot of celebrations in Florida, but at the same time Florida sort of realized that we have a lot of work to do.”

Gisela Vega
Assoc. Dir. of LGBTQA Initiatives

Edwin Serrano, graduate assistant for LGBTQA Initiatives, said that these issues extend beyond that of just being able to get married in Florida.

"In terms of rights, I would say that being open in your job, a lot of people sometimes have to keep that closeted because they don't know what could happen to

sity include sexual orientation as a protected class from discrimination at work. However, according to Vega, individuals with gender expression and gender identity issues are facing even less protection than the LGBTQA group.

"Anything that requires identification or verification of the sex almost auto-

matically excludes transgender people," said Wallace Cure, freshmen mathematics major who has been an actively involved member of LGTBQA Initiatives since before he entered the University.

Recently, a mentor program has been initiated as another strategy to reach out to the 10 percent of students that make up the LGBTQA population at the University.

"We may be small, but we are big," said Serrano.

The event takes place on Sept. 25 at Biscayne Bay Campus and Oct. 3 at Modesto A. Maidique Campus from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Anyone interested should make reservations through the LGBTQA website at lgbt.fiu.edu or via email at lgbt@fiu.edu.

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WORLD NEWS

Singer's lyrics cause controversy in Havana

A Cuban singer's unusually bold lyrics at a nationally televised concert are the talk of Havana.

Robertico Carcasses performed late Thursday at a concert organized to demand the return of several Cuban agents imprisoned in the United States. Carcasses also sang of his wish for more freedom of information, direct presidential elections and an end to a "self-blockade" in Cuba.

Artists, writers and musicians have long enjoyed certain flexibility to speak critically about the island's Communist system.

Afghan Taliban attack US Consulate

Taliban militants unleashed car bombs at the U.S. Consulate in western Afghanistan on Friday morning, triggering a firefight with security forces in an attack that killed at least two Afghans and wounded 17. The U.S. said its personnel from the mission were safe and that most of them were temporarily relocated to Kabul, while American forces secured the site. The attack in the city of Herat raises concerns of spreading insecurity in Afghanistan as U.S.-led troops reduce their presence ahead of a full withdrawal next year.

Islamists stage protests in Egypt

Sporadic clashes erupted Friday between supporters and opponents of Egypt's ousted president during nationwide protests as the military battled al-Qaida-inspired groups in northern Sinai.

The street rallies came a day after Egypt's military-backed interim government extended a nationwide state of emergency order another two months citing ongoing security concerns.

Officials said they feared other potential terrorist attacks after a failed assassination attempt targeting Egypt's interior minister and suicide attacks at military building and checkpoint in Sinai that killed six. Unrest in Egypt spiked after the popularly backed July 3 military coup that toppled President Mohammed Morsi.

For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.

Panther convicted of murder

Former running back found guilty in 2010 campus stabbing

FIUSM STAFF

On Sept. 11 former FIU running back Quentin Wyche was charged with second-degree murder with a deadly weapon. In March of 2010, Wyche admitted to fatally stabbing former running back

Kendall Berry during an on-campus brawl.

Wyche's trial marks the long-anticipated start to a trial that figures to test Florida's controversial self-defense law. Wyche insisted during trial that he feared for his life when he used a pair of scissors

to kill his former teammate. However, the prosecution's view is that Wyche unjustly stabbed the unarmed Berry with a thrust to the heart, then taunted him as he lay mortally wounded on the sidewalk.

The trial, which will be overseen by Miami-Dade

Circuit Judge Miguel de la O, is expected to last the rest of the week and test the limits of South Florida's Stand Your Ground law.

Sentencing for this case is yet to be determined.

-news@fiusm.com

New term coined for mental disabilities

DISABLED, PAGE 1

facilitates an environment where other types of labels fall just out of usage," said Niguidula. "It becomes less present in the community."

Resillez, too, believes that referring to intellectually disabled individuals as such through government forms will have social repercussions with regards to usage of the term "mentally retarded."

"When I used to work for Disney, we were trained that when you had a student with a disability, you can't say, 'Let me help this disabled guest.' You must say 'Let me help this guest with a disability,'" said Resillez, "I think America and the world should start following that."

Both Niguidula and Resillez pointed to how the offensiveness of the term helped create what the former calls "momentum" to make this change, both on the state level and federal level. Niguidula pointed to the personal story of a young intellectually disabled girl whose parents struggled with the term's usage in some locations, which helped fuel said momentum.

"I think personal experiences matter when it comes to marginalizing entire iden-

ties in a negative way," said Niguidula.

"If I had a disability, and you referred to me as 'mentally retarded,' I would find it offensive," said Resillez, who also pointed to how children in playgrounds often use the word 'retarded' condescendingly, which she asserts is extremely offensive to those who have intellectual disabilities.

Resillez indicated that while individuals do have the freedom of speech to say whatever they want, Americans would improve if they use the new term.

"Yes, you can say that [someone is] retarded, but why would you say that? [This issue] defines who you are as an American," said Resillez.

"As far as I am aware, [there are no governmental] repercussions for using the term 'mental retardation,'" said Niguidula. "Disability services at FIU often [have] to do etiquette training. We strive to get the words right."

However, Niguidula said that the National Advocacy Organization, an independent group that works with individuals and families with intellectual disabilities, helps to ensure change of labels.

"I think [these] are more incen-

I think personal experiences matter when it comes to marginalizing entire identities in a negative way.

Amanda Niguidula
Director
Disability Resource Center

tives rather than penalties, but I could be wrong," said Niguidula.

When asked about a non-governmental approach to changing the term, Niguidula specified how both society and governmental change work together.

"I think it's important that we're talking about this now, in tandem with [the legislation]," said Niguidula.

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SGA continues to SWAG out its students

NICOLE AGUIAR Staff Writer

Yisel Rivera, an international relations sophomore, and 54 other students became the first "swagged out" members of Students With a Goal last September and plan to continue their legacy this fall. SWAG team is a Student Government Association organization whose goal is to help students that are looking to become involved on-campus or advance their leadership and professional skills.

"I became the leader I am today thanks to SWAG," said Rivera. "I remember not always being in my comfort zone, but now I know I can take on any audience. SWAG gave me the confidence I needed to excel in leadership positions."

Today, Rivera applies the skills she learned as a member to her new position as SWAG coordinator.

SWAG has an orientation open to all students today, Sept. 16, in GC 315 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. No prior registration is necessary.

The program is under SGA's executive branch, and

focuses on leadership skills and education. It was started in efforts to create a sense of openness to the student body and allow access to SGA involvement for any student.

"I felt the need to create a program that was much more available and that targeted the underclassmen, the non-affiliated, the aspiring but disenfranchised potential student leaders so that it wasn't just an image I was shaping, but a culture I was instilling in Student Government," said Oliver Diaz-Neda, senior public relations major.

With that vision, Diaz-Neda launched SWAG's first orientation last September. The organization gained 55 members who were educated on the functions of SGA, professional skills like public speaking and resume writing, and given tasks where their new skills were put to the test.

During orientation, students take part in the typical icebreakers and are informed of the program's expectations.

"[Students are taught] everything from the struc-

ture, how each individual branch works, what the available positions are and what are their roles, the basics of the [Funding and Allocations] funding process and where the program lands under that structure," said Diaz-Neda.

The etiquette that SWAG teaches you is unparalleled to anything I've ever seen before.

Yisel Rivera
Sophomore
International Relations

SWAG is a semester-long commitment, with general meetings which include activities, guest speakers from leaders on-campus from peer advisers, student ambassadors, residential assistants and SGA officials.

"The members were constantly learning things like public speaking and how to act accordingly around leaders in the university,"

said Rivera. "The etiquette that SWAG teaches you is unparalleled to anything I've ever seen before."

The program is involved in all SGA activities including surveying, tabling and events hosted or sponsored by SGA. Members also conduct face-to-face research and promote SGA events.

One member who was able to "reach her goal" last year is Nathalie De Almagro, sophomore political science major, who had no prior student leadership experience and has been elected to SWAG's executive board.

"SWAG taught me that to whom much is given, much is expected," De Almagro said. "As a member, you are given the opportunity to serve students and learn the basic structures, functions and purpose of SGA."

De Almagro said this has prepared her to work in teams and as a leader.

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Privacy: an unsettling myth in the digital age

MOISES FUERTES
Staff Writer

I am sure some of us recall a time when Facebook was not prominent, with that time perhaps dating back to online experiences during the Myspace era.

I can recall mine starting out in simple AOL chat rooms filled with random people who logged on for no other purpose than to chat with others.

The Internet offered at the time was a more simplistic model with no strings attached. Back in those days, I felt like I actually had a sense of privacy online.

I recall that in the AOL chat rooms, I was just another person with an alias.

I was not Moises Fuertes, at least not in the sense that the other random individuals online knew exactly who I was.

All of this immediately changed with the introduction of Myspace, where we could be searched for by age, height, ethnicity and even relationship status.

I did not realize it then, but the lines of privacy were only just beginning

to blur.

Facebook surfaced as Myspace died out, further destroying what was left of online privacy.

This is made clear by the large amount of individuals that write about their daily lives on the social media giant.

I will spare the details of this debacle, suffice to say that Facebook is the prominent social media website today given the fact that it has over 1 billion users, as reported by USA Today in 2012.

But social media didn't stop there and evolved into even more public domain, exemplified by none other than Twitter.

From the ground up, Twitter is by default asking its users to update events as they happen.

Tie this into hashtags and it all becomes overly revealing and pervasive.

We are always on, always connected and no longer private.

The thin line that separated public from private has disappeared and what online privacy we think remains is an illusion.

The National Security Agency has made that fact very clear through their

massive surveillance of the digital world in the interest of national security.

According to the New York Times, "The N.S.A. hacked into target computers to snare messages before they were encrypted. In some cases, companies say they were coerced by the government into handing over their master encryption keys or building in a back door."

We all leave a bright footprint online, resulting in everything anyone does being tracked.

The fact that any governmental power has acquired master encryption that allows them to bypass security measures online, ironically created to protect information, basically gives them unlimited power, insofar as information gathering goes.

The Net has become central in our daily lives.

It may seem like there is the option of leaving, of



opting out, but today that isn't an option.

We rely on Google, as it has become the world's virtual library.

We rely on Facebook to stay connected to friends, colleagues and family.

We also rely on the Net for business, education and even political elections.

How then, is it so diffi-

cult to grasp that privacy online is as important as privacy in our physical world?

Today, governments can learn more about a person through a virtual search than they can through a physical search of that person's home.

Digital privacy laws need to catch up to current

times.

We live in an ecosystem of bits.

It is time those bits became the complete property of the individuals who created them.

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A moment of silence, not complaints

ITZEL BASUALDO
Contributing Writer

Let's face it: we love to complain.

It's become part of human nature. It's what we do best.

We're all familiar with these cries of distaste, which are normally preceded or succeeded with a sigh or an "ay" to further emphasize our dissatisfaction with these grave matters.

The waiter is taking too long. The food needs more salt. It's super hot outside. My phone has barely any signal here. The lines are too long. There's too much traffic. That person doesn't know how to drive. It's too humid outside. This food tastes bad.

You may even be complaining right now about how I'm complaining about complaining, or about how this article is a mere waste of time, space, and words.

But that's okay. That's beside the point.

It seems to me that I constantly carry a crusade against life.

I'm probably among the biggest complainers I know.

I enjoy going against the current, and sharing with others all the cruelties and injustices life seems to zealously lodge at me. I, however, don't know what cruelty really is – nor do I know what it is to stare at heinous injustice in the eyes.

I'm putting this whining and garrulous ranting behind me because it's ill-minded.

We seem to enclose ourselves in a bubble that subtly blinds us and leaves us with the incapacity to see beyond our own realm.

Well, this may be an eye opener: there are nearly seven billion people inhabiting, roaming, living and breathing in this planet we all share.

Out of these seven billion people, at least 80% of them live on less than \$10 a day. Over 660 million people without access to proper sanitation scrape the line between life and death with an appalling \$2 a day.

And sadly enough, approximately 22,000 children die each day from poverty.

How can I complain about school?

When there are kids out there who can only dream of stepping into a learning institution.

How can I complain about the food I eat? When there are millions of people who go to sleep hungry, and have never known what a meal is comprised of.

How can I complain about traffic, when I have the luxury and am fortunate enough to have my own means of transportation?

How can I complain about my own parents, when there are chil-

dren who wish they even had parents at all, who wish they knew what the nurturing love and infinite care of a mother or father?

We worry and incarcerate ourselves in a vacuum of greed and cynicism.

It's okay if you don't have the latest iPhone model, if your food took too long to come, if your nails aren't absolutely immaculate or if your last haircut left you looking like you were attacked by a flock of pigeons.

Instead of keeping our lives on the negative, the daily vexations, let's take a moment and pause.

Let's open our minds and clear the ignorance that blinds our innate kindness.

Let's give thanks. Let's lend a hand.

-opinion@fiusm.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RE: PARKVIEW PARKING

I'm a current resident of Parkview, and something has my fellow residents and I quite annoyed.

FIU, despite having a clear lack of parking available on campus--especially for those who live on campus--built a separate garage adjacent to Parkview which is only usable by on-campus students.

I certainly wouldn't mind a garage specifically for that purpose, if it didn't cost an additional \$200.00 to our already expensive mandatory parking fee of \$90.00.

Looking through the

garage, I see most of it looks positively pristine, brand new, and underutilized above the first two floors.

I still have yet to see anyone on the top floor.

Good for those fortunate enough to have money left over after paying \$3,900 for just living in Parkview to begin with, I suppose.

But for the rest of us FIU students who don't drive the luxury cars and F-150s which are more or less the norm there, it just means more walking to get to our cars, or even parking off campus.

-Louis Gross, junior biology major

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to jonathan.szydlo@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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New Nine Inch Nails album gets 'intimate'

COLUMNIST

IN HER WORDS

JUNETTE REYES

To assume and expect an artist will maintain their "sound" for the rest of their music

career is outright ridiculous. The same applies to Trent Reznor, the mastermind behind Nine Inch Nails.

The recent release of "Hesitation Marks" has brought about this idea that Reznor's music has changed, along with the man himself.

There was so much uproar over this, that fans eventually set up an online petition to remove "Everything" from the album, a song that may sound different for NIN at first, but still has potential.

The interesting thing is that it was very easy to nitpick "Everything," alongside the singles released before the album, titled "Copy of A" and "Came Back Haunted."

However, when taking in the album as a whole, the song fit right where it belonged.

It didn't awkwardly stand out as the surprisingly "upbeat" song of the album.

It really isn't an upbeat song to begin with.

There's something somewhat disturbing about it, and if NIN is behind it, there definitely is.

Despite the pre-release controversy, the true standout track of the album is "Various Methods of Escape."

Reznor has always been a very expressive songwriter, but he's



EVGENY YURTAEV/CREATIVE COMMONS

Nine Inch Nails' new album "Hesitation Marks" was released on Sept. 4, 2013. The album is much more "intimate" than past albums.

never been as intimate as he is with this song and, dare I say it, the album as a whole.

"I've gotta let go/I've gotta get straight/Why'd you have to make it so hard?/Let me get away," sings Reznor in the song, maintaining the theme of losing oneself to an addiction.

Something that Reznor is too familiar with, given his abuse of drugs and alcohol in his past.

Reznor has long since turned over a new leaf in his life, though, and just keeps getting better and better.

As "Hesitation Marks" proves, his music has changed along with him, but not so drastically.

Although there is a much cleaner sound, as is to be expected of an Academy Award winner for "Best Original Score" with "The Social Network," there are still very familiar sounds from past albums and side projects, such as his new band How to Destroy Angels, fronted by his wife, Mariqueen Maandig.

In fact, this seems to be an album where most songs can effortlessly fit in past albums, all the way back to "Pretty Hate Machine."

If there's one thing that is slightly missing, it is the angst Reznor is known for.

The album doesn't seem to

comfortably declare itself as an NIN album--or a standout album--until midway through.

The intro, "Eater of Dreams," seems a little bland compared to other instrumental intros, such as "Pinion" from "Broken." "Copy of A" and "Came Back Haunted" are decent enough songs to hold their own.

Things quickly go downhill with "All Time Low," which is probably the only downside to this album.

I just don't feel comfortable having Reznor cooing "baby" into my ear.

The album finally breaks stride midway through with--you

guessed it--"Everything."

The song that was considered the album's demise turned out to be the very thing that eventually saved it and put things back on track.

The good thing about NIN is that you never really know the true potential of a song until you hear it live.

Which is what I'm looking forward to this October.

NIN fans looking for a repeat of a past album, look elsewhere. Otherwise, welcome back and welcome home.

-junette.reyes@fiusm.com

Florida girl was bullied for months before suicide

TAMARA LUSH

AP Writer

For nearly a year, as many as 15 girls ganged up on 12-year-old Rebecca Ann Sedwick and picked on her, authorities say, bombarding her with online messages such as "You should die" and "Why don't you go kill yourself."

Rebecca couldn't take it anymore.

She changed one of her online screen names to "That Dead Girl." She messaged a boy in North Carolina: "I'm jumping." And then, on Monday, the Lakeland girl went to an abandoned concrete plant, climbed a tower and hurled herself to her death.

Authorities have seized computers and cellphones from some of the girls as

they decide whether to bring charges in what appeared to be the nation's latest deadly cyberbullying case.

The bullying started over a "boyfriend issue" last year at Crystal Lake Middle School, Sheriff Grady Judd said. But he gave no details. Police said Rebecca was suspended at one point for fighting with a girl who used to be her friend.

Rebecca had been "absolutely terrorized" by the other girls, Judd said. He said detectives found some of her diaries at her home, and she talked of how depressed she was about the situation.

"Her writings would break your heart," he said.

The case has illustrated, once more, the ways in which youngsters are using the Internet to torment others.

"There is a lot of digital drama. Middle-school kids are horrible to each other, especially girls," said Perry Aftab, a New Jersey-based lawyer and expert on cyberbullying.

Last December, Rebecca was hospitalized for three days after cutting her wrists because of what she said was bullying, according to the sheriff. Later, after Rebecca complained that she had been pushed in the hallway and that another girl wanted to fight her, Rebecca's mother began home-schooling her in Lakeland, a city of about 100,000 midway between Tampa and Orlando, Judd said.

This fall, Rebecca started at a new school, Lawton Chiles Middle Academy, and loved it, Judd said. But the bullying continued online.

"She put on a perfect, happy face. She never told me," Rebecca's mother, Tricia Norman, told the Lakeland Ledger. "I never had a clue. I mean, she told me last year when she was being bullied, but not this year, and I have no idea why."

After Rebecca's suicide, police looked at her computer and found search queries such as "what is overweight for a 13-year-old girl," "how to get blades out of razors," and "how many over-the-counter drugs do you take to die." One of her screensavers also showed Rebecca with her head resting on a railroad track.

Police said that she had met the North Carolina boy at an airport and that they had remained friends online. The 12-year-old boy didn't tell anyone about

the "I'm jumping, I can't take it anymore" message he received from her on Monday morning, shortly before her suicide, authorities said.

Detectives said the other girls' parents have been cooperative.

Florida has a bullying law, but it leaves punishment to schools, not police. Legal experts said it is difficult to bring charges against someone accused of driving a person to suicide.

"We've had so many suicides that are related to digital harassment. But we also have free-speech laws in this country," Aftab said.

In a review of news articles, The Associated Press found about a dozen suicides in the U.S. since October 2010 that were attributed at least in part to cyberbullying. Aftab said

she believes the real number is at least twice that.

In 2006, 13-year-old Megan Meier hanged herself in Missouri after she was dumped online by a fictitious teenage boy created in part by an adult neighbor, Lori Drew, authorities said.

A jury found Drew guilty of three federal misdemeanors, but a judge threw out the verdicts and acquitted her.

Florida's law, the Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act, was named after a teenager who killed himself after being harassed by classmates. The law was amended July 1 to cover cyberbullying.

David Tirella, a Florida attorney who lobbied for the law and has handled dozens of cyberbullying cases, said law enforcement can also seek more traditional charges.



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Volleyball making strides in first year in C-USA

OSCAR BALDIZON
Contributing Writer

The Panthers went 2-1 last weekend at the FIU Classic, defeating Houston Baptist and University of North Carolina Wilmington 3-1 and falling to Alabama in straight sets on the Lime Court at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Redshirt Junior Ksenia Sukhareva led the offense for the Panthers with 43 kills last weekend but was also presented a yellow card after debating a close call during a game against UNCW. Loaded with skill and experience, the fiery Russian has the potential to take over a match but is easily flustered.

The Panthers will need their defense most of all this season if they expect to make noise in the new Conference USA. Sophomore Ashlee Hodgskin led the team with 59 assists over the course of the tournament but pressure is mounting on the other players to do just as well.

Satoric living up to buzz

Anabela Satoric was the buzz of Panther volleyball this preseason coming in from Biberist, Switzerland and has lived up to the billing so far. Satoric has started and led the team in assists multiple times this season for the Panthers; racking up 27 of them already in one game at the Gamecock Invitational.

"She has impressed but I think she can do a lot better, there is a lot of potential there," Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett said.

One of the many beneficiaries of these Swiss sets is Senior Kim Smith. Starting at middle blocker, anytime there is a chance to get Smith a spike going to the right, Satoric takes advantage knowing Smith rarely misses a kill shot from that side. With more practice and time to sharpen her skills, Satoric could be a valuable asset in crucial times this year for FIU.

Towers dominate the middle

Standing at 6'3" from

Indiana and Italy, middle hitters Sylvia Carli and Smith anchor the FIU squad and are often the tallest players on the court. The middle blockers clog up air space at the net causing blocks and bringing powerful kills through the middle. After resting earlier in the season, Carli, a Junior, has really shown up for the Panthers the past couple weeks subbing in for Smith and even starting.

After watching just a few games, it is evident Smith has a knack for showing up when the team needs her the most. Whether in long droughts of bad play or the most clutch moments of closing out a set, she really rejuvenates the team with her play and competitive spirit. A leader through example, not words.

"Every game, before we go in, I have a moment where I just sit and listen to a song and pray. That gets me very focused and leads me out to the court and I honestly feel like I'm led by God in those important moments," Smith said.

Mendoza's energy
There are certain players that hold a team together



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

The Panthers went 2-1 last weekend during the FIU Classic, defeating Houston Baptist and University of North Carolina Wilmington 3-1 and falling to Alabama in straight sets.

like some sort of glue and can determine the whole vibe and flow of a game. Jessica Mendoza is one of those players and as a Senior, it is a role she embraces.

"I feel like my whole life I have been a positive energy leader, it's some-

thing I'm used to, and as a floor captain I do have to be positive the whole game, which can be tough, but it is contagious and does rub off on others," Mendoza said.

A stalwart on the defensive line, Mendoza consistently leads the team in

digs, including a career high 18 versus UNCW. As a member of the FIU Sand Volleyball team as well, Mendoza is fully prepared to help the Panthers achieve their expectations.

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Young Panther adds depth to high scoring team



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Sophomore Daniel Gonzalez continues to impress not only his teammates and coaches but also Conference USA.

ALEJANDRO SOLANO
Contributing Writer

Four games into the season, and the men's soccer team has started off by splitting the games, their most recent a 4-3 win against Florida Gulf Coast.

Several players have stood out so far this season after just four games, making an immediate

impact for the Panthers. Junior Roberto Alterio has shined for the team and is currently tied for first in the conference with the most scored goals with four.

Another member of the Panthers who has played well early on is standout Sophomore Daniel Gonzalez.

In the Panthers most recent win against the Eagles, Gonzalez

converted the game-winning goal in the dying minutes to secure the win for FIU.

Coming into the 2013-2014 season, there were high expectations for Gonzalez, who grew up in Miami and played his high school soccer at Miami Killian Senior High.

During his time at Killian, Gonzalez netted 76 total goals and was named to the first team All-Dade both his junior and senior year.

As a Miami native, Gonzalez admitted to feeling extra pressure playing in his hometown, where he would have to impress not only his new team and coaching staff, but also his family and friends who have supported him throughout his soccer career while also adjusting to the level of competition.

"The level goes up significantly and it's always hard to adapt to higher and stronger levels. Luckily for me, I was aware of what was to come and trained all summer to be prepared and excel during my time at FIU," Gonzalez said.

Excel is exactly what Gonzalez did, overcoming the pressures as a hometown prospect.

Gonzalez went on to make the Conference USA third team

All-Conference and the conference's All-Freshman team after finishing out his freshman season with the Panthers; tallying a conference best eight assists.

Soccer has brought plenty of memorable moments to the young sophomore, who has dedicated his life to his greatest passion.

"Many opportunities have come my way playing soccer and they began really early too," Gonzalez said. "I was lucky enough to be a member of the youth national team pool in 2008, which is a camp featuring the top 40 players in the nation for players born in 1994."

As a member of the Youth National team, Gonzalez had the chance to travel to Boston and play with some of the nation's top players in his age group, while receiving training from some of the best coaches the country has to offer.

"I also had an all expense paid trip to London, England with the Disney showcase All-Star team. It is opportunities like these that have played a huge role in my life," Gonzalez said. "With that being said though, FIU has probably been the most intense experience I've had, trying to balance out school, training, games and staying on top of everything. That

really is the ultimate test, but I am grateful for this experience."

Besides attending the Youth National team camp in Boston and flying to London with the Disney Showcase, Gonzalez received the Copa-Dorada Hispanic-Athlete award.

An award given to the top Hispanic athletes in Miami, hoping that they will continue in the path of excellence within their sports.

Even with his long list of local and international achievements, Gonzalez still believes his best moments as a soccer player have come from being a member of the Panthers.

"My best moment as a soccer player has been being able to be a part of such a top-notch Division I program like FIU," Gonzalez said.

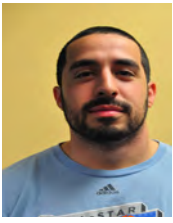
As the season continues, Gonzalez and the rest of the Panthers look to improve as a team behind Head Coach Ken Arena.

The Panthers, who are currently ranked third in the nation in scoring, take on North Florida on Sept. 20, their first home game of the season.

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Declining popularity towards top dog Garcia

COLUMNIST



PATRICK CHALVIRE

With the success and downfalls of any athletic program, there is always one person held responsible for every action. FIU is no different than any other athletic program in the nation.

In came Pete Garcia in 2006, an athletic director in any other school, the executive director of sports and entertainment for the Panthers. Quite a mouthful.

When it comes to hirings and firings for an athletic program, the blame usually falls on the AD. Success brings bonuses and guarantees; failure brings a kick in the rear through the exit door.

For Garcia, having six programs hit with NCAA sanctions since 2006 is not enough for termination, or even being put on the proverbial hot seat.

Recently, the biggest news throughout campus and the football team was the firing of now offensive line coach at Alabama, Mario Cristobal. Yes, the National Champion Alabama Crimson Tide. Even a three win season was enough for Alabama ball

coach Nick Saban to bring him on staff.

The firing has been questioned by many current and former Panthers since news first broke out. Several alumni have even gone out of their way to create firepetegarcia.com: a website showing the downward spiral of Garcia and athletics and their “support” for the AD.

Now, no one can argue that Cristobal truly built the football program from the ground up and brought it to the program’s only bowl win and conference title in history. Cristobal had the skills and know all to recruit where the school needed, in-town athletes.

For those with any knowledge of the basis of college ball, it is known that Florida is in the top three states, if not the top state, with the best recruits coming out of high school. With the success and connections stemming from the University of Miami, Cristobal had the know-how to bring those potential athletes to FIU Stadium.

To add insult to injury, according to the Sun Sentinel, the Panthers have struggled to raise money since the firing of Cristobal. Coincidence? I think not.

We all know the kid with the 4.0 grade point average and four stars by rivals.com and ESPN wont be coming to FIU, though the kid with the average GPA and decent speed would have consid-

ered staying home to play Division I football.

Entering the 2012 season, the Panthers had a 15-7 record in 22 games, as well as leading opponents in nearly every statistical category.

With the way the program is going, it looks as if that same kid would rather drop down a division just to see more wins on his record. Why you may ask? Because it looks like it’s OK to fire a guy who isn’t good enough here, but good enough for a championship team.

At FIU, it’s good enough to keep a man who is solely responsible for bringing in Isiah Thomas. Thomas, who is widely regarded of bringing down the New York Knicks as a coach and executive. The same Thomas who was the center of a sexual harassment case in 2007. When the dust settled, Madison Square Garden and Thomas came to an agreement for the case, brought up by a former team executive, for a mere \$11.6 million.

Fast forward to Thomas’ time at FIU. Garcia stood by him when Thomas was attempting to take a consulting job with the Knicks. Thomas would later be fired after posting a 26-65 record after three years, yet Garcia is still at the reigns.

Maybe it’s El Presidente Rosenberg who feels the need to keep Garcia. Maybe he’s a glass half full kind of guy. But with everything



BEACON FILE PHOTO

After many years of disappointment and frustration, many current and former students are losing their patience with Pete Garcia.

tagged with athletics, maybe he should be a realistic guy instead.

According to public records for athletic directors just within Conference USA, Garcia racks in \$441,832. That’s the highest salary in C-USA. Garcia’s contract is expected to expire in 2016, barring any setbacks or unforeseen extension just because.

I’m curious to see how

the rest of the fall will turn out. As sad as it may be for some, the biggest team on campus is the football team and the support or backlash towards Garcia will be based on the outcome of this Panther team.

If alumni felt the need to put together a website to make a point, who knows what they may do next?

I’m no fortune teller, but unless the Panthers turn a

complete 180, ticket sales will continue to go down and “fans” will continue to spend their Saturdays watching other football games, while Alfonso Field at FIU Stadium becomes the second home field to opponents.

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Marlins manager wants rookie to tone down

STEVEN WINE
AP Writer

Now a full-time spectator for the rest of the season, Miami Marlins ace Jose Fernandez sat quietly behind the dugout railing Thursday as his team lost 6-1 to the Atlanta Braves.

He didn’t lead cheers, help the bat boy or lobby to pinch-run. He merely sat and watched.

The new Jose? Maybe. Manager Mike Redmond wants the rookie right-hander to tone down his exuberant behavior, and says the Atlanta Braves had a legitimate grievance with the rookie’s behavior, which led to a bench-clearing confrontation during his final start of the season Wednesday.

The Braves were unhappy Fernandez stood at home plate admiring his home run, then spat toward the Braves’ Chris Johnson while rounding third base. The Braves also were annoyed Fernandez reacted with a cocky grin when

he gave up a homer to Evan Gattis, then stared toward the Braves bench at the end of the inning.

Redmond sided with the Braves.

“Jose is an emotional guy,” Redmond said Thursday. “That’s part of his game that is going to improve. We don’t want to take the ‘having fun’ aspect away from him. That’s what makes him him. But at the same time, I think maybe he can center that a little bit. ... That might be a part of his game he needs to look at, and maybe try to do something different.”

After the game, Fernandez apologized for his behavior. Lost in the furor was another fine outing by the All-Star right-hander in his final start of the year.

He allowed one run in seven innings Wednesday to help Miami win 5-2. The 21-year-old Fernandez finished the year 12-6 with a 2.19 ERA, the second-lowest in the majors behind only the Dodgers’ Clayton Kershaw.

He struck out 187 in 172 2-3 innings, and won’t pitch again because the Marlins set a 170-inning limit for him this year.

“He’s going to be one of the top pitchers in this league for a long time,” Redmond said. “But you want your players to be

judged for the way they compete, not for the theatrics.”

Fernandez has been demonstrative all season. He’s quick to lead cheers in the dugout or strike up a conversation with an opposing player. When he stepped to the plate to bat for the first time Wednesday, he greeted Braves catcher Brian McCann with a handshake.

But his demeanor has sometimes rubbed opponents the wrong way, and the Braves were particularly miffed by his showboating after his first major league homer. As he crossed the plate, McCann scolded him for the display, which led both benches and bullpens to clear.

While Fernandez is popular with his teammates, the consensus in the Marlins clubhouse was that he had gone too far.

“Jose is a great pitcher, he is very competitive, but he let this one get out of hand,” closer Steve Cishek said. “He’s going to learn from it. I can pretty much guarantee it will never happen again, the way he is. He’s a good kid.”

Atlanta manager Fredi Gonzalez attributed Fernandez’s behavior to immaturity.

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GETTING COMICAL



JUAN ENDARA/THE BEACON

In preparation for the screening of Iron Man 3, the FIU Comics Club “pre-gamed” with prizes, trivia games and fun facts about the movie.

New York Times author, columnist to speak at BBC

AILYS TOLEDO
Staff Writer

New York Times columnist and professor of journalism at Columbia University, Samuel Freedman, will speak at the Biscayne Bay Campus on Sept. 18. Freedman recently published a book called “Breaking the Line,” a nonfiction story about a history-changing game between Florida A&M and Grambling State University.

“Many people do not know the significance of how college football aided in the civil rights movement,” said Freedman in a phone interview with Student Media.

Freedman’s inspiration in writing the book was a combined interest in football and how this historic event played an important role for black people.

According to Freedman, the same thinking that made blacks have segregated water fountains, bathrooms and buses was the same thinking that proposed black people could never be good football players, either.

“There was this idea that a black football player would not make a good quarterback,” said Freedman.

That thinking changed during the “Orange Blossom Classic,” the annual Thanksgiving game.

This game, which is considered as a “National Black Championship” game, paved the way for black-college football teams to make a name for themselves in a predominately white-college sport.

The historic event was also significant because it was played in Miami, in 1967. During a time when racial segregation was especially prevalent, Freedman’s book highlights the challenges two black coaches and players had to overcome.

According to Freedman, most people do not think much of seeing a black quarterback on the field.

“They had to go to great lengths to get to where they are today,” said Freedman.

Aside from being a published author, Freedman is also a columnist for the New York Times. His column first began as an educational column, but later evolved into a column about religion.

“Writing for the Times has always been a life-long dream. Ever since I was young, I wanted to write for this paper,” said Freedman. “It has been the biggest honor of my life to have the opportunity to write for them.” According to Freedman, writing for such a well-known publication is not so much a challenge, but definitely hard

work.

“I am always trying to publish the most accurate and interesting work for my readers. It’s important that I am giving accurate information, while giving them the best story possible,” said Freedman.

Freedman is also a professor at Columbia in the City of New York. He is a professor of Journalism and Mass Communication in the graduate program. There, he encourages students to keep up with new reporting and writing techniques.

“Like a colleague of mine says, it’s important to be ‘trans-digital.’ That is, to maintain proper grammar skills, but also keep up with the new digital age,” said Freedman.

Freedman also said that he sees many graduate students from FIU who go to Columbia bring diversity to the University, and he is looking forward to speaking to them about his book.

“I’m excited to attend the event because he has a lot of experience and insight into the career field that I want to be part of,” said Carolina Gonzalez, a junior in public relations.

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Interactive online classes expected to enhance learning

ALYSSA ELSO
Staff Writer

Online courses through the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management will become more interactive with the construction of the new Learning Object Development Environment room.

Located on the third floor of the Kovens Conference Center, the Learning Object Development Environment room will give professors a quiet space in which to develop, record and edit material for their online classes.

“The School of Hospitality and Tourism Management always tries to stay ahead of the curve in terms of facilities that will facilitate better learning processes,” said Associate Dean of Facilities and Operations, Mohammad Qureshi.

In the age of technology, where most students have access to a computer, online classes are becoming more popular and accessible.

The School of Hospitality and Tourism management currently offers an online master and executive master degree, as well as a complete online bachelor degree in hospitality management, according to Qureshi.

“Online classes, at least for our department, is no longer simply about putting up notes or powerpoints anymore, or just saying ‘read the book and take the exam,’” Qureshi said. “Looking into online classes, we

process.

Along with the bachelor and master’s programs that are offered online, the School of Hospitality also offers non credit certificates in various hospitality fields.

Within these online classrooms the students will have a chance to work with professors to create presentations that are much more engaging than a normal PowerPoint, according to Qureshi.

When it comes to taking online classes, students seem to have differing views.

“I don’t like sitting at a computer for long periods of time, I also feel that I work better in a classroom setting where I can immediately ask for help, regardless of the way the lectures are presented,” said sophomore electrical engineering major, Albert Angullo.

Gabriela Vargas, senior public relations major, on the other hand thoroughly enjoys them. “I like that with online classes I don’t have to drive to school, and that I can do the work alone,” said Vargas. “I think making the lectures more interactive would definitely make the classes more engaging and students would probably be more willing to try an online class.”

As of right now the facility will only be used by faculty members and professors, however, students with developed presentation ideas may have the opportunity to use the facility, if scheduling permits.

In order to fund the new

“
I like that with online classes I don’t have to drive to school, and that I can do the work alone.

Gabriella Vargas
Senior
Public Relations

felt that in order to improve the faculty member’s demonstrations and presentations, we needed to give them a more professional environment where they could develop learning objects, meaning lectures, presentations and demonstrations.”

The new facility will have film and audio equipment and will feature a greenscreen in which professors will be able to present their lectures while simultaneously showing images and facts on the screen behind them to further enhance the learning

project, the School of Hospitality is using monies that they have generated through the online masters program.

The program is market rate, meaning that the school sets a monthly fee for the program, preventing the use of monies from the budget to fund the project.

Completion on the Learning Object Development Environment room is expected by November 2013.

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