

## HOLY COLEY

### Coley scores 16 points to become all-time scoring leader in FIU basketball history



PHOTOS BY JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Despite shooting 6 of 24, Coley scored 16 points in the 59-41 loss to Rice on Wednesday.

**GO TO PAGE 6 FOR THE FULL STORY**

## Block enrollment to guarantee classes, four-year graduation

**MADISON FANOZZI**  
*News Director*

Registration frustrations may be a problem of the past.

The University launched a block enrollment program this semester where students can be automatically enrolled in the courses they need throughout their four years -- a set track to graduation.

Academic Affairs found in a recent survey that 62 percent of 8,200 upper class undergraduates reported that their biggest obstacle is securing seats in the classes they need to graduate.

"It's a direct response to formal and informal feedback from students," said Vice Provost Elizabeth Bejar. "The program will fulfill needs for certain kinds of students that have jobs and other responsibilities and need that sort of predictability of the future."

The program began this semester with 30-something freshman in four different

majors: international business, management, psychology and hospitality and tourism management. Each block has its own advisor.

"We're still striving to achieve the 300:1 advisor to student ratio for the University," Bejar said. "The block advisors still advise other students, but we hope the number of advisors grow along with the program's growth."

The program, which lays out four-year course schedules for each major, takes no extra cost to coordinate except for administrative time, according to Bejar.

Block classes are offered Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Modesto Maidique Campus and includes required summer semesters. Each block offers 12-15 credits.

Students are able to tweak their schedules by swapping classes and choosing different electives.

"It will become especially helpful in upper division when

students are fighting for the courses they need to graduate," said Gali Milbauer, academic advisor in the College of Arts and Sciences who is advising the psychology block.

"Block students will be enrolled before registration opens for anyone, even honor students."

While the process seems smooth and promising, the program is in its pilot stage and will be molded based on its first class.

"The response from the students will be critical in determining the future of the program," Bejar said. "Maybe students would prefer afternoon classes or Tuesday/Thursday classes. We just put together what we thought was best to test out."

The program plans to recruit "pure freshman" for next fall, as well as introduce the block to other majors and transfer students.

And while Bejar calls the

**SEE CUBA, PAGE 2**

## SGC-MMC president sets New Year's goals

**BRANDON WISE**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Last fall, SGC-MMC President Liane Sippin began an internship program within the Student Government Association.

The group began with approximately 40 students in August and

" I feel like I'm done. We still have all these programs happening in spring and it's only four months. It's hard to include anything else.

Liane Sippin,  
*President*  
SGC, MMC

has maintained all of its members heading into the spring.

"We were able to incorporate the CLS office with their programs so that they could get leadership

building and learn about SGA," Sippin said. "These are newer students who don't really know about FIU."

This semester, Sippin wants to focus on mentorship and get the student interns more involved with SGA.

But not all of the SGA programs have worked out the way she thought they would.

Students With A Goal was a program that Sippin wasn't sure about continuing at the beginning.

"I wasn't sure if I wanted to do both SWAG and the internship program but I thought 'let's try it out and give students a shot to still participate who missed the deadline for the internship program,'" Sippin said. "But we only had about five students and I wanted to get around 15."

She has decided that the SWAG program won't be continued this semester.

Sippin also noted that the Senate has not lived up to the expectations she had for them in the fall.

"They were a little bit slower

**SEE SGA, PAGE 2**



## WORLD NEWS

### Al-Qaida-linked group ramps up regional violence

Al-Qaida is positioning itself as a vanguard defending the Sunni community against what it sees as persecution by Shiite-dominated governments across Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. As a result, a Syrian rebellion whose aim was the removal of President Bashar Assad is evolving into something both bigger and more ambiguous: a fight increasingly led by Sunni jihadis - often foreign and animated mainly by hatred of Shiites - who are determined to create an Islamic state.

### Obama likely to accept change in spying on leaders

President Barack Obama is expected to tighten restrictions on U.S. spying on foreign leaders and also is considering changes in National Security Agency access to Americans' phone records, according to people familiar with a White House review of the nation's surveillance programs. Obama could unveil his highly anticipated decisions as early as next week. Ahead of that announcement, he is consulting with lawmakers, privacy advocates and intelligence officials who were invited to White House meetings Wednesday and Thursday.

### Actress' slaying put Venezuela leaders on spot

President Nicolas Maduro hastily gathered state governors and mayors Wednesday to talk about the country's violent crime amid public outrage over the killing of a popular soap-opera actress and former Miss Venezuela. Hundreds of actors and writers took to Caracas' streets to demand the government protect its citizens from the callous killers responsible for giving Venezuela one of the world's highest murder rates.

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

# Graduate school working to build internal support system for students

**JEFFREY PIERRE**  
*Asst. News Director*

Concurrent with receiving its fifth award, the University Graduate School launched the Academy of Graduates for Integrative Learning Experiences to aid minority and underrepresented students in graduate education.

The program aims to build a community of support within the University, establishing AGILE as a student group that will have access to support outside of their respective academic areas.

"The idea is to put together interpersonal and intrapersonal skills for our graduate students to help them excel in academics and the real world," said Dean Lakshmi Reddi.

AGILE, now in its second semester, looks to build a community of graduate students that will act as a support system to students outside of their respective academic program.

Reddi said students seeking graduate degrees often feel limited with the resources put in place to support them in their growth and development outside of coursework.

Reddi said a program like AGILE has been needed for decades.

"Our students are living perfectly executed academics lives," Reddi

said. "But repeatedly they are asking for training on areas like writing and public speaking."

Reddi thinks that individual colleges cannot be the only ones expected to aid students in the building

would like to make sure all types of students can play some role within AGILE.

"We wanted to reach out specifically to minority students to make sure they are successful after graduation," said Reddi. "But we

look to focus on the actual strength of the community of students rather than simply looking to build an office, building or organization. Reddi does though see AGILE establishing a central location at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus upon the future success of the program.

Chaundra L. Whitehead, a doctoral student in adult education and human resources development, was one of ten selected for the first group of AGILE students.

Whitehead said she is excited to be a part of the first cohort of students and believes that the program can be very beneficial.

"In grad school the courses are smaller and you never get a chance to connect with other student outside of your program," Whitehead said. "This provides us with a mechanism to connect and even share research with other students."

As the program's architect, Reddi sees the potential in AGILE and how it can play a significant role in the lives of students.

"It's a very holistic approach," said Reddi. "We want to help students put everything together and, to see it all as pieces of a puzzle coming together."

-jeffrey.pierre@fiusm.com

“

The idea is to put together interpersonal and intrapersonal skills for our graduate students to help them excel in academics and the real world.

Lakshmi Reddi  
Dean  
University Graduate School

”

of essential skills outside of classes.

"The individual colleges cannot be expected to do it. They are occupied with administering the actual coursework and busy guiding students in succeeding academically," Reddi said.

Though Reddi plans to structure the program specifically to cater to the underrepresented graduate student population with the resources of AGILE, he said it will not segregate students who do not fall under the category of minority or underrepresented.

Through AGILE, Reddi plans to provide the underrepresented students with beneficial resources but

also recognize the need for diversity."

With the grant money award of \$20,000, given by the Council of Graduate Schools and Educational Testing Services, AGILE plans to fund several beneficial programs for students over the next two years.

Reddi looks to host various lectures with well-known speakers who have excelled in a specific academic fields to motivate and inspire students. Also, potential members can look forward to assembling with students outside their respective scholastic programs to build skills and a stronger, supportive community.

Ultimately, AGILE will

## Student Government to focus on internships and mentoring

### SGA, PAGE 1

in trying to write resolutions and bills," Sippin said. "I don't know if it was that they didn't have the experience because they were brand new or what. I've been upset about it. They haven't even really been participating."

Sippin said that she and the Senate met on Monday and more than half of Senate showed up for their meet and greet in the Graham Center Pit and

she is excited to see the good turnout.

The most encouraging part of the fall semester for Sippin was being able to get the charging stations in GC, even though she originally thought it was a dumb idea.

"I haven't heard much negative feedback, even though there's a few kinks to work out," Sippin said. "I want to get other spots around campus like the Engineering Center or the Rec Center, but I haven't talked to anybody over there yet."

For the rest of her term through April, Sippin will be prepared for both budgeting for clubs and groups on campus, as well as SGA elections.

"I feel like I'm done," Sippin said. "We still have all these programs happening in spring and it's only four months. It's hard to include anything else."

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## Academic Affairs responds to students

### BLOCK, PAGE 1

program a "direct path" to graduation, she said it is not a "cure all."

"As students become employed and become juniors and seniors they

invest less time in school, sometimes becoming part time," Bejar said. "The program wants to address this, but it's not a panacea. It is one way to give the student who works the ability to tell their employer

... that they can guarantee certain times."

She said it is not a typical cohort.

"A true cohort is like a cubic program where students travel from class to class together," Bejar

said. "But this is about the cohort of time to address one issue our students have historically experienced."

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## THE BEACON

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## Parenthood: Do it right

JENNA KEFAUVER  
Staff Writer

I don't like the argument that a father shouldn't have to be a father just because the girl he got pregnant doesn't want to give up the baby. Yes, of course it's his decision too, but that's a pretty big decision: deciding to be a deadbeat.

This goes both ways though. I feel that way about the mother too. You should stay with your children for as long as you can.

I've known a lot of people in my life who were abandoned by one or both of their parents. That's an awful thing to do to something beautiful that you created. It leads to psychological problems of every kind and that's not fair to a child. I believe Harry Potter said it best when he said, "Parents shouldn't leave their kids unless —unless they've got to."

I'm not saying raising a kid single-

handedly is impossible, it's not. But it's hard. My dad was a single parent and not because my mom left. But he raised both me and my brother on his own, and personally, I think he

“So, if you're engaging in sexual intercourse, you need to be mentally prepared to have a child.”

did a great job. But it's not fair to put that on someone just because you can't be bothered to raise your own child. A beautiful miracle that you created.

I understand the feeling that a man should have the right to say whether or not he wants a child, but...

It takes two to tango and these two people should realize that every time they have sex, she could get pregnant.

So, if you're engaging in sexual intercourse, you need to be mentally prepared to have a child. Abstinence is the only method that's 100% accurate. Condoms are only 98% accurate and birth control pills, unless used perfectly, are only 95% accurate.

That's why kids in high school shouldn't have sex. You haven't even graduated high school; there's no way you're ready to raise a kid. They're not mature enough, or responsible enough, fiscally or otherwise. It's not possible to raise a kid in high school; you can't provide for the future of two people.

So don't be silly, wrap your willy. Wrap it before you tap it, whatever overused cliché sticks in your mind, don't get a girl pregnant and don't abandon your kids.

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## Miami's not just about clubbing

STEPHANIE PIEDRAHITA  
Contributing Writer

If you're always on Instagram, like I am, you've seen beach day pictures posted up with the hashtag "ilivewhereyouvacation". We live in Miami, the epicenter of beautiful beaches, interesting people and the most diverse night life in the entire country so we aren't wrong when we boast about our city. I remember how excited I was when I finally turned 18 and was able to get into clubs and immerse myself into the Miami lifestyle that I would hear about or see on TV. However, I quickly decided that clubbing is extremely overrated. Yes, we live in the perfect city to go out and have a good time...if you're a tourist.

It can be very tempting to get up and visit Mekka, Space or LIV on any given day of the week--which is conveniently only a 20 minute drive away-- and head out with your crew and party until you forget what day it is. Why not? It's a convenient and reliable way to have a good time these

days, but there are alternatives. You'll be agreeing with me when you're banging your head against the wall (if you don't have a hangover) after you see your bank account balance the day after your club hopping adventures. Let me remind you that we are still young and the club scene will still be booming for quite some time so instead we

“There is no excuse not to have fun in Miami, but there is no reason that every single time you do should be under strobe lights, mediocre music and a foggy conscience.”

should start preparing for bigger and better things.

Festival season is right around the corner so if you play it right, you could be dancing with celebrities during the week of the Winter Music Conference, granted you opt

out on one or two Whiskey Wednesdays. The beach is right there, so working on your tan and still having a good time (and doing it for absolutely no cost) is highly suggested versus long lines late at night just for the small chance you'll get in.

If you're willing to make the drive to The Grove, then you can definitely make the trip every second Saturday to Wynwood and be inspired at Artwalk which is famous for its art installations and galleries and yes, there are bars that surround the area. If anything, wait until one of your favorite DJs is in town to make the journey to a club and actually enjoy the music instead of bumping to songs you can't even name. There is no excuse not to have fun in Miami, but there is no reason that every single time you do should be under strobe lights, mediocre music and a foggy conscience. With that being said, party responsibly wherever you are and trust me when I say that your wallet will be thanking me later.

-opinion@fiusm.com

THE BEACON | Editorial

## Block enrollment may prove problematic

Every year, the students' biggest complaints involve parking, financial aid and advising.

But the University has taken it upon itself to try and fix the latter, saying its new block enrollment program is a direct response to students' concerns about available courses, class times and graduating in four-years time.

"Register for classes once. Never have to register again. All your classes always guaranteed so you can graduate in four years."

These are the promises that have been made by the new program that started this semester with a class of freshman.

In this program, a student is guaranteed a seat in the classes they need to stay on track for graduation and their courses are preloaded every semester, according to Academic Affairs.

It sounds great.

No more dealing with lines. No more dealing with being on hold. No more waiting to speak with an advisor while every other student is frustrated with registration.

This sounds like a great idea that is almost too good to be true.

And it may be just that.

The University wants to be like a conveyer belt in a factory.

The conveyer belt continuously pushes students down the line and advisors are trying to keep up with the line.

With an unmet goal of a 300:1 student-to-advisor ratio, the University may be adding more pressure to its advising team rather than alleviating the workload.

It is nearly impossible on the surface for each advisor to be able to handle the workload they would have placed in front of them.

In the block program, advisors are also responsible for their students outside of the cohort.

But while this program may seem like more work than its worth, it could be a long term solution to the advising problem.

It's a concept that students have dreamed of, and if they all hop on board then they can avoid the hassle of registration and advising can avoid the headache.

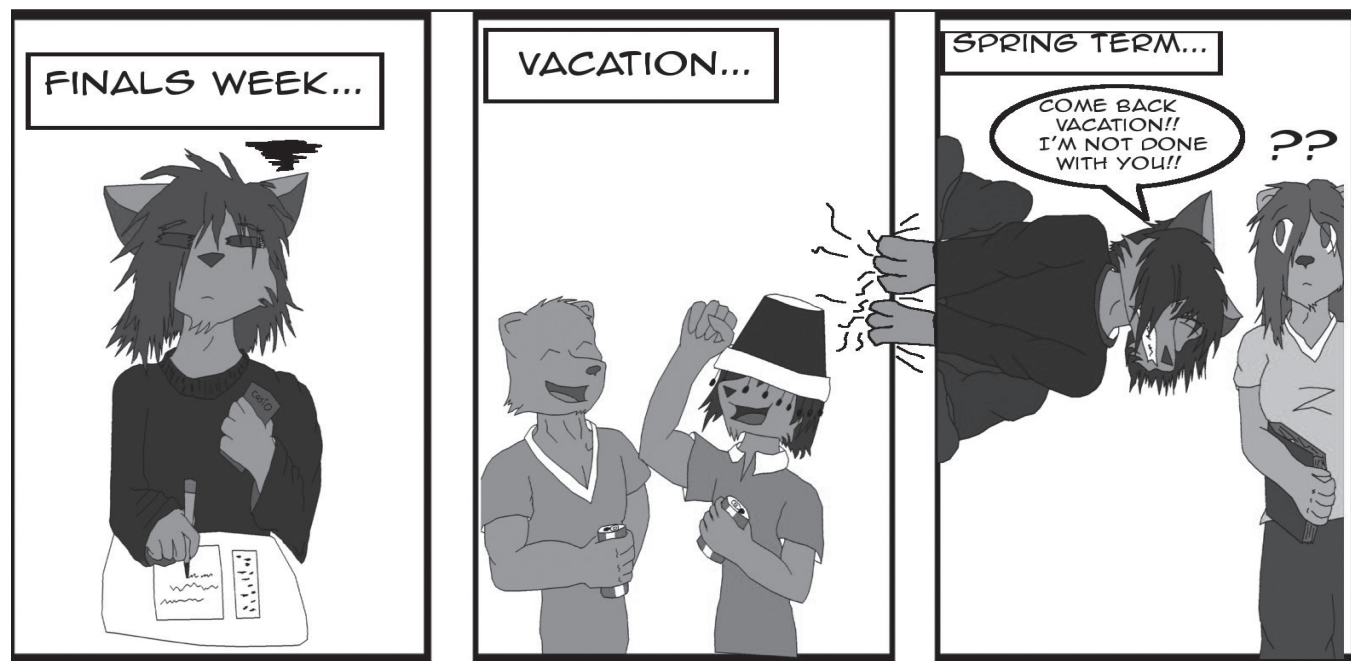
The first day working on the conveyer belt in a factory is considered the roughest, but once you find a rhythm and get accustomed to the speed of the belt, the process becomes a lot simpler.

We applaud the University for taking student concerns into direct consideration and attempting to tackle them.

And as all new programs, it will have kinks to work out.

We believe that trying it out this semester with these four programs is the best way to approach it, but this project needs to be revisited over the summer to see how well it performed.

But with only 30 or so students currently enrolled, one semester might not give an accurate depiction of what this program can really do.



GIOVANNI GARCIA/THE BEACON

### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

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## The beginning of a Shakespearean semester

**CINDY FERNANDEZ**  
*Contributing Writer*

For all Shakespearean enthusiasts and those who are captivated by theater, the English department has cooked up several events this semester to broaden your creative minds and deepen your thinking on Roman tragedies. The first of these events was held Monday, January 6 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Green Library.

The event's main focus was to discuss Hamlet along with Hyam Plutzik's Pulitzer Prize winning poem, "Horatio". The event served as pre-show discussion for the main event being held Wednesday, January 8 at The Betsy Hotel in Miami Beach. The main speaker Professor Nigel Maister from the University of Rochester, New York, will be hosting a dramatic reading of Plutzik's "Horatio" to commemorate the anniversary of Mr. Hyam Plutzik death.

Unfortunately due to the tragic weather conditions in New York, Professor Maister could not attend the pre-show discussion that was held Monday afternoon. Rather than canceling the event Dr. James Sutton took charge of the discussion and did a beautiful job

interacting with the students and allowed them to share their own thoughts on Shakespeare.

As an alternative to a formal Q & A conversation, everyone gathered kumbaya style around the room and introduced him or herself. It was mix crowd of attendees ranging from graduate students with a background in literature to undergraduate students currently taking a Shakespeare comedies class but all who attended had the same energetic love for Shakespeare.

For those who are not all too familiar with the poem "Horatio" it's a continuation of sorts from Hamlet's story. It is described as "an imagining of Horatio's travels after Hamlet's tragic death."

"Hamlet has continued to haunt authors and readers when retelling the story," Dr. Sutton said when defending the classic question of why so many poets have attempted to make new adaptations to this classic work of art that is Hamlet.

After the discussion portion of the afternoon was over Dr. Sutton surprised all the Shakespeare enthusiast with a small pizza party. Although the attendees were all looking forward to meeting the renowned writer,



CINDY FERNANDEZ/THE BEACON

Dr. Sutton is shown leading the discussion with attendees.

director and actor Professor Nigel Maister the accomplished to prepare everyone for his upcoming reading on Wednesday. Safe to say the event was a complete success. *-life@fiusm.com*

### MEET YOUR SGA



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Daniel Iriyogen, SGA member and junior in civil engineering, gave students like Priyanka Sagar, grad student in management information systems, a token used in a game of luck to win a t-shirt, towel or phone charger as part of a meet and greet event with SGA.

### COLD AND FLU PREVENTION KITS

**MONDAY, JAN. 13**

WHEN: 10 AM - 11 AM  
WHERE: MMC Parking Garage 5

**TUESDAY, JAN. 14**

WHEN: 12 PM - 2:30 PM  
WHERE: BBC AC 1

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15**

WHEN: 11 AM - 2 PM  
WHERE: MMC Engineering Campus

**FRIDAY, JAN. 17**

WHEN: 10 AM - 11 AM  
WHERE: MMC Housing Quad

**TUESDAY, JAN. 21**

WHEN: 12 PM - 1 PM  
WHERE: MMC Housing Quad

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22**

WHEN: 11 AM - 1:30 PM  
WHERE: BBC AC 1

**THURSDAY, JAN. 23**

WHEN: 10 AM - 11 AM  
WHERE: MMC Green Library

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5**

WHEN: 12 PM - 1 PM  
WHERE: MMC Green Library

**THURSDAY, FEB. 6**

WHEN: 10 AM - 11 AM  
WHERE: MMC Green Library

**TUESDAY, FEB. 18**

WHEN: 11 AM - 12 PM  
WHERE: MMC Parking Garage 5

**FRIDAY, FEB. 21**

WHEN: 11 AM - 12 PM  
WHERE: MMC Green Library

*Free flu shots offered to registered FIU students at FIU Student Health Services clinic.*

## Books every college student should read

COLUMNIST



ALEXANDRE NUNEZ

For starters, these are not the best nor the most important books a college student should read. I tried to stay away from obvious classics that should have been read in High School or even on your own. Instead, I focused more on some hidden gems that will resonate with college students. I realized that the further along we move in the 21st century, the closer the art of reading a physical book is reaching its last breath; especially among young people.

So consider this for this upcoming semester, if you want to exceed a bit in your readings, be more cultured, have something more interesting to talk about, then I say no more but to read these books.

**"The Bell Jar" by Sylvia Plath**

Ok, maybe this one isn't such a hidden gem but if is, then you're welcome. Cheers. Confusion, a common side effect most college students suffer from being in college. Guess what? Nothing's changed. This book was written back in the sixties by a young person who was extremely confused about everything. Life, sex, marriage, her future, her own sanity. Sylvia Plath puts all in the Bell Jar not shying away from sharing any of her fears. When she cries you want to cry with her (yeah I'm a guy and I cried so what), when she laughs you want to laugh with her.

You should read this book because it's alright to be confused about everything. So go on with your confused self and get your Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath on. Warning, this is a book mostly for young women but guys should

read it too if only to get some tail. Boom!

**"Hell's Angels: The Strange and Terrible Saga of the Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs" by Hunter S. Thompson**

If the first thing that comes to mind is Johnny Depp when Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas is mentioned, then shame on you. If nothing comes to mind then either A) run to your local bookstore or order it online right now--as long as it's a physical copy, that part is very important. Or B) if you plan on not reading it or worse, not read anything by Hunter S. Thompson, then purposely blind yourself. There are only a very few writers who have been chosen by the Gods.

**SEE BOOKS, PAGE 5**



# Student Government Association meet & greet

**JUNETTE REYES  
& STEPHANIE PIEDRAHITA**  
*FIUSM STAFF*

The Student Government Association at FIU serves as representational government for the student body.

Their mission is stated on their website as the following:

- Serving as an advocate for the rights and common interest of the students;
- Fostering student life, encouraging community involvement, and embracing diversity
- Enhancing and preserving academic excellence and integrity;
- Acting as a liaison between the student body, the University, and external communities.

Members of SGA at MMC were out for a meet and greet on Monday, Jan 6 in the GC Pit as part of the Week of Welcome events for Spring 2014. FIUSM got to sit down with one member, Luis Cabrera, to find out more about his involvement in SGA.

Luis Cabrera, the interviewed, is majoring in English, minoring in education and completing a certificate in film studies.

**What is your position within SGA and what are your duties?**

I'm the Student Advancement Coordinator. That basically means that I act as the liaison between Student Government and five offices including Veteran and Military Affairs, Student Access, International Student and Scholarship Services, Multicultural Programs and Services and Student Health.

**Why did you decide to become a part of SGA?**

I was looking to really make an influence on the campus. Student government sometimes gets a really bad rep but I believe it's the best way to give students a voice. I'm the kind of person that I want to leave a legacy before I graduate from FIU. So this seemed like a really great opportunity and when it presented itself, I couldn't say no.

**What else are you involved in on campus?**

I'm also the overall director of the Homecoming Council. I also serve on the e-board of Wishmakers on campus as their secretary. I've also recently been elected



STEPHANIE PIEDRAHITA/THE BEACON

Luis Cabrera, Student Advancement Coordinator of SGA at MMC.

as the vice president of Theta Chi Iota Omicron.

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## STUDY ABROAD CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### STUDY ABROAD OPEN HOUSE (FREE COOKIES!)

WHEN: Jan. 6 -10  
12 PM-2 PM  
WHERE: MMC PC 113  
Office of Study Abroad

### GENERAL INFORMATION SESSION

WHEN: Jan. 14; 11 AM - 12 PM  
WHERE: BBC WUC 363

### GENERAL INFORMATION SESSION

WHEN: Jan. 21; 2 PM - 3 PM  
WHERE: MMC PC 113

### FUND YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

WHEN: Jan. 14; 12 PM - 1 PM  
WHERE: BBC WUC 363

### FUND YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

WHEN: Jan. 21; 3 PM - 4 PM  
WHERE: MMC PC 113

### PASSPORT TO ITALY INFORMATION CENTER

WHEN: Jan. 14; 4 PM  
WHERE: MMC PC 113

### FULLBRIGHT INFORMATION SESSION

WHEN: Jan. 21; 12 PM  
WHERE: MMC PC 113

### FULLBRIGHT INFORMATION SESSION

WHEN: Jan.23; 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM  
WHERE: BBC WUC 363

## SPRING STUDY ABROAD FAIR

WHEN: Jan. 30

10 AM - 3 PM

WHERE: MMC

GC PIT AND HALL

# The college student's ideal reading list

## BOOKS, PAGE 4

The sky opens up and they point and say this one was born to write. The pen becomes an antenna receiving the words from the sky. Hunter S. Thompson was not one of those writers. He's the renegade. He's the fallen angel that was seduced by whiskey, a .44 Magnum, and extremely heavy hallucinogenic drugs.

That's the reason why I chose Hell's Angels as opposed to Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas. Because after you're done reading it you'll want to ride a motorcycle

and do ridiculous things, things you'll regret doing years later. Which is exactly what you should be doing while in college. His sentences are constantly jumping from the page guaranteed to keep anyone with a severe case of ADD focused for long hours of time. Dr. Hunter S. Thompson, Hell's Angels, read it.

### "Ham on Rye" by Charles Bukowski

Charles Bukowski. The poet, the writer, and the foul-smelling unshowered homeless you're willing to put up with. He's rude, he stinks of alcohol, he always looks

like he came out of the worst place you can ever think of and he hates Hemingway and Mickey Mouse, two very beloved things in the world. He especially hates people. He'd probably hate me too. His hobbies include going to the race tracks, drinking vodka mix with sprite, and maintaining a love life that would cripple Casanova. All this, and yet the man still finds a way to get under your skin. You hate to love him, chances are he doesn't even want you to love him and yet you can't help yourself. He writes everything that is dirty beautifully on the page. If you hate the sight of

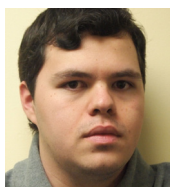
vomit and then read a Bukowski novel, you might grow a newly found fondness for it.

The thing with Bukowski is that he is as genuine as they come. He's had it worse than anyone and he still keeps going. He found out that there are worse things than being alone the hard way; he actually wrote about it in a poem. Ham on Rye is a perfect read while in college. It's like Catcher in the Rye but dirtier.

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## "Inside Llewyn Davis" shows us the pain and struggles of a folk singer

### COLUMNIST



RAFAEL ABREU

A veil of melancholy runs throughout "Inside Llewyn Davis," a film directed by Joel and Ethan Coen that takes a look at a folk singer (Oscar Isaac) living in 1961 while trying to make it as a serious musician.

A self-centered man, Llewyn Davis crosses paths with a cat, a love interest (Carey Mulligan), the love interest's man (Justin Timberlake), a jazz musician (John Goodman), and his valet (Garrett Hedlund), among other characters.

A jerk protagonist, Davis has no permanent residence, sleeps on the couches of others, and receives no compensation for his solo record. He also doesn't really care about others, only focusing on things that concern him or his friend's cat.

A little story exists within "Inside Llewyn Davis," which prefers to weave across plots as we see Davis go from problem to problem. The Coen Brothers are well-known for making films where their protagonists suffer and receive no mercy; Llewyn is not only no different, but in fact may be the worst.

It's one thing to have a protagonist who goes through hardships he doesn't deserve, but it's another to have a

protagonist go through hardships that, half the time, he brings unto himself. From an unforeseen pregnancy to refusing to accept royalties for a song, there's plenty for Davis that doesn't go right, even though he is still to be blamed for some of it. Even the cat that follows Davis throughout the film might also be responsible for some of his troubles.

His self-centered ways don't allow others to help him, even though he continually needs money from others (as if a couch weren't enough).

While this film has plenty of unique characters (another Coen hallmark), the only constant being is Llewyn Davis. We witness his life and see the people that come in and out of it, from a folk singing soldier to his own father, all of whom impact Llewyn's life in some form or another. Oscar Isaac is phenomenal as the down-on-his-luck musician, who only wants to be taken seriously as he views folk music as a way of life.

As can be expected, every single actor does a fantastic job, no matter how small the role might be (as is the case with many of the characters).

Music is at the center of "Inside Llewyn Davis," showing us a man who is sensitive and in pain, even if he can be a jerk to just about everyone he comes across. It becomes very clear that this music is Llewyn's only way

of expression and living, and even if he gets mad at it or things don't go his way, he cannot abandon what is such a big part of his life.

In fact, throughout the course of the film, and especially at its end, it can be argued that life will not allow Llewyn any other option besides being a folk musician. The songs themselves are all great, especially "Please Mr. Kennedy" (an original piece) and "Dink's Song" (also known as "Fare Thee Well"); like many of the Coen Brothers' previous films, you don't have to be a fan of the genre to enjoy the music.

"Inside Llewyn Davis" presents us with a very sad film that, unlike most Coen films, doesn't aim to make fun of its character through pitch-black comedy. That's not to say the film isn't funny, but its main aim is to provide melancholy by way of its protagonist and his struggles to become a successful and respected folk singer.

It shows us the pain of its title character and never asks us to sympathize with him. "Inside Llewyn Davis" struck me hard, and I think it's a motion picture worthy of anyone's time.

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## Coley stands alone atop career scoring chart

RUBEN PALACIOS &  
BRANDON WISE  
*FIUSM Staff*

Her name already covers the record book. Now, her masterpiece is complete.

Senior Jerica Coley needed just eight points against Rice on Wednesday night and she did so at the 15 minute mark in the second half. The record of 2,515 points was in place since 1995 and held by Albena Branzova. Now, Coley has it all to herself.

In her four seasons at FIU, Coley rewrote the entire record book. Not just a couple here and there. No, she now owns every single major statistical record in FIU basketball history, including the men's teams. Coley shattered Dwight Stewart's mark of 2,101 points set back in 1993.

Interestingly enough, Coley has become just the second Coley to lead a Florida school in career points scored. Her aunt, Tamika Coley, is the UCF women's basketball record holder for career points with 2,006.

The younger Coley, though, has a shot to join a very rare class in women's basketball: the 3,000-point club.

As of Jan. 7, Coley sits just 492 points shy of becoming just the tenth woman to score 3,000 points in a career.

The milestone would put her name next to the likes of Brittney Griner of Baylor, Elena Delle

Donne of Delaware, Maya Moore of Connecticut and the all-time leader, Jackie Stiles of Southwest Missouri State.

The senior guard still has 15 guaranteed games left in her career where the possibility still remains that she could become the tenth player in NCAA history to join the 3,000 point club.

Coley is averaging 28.7 points per game so far this season, second in the nation.

The All-American led the nation in scoring last season with a school record 26.3 points per game. Coley and scoring has basically been synonymous this season, much like its been her entire career.

For her career, Coley is averaging 22.6 points per game, another record setting statistic.

Earlier this season, Coley became the fourth FIU women's basketball player to have her jersey retired.

Coley owns the top spot in a number of FIU records like: most points scored in a single season (840), highest single-season scoring average (26.3), career field goal attempts (2,032), career free throws made (609), single season free throws made (208), career free throw attempts (729) and career free throw percentage (.836).

This season, Coley has accounted for 41 percent of the Panthers offense.

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JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Senior guard Jerica Coley scored 16 points and broke the FIU women's basketball all-time scoring record against Rice University on Wednesday.

## FIU's softball stadium receives an upgrade

YOSVANY RODRIGUEZ  
*Staff Writer*

The FIU softball team finished the 2013 campaign with a 27-28 record. Yet, FIU was able to rally behind its home crowd and achieved a winning record at home with an 18-16 mark. That success at home earned the team major renovations to their stadium.

The Panthers stadium last season only sat 300. Still, they were only able to draw an average of 176 fans at each home game. However, this season changes have been made. All the old seats have been removed and the press box has also been taken down

in order to make room for a new 517-seat softball stadium with a new field level press box.

"In attendance," Head Coach Jake Schumann said. "I'm hoping that in having 100 percent viewing opportunity will bring more people back to the stadium."

"As it was before you'd block off about two-thirds of the field with the dugouts being in the way and now that the press box is ground level and that the stands will be elevated above that there's going to be a 100 percent viewing of the field. So, I'm hoping that it's going to be a better experience for the fans to come and enjoy the game,"

Schumann added.

Now, FIU has a new softball stadium with almost twice the capacity of the old one and it also provides an enhanced view of the game to the fans.

What the Panthers will struggle with, much like they did last year, is with filling this stadium that sits over 200 more people than the last one did.

"We're athletic, we're fast, it's an exciting brand of softball that I like to play," Schumann said. "We like to run. We play an aggressive style and it's not sit back and boring. Softball is a faster game than baseball so you could come in come out in about an hour and 45 minutes and

cheer us on and go from there."

FIU was able to swipe 52 bases on just 61 attempts last season, a whopping success rate of 85 percent.

Schumann also believes that new stadium will give FIU a boost in another crucial area: recruiting.

"Not only will it bring more fans but its going to help 100 fold in recruiting were the seventh largest university in the country and we got to start recruiting like that facilities is one of those things that's going to get those kids to come it's a catch 22 when you have a good team people want to watch you and when people want to watch you people want to come and play for

you. This stadium is that missing piece," Schumann said.

While the stadium is receiving a makeover in the stands, the actual field itself will remain intact. But, you won't be hearing any complaints from Schumann.

"I think our surface is one of the best surfaces we actually play on." Schumann said. "Our grounds crew does an excellent job, they have it ready and looking beautiful before we play all the time. I have zero complaints and I think if you ask our girls they would have zero complaints. Compared to some of the places we play, our surface is consistent,

our grass is fast and short, and everybody likes that look of it."

After two seasons as the head coach at FIU Schumann has led the Panthers to a (55-55) record. This year the team will try to rally behind the excitement of a new stadium to burst out of the .500 bubble and into contention for a shot at making some noise in the conference tournament. Nevertheless, the new stadium should prove to be a step forward as FIU attempts to compete with the more established sport oriented institutions in the nation.

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## Hilton goes off in wild card weekend comeback

RHYS WILLIAMS  
*Staff Writer*



T.Y. HILTON

Record setting performance the norm for second year National Football League wide receiver T.Y. Hilton.

Hilton, former FIU Panther, has been keeping up his intense play style and made his job look easy in the Indianapolis Colts comeback win over the Kansas City Chiefs on Saturday, Jan. 4.

That 45-44 victory for Hilton and the Colts capped a comeback from a score of being down 38-10 in the third quarter.

The former FIU star went off for 224

yards on 13 receptions and a pair of touchdowns, which set records for the Colts organization for a single playoff performance. Those marks eclipse those of Colts great Reggie Wayne who had 10 receptions for 221 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Hilton's scores came as the first and then the final score of the game for the Colts respectively with the pair. The first came with 4:34 left in the first quarter on a 10-yard pass from quarterback Andrew Luck, who is also in his second year in the league. The final, go-ahead score came with 4:21 left in the game on a 64-yard catch from Luck.

Hilton did this after passing the thousand yard marker in the regular season getting 1,083 yards on 82 receptions. He

started 10 of the team's 16 games in the regular season including the final eight straight.

He also had two multiple touchdown games that totaled his five touchdowns in the regular season. In a week five victory over the National Football Conference number one seed Seattle Seahawks (the Colts are in the American Football Conference) Hilton grabbed in two scores on five receptions for 140 yards. A few weeks after that victory in a game against the divisional rival Houston Texans, the 5'9" 178 pound receiver brought in three touchdowns in a seven reception, 121-yard performance.

The Colts will travel to Foxborough, Mass. tomorrow to face the New England

Patriots. Hilton has only lined up against the Patriots once so far in his career. In Week 11 for the 2012 season he had a pair of touchdowns on six receptions for 100 yards. That game also had Hilton's first fumble of his career. That was not enough to get the Colts the win, however, as they lost that game by a score of 59-24.

Kickoff is set for 8:15 p.m. on CBS and the winner will face the victor of the Denver Broncos and San Diego Chargers game. The Chargers have Hilton's former teammate in outside linebacker Tourek Williams on their roster as a second string player.

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# Sick Kicks keeps soccer tradition going

**VERONIKA QUISPE**  
*Contributing Writer*

Intramurals are made for those who chose to continue or start their favorite sport throughout college; for the Sick Kicks it was about keeping a tradition.

"We have been playing together for years, previously in our high school team. Then we all ended up at FIU," Jessica Aracibia said.

The Sick Kicks are mostly made up of local high school, Doral Academy's alumni soccer players.

The team was led by captain Eliana Hernandez, who started intramurals

her freshman year as a free agent.

Hernandez not only plays the part of captain but as the coach.

"I always put the girls before me, so sometimes I did coach them and made them play more time than I had. And while playing I would tell them what to improve on, or how they could do certain plays since it was indoor soccer," Hernandez said.

Indoor soccer is played quite differently than regular soccer; the game only lasts 25 minutes, it's 5 v. 5, and you cannot score from inside the goalie box.

"The fact that it's 25 minutes is such a big fat tease, but it pushes you to

go all out and do your best all the time," Aricibia said.

After having an undefeated fall season, the Sick Kicks will be facing a lot more challenges and teams during the spring season.

"I hope this season goes even better. We now know a little bit of the competition, and we will definitely need to work harder in practices and tweak the things we're messing up," Hernandez said.

Although the team agrees this past season was easier than expected, they put forth their best work in preparations for the spring.

"We went undefeated this past season, we were able to push forward and come out with a victory.

The championship was crazy, it was such a close game and we ended in 5-3. It reminded us of our district finals back in high school. So we put in the same amount of effort and heart into the game," Aricibia said.

"The spring season will be played 7 v. 7 and it will no longer be indoors, which is a huge part of the reason as to why very few people decided to play during the fall," Hernandez said.

Playing for an intramural team was an easier route for most of the Sick Kicks players.

As their first semester in college some of them still had to adjust to the

rigor of college classes and studying.

"Intramurals are very flexible, it's always accommodating to your time. The games were always on Sundays and I was always aware of everyone's schedules," Hernandez said. "So whenever someone had a big exam or paper to work on they were able to do so and still be part of the team."

Some of the Sick Kicks were sceptical about intramurals at the beginning, but after just one season they agreed that it's now more than just a team but a family.

"We obviously knew that we were not going to play college soccer so we

were excited about it even if we knew nothing about intramurals," Aricibia said.

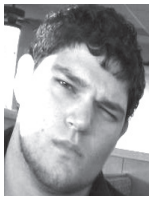
Registration for the women's soccer intramural teams begins on January 19 to February 6, and season will begin on February 10.

"I encourage everyone to get a team together and join it's such a great opportunity to learn from it and it's so much fun. It also gives you something to do other than just go to class," Hernandez said. "If you can't get a team together join as a free agent and it gives you a chance to meet a lot of great people."

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## Women's basketball team is more than meets the eye

COLUMNIST



GIANCARLO NAVAS

Lost in the greatness of senior Jerica Coley is who the FIU women's basketball is.

What exactly are we watching night in and night out?

It's visible to any eye that Coley is great. It's clear.

Basketball allows for a special kind of individual dominance that the other sports don't provide.

Outside of Coley what do we really know about this Panther team?

What we perhaps know is obvious, the team is all Coley. The guard out of St. Petersburg Florida has attempted 308 field goals and has made 131.

The Panther with the next highest number of attempted field goals is sophomore Taylor Shade with 101. Shade's number of field goals attempted is 30 less than Coley's field goals made. And almost 200 fewer than Coley's attempts.

Despite the lopsidedness of the shot attempts on the Panther team, they are still the fifth ranked scoring offense in the Conference USA.

With Coley you have a chance every night. That's how it is with great players, any night they can do something great.

A strength of this offense is the 3-point shooting.

FIU shoots 34 percent from three point range, which is good for fifth in C-USA.

Putting a talent like Coley in

the spread pick and roll is where basketball has evolved the most.

Forcing switches with bigs on the 3 point line where a penetrator can attack the mismatch or force double team leaving a

provides offenses is a way to get volume three point shooting and a way to get efficient two point attempts.

FIU does neither and that is what is holding them to their

the field which is a reflection on shot selection.

The Panthers need to understand their strengths, 3 point shooting and Jerica Coley.

What is odd is how a team that

we know that. FIU is ranked 12th in scoring defense and second to last in FG% defense. The defense is who they are and this late into the season they can't change much.

The offense, however is good, but they have the ability to be great. The Panthers

season is going to rest on how much the offense can improve. As great as Coley is, the engineering of an improved offense is going to rest on her.

Running pick and roll sets with shooters, coupled with back door cuts by teammates to free some space are the types of creative sets the FIU womens basketball team needs to run. A high pick and roll with no shooter on the weak side won't give you the best shot.

FIU is second to last in assists per game in C-USA. The ball is sticking when it should be moving.

Players should take advantage of Coley's greatness and Coley needs to find her teammates.

The ball is always in Coley's hands and while her five assists per game are proof that she moves the ball, the team still ranks second to last in assists.

Understanding who this team is would be the starting point for improvement.

They are an offensive team that is just average at offense, in spite having the best player in C-USA.

Hopefully who they truly are has yet to be seen.

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CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

Sophomore point guard Taylor Shade (above) pushes the ball downcourt against Palm Beach Atlantic University.

shooter open. FIU needs to take advantage of Coley's talent and their shooters more, FIU ranks in the bottom half of 3 point attempts despite their good shooting.

What the spread pick and roll

average 6-7 record.

From an efficiency standpoint FIU has not been very good.

The Panthers rank in the bottom half (13th in C-USA) in field goal percentage.

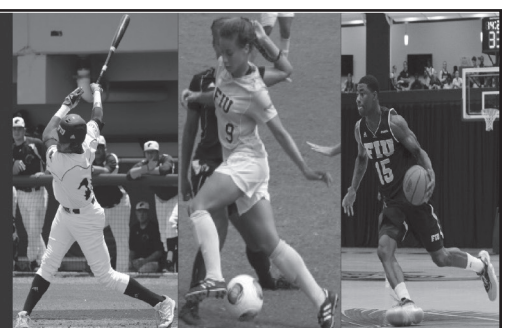
They shoot 40 percent from

shoots threes so well and has the best player in the conference has such a low FG percentage. That's the only thing holding this team back from being a great offensive team.

The defense is suspect and



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## SJMC professors collaborate on documentary

MARISOL MEDINA  
Staff Writer

Two journalism professors at Florida International University have grown tired of seeing people walk through knee-deep waters in flood-prone Miami, and they are doing something about it.

Associate Professors Juliet Pinto and Kate MacMillin have recently completed “South Florida’s Rising Seas,” a 30-minute documentary about sea level rise

“This was, for us, the perfect combination of blending both of our areas of expertise and it has been such a happy experience.”

Juliet Pinto  
Associate professor

that was two years in the making.

“We discovered that it was a very complicated topic and we thought it needed communicators in the middle to make it more accessible to people,” said MacMillin.

MacMillin and Pinto came up with the idea in 2011 when MacMillin took a bus tour co-led by Pinto for the Society of Environmental Journalists during their annual conference in Miami that year. The bus toured

Miami-Dade County while Pinto explained the issue of sea level rise and how it affected the area. At the end of the bus tour, MacMillin approached Pinto with the idea of the documentary, which Pinto gladly accepted.

The professors submitted their idea to the Summer Creative Work contest, a competitive contest organized by the university to fund projects by faculty, and won the \$1,200 award.

So began this “labor of love,” as Pinto called it, which embarked the two professors on a journey in which they collaborated with colleagues like Dan Gralick, an award-winning composer who composed the music for the documentary, alumni, students and even the husband of a current graduate student.

The documentary features music by Gralick, the award-winning composer.

“We had extraordinary collaboration on the making of this project,” said MacMillin, who highlighted Jonathan Shaffer’s commitment as associate producer and editor while working a full-time job and editing on the weekends.

Jonathan had graduated in May and continued to work on the project until its submission in December.

“That’s the kind of dedication that says so much about our students,” said MacMillin.

The duo complement each other: Pinto has a background in environmental communication

## FOOD TRUCK, WHEELIN’ AND DEALIN’



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACONN

Yanis Valeriano, junior in psychology, snagged some free nachos from one of the food trucks on campus as part of a welcome back event for students.

and is deeply interested in environmental issues and MacMillin brings forth a successful career and decades of experience in video production.

“This was, for us, the perfect combination of blending both of our areas of expertise and it has been such a happy experience,” said Pinto.

The documentary will air January 15, 2014, at 8 p.m., on WPBT2 and it will be followed by a half hour panel discussion where Pinto and four experts, including three interviewed in the documentary, will address sea level rise in South Florida.

Both the documentary and the

panel will be available to stream online at [www.wpbt.org](http://www.wpbt.org).

As for what’s next for the professors, they envision “South Florida’s Rising Seas” as the first of a series of short documentaries about environmental and science communication, and it will be accompanied by an annual report and a website informing the public about updates in the issue.

The professors hope that this documentary can bring attention to the issue of rising sea level in South Florida.

MacMillin believes the documentary will set an example of a communicator’s duty to its public.

“We need to own this, and there’s nothing better than an informed public,” said MacMillin.

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### EVENT INFO

“South Florida’s Rising Seas”  
by: Juliet Pinto and Kate MacMillin, associate professors at FIU SJMC

When: Documentary will air on Jan. 15 at 8 p.m. on WPBT2

The documentary will be followed by a discussion panel.

## Preventing the extinction of a rare orchid species

ALYSSA ELSO  
Staff Writer

“Orchids are a beautiful thing and when you tell people this species is going to disappear they tend to care”, said Hong Liu, Department of Earth and Environment Assistant Professor.

### EVENT INFO

What: What Does It Take To Prevent Extinction of a Rare Orchid Species?

Who: Dr. Hong Liu

When: Jan. 17 at 6 p.m.

Where: Murray E. Nelson Government and Cultural Center, 102050 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33037

Free and open to the public.

In 2008, Liu began exploring the newly preserved Yachang Orchid Nature Preserve located in southwestern China.

Within the preserve, Liu was surrounded by orchids and found that many of the 130 species of orchids that grew in the area were flourishing, except for one: the extremely rare *Geodorum eulophioides*.

This species was considered extinct for 80 years but was rediscovered near the preserve in 2006, where more than half of the area that hosted the only viable population of this plant had been illegally cleared for eucalyptus planting by a local villager.

According to Liu, there are three challenges to this species: the species itself is

“The next step is to consider how to restore the habitat after it has been destroyed from farming activity.”

Hong Liu  
Assistant professor  
Department of Earth and Environment

rare, there are human disturbances towards it, and the climate and environment in which it grows in.

Determined to save the rare orchid, Liu launched a campaign to preserve the plant and by October 2008 began to communicate with Chinese government officials in order to prevent local farmers from continuing to harvest their crop in that area.

Liu began to promote the

research and conservation of this orchid, by speaking at the first Guangxi International Orchid Symposium and proposing a research institute in which scientists could learn more about the plant.

Shortly after, Liu returned to the Yachang preserve only to find that the eucalyptus continued to grow and that now half of the land was also planted with corn.

Once again, Liu called for a meeting among officials and farmers in the area to come to an agreement in which the farmers would be compensated for their crop and would in turn stop harvesting and fertilizing the land in order to give scientists enough time to learn about the rare orchid and to harvest seeds for future reintroduction of the once believed extinct *Geodorum eulophioides*.

“It is still an ongoing struggle with local farmers and government, however I have been able to establish a special protection zone for the species that is fenced in,” said Liu. “The next step is to consider how to restore the habitat after it has been destroyed from farming activity.”

As for the rare plant’s value on society, Liu sees it as a horticultural oddity for people to enjoy and as a way to learn about endangered species overall.

On Jan. 17, Dr. Liu, in partnership with the Friends of The Key Largo Cultural Center (FKLCC) as part of the Ocean Life series, will discuss her journey in preventing the extinction of a rare orchid species.

A meet and greet will take place at 6 p.m. followed by Dr. Liu’s lecture at 7 p.m. at the Murray E. Nelson Government and Cultural Center.

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