

SPACED OUT

Panther makes first cut in Mars program

MADISON FANTOZZI
News Director

Patrick Ford may have crashed his silver 2001 Camaro last week, but he also found out that by 2025 he may be trading his car in for a spaceship to Mars.

The junior physics major minoring in astronomy and geology applied in April for the Mars One project along with over 200,000 people worldwide. The applicant pool—slashed by 95 percent—now includes 1,058 candidates who will move on to the project's second round of medical examinations, simulations and personal interviews.

"I'm very passionate and I think I can bring a lot to the table," Ford said. "I can't think of anything I'd rather do."

Mars One is a not-for-profit that plans to establish a human settlement of 24 astronauts on the planet in 2025.

Five key characteristics of an astronaut were outlined at the start of the application process: resilience, adaptability, curiosity, the ability to trust, and creativity and resourcefulness.

"I tried to gear my answers to my reflection of those qualities," Ford said. "But I think my passion is what really gives me that extra push."

Ford noted that the Mars One application didn't emphasize science more than it did humility. Applicants were not required to have a scientific background or degree.

The second round is projected to last through

the rest of 2014, including a medical examination. Ford received an extensive checklist.

Examinations need to be completed by March, and then applicants will receive information about simulation testing and personal interviews.

"Organ systems need to be in check and we need to be free of diseases," Ford said. "The idea is that we are supposed to be as healthy as possible so we don't have to bring anything extra on the mission because that would be wasted mass."

Budgeting mass also means this mission is a one-way ticket to the red planet.

"This trip is non-refundable," Ford joked.

According to Ford, missions that call for a return trip are almost double the cost.

"If we had to come back, we would have to send a return vehicle there—added mass. Then we have to send the fuel there, unless you go with a design that can extract fuel from the ground itself. You have to provide food, water and resources for another seven to eight month return trip," he said.

The project's timeline has already been pushed back two years and includes sending synchronized satellites, hydraulic rovers and a smart lander in 2018 to determine where the astronauts should settle, linking up modules and creating a solar-paneled power supply.

Our ability to do hands-on research and science on the surface will tremendously increase with a human presence.

Patrick Ford
Junior Physics

SEE MARS, PAGE 2



PHOTO BY SANA ULLAH

Patrick Ford, junior physics major, was selected for Mars One's second round to find 24 astronauts to colonize the red planet as early as 2025.

Graduate student snags job with NASA, writes code for Space Station



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF ENGAGEMENT

Rigoberto Roche, graduate in science and electrical engineering, has secured a job with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration after two internships with the Goddard Space Flight Center.

DESTINEY BURT
Staff Writer

After graduating college, some students have trouble finding a job—let alone their dream job. But that wasn't the case for Rigoberto Roche.

Roche has bachelor's and master's degrees in biomedical engineering and is now working for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

His job description includes writing code for the International Space Station and monitoring telecommunication satellites.

"FIU provided the basis for learning how to learn,"

Roche said. "From there I could take initiative and move forward."

As an undergraduate at the University, Roche was involved in the NASA WaterSCAPES University Research Center, which led him to Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm, the program's director and associate professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

The program, sponsored by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, focuses on research on the Florida Everglades and studies ecosystems that are similar in different parts of the world.

Roche participated in

back-to-back internships at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

"I received my internship through WaterSCAPES. They have an agreement with NASA to take students from FIU to go to NASA to work on a project," Roche said.

Roche also volunteered at the Science Bowl, which is held at the University and partly sponsored by WaterSCAPES. It hosts high school teams from across Miami-Dade to compete in a Jeopardy-style tournament and activities that promote

SEE NASA, PAGE 2

WORLD NEWS

US Economy adds 74,000 jobs; rate falls to 6.7 percent

U.S. employers added a scant 74,000 jobs in December, the fewest in three years.

The disappointing figure ended 2013 on a weak note and raises questions about whether the job market can sustain its recent gains.

Economists cautioned that cold weather likely played a role in the sharp slowdown in hiring.

Job gains had averaged 214,000 in the previous four months.

Activists: nearly 500 dead in Syria rebel clashes

Rebel-on-rebel fighting between an al-Qaida-linked group and an array of more moderate and ultraconservative Islamists has killed nearly 500 people over the past week in northern Syria, an activist group said Friday, in the most serious bout of violence among opponents of President Bashar Assad since the civil war began.

The clashes, which pit fighters from a variety of Islamist and mainstream factions against the al-Qaida linked Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, have spread across four provinces in opposition-held parts of the north.

For more world news, check out FIUSM.com.

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Jan. 8 Vol. 25 Issue 48: "NCAA rules favor coaches, not players" Kenny Arena's father was incorrectly called "Ken," his father's name is Bruce Arena. The piece also mentioned Quentin Albrecht losing eligibility if he transferred where it should not have because soccer players can transfer outside of the conference without losing eligibility. Arena also did not recruit Albrecht from Germany, he was on the roster before Arena's arrival.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Astrophysics student one step closer to the red planet

MARS, PAGE 1

The first team will be responsible for maintenance, construction and preparation for the next group of people, as well as scientific research.

"The rovers are basically like geologists. As amazing as they are, a human can do what they can do in an entire day in a couple of minutes," Ford said. "Our ability to do hands-on research and science on the surface will tremendously increase with a human

presence."

Ford has two concerns for the mission--physical adjustments and psychological stressors--with a focus on the latter.

"The biggest problems lay in the psyche. The people who went to the moon they knew they were coming back in a couple of days. If you talk about someone who is going to be gone from their planet for forever, that's something that's a little bit new," Ford said.

"But there are people who have left their homes and knew they would never return and they were okay. They adapted to a new life and new circumstances. I would say the biggest problems lay in our minds of those who are going."

Physical adjustment to the planet is a secondary problem to Ford, who says inertial exercises will simulate what gravity would do to the body on Earth to keep muscle mass and bone density strong.

Ford is also concerned about adjusting to a cramped lifestyle. "It'll be like cabin fever," he joked.

"But we're doing something that has never been done before," Ford said. "In this journey we'd be going further than any human has gone before by a long shot."

Additional reporting by Jeffery Pierre.

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Internships help student secure job with NASA after graduation

NASA, PAGE 1

science and engineering.

"I was working at the Science Bowl where I met Dr. Miralles and afterwards I applied for the internship and I guess he really liked my credentials; it fit what the program needed and from there I was able to go to Goddard," Roche said.

Roche applied for the internship at Goddard in 2010, a year after the program was started.

Soon, Miralles became Roche's mentor during the time Roche was receiving his undergraduate degree.

"He had very solid programming skills and this is something that NASA likes a lot," Miralles said. "He was getting his undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering when we placed him at Goddard. He started working with a resourcer in an area of work that was completely different than his background."

According to Miralles, Roche had a good attitude about learning something new and working outside of what he was getting his degree in.

"I've been teaching for 20 years and I haven't run into many people like him--who are so committed and put in a lot of hard work," Miralles said.

Out of 20 interns, Roche was the only one who received a job offer.

"I like learning a lot as an engineer, although there will be a point in the career when things slow down," Roche said. "But learning is the only way you can enjoy what you do. It's something that has to grow as you grow."

Miralles stresses the importance of internships for the student to gain experience and know the reality of what they



PHOTO COURTESY OF OFFICE OF ENGAGEMENT

Rigoberto Roche's job description includes writing code for the International Space Station and monitoring telecommunication satellites.

want to do with their future.

"I think first is to realize opportunities and take advantage of them," Miralles said. "It doesn't mean that it will fall in your lap, but you have to look for opportunities and work for them."

To Miralles, learning and having a good work ethic is having a sense of moving forward.

"That's something Rigo had very clearly," Miralles said. "This guy wanted to get ahead and he didn't show any concern about working hard, its just the

way he's built."

Roche acknowledges Miralles as his mentor and in helping him gain experience through his internships.

Now Roche is completing his master's in science and electrical engineering and will return to NASA once he earns his degree.

"I'm really proud of him. It's like a child of mine who accomplished something," said Miralles.

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FIUSM STAFF

The Division of Student Affairs has hired Tony Delgado as the University's new ombudsman and assistant dean of students.

As ombudsman, Delgado is designated as an impartial professional for students to voice their problems and concerns to in a confidential setting. The ombudsman

is also a source for students on university policies, procedures and services who can make referrals to specific departments that can help students with their concerns.

The position was previously held by Larry Lunsford, vice president of Student Affairs.

As assistant dean of students, Delgado will provide support to students

who are referred to him by concerned students, faculty or other members of the community. He will address personal hardships that may affect academic success like health issues or family problems.

Delgado has a bachelor's in psychology and a doctorate in adult education and human resource development from FIU. He earned

his master's in college student affairs administration from University of Georgia and a master's in human performance systems from Marymount University.

Delgado's office is located in GC 219 and can be reached at (305) 348-2797 or antodelg@fiu.edu.

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Some advice on garage parking

ROBERTO RAIMUNDEZ
Contributing Writer

It's the New Year; new students, new classes, new clubs, but no new attitude on driving for 2014.

Every semester most students rush to class in fear of getting there late instead of simply leaving earlier.

Understandably some have work, appointments or family responsibilities that'll occasionally conflict with their class schedule. If this is the case then you have a legitimate reason to be late, don't rush and explain to the professor later.

However if you're one of the habitually late students, just pick up the responsibility and leave earlier for class. This will relieve you of that stressful drive rushing through traffic, getting every red light possible only to stroll into class mid-lecture anyways.

In the driver's manual to get a license, it states that emotions affect how you drive. This is very true, so imagine the risk of rushing to class when you know you're cutting it close. You'll be quite dangerous when you drive in rush hour traffic or live too far away.

Once you have a stressed driver on the road, it's only a matter of time before there's an accident (hopefully nothing severe). Universities are a hotspot for stressed drivers, especially during the afternoon. Imagine the different scenar

ios for any student or faculty: hunting a parking space before class, rushing to work after class, losing your spot during a lunch break, even being frustrated with all the traffic around you; combine all these possible scenarios into a tight space like a parking garage and that's an accident waiting to happen.

That's exactly what happened Wednesday, Jan. 8 just between 12:50 and 1:00; the afternoon traffic jam of us coming and going. After spiraling

all the way to the top floor of PG5, my friend, Pablo, and I were trapped above the fourth floor due to a three car fender bender. Already having searched the entire garage for parking spaces we were doomed to being late to class waiting for a space.

However, we lucked out with a space after following a student from the elevator to the car and ran to class only four minutes late. (In a way, this is my tardy explanation to Dr. Harris.)

The first week at school always seems to be the most stressful driving time: some students don't properly time their route, others don't know the campus and police "ensure safety" with their presence that doesn't really alleviate the stress, especially with rubberneckers.

To prevent another on-campus accident, the best solution would be for all drivers to plan accordingly and ensure that there is plenty of time to make it to class. However since that's the beauty of individuality and not everyone can be punctual, we'll have to add a physical control.

The easiest controllable solution to this would be more parking spaces. Granted there's only so much that the campus can offer, why not improve the parking garage technology instead? Perhaps a 'car counter' that illuminates when the parking garage is full.

This seems like the next best solution to prevent the wasting of gas and precious time as vehicles spiral up and down garages in search of a parking space that's not even there. In addition it creates a safer environment in the garage so there isn't such a mass rush in tight spaces with pedestrians and parked vehicles.

Hopefully action will be taken to improve safety for everyone and also help with the daily hassle of parking space hunting.

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"The Hunger Games" and feminism rising

ASHLEY VIERA
Contributing Writer

"The Hunger Games" movies have hastily become a popular franchise and household name.

Bigger than that, is the effect it's having on the perceptions of women.

To begin, make sure to read the book before you go out and see the movies; it makes for a better experience.

The movie centers around a young, 16-year-old girl who is forced into fighting in what is known as "the Hunger Games".

"The Hunger Games" involves a fight to the death for kids between the ages of 12 and 18.

A young, 16-year-old teen girl is slowly and gradually forced into becoming a brave heroine for the voiceless, despite her reluctance.

It all begins when Katniss Everdeen, takes the place of her 12-year-old sister, Primrose Everdeen. Because of this the strong,

courageous and powerful leading role in the movie was given to a female, Jennifer Lawrence, producing a wave of acceptance for feminism unlike any other.

"The Hunger Games" and its sequel "Catching Fire", have successfully proved that women can take on leading roles in films and be good at it while making money for the big production companies in the process.

In the story, Everdeen cares most about keeping her family safe and away from harm. She is the provider for her family. She is important and she is heard, even revered by many.

Living in the 21st century, we as human beings are more susceptible and influenced by social media and the entertainment industry than any other generation in its past.

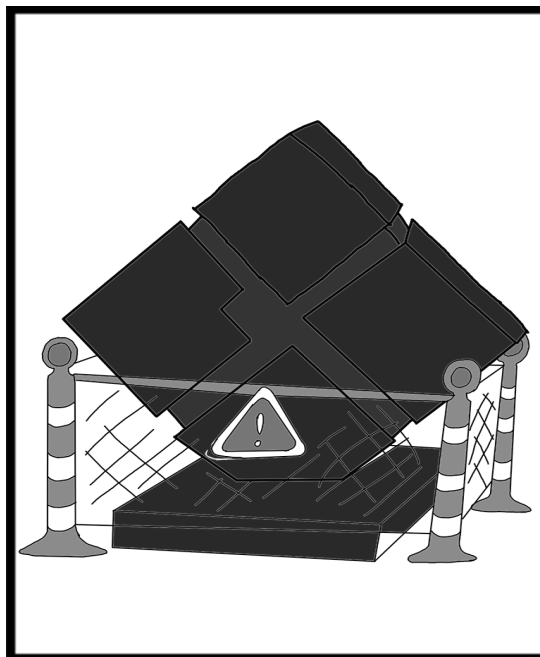
Essentially this signifies that what we see is what we believe. If what we are typically seeing on television are men as powerful and independent while women are dependent and weak this is what our society

becomes.

If this is the case, the future for women is not looking very bright but quite bleak in fact. In the year 2013 alone, out of last year's biggest movies, 28 percent of speaking characters were female. That's down a third from just five years ago according to NPR article "Casting Call: Hollywood Needs More Women." As exemplified by these statistics, having a strong, female lead is a rarity in the entertainment industry.

In the storyline of the Hunger Games trilogy, Katniss Everdeen becomes a beacon of hope and she might just become a beacon of hope for women of the 21st century. Katniss Everdeen is introducing the seemingly crazy idea that women are more than their dress size and physical appearance.

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GIOVANNI GARCIA/THE BEACON

Knowledge no more: continuing the argument

LUIS SANTANA
Opinion Director

Students no longer come to universities in pursuit of knowledge. No longer do students come to find answers to universal questions, instead they come to party and to meet people. That a college degree is becoming like high school diploma: Just another thing we need to achieve until we can make it into the job market.

Are the students morphing the universities into this environment? Are the universities allowing them-

selves to become more of a social hub and less of an academia because students aren't caring? Is the host allowing itself to be changed by the guest?

Have we set knowledge on a shelf meant only for the things under the category of "if I have time for that,?" Do we not know that knowledge of the world is better than the club scene?

Another question is why are we settling for less? Why are we not being the students we should be? Why are we not craving intelligence like we crave the party life? Are we not seeking knowledge because we

think that it won't help us? Are we under the idea that all we need is job experience and nothing more?

If we are under these impressions, we are wrong.

Universities should be not only a step towards getting a degree, but a way of attaining knowledge. A way of exploring not only yourself, but others; meeting people in your classes who have different viewpoints and challenging those viewpoints with intelligent discussion. It should be a place where you constantly learn things you didn't know before. A way of seeing the universe through diverse viewpoints

and finding where you stand in the scheme of things.

I understand most people won't agree with me. I understand most see universities as simply a clock-in clock-out environment, just another stone on the path towards a career where they can earn enough money to drive a BMW, drink Starbucks and have a fancy business dinner until they have to retire. This sort of life is meant for some people, even craved. But let me propose that you use universities as a search for enlightenment. Let me ask that you go to your library, and check out books on things you've never

read. That you take classes on things that you don't know. That a thirst for knowledge fill you as equally as your thirst for water.

I would ask that when you attain this knowledge, you commence in dispensing it in others. Not in a pompous sort of way, but in the same way that you would share a lantern with someone who is in darkness. That each of you would teach the other something you didn't know about previously, and you both become wiser for it.

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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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Doctor Who? An unexpected delivery

EDWIVE SEME
Staff Writer

It's 10:18 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 7, and Lensley St Felix, a pre-med student studying biology, is impatiently staring at a TV screen with his dorm mates. Lensley doesn't always watch the news, but tonight is special; tonight he'll be featured on the Channel 7 News. And it all started the day after Christmas.

"It was around 6 a.m. and my mom woke up in pain," says Lensley, "she knew it was time for her to have the

baby."

Upon hearing his mother in pain, Lensley and his father knew what to do; they grabbed what they could and headed to the nearest hospital, Broward General. His father grabbed the keys while Lensley quickly walked his mom to the backseat of his car.

"Throughout the car ride my mom was in pain; she kept scratching and biting my arm," says Lensley. "As her son, I wanted to help her cope with the pain so I would try to sing with her and tell her everything's going to be

OK, we're going to make it."

Lensley kept his mom company, attempting to calm her down as his father honked through traffic filled streets, sped through orange lights and turned on every possible shortcut to try to get the hospital on time.

However, all these attempts wouldn't get them there on time, as Lensley noticed the baby was coming sooner than they would want.

"I was sitting quite close to her, and I just felt some

SEE DELIVERY, PAGE 5

WINTER HAS COME AND GONE



ANDRES APONTE/THE BEACON

Officer Francis Lotierzo was equipped with some out-of-the-ordinary gear for his Miami job this past week - gloves and a windbreaker cross guard uniform. With temperatures dipping down to 50 degrees, the first week of school crowd seemed smaller than usual.

Sorority and Fraternity Life recognizes Greek accomplishments

GISELLE CANCIO
Contributing Writer

Between beginning the process of expansion, community service hours, membership intake and programming, the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life reached record milestones in 2013.

"Over 800 women signed up for sorority recruitment, with 455 receiving bids," Student Government Association Coordinator Shannonlee Rodriguez said. "This was a significant increase from 2012 and the [FIU] Panhellenic Council aims to increase these numbers again given that a new Sorority will be recruiting this year."

In order to celebrate milestones like the one mentioned above, Sorority and Fraternity Life hosts a banquet at the end of each calendar year to recognize the accomplishments of both chapters and individuals.

For the year 2013, there were six "three star" chapters: Alpha Omicron Pi, Delta Phi Omega, Lambda Theta Alpha, Pi Kappa Phi, Sigma Chi and Theta Chi. There were six "four star" chapters: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Iota Phi Theta, Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Mu, Sigma Kappa and Sigma Lambda Gamma. And there were five "five star" chapters: Alpha Xi Delta, Alpha Phi Alpha, Beta Theta Pi, Delta Phi Epsilon and Phi Sigma Sigma.

The chapter's star level is determined by the Gold Standards Program. According to Vladimir Charles, Coordinator of Campus Life and IFC Advisor, "The Gold Standards Program is a student created initiative that allows our community to share the amazing work done each semester by each of our fraternities and sororities. This includes philanthropic dollars raised and service hours completed. Chapters are also able to report the other remarkable programs that they are being part of and hosting."

Sorority and Fraternity Life also awards individuals for their service to the FIU and Greek community. The recipients are chosen through a nomination and selection process. Some were not aware of their nomination.

Bianca Pino, a senior majoring in sociology and 2013 Sorority Women of the Year, said, "Greek life has played a huge part in becoming the kind of woman I am today. Being the recipient of this award reminds me that I have accomplished what my Sigma Kappa founders wanted from their members: women that positively impact their community and continue to lead within their alma mater. I feel very blessed and I shall continue to show how much Greek life can create a great difference in everyone's lives."

Bianca was initiated in the Fall of 2010

and currently serves as the President of Sigma Kappa Sorority.

"I never expected this because I never went into Greek life with the goal of earning a title," Kevin Maestre, a senior majoring in biomedical engineering and 2013 Fraternity Man of the Year, said. "But rather I only wanted to leave my mark on the FIU community. I am lucky to have surrounded myself with Lambda Chi Alpha and especially my mentor, Dean Williams. He made me believe if I can spark a change in one person's heart to better society, then perhaps that person is the one who can change the world if it isn't me."

Kevin was initiated in Spring 2012 and currently serves as the Vice President of External Relations for Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity.

Other accomplishments from the Greek life community include the approval of opening up for expansion for the Panhellenic Council, the Interfraternity Council and the FIU Multicultural Greek Council to bring new organizations in the fall, a reported 22,425.5 hours of community service for the 2013 calendar year and a reported \$123,646.96 philanthropy dollars raised for the 2013 calendar year.

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THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE RECOGNIZED

New Member of the year:

Hector Cuevas

New Member/Neophyte of the year:

Giancarlo Simpson

President of the year:

Ivanna Leon

Advisor of the year:

Robert Borgmann

Tony Perez Fraternal Award of Excellence:

Fernando Trillo

Janelle Bertot Fraternal Award of Excellence:

Shannonlee Rodriguez

Sorority Woman of the year:

Bianca Pino

Fraternity Man of the year:

Kevin Maestre

Chilean student activists to visit and speak at University

DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS
Staff Writer

Two Chilean student activists will be speaking to University students today from 4-6pm in room 314 of the Graham Center.

The event titled "Struggling to Win: Chilean Activists at FIU" is being hosted by the Florida Student Union in collaboration with Students Working for Equal Rights.

Gabriel Gac and Pablo Abufom are the two activists who will be hosting the lecture. Gac has been an active member of the Libertarian Student Front (Frente de Estudiantes

Libertarios).

In 2013 he also helped coordinate the formation of a new Anarchist Feminist movement, The Alazada, Feminist Libertarian Action (La Alazada, Acción Feminista Libertaria) in Chile. Abufom has a Masters of Philosophy and works on translating mostly academic works from English to Spanish.

He is also a founding member of the bookstore and social center Librería Proyección in Santiago, Chile.

"This relates to students who are trying to organize other students and build popular power.

Any student who is interested in getting anything done in the school system could benefit from this...

“

Hopefully students get together and regain autonomy.

Both organizations aim to reach out to other students who are interested in enacting change in the

Claudio Galaz,
Junior
History major

anyone interested in activism and building student power," said Claudio Galaz, a junior history major who also aided in organizing the event.

University.

"Their student movement is really inspiring," said Gordon Kingston a sophomore history major.

According to Kingston the activists sought to improve access to highly privatized education in Chile.

Pablo and Gac also hope to gain an understanding of how students in the US organize.

The visit is part of a speaking tour which will stop in 15 other US cities.

Galaz hopes the event will inspire other University students to let their voices be heard and to let them understand the power they wield in enacting change.

"Hopefully students get together and regain autonomy," said Galaz.

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Pre-med University student helps mom during delivery

DELIVERY, PAGE 4

warm liquid on my jeans,” says Lensley. Her water broke, and they still weren’t at the hospital; although his father only instructed him to call 911, Lensley knew he would have to do more.

He quickly dialed 911, put his phone on speaker, and grabbed a towel ready to receive the baby once it comes out. Lensley could see the baby’s head coming out, and his mom was in pain.

“I think it was an instinct,” says Lensley. “I knew if the baby was to be delivered in the car then some precautions were to be taken; I knew I had to reassure my mother everything was fine, stay calm and make sure my brother gets delivered safely.”

With Lensley’s help, his mom kept pushing until Lensley could see the shoulders.

It didn’t take long after for him to have the baby in his arms.

“I had him on the towel and the first thing I noticed

was that he was breathing,” says Lensley. “I saw him take his first breath and his heart was beating.”

The baby might have been out, but his job wasn’t done.

“There was still amniotic fluid on him and some red blood like material that was covering his nostrils and mouth. I knew that in order for him to keep breathing, I had to clean him up.”

Lensley cautiously cleaned up his baby brother (whom was still attached to his mother with the umbilical cord), and brought his attention back to the phone to speak to the operator. By then they could already see the hospital so they drove to it. From there, the nurses took over and cut the umbilical cord, as Lensley stepped back, overfilled with joy and simultaneously humble that he got through this successfully. Lensley was stunned that this has just actually happened, and he feels like he’s never been faced with such level of pressure. Although he wasn’t expecting this at all, Lensley

believes the primary reason why the delivery went smooth was because he remained calm throughout the situation and applied what he’s learned so far as pre-med student.

“I put everything else aside, focused on my little brother,” says Lensley. “I think having prior knowledge on childbirth from my studies in biology and shadowing doctors helped me stay calm during the process.”

Lensley’s baby brother was born a healthy baby at 7:23 a.m., and weighed six pounds and 11 ounces.

Everyone, including the nurses and doctor, congratulated Lensley for making his brother safe; his parents were really grateful that Lensley was there to take action.

As President of FIU MAPS, Lensley is currently looking into bringing in a pediatrician to talk about this topic during one of their meetings in case anyone was to face such a situation, they would be prepared.

But his story doesn’t stop

IN A DAZE



OSCAR LIN/THE BEACON

Hypnotist extraordinaire, Sailesh (right), worked his magic hypnotizing students on stage in GC during a welcome back event.

there. After hearing the highlight of Lensley’s holiday break, John Zapatta, a friend and FIU alumnus, contacted Channel 7 the next day to see if they would be interested in sharing Lensley’s story. They later called Lensley to confirm the story and offered him an interview.

“They came to the house and shot the interview at around 4:30 p.m., and that’s how I ended up on the media,” says Lensley. “I was really surprised on how quickly everything happened; I was also happy that they were able to keep

the essence of the story and keep the focus on my little brother.”

It is now 10:21 p.m., and Lensley’s watching himself on Channel 7 sitting next to his mother, holding his little brother. He can barely contain his excitement. His story is told by Alex Doprato, news reporter, who calls Lensley’s story “heartwarming”. Tomorrow, Lensley will see things with a new perspective as he enjoys his temporary fame and finds that his story has spread to more than one news channel. He feels ready to take on the

semester and anything life throws at him. He’s even considering learning more about pediatric work now, and he might look into shadowing a pediatrician.

“This truly reminds me why I want to go into medicine. I love that aspect of medicine,” says Lensley. “You get to put your knowledge into use to make a difference in someone’s life, and also the thrill of knowing that someday you’re going to be called into stressful situations.”

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Meet your SGA: Business Senator & Vice Chairman

STEPHANIE PIEDRAHITA Contributing Writer

The last time we got to sit down with a member of Student Government Association, we spoke to Luis Cabrera, our Student Advancement Coordinator, about his position and other involvements on campus.

This time, FIUSM got in contact with Stefan Bahad, a sophomore completing a double major in International Business and

Finance.

Here is how our interview went:

What position do you hold within student government and what are your duties?

I am currently the Business Senator for College of Business and also Vice Chairman of the Operational Review Committee. As the Business Senator, I advocate for the College of Business and whatever the needs of the students are. Like last Semester,

we did a LinkedIn lab as well as a lecture on social media done by Nancy Richmond who is director of Career Services over there. This semester we’re looking forward to hopefully getting charging stations in the College of Business, we’ve seen them here in the Graham Center and think it would be of great use to us as well.

As Vice Chairman of the Operational Review Committee, I help audit organizations that receive money from student government.

The Student Government Association has a seventeen million dollar budget and they allocate money to all these different organizations so we just make sure that money is being used appropriately and effectively.

What was your platform when you first ran?

My platform was to get effective events out to the students in the College of Business. I thought that students really need to get engaged

in on-campus organizations specifically to help them land a job after graduation. So the way I’ve gone about this is by hosting a variety of events and partnering with different organizations like Alpha Kappa Psi, Beta Gamma Sigma and Toastmasters and letting them know so we get greater involvement from them. Through these events, you could improve your public speaking skills.

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Sitdown with Smurphio of the local act Afrobeta

JUNETTE REYES Entertainment Director

Comprised of front-woman Cristina Elena Garcia (Cuci Amador) and instrumentalist Antonio Laurencio (Smurphio), Afrobeta is a local Cuban-American electro funk band that formed in 2006. Since their formation, Cuci and Smurphio have performed in several local venues and beyond, including Glastonbury Festival, Burning Man, New York Fall Fashion Week, Ultra Brazil, Space Ibiza, Camp Bisco and Identity Festival. Throughout their

career, Cuci and Smurphio have also had the honor of performing alongside acts such as Trentemoller, Booka Shade, Hercules and Love Affair, The Crystal Method, Annie Mac, Holy Ghost!, Nero, Kaskade and The Bloody Beetroots.

Recently, Afrobeta performed on New Year’s Day in Bayfront Park for the MOOV Festival.

FIU Student Media recently got to sit down with Smurphio, the afro half of Afrobeta, to discuss the band.

What is the story behind the band name?

A friend of ours that we had in common gave us that name. We started playing without a name and then we sent a survey to our friends. And this one won. It was kind of a beta project and it was in development and it just kind of stuck.

Does the “Afro” in Afrobeta come from Afro-Cuban?

Afro-Cuban and the style of my hair. I have a big afro. But we are Cuban, so there are Afro-Cuban roots there.

Did the afro come before the band?

Yeah, oh yeah.

Is Afro-Cuban music an influence for your music?

Partly, indirectly, it can be a source of inspiration. Probably through osmosis since we grew up in this culture. It kind of seeped in. I played a lot of live music with many Latin bands in the 2000s, so I definitely have that influence.

What instruments do you use as Afrobeta?

I’m the keyboardist, guitarist, and synthesizer. Cuci is the vocalist and she plays this sampler thing on a toy guitar. It’s really cool. We put an iPad on a toy guitar strapped on with velcro and she triggers samples live.

Are you classically trained with the instruments you know how to play?

I am classically trained. I play jazz, I play almost enough of every genre. I play a lot of ragtime; that’s a big influence.

What else influences your music?

A lot of 80’s stuff, a lot of 80’s songs. I’m very influenced by 80’s songwriting.

Speaking of songwriting, can you give us an idea of how Afrobeta goes through the music making process?

There’s no real formula; we kind of dabble in all forms of songwriting.

For the rest of the interview, go to fiusm.com

ALONE AT THE TOP



JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Senior point guard Jerica Coley (left), after breaking the all-time points record, now owns every major scoring record at FIU. As of Jan. 10, Coley has scored 2,524 career points.

Coley adds to legacy, breaks 19-year old record

RUBEN PALACIOS
Sports Director

Senior point guard Jerica Coley has a knack for breaking long-standing records.

Last season, Coley scored 840 points and shattered the record for most points scored in a season, a mark that stood since 1982 (820 points by Karen Turnquest). This past Wednesday, Coley one-upped herself and became FIU's all-time leading scorer, a record that was unreachable since 1995 (2,515 points by Alben Branzova), after netting 16 points to give her 2,524 points as of Jan. 8.

Coley's latest feat came in a 59-41 loss against the University of Rice when redshirt junior Arielle Durant delivered a hand-off pass that Coley converted into a three-point shot from the top of the key. Coley released a high-arching jump shot and shortly thereafter she was the top scorer in school history.

"It was just an open look. I had a couple more before that but this is one that I made," Coley said of the shot that etched her name deeper into FIU lore. "I kind of took my time a little bit more so that probably made the difference."

That open look Coley converted was one of the few Rice allowed her the entire game. Rice played, for the nearly the entire game, a "box-and-one" defense. This scheme is a hybrid between man-to-man and zone defense where two front-court players play zone defense in the post and two guards play zone toward the top of the key while one player plays man-to-man defense on the best offensive player, in this case, it was Coley.

"We saw something new and made some adjustments and tried to get other people open," Head Coach Cindy Russo said of Rice's defense. "We never saw that, we didn't prepare for it. We didn't

see it all year and didn't see it on film."

Coley struggled to make history, she shot 2-of-13 from the field in the first half and scored all six of her first-half points within a 30-second span. She converted on a free-throw at the 13:45 mark, laid the ball in for two points with 13:19 remaining and stole the ball with 13:15 to go and turned that into an old-fashion three-point play.

Coley improved her play in the second half despite the double-teams from Rice, but FIU as a team struggled mightily shooting the ball when she would pass out of pressure. For the game, Coley shot 6-of-24 (25 percent) from the field while everyone else shot 9-49 (18 percent).

"They just weren't falling and I think we got tighter and tighter as the game went on," Russo said about the offensive struggles. "They never gave up, they play hard all the time, it's just one of

those games where nothing went our way."

Despite the struggle to score, Coley remained aggressive just knowing she was only eight points away from making history.

"I knew I needed eight points but I wasn't really counting," Coley said before taking a breath, arching her eyebrows and adding, "I mean, was counting that I was missing a lot."

Coley, who usually pays little attention to the records she often breaks, did take the time to acknowledge this record in a different light.

"It just shows that with a lot of hard work and a lot of good coaching you can accomplish goals like that," Coley said. "It wasn't my goal, but, I guess it's kind of a big deal when you think about it. With a lot of hard work, good things happen."

With Coley's latest accomplishment, FIU entered a rare class of its own, becoming just

the fifth school in Division I women's basketball history with 2,500-point career scorers.

Coley, interestingly enough, became just the second to lead a South Florida school in career points. Her aunt, Tamika Coley, is UCF's all-time leading scorer with 2,006 points.

"I knew that before but I didn't think about it," Coley said before the tone of her voice changed with excitement as she continued to think about her aunt. "That's a huge deal. She's one of the coaches who helped me a lot and coached me all through high school and now still. So that's pretty cool."

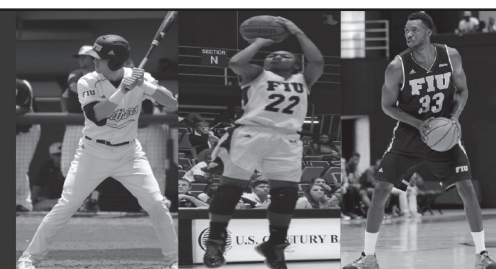
Russo, who also coached Branzova, also took a moment to acknowledge the Coley's special moment.

"We cannot overlook that she [Coley] made history here at FIU," Russo said.

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Panther Sports Talk Live
WRGP Radiate FM 88.1, 95.3, and 96.9 FM
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10-11AM



Four years later: Coley reigns supreme at FIU

COLUMNIST



BRANDON WISE

It has come full circle.

Senior point guard Jerica Coley, who burst

on the scene just four years ago, has finally taken out every meaningful record the FIU record book has to offer up.

Four years ago, I started at FIU and began working at The Beacon in the hopes of covering sports.

It's always been my passion and probably always will be.

I wanted to be able to watch sports and get paid for it. An amazing concept, isn't it?

But the reason that many sports journalists get into the profession is for the special moments and to discover the stories that these athletes have to offer.

One story that I was able to tell was about Coley's

parents making the three and a half hour drive from St. Petersburg to come see their daughter play.

Her father, Jerry, said, then in her junior year, that it goes so fast.

And here we are, already at the point of looking back on her career and where she ranks among all-time athletes in FIU history.

As a freshman, Jerica Coley only started half of the 32 games the Panthers played and was still the team leader in points per game and rebounds per game.

Even then, she was dominating the shots, taking 397, 56 more than her closest teammate.

As a sophomore, Coley led the Panthers to their best regular season in some time, winning 23 games and averaging 23.4 points per game.

This was also the season I was able to cover her.

The 5-foot-8 sophomore didn't look like everyone

else on the court.

She was special, she had no fear.

Many people would look at the statline that she produces and see the

she does to help her team.

That season, Coley led every major statistical category, which does include turnovers, except for steals where she was second by

tennis.

Consider for a minute the possibility that Coley, who said then she didn't consider playing tennis in college, actually did.

She has always seemed like the type of athlete who could excel no matter the sport.

But being comfortable with it is a different thing.

Coley truly is one of a kind.

During that sophomore season, she and her team just found a way to win against Western Kentucky University.

The Panthers trailed by 15 points in the second half to a team that was 6-15 on the season.

Coley had 11 points on the night with 14:42 left in the game.

She scored 25 points from there on out to lead the Panthers on a comeback that I'm still not sure how it happened three years later.

Afterwards, Coley, who scored 36 points, grabbed

nine rebounds and blocked two shots, was as calm and collected as could be.

When people would ask her about the greatness of her performances, in particular that night, she always seems to flinch, almost as if she doesn't realize how good she is.

As her career here at FIU begins to wind down, I hope that many of us are able to appreciate the special talent she is.

These kinds of athletes only appear at a school like this once every decade or two.

Luckily for us who were freshman in fall 2010, we were able to watch two of them in Coley and former football player T.Y. Hilton.

Coley is a star and we have treated her as such.

I only hope that future FIU students are able to recognize this career when they are scrolling through the record books and not just brush it off.

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Jerica Coley Notable Records (2010 - 2014)		
	Number (YR.)	Career Rank
Career Points	2,524	1
Single Season Points	840 (12-13)	1
Career Scoring Avg.	22.6	1
Single Season Avg.	26.3 (12-13)	1
Career FT's Made	609	1
Single Season FT's Attempts	249 (11-12)	2
Single Season FT's Made	208 (11-12)	1
Career FT Attempts	729	1
Career FT Percent	.836	1
Season FT Percent	.848	4
Career FG Attempts	2,032	1
Career Three Point FG	129	6
Career Three Point FG Attempts	468	3
Career Assists	376	T-6
Career Steals	222	5
Career Blocks	154	3

*All stats up-to-date as of Jan. 10, 2014

amount of shots.

But what was overlooked was everything else

just nine to Fanni Hutlassa.

All of this from somebody who grew up playing

Distance runner maintains his second passion

ALEJANDRO SOLANA

Staff Writer

Kobe or Lebron?

For most people who have lived in Miami all of their life, that answer should be an easy one.

They are taking the man who changed the whole dynamic of basketball by "taking his talents to south beach," the back-to-back NBA champion, Lebron James.

However, when you ask that same question to sophomore distance runner Eli Monzon, both on the Track and Field and Cross Country teams at FIU, just so happens to be a die hard Lakers fan since he started watching the NBA as a child, his answer may be a little different.

Besides being a long distance runner at FIU since last season when he walked on as a freshman, Monzon shares another passion that doesn't include just running for miles: basketball.

"Basketball means the world to me. I've played the sport all of my life at every level possible until college, and is a huge part of the person I am today," Monzon said.

Monzon's passion clearly lies with basketball.

It isn't running long distance, miles upon miles, until the body cannot handle any more.

It is the game he grew up playing and watching daily, basketball.

"I focused so much on basketball everyday growing up that I guess you can say I just became absorbed with it. My days revolved around basketball, and I didn't mind it because it was the game I loved," Monzon said.

So the question had to be, why distance running?

"In high school, I was trying to get into better shape for basketball, and running became easier for me. The more I did it, the more I began to enjoy it. I found myself running faster and better than people who had been training much harder than I was and for much longer," said Monzon. "When I was younger, I always viewed running as a punishment, and never thought in a million years that I would end up running at the college level."

Well he did, and he isn't too bad at it. As a member of the cross-country team, Monzon helped FIU place second at the Florida Runners Invite, finishing just behind in-state athletic powerhouse UF.

For Monzon, he describes this meet at as his most satisfying yet, for him and his fellow team.

"That meet at Titusville was definitely our best so far, we all beat our personal records and came in second to great school like UF," Monzon said.

Before his time as a Panther, Monzon played basketball for his high school, Archbishop Coleman F. Carroll High School, and also played on several travel teams and AAU teams throughout his years.

As a senior at Archbishop Carroll, Monzon averaged 15 points per game as a starter, while also dishing out three assists and three rebounds a game.

The more impressive number, however, was the percentage Monzon averaged from beyond the arc throughout his senior year, 42 percent.

At the end of his basketball career at Archbishop Carroll, Monzon was awarded the Scholar Athlete of the year by the school, and also the Bulldog award, an award given to the best all around student athlete voted on by the school faculty.

Monzon was able to maintain a remarkable 4.67 GPA in high school while still balancing the pressures of leading his basketball and cross-country team.

As far as the Kobe or Lebron question?

"All I've got to say is, 5 rings," Monzon said. "Lebron will eventually get there, but until then, gotta go with my boy the Black Mamba."

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Athletic transition: burning out is a bad thing

COLUMNIST



RHYS WILLIAMS

Wearing jerseys to school on game days, being on the varsity squad and becoming a letterman were some of the best days I remember from high school sports.

Now obviously I don't play sports anymore.

I was a two-sport athlete for football and track in high school, and I miss playing both and had a hope at some point or another to continue at this level.

Some of my friends either here at FIU or where I grew up who still play sports have told me that it is much different and what I actually miss is the version of each of those sports at the high school level, and not at the collegiate level.

The most prevalent story of the sport losing its lust was told to me over this past winter break.

One of the only people who I know on this

earth that loves football more than I do has the privilege of playing it at the collegiate level.

When we catch up, football is always a point of conversation.

This time, he said things that surprised me.

After discussing the professional games and the final season of the BCS for the collegiate level, we went on to talk about what we were referring to as the "Good Old Days" of games we had played, funny practice stories and the like.

Those things were the good old days to us as I now do not participate in competitive sports and he told me that the love was fading.

A man who is in school with the dream of one day being a football coach at some level, says that the thing that he loved the most, and was known for in our small town, has become something that is more of a chore and bore than a fun time.

It made me think about my thoughts on ever attempting to walk-on to a collegiate athletic program.

Such as I had thought about in my freshman year before joining the staff at The Beacon.

I still feel as if joining a program is right for some people and it is always in my mind but after hearing stories from not only the friend I mentioned before but others as well, I would be a little hesitant to try.

Don't get me wrong though, I am here on a track that under the physical education major to be a sports coach, and I love football and track but I wouldn't want to burn-out on those within college.

I know people who have experienced burn-outs on sports that they were known for and it changes them.

We all knew at least one person who was a high school athlete and didn't make it to the

next level.

Ask them any time what they miss the most about football and I am pretty sure that they will say something along the lines of the rush and adrenaline of the sport.

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Spicing things up with an award-winning recipe

ALEX BLENCOWE
Staff Writer

In an industry where a majority of businesses fail, FIU senior Jenifer Bound is making her way into the restaurant industry and pursuing her passion for food.

As the winner for the Badia Spice Rub Competition at the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Management, Bound's spice rub will be debuting at the Food Network South Beach Wine and Food Festival, presented by Food and Wine in February.

“You really want to understand what you're eating and what you're tasting.”

Jenifer Bound
Senior
Hospitality

Badia Spices awarded Bound with a \$5,000 scholarship, selling and distribution of the new spice and bragging rights. The other finalists received \$2,000 scholarships each.

“Mr. Badia came up with the contest idea to give students an opportunity to create a new product and compete for a winning scholarship,” said Lori Conduris, Badia Spices Public Relations and Marketing Director, in an email. “Badia Spices has always been a pioneer and an innovator in the culinary industry. We want to pass on the

legacy of being innovators and FIU students stand up to the tasks beautifully,” Conduris continued.

Bound's winning spice rub had a unique combination of smoked paprika, white pepper, roasted garlic powder, cumin, cocoa powder, chipotle chili powder, brown sugar and smoked sea salt.

Aside from her plans to someday open a small bakery or café, Bound wishes to improve the food industry and change laws that protect food companies instead of the food they serve.

“A lot of these [fast] foods are very convenient, but is it convenient for the environment? Is it convenient for Earth?” said Bound. “I'm thinking of the packaging as well. How much of this is plastic? How much of this is going directly into the ocean?” Bound continues.

Bound's greatest concerns include the issue of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, bringing more awareness to initiatives that use natural food, composting proposals by restaurants, battling the obesity issue in America and sustainability.

Bound got married and gave birth to her daughter, Serenity, in Portland, Ore., where she received her associates degree in pâtisserie and baking at Le Cordon Bleu, before moving to Florida.

While in Oregon, Bound competed in various cooking competitions and worked with star chefs from around the country, working multiple positions in a number of restaurants.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEDIA RELATIONS

Pictured above is Jenifer Bound (right), senior hospitality management major, and Joseph Badia (left), owner of Badia Spices.

“I was doing my boss's work for him,” Bound said, recalling working in the front and back of the restaurant and discovering her success in the food business.

“I thought, might as well use something I'm good at to my advantage,” said Bound. She plans to pursue a master's degree and teach at FIU, if the graduate program in food science comes to fruition.

“You really want to understand what you're eating and what you're tasting,” said Bound, who believes working with flavours

is a very specific science.

In her winning spice rub, Bound used a spice that most spice companies do not carry in their line—smoked sea salt, an ingredient she uses regularly as a pastry chef to bring out the 'savory and sweet' flavors.

“I like to approach food as a form of art,” Bound said. “I'm looking for that 'aww' moment that takes people's breath away.”

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Professor reveals new ways to save birds, environment

ARIEL WEINSTEIN
Staff Writer

South Florida has attracted the attention of many ecologists over the years, based on its climate and varied bird species. These ecologists hope to learn and educate people on the relationship between society and the environment.

John Withey, a professor of the FIU Department of Biological Sciences, will be hosting the event, “Urban Environments: A Bird's-eye View” at Deering Estate at Cutler on Wednesday Jan. 22, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

An estimated 30 people are expected to attend the event to listen to one

of FIU's most passionate bird researchers. In his lecture, Withey will explain how people can make better designed neighborhoods and environments to improve the health and lifestyle of both humans and birds.

Withey has studied birds for over 20 years. He also teaches ecology and vertebrate zoology, and plans to implement his own course in urban ecology.

“My research at FIU is trying to understand how migratory songbirds use urban habitats--especially patches of hammock in parks and reserves--during migration and their overwintering period,” Withey said.

So far, Withey's research has only encompassed Miami-Dade county.

Withey has a team of one graduate student and one research assistant, that help him to listen, watch, and trap birds in mist nets.

Withey, who has presented at several scientific conferences, is giving his lecture on birds as a part of the “Speaking Sustainably” lecture series by SEAS, FIU's School of Environment, Art and Society; he was invited to present his research this month.

“What I try to convey is that even though the urban environment is very altered from what used to be here, we can design

“...we can design our neighborhoods and parks to provide habitat for migrating birds – it benefits the birds and it can benefit us as well.”

John Withey
Professor
FIU Department of Biological Sciences

our neighborhoods and parks to provide habitat for migrating birds--it benefits the birds and it can benefit us as well,” Withey said.

Vicky Garcia, a sophomore majoring in psychology, shares a passion for birds and the environment. After hearing that this event was taking place, she felt it was a good

idea for the university to introduce a lecture about birds, because of their role in the environment.

“They're beautiful creatures and we should do our best to protect them. I feel this speech is going to educate people on some information that they may already know, but at the same time it will give

people a better view of what's going on in our environment, and ways we can improve it,” said Garcia.

Another student, Sofia Rodriguez, a sophomore majoring in advertising, thinks that “planning out neighborhoods and reducing pollution would help to keep not only humans healthy, but birds as well. This in turn would prevent eliminating such a special piece of nature.”

For more information, contact SEAS at seas@fiu.edu.

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BBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPC DANCING WITH THE WOLFE: SALSA AND BACHATA
WHEN: Jan. 13, 12 P.M.-2 P.M.
WHERE: Rec Center

WILD SUCCULENT WOMEN
WHEN: Jan. 14, 7 P.M.
WHERE: Bay Vista Housing

SPC DANCING WITH THE WOLFE: BELLY DANCING
WHEN: Jan. 15, 2 P.M. - 3 P.M.
WHERE: Rec Center

CLINIC OPEN HOUSE
WHEN: Jan. 16, 11 A.M. - 3 P.M.
WHERE: BBC Clinic

SPLASH AND DASH
WHEN: Jan. 16, 11 A.M.
WHERE: Koven's Bay Entrance

KOMPA NIGHT FEATURING JBEATZ
WHEN: Jan. 16, 8 P.M.
WHERE: WUC Ballrooms

NEW YEAR GET FIT CHALLENGE KICKOFF

WHEN: Jan. 17,
12 P.M. - 1 P.M.
WHERE: WUC 221