

PLAY AWAY



ANDRES APONTE/THE BEACON

Sergio Rodriguez (above), biology major, switches from his science-filled curriculum to the arts playing the piano in the ballrooms.

Students for Justice in Palestine support Israeli boycott

MADISON FANTOZZI
News Director

The University's public opposition of the American Studies Association's call for an academic boycott of Israel generated much praise from administrators and student organizations alike, but Students for Justice in Palestine says administration does not speak on behalf of all students.

"They claim to speak on behalf of the students, but they do not represent us. As students with a conscious for human rights and global justice, we demand accountability for this disturbing statement," SJP said in a statement to Student Media.

President Mark B. Rosenberg and Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartzok authored the University's statement against the boycott in late December that cited the importance of academic freedom for all, but SJP said such freedom does not exist for Palestinians and the boycott is a necessary action toward liberation.

The ASA's resolution in response to Palestinian civil society's call for a boycott based on alleged human rights violations eliminates the association's participation in Israeli conferences and public lectures, and also prevents representatives of

SEE PALESTINE, PAGE 2

Board of Trustees member gives \$1 million endowment to business school

JEFFREY PIERRE &
ANDREA SANMIGUEL
FIUSM Staff

Alumnus and Board of Trustees member Gerald C. Grant is providing business students with an answer to their financially fixated prayers: a \$1 million endowment to be used entirely for

scholarships.

With his donation, Grant and his wife established the Gerald C. Grant Jr. and Jennifer Adger Grant Scholarship Fund, which will fully fund students in their undergraduate careers.

Dean David Klock calls this a long-term investment in the success of the school's

students.

"Mr. Grant is a role model for a lot of people, especially when a man of that character and reputation does something like this," Klock said.

Grant's donation and that of other donors will be added to the endowment.

"First thing we have to do is let the money build up,"

Klock said. "The ultimate use of any kind of gift like that is that it becomes a foundation account and eventually it will become a million dollar foundation account."

Up to five percent of the endowment will be allocated for each scholarship, expected to range up to \$50,000. The exact figures and percentages

have yet to be determined though.

The scholarship criterion has also not been outlined, but Klock encourages all business students to apply.

Because many students work 30 hours week, Klock said the main goal is to increase graduation rates; the scholarships will hopefully

return the students to focusing on completing coursework.

"These scholarships will facilitate them into being able to graduate in a timely manner and, in many cases, it will just help them to graduate, period," Klock said.

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

Students mentor high school to first A in history

SIMONE GARVEY-EWAN
Staff Writer

Miami Northwestern Senior High School, a historically failing school that was facing shutdown by the state, received its first 'A' in partnership with the University and the Education Effect.

Miami Northwestern has worked in conjunction with the University through the Achieving Community Collaboration in Education and Student Success program while working on its improvement.

"We wanted to create a 'college going culture' for Miami Northwestern and essentially what we wanted to do was help students who have the desire to go to college, understand and be able to have access to that opportunity," said Irma Becerra-Fernandez, vice president of the Office of Engagement.

According to a recent survey by the National Mentoring Part-

nership, at-risk young people who had a mentor aspired to attend college and enrolled at higher rates than their peers without mentors.

Three-quarters of at-risk young adults with a mentor reported that they had planned to go to and graduate from college, compared with 56 percent of those who didn't have a mentor. Forty-five percent of at-risk young adults with a mentor said they were enrolled or about to enroll in college, compared to 29 percent of those who didn't have a mentor.

The ACCESS program is a University partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to improve public school success, high school graduation rates and increase students' transition into a higher education.

ACCESS is composed of 20 workgroups each responsible for achieving a specific goal. Workgroups include The Education Effect, which was launched

in 2011. The Education Effect, receiving a seed investment of \$1 million by JP Morgan Chase, has a service learning component, which uses a teaching and learning strategy.

Tania Lopez alumna and professor of the service learning and upper level writing course "Writing for Social Action" said she works to ensure her students master their writing and research skills as they mentor Miami Northwestern students.

"We got together a group of us - writing and rhetoric instructors - and our goal was to promote service learning being integrated into courses," Lopez said.

"Writing for Social Action" was launched in fall 2012 and is in its third class.

"This is the first class that's actually working with Miami Northwestern as part of a course and I think that's the most sustainable way to do it," Lopez said. "That's the ideal way to do it

because if you're a volunteer, you go or you don't go."

In this course, the high school students visit the University throughout the semester to meet with Lopez's students. The class visits the high school itself once a semester.

Ashley Reid, a junior majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry, was enrolled in "Writing for Social Action" in spring 2013.

"I didn't have any intentions of enrolling but then I read about the course and was like, 'Okay I'm from Miami and I know what it's like to go to a predominantly black school so it would be great if I could help someone else and it was a great turn out.'"

The Education Effect has achieved many goals: supporting Miami Northwestern in obtaining an 'A' from being a D/F school, increasing the percentage of 3.0 grade point average or above students from 15 percent to 30 percent and increasing the gradu-

ation rate from 64 to 76 percent.

Other workgroups inside of ACCESS include dual enrollment, clinical internships, world languages and bilingual education and teacher development in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

Collectively, all workgroups under the ACCESS partnership have made achievements such as having 6,000 students participate in dual enrollment in 2013 as opposed to 425 in 2009.

"If you ask me, the credit for becoming an 'A' school goes to the students who have worked so hard and the unbelievable faculty and administration at Miami Northwestern," said Maria Lovett, director of the Education Effect. Miami Northwestern Senior High located in Liberty City, was previously in jeopardy of being shut down by the state.

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

WORLD NEWS

Russia: Assad mulling open humanitarian access

PARIS (AP) - Syria's government and the opposition have agreed to consider opening humanitarian access in the run-up to a peace conference that would bring the sides together for the first time, the top diplomats for Russia and the U.S. said Monday. Speaking in the midst of a two-day series of meetings in Paris, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry also said they were pressing for a cease-fire and prisoner exchange between the warring sides.

High court skeptical of Obama recess appointments

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court cast doubt Monday on President Barack Obama's use of a provision of the Constitution to make temporary appointments to high-level positions over the objection of Senate Republicans. The court is writing on a blank slate as it considers for the first time the Constitution's recess appointments clause. That clause allows the president to fill vacancies temporarily, but only when the Senate is in recess.

For more world news, check out FIUSM.com.

Iranians welcome nuclear deal, hard-liners oppose

ALI AKBAR DAREINI
AP Staff

Iran's reformers and moderate conservatives welcomed an agreement Monday between Iran and six world powers on how to implement a nuclear deal struck in November, saying it will shore up Iran's sanctions-hit economy. Hard-liners however inside the Islamic Republic remain opposed.

The six-nation group — the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council plus Germany — and Iran agreed to start implementing the terms of the historic interim deal from Jan. 20. That will start a six-month clock for a final deal to be struck over Tehran's contested nuclear program.

Alaeddin Boroujerdi, head of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said that enforcing the deal opens new windows for Iran and paves the way for expanding its

economic dealings with the outside world.

"By enforcing the deal, there will be some openings for Iran's economy and restrictions will be eased," said Boroujerdi, a moderate conservative. "Economic sanctions will reduce and the way will be paved for expansion of economic activities."

Iran's hard-liners have called the deal a "poisoned chalice," challenging moderate President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif with the task of trying to convince skeptics that they are not compromising on key issues of national sovereignty.

Speaking in Beirut, Zarif said that the issue has more to do with a lack of trust inside Iran than the nuclear program itself.

"There is a very serious confidence deficit vis-a-vis the west in Iran. Our people believe that our peaceful nuclear program has been dealt with in a totally unfounded way," Zarif

said. "Hopefully once we resolve this issue we can move forward with better confidence."

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say on all state matters, has supported Iran's nuclear negotiating team, calling them "sons of the revolution" and "our own children."

Prominent political analyst Sadeq Zibakalam said the accord has boosted Iran's regional might.

"By implementing the deal, tensions between Iran and the West will be eased and the Islamic Republic's regional stance will be boosted. It will also nullify efforts by Israel and some of Iran's Arab neighbors to isolate Iran," he said.

Zibakalam said both Rouhani and Obama have to fight an uphill task with hard-liners who seek to undermine the process.

"We should not ignore efforts by extremists both in Iran and the U.S. to sabotage

the process. They are those who benefit from a crisis and will increase pressures on the government as of now. Hard-line Congressmen and pro-Israel lobby groups will do the same in the U.S.," he said.

Hardline Iranian cleric Mohammad Reza Ashtiani on Monday told local officials in Qom, a holy city 130 kilometers (80 miles) south of Tehran, that the terms of the deal was not appropriate.

"They are going to give us part of our own money as if we are indebted," the semi-official Fars news agency quoted him as saying.

Hard-liners say the agreement "practically tramples on Iran's enrichment rights."

Under the deal, Iran has agreed to halt its enrichment of uranium to 20 percent, a level just steps away from weapons-grade material, but will continue enrichment up to 5 percent. It also will convert half of its stockpile of 20 percent enriched uranium to oxide and dilute the remaining half to 5 percent.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 25, Issue 50, in the article "Sitdown with Smurphio of the local act Afrobeta," the article states that it was written by Junette Reyes, entertainment director, when it should say that it was written by Junette Reyes and David Sanabria, entertainment director and assistant entertainment director.

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

Students say University does not speak on behalf of organization

PALESTINE, PAGE 1

Israeli academic institutions from participating in the association's meetings.

Members from the pro-Israel student organization Shalom FIU and the Hillel Young Adult Division stated that they are proud of the University for opposing the boycott, noting the importance of Israeli academic institutions in research and communication.

But SJP, which works in solidarity with Palestinians and Israelis to end military occupation and an apartheid system, believes the resolution acknowledges the "illegality" of the Israeli occupation and its "harmful implications" for Palestinian academic freedom.

"We stand by the ASA's criticism of and opposition to Israeli state policies that have resulted in grave human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity against the Palestinian people," the statement said. "Many of which have severely infringed upon the academic freedom of both Palestinian students and scholars."

The ASA claims Israel's academic

institutions have a direct partnership with the military, citing cases like Tel Aviv University's development of weapon systems and Safed Academic College's ban on Palestinian students running for student government office.

“They claim to speak on behalf of the students, but they do not represent us. As students with a conscious for human rights and global justice, we demand accountability for this disturbing statement.

Students for Justice in Palestine

SJP noted in its statement that Israel has victimized Palestinians citing systematic dispossession of land, home evictions, demolitions, illegal settlement building and construction of the illegal annexationist wall, as well as appropriation of natural

resources in violation of international law.

"Israel has severely cut access to electricity and fresh drinking water for the Palestinians of Gaza, and has murdered entire families with American taxpayer-funded weaponry," the statement said.

Those opposing the boycott refute the "singling out" of Israel, but SJP says it is the only way.

"Recognition of the Palestinian struggle alone will not bring about Palestinian liberation from the yolk of Israeli colonization," the statement said.

But the ASA has become target of widespread criticism with the presidents of more than 180 United States institutions condemning the boycott. No university has been identified as endorsing the boycott.

"This resolution brings us one step closer to a more peaceful, stable, secure and just world."

For the full statement by the University's chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine, visit fiusm.com.

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BREAKING NEWS

PantherWire has changed its time and will now be broadcasting at 9 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays



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Dealing with a series of unfortunate events

JUNETTE REYES
Entertainment Director

The unpredictability and spontaneity of life, although appreciated at times, sometimes means that things will get tough. You might find yourself in a situation where, at best, you're stressed and, at worst, it seems like all hope is lost.

From recent personal experience, it is very easy to find yourself at a point in which all you want to do is give up and remain stagnant. This is especially true when tragedy strikes at a really important time. In my case, the beginning of the semester as a senior, where all of my important classes are just beginning alongside all the responsibilities I have taken on as a member of Student Media.

A stubborn version of myself would suck it up and keep moving forward, not allowing myself to have any meltdowns or show any signs of not being okay. A more enlightened version

of myself, however, has emerged throughout the years, which has allowed me to realize that sometimes, it's okay to admit

“...sometimes, it's okay to admit when you and everything around you is not all right.”

when you and everything around you is not all right. Not only that, but actually share this with individuals in my life who are overwhelmingly caring and loving towards me.

And that is something I've always had trouble doing. I have never felt like it was my place to share my burdens with others, even with the closest of friends. It puts me in an interesting position, as I am usually the one who always listens but never the one that shares.

With this newfound enlightenment, I have learned that simply letting someone know what's going on is one of the best things you can do. It lets others understand what is going on, which can explain any changes in your behavior and mood. It also gives you the opportunity to vent, as it rarely is ever healthy to keep everything to yourself. It's just a matter of having the right people in your life you feel comfortable opening up to.

We all deal with tragedies and misfortunes in our own ways, I understand that. I admit that my way of dealing with it is by keeping myself as busy as possible, which isn't such a hard thing to do. But I understand now that I should take the time to let myself actually process my misfortunes and acknowledge when everything is not okay.

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The University's Decision

RAUL HERRERA
Staff Writer

Recently, the American Studies Association claimed that it would commence a boycott on Israeli academic institutions. Florida International University has come out in opposition to this decision. And I must say, this decision is laudable.

The ASA cites the reason being a “multi-tiered system of oppression that has denied Palestinians basic rights.” In the same report, they imply that Israel is an apartheid state, a claim that is largely questionable. Let us look at the facts.

Dennis Prager once noted that if Israel truly were a state that endorses such an abominable practice, then someone would have accused it of being one during the apartheid era in South Africa. Prager continued to mention in his piece on his website the stories of Reda Mansour, Walid Badir, Ishmael Khaldi, all Arabs who rose to prominence in Israel. This would be nigh impossible in an apartheid system.

In addition, as pointed out by Fay Goldstein in an article with student media, Israelis have provided Palestinians with water and electricity, a violation of human rights indeed.

These facts aside, the entire debacle begs the question: why is Israel being singled out? Should the ASA not boycott Saudi academic institutions over concerns about women's rights in that nation-state? Should it not boycott Chinese institutions as a backlash against their government's family planning policy? Should the ASA eventually collapse in on itself when it boycotts the United States for something we may have done? Simply put, why do allegations (that, as far as my research has led me

to believe, are largely unproven) of apartheid merit the shunning of academic institutions, but not the aforementioned political issues?

Plus, how does Israel's right to defend itself against extremist groups like Hamas play into the equation? These are all serious questions that must be posed in this debacle, and I imagine are part of the reasoning behind the university's stance against the boycott.

Most people want a peaceful solution to the conflict, but this can only be accomplished through dialogue and negotiation. Rather than encouraging that, the ASA has moved against it. In the world of academia, one is encouraged to look at different perspectives and look at the evidence as opposed to acting rashly. We are encouraged to think, listen, and educate one another, not put our fingers in our ears and scream “oppression” until the voices we do not like go away. It is truly a shame that ASA, which is in favor of education, has forgotten this.

“International” means that it welcomes academic research and information from universities around the world. The following word, “University,” has roots in the Latin word “universitas,” or the whole, meaning that it favors getting the whole story, not just a pro-Palestinian or pro-Israel angle.

Let us hope this boycott fizzles away into obscurity so that all of us can work together for a solution, one that strives for peace, and puts a stop to extremist practices in the region.

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Lampposts, call boxes and condoms: a day at FIU

CRISTINA GARCIA
Staff Writer

Do you ever feel like you're a walking Lifetime movie waiting to happen? That's how I felt last Friday night.

After a long shift at my job finalizing details for a workshop, I closed the office and proceeded to go to my car. On my way out of Graham Center, I noticed the recharge station. I remembered that my phone had died after interviewing someone for a story, but I didn't want to waste ten minutes waiting for it to charge, I wanted to go home. It was still 8 p.m., so I didn't think too much about it.

I forgot where I left my car, so I decided to check the Gold Parking Garage to see if I parked on the fourth floor. Upon entering the elevator I pressed four. Shortly after a man slipped into the elevator as it was closing. I was a little surprised at the suddenness of his presence, but what disturbed me more was how close he was standing. Instead of taking the other corner he stood directly next to me.

When he pressed five I calmed myself down, noticing the glass wall letting everyone on the ground floor peek into the elevator. I figured if anything happened, I could bang on the glass to call attention to

my situation. Fortunately, it didn't come to that, I reached my floor safely.

I excused myself and stepped out of the elevator. Before the doors could close, he stepped out of the elevator too, claiming that he didn't remember where he parked his car. Normally, I wouldn't be worried, but there's something about a parking garage at night that makes every little detail seem sinister.

I found myself slightly overwhelmed. I had to juggle keeping track of his location, looking for my car and preparing a plan of self defense. All I could focus on was getting space between me and him and the weight of my laptop and purse in my hands. Luckily he headed in the opposite direction, but I wasn't sure if he was going to sneak up behind me. I scanned the fourth floor and quickly made my way to the stairs, relieved to get some distance between myself and the stranger.

Remembering vaguely that I parked on the third floor some time this week, I decided to check. I scanned the cars, walking from one end to the other, but I didn't see mine. What I did see were two people flagging down a car to talk to the driver.

I imagined the worst: the female luring an unsuspecting victim to stop and lower their defenses, while the male companion prepared to attack the driver. I had to walk

through them to get to the stairs so I could check the fifth floor for my car. Instead of being witness to some heinous crime, I overheard the young woman asking the occupants of the stopped car whether they

“In the five years I've been at FIU, the one time I used a call box, it didn't work.”

had some cables to help jump start her car. Relieved, but skeptical, I slipped by as fast as I could.

Finding relief in closing the stairway door and placing a barrier between myself and my imagined scenario, I focused on climbing the steps of the stairs. To my dismay, a used condom was left on one of the steps, as if there weren't enough undertones of rape.

Keep in mind I'm normally not so panicky, but when the reality is that one in four college women are predicted to be the victim of sexual assault and you're stuck

wandering a parking garage alone looking for your car, you have to worry.

Reaching the fifth floor, I carefully peered around, looking for anything suspicious while simultaneously I looked for the emergency button. Perhaps it was my nervousness or my location, but I didn't see it. So I looked for my car. Thankfully I spotted it nestled beneath the trees of Lot 4, in front of the Blue Parking Garage.

I made my way to the car and started thinking about the people stuck with a dead battery on the third floor. As I crossed the street between the two garages, one of the lampposts went dark. I thought about calling the Department of Parking and Transportation to see if someone could help them when I saw a call box in Lot 4. My battery life was at its end, so I decided to use the call box to reach someone that could possibly help the students stranded in the garage.

When I went to use it, the machine didn't work. I tried the call box three times. Each time, I wasn't able to connect with anyone. I thanked heaven that I wasn't really in trouble because I wouldn't have been able to contact the operator for help.

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

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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Welcome Back Block Party unites Greek Councils



GISELLE CANCIO/THE BEACON

Students gather around the housing quad for the Welcome Back Block Party.

GISELLE CANCIO
Contributing Writer

Free food, free refreshments and a chance to meet those apart of Greek life at FIU? Sounds like the annual Greek BBQ, except that happens in the Fall semester. Sorority and Fraternity life hosted its inaugural Block Party this past Friday to welcome back students to the spring semester, hoping to replicate the success of the annual Greek BBQ.

Andrea Sanchez, freshman with an undecided major said, “This is pretty cool. I didn’t know Greek life came together to put together events, I thought it was just each sorority or fraternity on its own.”

Joining a sorority or fraternity has many advantages. They allow students to network, meet lifelong friends, get involved on campus and support several philanthropic efforts. Over the past year, Greeks at FIU have raised over \$100 thousand, which have been donated to over 35 different philanthropic organizations. Although FIU’s Greek population is small compared to other schools across the state, numbers are increasing each year.

Only 4.5 percent of FIU’s undergraduate population is Greek, but students like Marcos Rivera, junior majoring in accounting said,

“Only 4.5 percent? They must follow me around campus then, because they are the only ones I see.”

There is a push for Greek unity across the four councils: Panhellenic, Interfraternity, Multicultural Greek and National Panhellenic, and all were represented well at the Block Party.

“I think it’s great to see IFC, PC, MGC and NPHC come together for an event to promote Greek life,” said Pi Kappa Pi member Miguel Diaz, a junior majoring in communication arts and organizational studies. With over 200 Greek men and women in attendance, and over 100 nonaffiliated, each organization’s members tried to show students the positive attributes of going Greek.

“It’s not about the letters we wear across our chests, but about the differences we make in the community and the bonds we build with one another,” said Alpha Xi Delta member Mary Corbin, a junior majoring in broadcast journalism and political science.

The idea for the Block Party came about at a planning meeting back in the Fall semester. A committee was formed and Hector Cuevas, senior majoring in psychology and criminal justice, IFC Vice President of Membership and member of Beta Theta Pi, was the head.

“We wanted to incorporate all four Greek councils into an event that would attract a numerous amount of students in efforts of welcoming them back to Spring 2014,” Cuevas said. Free food including chicken wings, corn dogs, cotton candy and sno-cones were distributed throughout the event.

“It was nice to have an event where it wasn’t a competition or a game, just affiliated students hanging out showing Greek unity,” Sofia Sanchez, junior majoring in public relations, Panhellenic Council President and member of Phi Sigma Sigma.

The committee expected non-affiliated students to be able to come out and have a good time while learning what Greek life was all about, and based off the crowd and conversations, those expectations came true.

“Before I went Greek, I thought I would be paying for friends, but in a short year, my view on Greek life has changed completely,” Cuevas said. “I have grown both professionally and personally as an individual, and Greek life has helped me attain and exceed my goals including becoming a part of several on campus organizations and being the recipient of the 2013 New Member of the Year.

-life@fiusm.com

Today’s lecture on why we love natural beauty

LAURA CALDERA
Contributing Writer

The first week of the spring semester is behind us and we’ve all have so many things on our minds about classes, clubs, organizations, Greek life and events on campus to attract any and all students, faculty and staff – like the lecture on “Why We Love Natural Beauty” this very week sponsored by the Center for Humanities in an Urban Environment.

“We appreciate nature less because we are divorced from nature,” Emeritus Professor of

Botany Dr. David Lee explained in a short interview last Thursday; he finished by explaining that more and more kids are stuck to some sort of screen than going out. With the advances in technology, as well as the crazy studying we have to do for our next class, we haven’t really buckled down to reconnect with nature.

The lecture discusses not just the science of nature, nor the art of nature, but rather art, nature and science all together. It’s an event that could entice those who want new inspiration to their art pieces, for those who are studying botany, the environment or even those who want to learn something new.

Lee, who earned his Ph.D. on the study of biochemical plant systematics at Rutgers University in 1970, researched tropical botany in tropical rainforests, and will be the main speaker at the event.

He was born in Wenatchee, Washington and grew up in Ephrata, which is on the Columbian Plateau of Eastern Washington State. He graduated from the Pacific Lutheran University with a degree Bachelor of Science in biology. He then went to Rutgers to do graduate work in botany, and later went on to receive his Master of Science in 1968.

Lee worked under Dr. David E. Fairbrothers, Professor Emeritus

and former chair of the Department of Biological Sciences of Rutgers University, for his doctoral degree which he later received in 1970. Lee has done research in plant cell biology and tissue culture with Rod Sharp and Donald Dougall at The Ohio State University only to change his interests to functional ecology of tropical plants as he lectured in the University of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur from 1973 to 1976.

After his change in concentration, he had a few years of working with Francis Halle, a botanist and biologist with a specialty in tropical rainforests and tree architecture at the University of Montpellier, Lee went on to

become a professor at FIU. Here, he strengthened the University’s take on tropical biology with the help of local institutions, particularly the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens.

He retired in 2009 with the honorary title of Emeritus Professor. Today, he resides in South Miami spending his time traveling, writing, hosting lectures and occasional talks as well as visiting the FIU Libraries and even meeting up with colleagues.

The lecture happens this today in GL 220 at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

-life@fiusm.com

Meet your SGC-MMC President Liane Sippin

ARIEL WEINSTEIN
Contributing Writer

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.

So far in the series of “Meet Your SGA,” FIUSM has sat down and interviewed Luis Cabrera, our Student Advancement Coordinator, and Stefan Bahad, our Business Senator and Vice Chairman of the Operational Review Committee for SGA. This time, FIUSM got to sit down with SGA-MMC President Liane Sippin.

What is your role in the SGA?

I am the SGA president and I also serve as a Board of Trustee member.

What made you want to be part of the SGA?

I’ve been a part of the SGA for three years. I wanted to be able to understand the University and be able to help students and be engaged on campus. I think it’s really important to know what’s going on on campus, to know how your money is being used and

to be able to form relationships and networks with other students and University administration.

What do you think you gain from working in the SGA?

I think you gain a lot from being in the SGA. You form relationships with vice presidents, advisors, people who can help you once you graduate – whether its writing a recommendation letter or becoming a mentor. I’ve found I have not just one mentor but many, for my personal life, finding a job or finding a career path. I’ve found that to be very helpful and useful.

I also think I’ve gained a lot of friends and people who I may not have been friends with if I was just going to class every day. I’ve also learned a lot about how organizations work especially as my role as SGA president.

Every day, I learn something new about paperwork, or hiring a team, working with people with different personalities.

Are you involved in anything else on campus?

Right now I’m not, but I’ve been involved with Academy of Leaders through the Center of Leadership office and I was in a sorority but right now I’m not an active member. I am in the Student Alumni Association.

What’s your favorite part of being in the SGA?

I love to talk to people and meet new people – it’s always exciting. Being in the SGA allows for that.

-life@fiusm.com



COURTESY OF SGA

FIUSM interviewed SGA-MMC President Liane Sippin, pictured above, as part of the Meet Your SGA series.

Huxtable hustle to class in a Cosby sweater

COLUMNIST



CAROLINA BARRETO

We did it! Miami experienced the true meaning of winter last week. More exciting than the cold front was the chance to break out our favorite winter gear. Rather than hinder fashion, the foreign concept of a cold winter in Miami showed the best of FIU's closeted attire.

FIU's winter fashion was at an all time high with shorts replaced by stockings and Hollister polos replaced by flannel button downs. What stood out most to me were the sweaters — the Bill Cosby sweaters.

Bill Cosby is excellent ugly sweater inspiration. His sweaters, formally referred to as a Koos sweater after its designer, are recognized by their tackily knitted yet appealing patterns.

The attraction goes beyond the bundling toasty feeling of thickly crotched geometric shapes and colorful collage prints. It could be that they provide a sense of comfort and relaxation. Being the start of the spring 2014 semester, students need a little taste of home to get through the stressing weeks that lie ahead of them.

More than the cozy feeling, it's the uniqueness that comes with the sweater. Wearing a bold pattern makes you stand apart from your fellow peers in a positive fashion.

The Cosby sweater teeters along the question of "hipster or homeless?" The prints worn show a side of your personality that no other article of clothing can portray without making you look like a lazy bum. It allows you to be comfortable and approachable.

The sweaters are typically a mixture of jersey and wool giving them great practicality to be worn with great dignity.

What is fantastic about the sweater's quirky color variety is that it makes it easy to pair with shoes and any bottoms. Its versatility allows you to wear it with a skirt, pants, shorts or leggings. If you are wearing it over a button down shirt, pull the collar up to peak over the rim of the sweater. This provides a more sophisticated look.



CAROLINA BARRETO/THE BEACON

Scarlett Diaz, shown above, is a sophomore majoring in religious studies.

Wearing a Cosby sweater for the first time is nerve wrecking because eyes will be on you. You will be noticed in the crowd of the GL breezeway.

So, how do you choose a sweater that won't cause insecurity? Choose a sweater that looks good to your eye. Try it on, and see how it compliments you. Do not try to dupli-



CAROLINA BARRETO/THE BEACON

Jamal Michelle, above, is a senior English major.

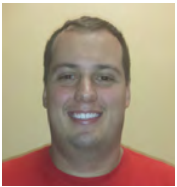
cate what you've seen someone else wear. The pinnacle of the sweater's appeal is that the print chosen displays your identity and charisma.

Embrace the flexibility of the Bill Cosby sweater.

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Jordan Retro 3s release never before seen color

COLUMNIST



FRANCISCO RIVERO

This weekend will see a number of releases that will be on the top of every sneaker heads list. Much of the releases will be coming from the Jordan brand as the Air Jordan 3 "Powder"

will be released on Saturday, Jan. 18, in a never before seen colorway. Also coming out Saturday will be the release of the Air Jordan 6 Rings "Atomic Orange Elephant".

Air Jordan 3 makes history

The Air Jordan 3 "Powder" is a low top sneaker and is part of the classic Jordan Retro family. The Powder has some black outlines to the design of the shoe but what makes this Retro so unique and my number one shoe to buy this weekend is the fact that its dark powder blue color is a first in its history.

The Air Jordan 3 first released back in 1988 when basketball legend Michael Jordan first wore them during the 1988 Dunk Contest Championship and many other events in his basketball career. In 26

years of development this is the first time that the sneaker will ever be in this color.

The history of the shoe itself is what makes the "Powder" a must buy this weekend and a shoe that must be bought the same day. There is no waiting on this shoe; if you don't buy it on the 18 then you missed out on grabbing a pair of sneaker history.

The "Powder" will be selling at a retail price of \$170 however, this is a shoe that in years to come can see its original price double and perhaps triple due to its

uniqueness and history it will hold in the Air Jordan Era.

Air Jordan 6 Rings unique name brings interest.

Also releasing this Saturday will be the Atomic Orange Elephant 6 Rings model, which people should buy just because the name itself is just amazing. This will be the second Jordan shoe releasing this weekend and will be sold at a retail price of \$160.

SEE SHOES, PAGE 7

Today's lecture on American eugenics

AMANI NEPHEW
Contributing Writer

The School of International and Public Affairs will be hosting a lecture today at 2 p.m. at GC 243 by the world-renowned investigative journalist and author Edwin Black. The lecture is a part of the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, partnering with both FIU's School of International and Public Affairs and the Vaclav Havel Initiative for Human Rights and Diplomacy.

Black has countless articles, novels, nominations and awards under his belt including several American Jewish Press Association Rockower awards for both books and investigative articles and a Folio Awards and Rockower Award for Best Book of the Year. His nominations span from National Book Awards and the coveted Pulitzer Prize for several of his novels.

This lecture will be focused on Black's

2012 novel "War Against the Weak: Eugenics and America's Campaign to Create A Master Race." Daniel Kevles of the New York Times calls it "Chilling in its exposure of the shameless racism, class prejudice and cruelties of eugenic attitudes and practices in the United States," and Adrienne Miller from Esquire Magazine says "Edwin Black is a dangerous man. He tells us things we don't want to hear. His groundbreaking new book, 'War Against the Weak...' is a scary and necessary book."

This novel requires a lot of attention and Black is ready to dish out his opinions, in-depth thoughts and any side comments he may have towards this novel, but your questions and comments are most definitely welcome and encouraged at this lecture. All are welcome to come out to this event and are encouraged to RSVP through (305) 348-7266.

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Women pick up first C-USA win, look to FAU

STEVEN ROWELL
Staff Writer

After a tough 59-41 loss to Rice University to open Conference USA play on Jan. 8, FIU knew it would have its hands full trying to bounce back against East Carolina University on Jan. 12.

FIU was up to the task as late-game heroics propelled the Panthers to a 76-75 overtime victory to give ECU its second loss of the season and improve FIU to 7-8 and 1-1 in conference play.

"They are a very good team, they kept putting different types of offenses, and everybody stepped up and we just beat a very good team and I'm very proud of them," Head Coach Cindy Russo said.

Leading the way was senior point guard Jerica Coley with 37 points for FIU. The Panthers also got much needed production from junior forward Tynia McKinzie with 14 points and sophomore guard Taylor Shade with 13 points.

Shade was crucial in the first half in helping FIU get going on offense and overcoming a fast start by ECU who jumped out to an early 8-0 lead.

After trailing by as much as 10, FIU grabbed its first lead midway through the 2nd half before going into halftime tied



JASEN DELGADO/ THE BEACON

Sophomore guard Taylor Shade scored 13 points in 36 minutes in the 59-42 loss to Rice University.

at 35.

FIU built its largest lead of the game in the second half by holding ECU without a field goal until the 15:50 mark as FIU led 44-35.

The Pirates rallied behind

junior guard Abria Trice who poured in 31 points to make the game down the stretch a back and forth contest.

A layup by McKinzie put FIU up two seconds before ECU's senior guard Kristine Mial's

layup forced overtime.

In overtime, Coley scored on the go ahead lay-up with 16 seconds remaining and came up with the stop as ECU's junior guard Janesha Ebron missed the layup preserving the win for the Panthers.

Going into the game, ECU allowed just 58.3 points per game which is the second fewest among Conference USA teams and was coming a win against Florida Atlantic University in which they held FAU who is ranked third in the Conference in points per game to 58 points.

FIU knew it would take a collective team effort on offense against the Pirates.

"It was going to take a lot of patience, and execution, we knew they were long, so we had to get a feel for their defense and we kind of saw open gaps so we just were patient, we executed and we were able to get open shots," Shade said.

SCOUTING FAU

Up next for the Panthers will be a trip to Boca Raton, Fla. for one of two matchups with their rival in FAU tonight, Jan. 15 at 7 pm. FAU currently sits at 10-4 and has yet to lose a game on their home floor this season.

"It's a big week for us, it will be huge. I know it's a rivalry so there will be a lot of energy

and excitement but we just have to stay patient and calm down a little bit," Shade said.

Defense will be key for FIU as the Owls are one of the top scoring teams in C-USA ranking number three with an average of 78.7 points per game. FAU is also third in the conference in steals averaging 11.4 steals per game.

"FAU is really a guard team, so we are going to have to strategize on that and adjust. Zone is going to be our only bet for them because the post players won't be able to stay in because we won't be able to match up with them," McKinzie said.

Last season, while both teams were competing in the Sun Belt Conference, FIU won both matchups which was a 65-55 victory at home on Feb. 6 and a 68-65 victory in Boca Raton, Fla. on March 2.

The Owls have three players averaging double figures this season.

They are led by senior forward Chenise Miller with 13.4 points per game, senior guard Latavia Dempsey with 12.5 points per game, and senior guard Takia Brooks averaging 11.2 points per game.

FAU is a senior heavy team with seven seniors while FIU has only two.

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Senior point guard officially ruled ineligible

RUBEN PALACIOS
Sports Director

FIU point guard Raymond Taylor has played his final college basketball game. Taylor, via his Twitter account, announced that his college career is over.

The speedy guard was pulled from the lineup before an 82-67 win over Bethune-Cookman University on Nov. 21 upon speculation that he might be ineligible by the NCAA.

After the 2011-12 season, Taylor, while at Florida Atlantic University, declared he would enter the NBA Draft in March. In that year's NCAA Manual, Taylor had until April 10, 2012, the first day of the spring signing period, to withdraw his name from the draft. The NBA included Taylor when it released the 2012 draft's early entry list on May 3, 2012. Taylor was the only college player listed as having withdrawn on June 20, 2012.

Taylor then transferred to FIU, where he was forced to sit out the 2012-13 season under the NCAA's transfer rules. He started FIU's first seven games and averaged 12.2 points and 6.2 assists per game.

At the time of Taylor's removal from play, FIU's media relations department issued this statement:

"Late Thursday afternoon, the University received information related to men's basketball student-athlete Raymond Taylor's eligibility status. As a result of the information presented, the University has

elected to withhold Ray from intercollegiate competition until the impact, if any, this information has on his eligibility status can be determined. A review is being conducted and will conclude as quickly as possible. Given that the issue involves student-athlete eligibility, there is no further information that we can provide at this time."

The statement declared that a "review" of the situation was being conducted. Well, it now seems as if that review is over. Taylor will not suit up on a college court ever again.

Taylor took to Twitter on Jan. 8 to express that a final decision on his case had been made.

"No more College ball for me....," wrote Taylor on his account at 11:56 a.m.

One of Taylor's Twitter followers asked what happened that caused him to write that and Taylor responded by saying: "ncaa ruled me ineligible."

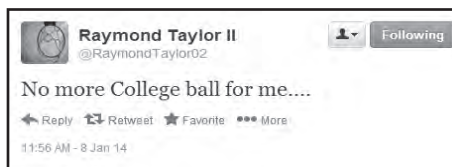
FIU began the season 6-2 with Taylor as its starting point guard. Since being pulled from the B-CU game, FIU has struggled and sports a 3-5 record in the eight games without him.

The Panthers lost speed and depth when Taylor was removed from the lineup. Those losses are something Head Coach Anthony Evans has noted recently. Evans believes that a lack of depth helped contribute to a losing streak at the hands of Louisville, Georgetown and Florida A&M.

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BEACON FILE PHOTO



FIU point guard Raymond Taylor (right) started the first eight games of the season and was averaging 12.2 points per game before being pulled from play due to ineligibility issues. Taylor announced via his Twitter account that the NCAA declared him to be ineligible.

Intramural sports in high demand at FIU

GISELLE CANCIO
Contributing Writer

Intramural sports are a hot commodity around the FIU community and registration has been steadily increasing by 10 percent each year.

“In just less than a decade, our registration has doubled in size, from 40 to 80 teams and I feel that is one of our biggest accomplishments,” Matt O’Conner, the Assistant Director for Intramural and Club Sports, said. “We don’t turn anyone down and are always trying to offer more leagues and divisions for the students.”

Starting in the Fall 2012, the Recreation Center switched over to online registration and it was resisted until just recently.

Originally, only the team captain had to sign up and list the players. With the switch to IMLEAGUES.COM in the Spring of 2013, the team captain alongside each participant are required to create an account.

Essentially, the team captain invites the participants to join the roster or the participant asks to join the roster.

“This online system is user friendly and looks kind of like a Facebook interface,” O’Conner said. “The best part is once you create the account; it is good forever which allows the students to play multiple leagues

throughout multiple semesters.”

Once a team registers, they are set to play as long as there is a roster.

Rosters have a limit of 20 individuals and people cannot be replaced unless a special circumstance arises.

If the whole roster is not full, players can be added throughout the semester.

For students who are not part of a team, they can sign up as a free agent so that the captains who are missing players can add them to their existing roster.

For the first time this semester, there is staggered registration.

Instead of opening up all at the same time, sports will open up two weeks prior to the posted deadline date.

IMLEAGUES.COM displays the sport, the available league and each division. The league is considered the group, i.e. mens open, fraternity, sorority, womens open.

The division is the times and days within the week the sport is played, i.e. Tuesdays at 10 p.m., Mondays at 8 p.m.

Usually, games are played every day from 6 p.m. to midnight. Last semester, there was an unusually large amount of teams in certain leagues, causing unusual game times.

Some games were starting at midnight because the intramural

fields only supports four teams an hour. If the volume were to happen again this semester, the recreation center will consider adding 5 p.m. games versus the midnight games.

Currently enrolled students can play intramurals for free.

Alumni and faculty and staff or not currently enrolled students can pay a \$20 special intramural membership which is good for multiple sports throughout the semester.

There is a refundable fee per team called a forfeit bond which means as long as the team shows up to the games, the money is returned at the end of the semester.

If the team forfeits a game, only ½ of the money is returned.

If two games are forfeited, they are removed from the league and no money is returned.

Soccer, basketball and 4-on-4 football have a forfeit bond fee of \$30, minor teams like kickball and dodgeball have a forfeit bond fee of \$20 and individual sports have a forfeit bond fee of \$5.

“In the event that a sport is not offered, students can propose it and if enough interest is shown, space time and budget will determine if the sport can be added,” Rob Fyre, Director of Recreation Services said.

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Kobes dominating early

SHOES, PAGE 5

The Atomic Orange Elephant is a high top sneaker that has a mostly black and grey color however, the grey portion of the shoe has a “elephant” style print to it while the bottom and inside of the sneaker is a bright orange thus explain the name.

This is a perfect shoe for the person who enjoys collecting sneakers but not wanting anything that is too bright or flashy.

It’s a nice change of pace compared to the other styles of sneakers and a very solid B plan if you are not able to grab the Powder’s.

Kobe 7 dominates Nike Air Up 14

The final two sneakers’ that will be releasing this Saturday will be coming from the Nike brand.

Let’s start with the good which will be the Kobe 7 Prelude that unlike the last Prelude is much less flashy in its design.

The Kobe 7 Prelude is a black and gray shoe with unique diamond design pattern while the back part of the shoe is gold in color. The Prelude will be the most expensive shoe coming out this weekend selling

for a retail price of \$200.

The final shoe and my personal worst shoe of the weekend is the Nike Air Up 14 “Orlando Magic”. This shoe has a black

“

This is a perfect shoe for the person who enjoys collecting sneakers but not wanting anything that is too bright or flashy.

”

and white Zebra pattern to the design while the Nike check is a dark blue color.

At \$140 the Nike Air Up 14 will be the cheapest of all the sneakers this upcoming weekend.

For me the shoe itself is just a very dull and boring shoe.

There’s not a whole lot of life to it and the bulkiness of the show is very thick and heavy in its design.

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Panthers in the new year

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

News broke last week that junior center Marita Davydova, who was arguably the second best player on the team behind senior point guard Jerica Coley, will be out for the entirety of the 2013-2014 basketball season. She only played in one exhibition game before the season.

Even without Davydova the women are 1-1 in Conference USA play as of Jan. 13 and 2-1 overall since the beginning of the calendar year. This brings their overall record to 7-8. The single conference loss came in the C-USA opener against Rice University.

In that Rice game, Coley became FIU’s all-time leading scorer. As of Jan. 13, Coley has scored 2,561 points.

The women next take the court tonight, Jan. 15, against rival Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

Swimming & Diving splashes to victories in 2014

The only sport that is based on the Biscayne Bay Campus is the Women’s Swimming & Diving team. With two second place finishes and a first place finish to start off the year, the remainder of the season looks to end strong.

The second place finishes were in the Orange Bowl Classic in Key Largo on Jan. 3 and the FIU Invite the following day back in Miami. The first place finish came on Jan. 11 in the Senior Day contest against Central Connecticut State University.

There were six seniors who took their

final competitive swim in the pool at BBC. They were Sabrina Beaupre, Mary Boucher, Sarah D’Antoni, Melissa Moreno, Sonia Perez Arau and Valeriia Popova.

The women will take to the water against the Eagles of Florida Gulf Coast University on Jan. 25 in Fort Myers, Fla.

Men almost to 10 win season

The men’s basketball team posts a 1-2 record in the new year. That win however, came in the first C-USA game against the Owls of Rice. The losses on the other hand, handed out in a 93-88 overtime loss to the Rattlers of Florida A&M University and a beat down from Louisiana Tech University as the Bulldogs beat the Panthers with a score of 85-51.

The Panthers are all about streaking this season as there are two distinct streaks of outcomes. The first was a six game win streak that included wins over teams in the final games of the KSU Tournament, three other Florida-based universities and Texas Southern University.

However, there was also a three-game losing streak which included losses to The University of Louisville Cardinals and Georgetown University. The final loss of that streak was the game against the Rattlers directly before conference play began.

This record comes along with a key factor missing in guard Raymond Taylor being officially ineligible.

The Panthers start a three-game home-stand with a matchup against C-USA foe in Old Dominion University on Jan. 16.

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FIU



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VS.



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FIU seniors dominate final home meet

LUIS BARROSO
Staff Writer

Saturday, Jan. 11, was an eventful day for the FIU Swimming and Diving team, but especially for its seniors as it marked their last home meet as Panthers.

It was the last time flags were raised in the FIU pool this season and in a day full of goodbyes and celebration for the team, they still did not lose focus, and kept their target on sight. FIU went on to sweep the meet by winning all 13 events and defeating Central Connecticut State University by a score of 146-90.

Senior Sonia Perez Arau went on to win the 1000 freestyle for the Panthers clocking in a time of 10:37.55. Aside from Perez, junior Danielle Meara also had success in the long distance swimming by finishing third in the 1000 freestyle, and taking the 500 freestyle event after posting a time of 5:12.59.

The FIU seniors teamed up on the 200 Freestyle

relay event as Valeriia Popova, Perez Arau, Mary Boucher and Sarah D'Antoni went on to conquer the event with a time of 1:42.

Popova also gave FIU another collective win when she went on to win the 200 medley relay along with junior Klara Andersson, and freshmen Jennifer Alfani and Jennifer Deist with a mark of 1:47.89. D'Antoni also captured first place in the 100 butterfly on her Senior Day with a time of 59 seconds. FIU swept the 200 freestyle as well as the 50 freestyle by placing 1-2-3 on both events. Junior Courtney VanderSchaaf won the 50 freestyle as well as the 100 freestyle.

It was a special day also in the diving platforms as senior Sabrina Beaupre made her last jumps into the FIU pool, a pool that has seen her break many records and win major competitions. Beaupre went on to win both events on record breaking fashion as she went on to set the

program and pool record in the 1-meter dive event and shattering the past school record by more than 10 points by having posted a score of 335.85 breaking the previous record of 323.85 that had been set in late 2011 by Carrie Dragland. Beaupre also took the 3-meter diving competition by posting a score of 330.67. The senior went on to comment on her season.

"As one of the experienced divers I don't necessarily take it easier as a senior, I'm giving it all I got," Beaupre said.

This victory is what FIU will hope to feed off of into a big matchup against Florida Gulf Coast University in a couple of weeks, a matchup that will be very important for the Panthers as it will be an away meet and as we draw closer to the Conference USA Championship and later the NCAA Competitions. This will be a key matchup as FIU seeks to maintain the momentum on their favor on a meet



BEACON FILE PHOTO

The FIU Swimming and Diving team finished out their regular season home meets on a high note, defeating Central Connecticut State 146-90 on Jan. 11.

against a fellow Fla. rival in Fort Myers.

The Panthers will continue their regular training methods and they will seek somewhat of a breather after competing in two invites and one meet in a two week span, but at the end of the day everything is a practice, to

continue to progress and set higher individual goals during the season in order to come out strong for the real competitions at the end of the season.

"Conference USA Championships are on Feb 27, a couple of months away, we will keep training all throughout Jan and

suiting in Feb as we start resting and preparing for our peak," Head Coach Randy Horner said.

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New York Times discussion forum kicks off Spring

JUNETTE REYES
Entertainment Director

The first Tuesday Times Roundtable at BBC, organized by the Global Learning for Global Citizenship initiative, will take place on Jan. 21. Carolin Lusby, an assistant professor in the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management, will be moderating the first discussion.

The Tuesday Times Roundtables are in

collaboration with The New York Times Readership Program, as the topics of discussion are based on articles that are published in the copies found around campus.

This first Tuesday Times Roundtable at BBC will consider the concept presented in Arthur C. Brooks' article published in The New York Times, "A formula for happiness."

"Our strategy is letting the moderators choose their own topics so it's something they are passionate about and have some

expertise in. Therefore, the semesters as a whole tend not to have a theme but rather a wide diversity of topics," said Eric Feldman, the coordinator in the Office of Global Learning Initiatives.

As the series is organized by the Global Learning and Global Citizenship initiative, the roundtables also serve as outside-of-the-classroom components to Global Learning courses.

"In addition to them being open to

everyone to just come and discuss and have lunch, they are tied into quite a few different FIU Global Learning courses," said Feldman.

The roundtables occur every week at MMC and every other week at BBC. Free lunch and copies of The New York Times are provided at every discussion. No RSVP is needed.

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BBC Roundtable schedule Spring 2014

Jan. 21
Moderator: Carolin Lusby,
Hospitality & Tourism Management
When: 12:30PM-1:30PM
Where: WUC 159

Feb. 4
Moderator: Diann Newman,
Hospitality & Tourism Management
When: 12:30PM-1:30PM
Where: WUC 159

Feb. 18
Moderator: Claudius Carnegie,
Mechanical Engineering
When: 12:30PM-1:30PM
Where: WUC 159

March 4
Moderator: Beverly Dalrymple,
Center for Leadership Service-
When: 12:30PM-1:30PM
Where: WUC 159

March 25
Moderator: Thomas Pliske, Earth
& Environment
When: 12:30PM-1:30PM
Where: WUC 159

April 8
Moderator: Gary Santos, Office of
Campus Life
When: 12:30PM-1:30PM
Where: WUC 159

Florida's mangroves expand up state's Atlantic coast

AP STAFF

Florida's mangroves are moving further up the state's east coast, the latest indicator of global climate change.

Florida's Atlantic coast gained more than 3,000 acres of mangroves in the past three decades. That's according to new research published in the Proceedings of the National

Academy of Sciences journal, The Miami Herald reports.

Scientists documented the mangrove growth by looking at satellite images from 1984 to 2011. Mangrove coverage doubled in the area between Cape Canaveral and St. Augustine.

Brown University postdoctoral researcher Kyle Cavanaugh said that while there are examples of climate changing having a negative impact, this

could be different. The mangroves are replacing salt marshes, but both are important and highly productive coastal systems.

"The question we have to answer," Cavanaugh said, "is what do these changes mean to Florida's ecosystem? I think we'll find that they are not cause for alarm."

The researchers examined several possible explanations and concluded a

decrease in the number of hard freezes were the likely factor behind the mangroves' push up the coast. Cold snaps of 25 degrees or less halt the growth of mangrove forests, and with fewer hard freezes, they expanded into new areas, the scientists found.

In Titusville there were an average of 1.2 fewer days per year with extreme-cold temperatures between 2006 and 2011 than between 1984 and

1989. Similar findings were found in other cities.

The scientists are examining mangrove movement in other parts of the world as well, including Florida's Gulf Coast.

"There are mangrove forests all over the globe that are pushing up on the limits of salt marshes," Cavanaugh told The Miami Herald. "It's a complex situation that we'll continue to be looking very closely at."