

Bureau overseeing student loan services

ALYSSA ELSO
Staff Writer

Complaints about loan servicing has fueled the Federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to put a new rule into effect that will expand its original oversight over the largest banks, giving it authority to oversee the seven largest non-bank companies that service student loans.

Student borrowers who have taken out loans have complained to the bureau that they often have difficulty getting payments applied to their balance when trying to prepay loans. Some borrowers have found that their servicers do not always apply payments to their highest-interest loan first, which borrowers

would prefer to pay off first. And others have complained about encountering delays in payment processing when paperwork is lost as loans are transferred between servicers.

Complaints of these nature have resulted in borrowers losing money as well as acquiring late fees and possible damage to their credit score.

The new rule, which will go into effect on March 1, will expand the CFPB's original oversight over the largest banks, like Wells Fargo.

This rule will be set to ensure that all servicers are complying with federal consumer financial laws and not engaging in unfair or deceptive practices against borrowers.

Collectively, the seven servicers manage more than 49 million borrower accounts, the largest of which is Sallie Mae, according to 2012 data collected from the Student Loan Servicing Alliance.

"I am appalled that loan companies would attempt to take advantage of students, this seems like another big corporate America scheme," said Omar Borimonoff, senior business management major. "I am happy someone is finally looking out for the little guy."

Primarily, servicers are responsible for sending out statements, tracking and collecting payments, processing

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JOIN THE CLUB



OSCAR LIN/THE BEACON

Daniel Rodriguez (right), president of ALPHA honors society, opens up the orientation with an ecstatic greeting.

Florida to surpass New York in population

ADRIAN SUAREZ-AVILA
Staff Writer

Reports show that sometime this year, Florida will surpass New York in population, becoming the nation's third-most populous state.

"The more, the merrier," said Esther Franco, sophomore psychology major, upon receiving news that later this year Florida will outstrip New York of its title. "Although the state population is growing, I can imagine that [the elderly] are causing the increase in size, so I don't feel pressure in terms of job prospects in Miami."

However, two-fifths of new arrivals are under the age of 25, creating competition for jobs and resources for students.

The growth has been steady.

In July of 2000, Florida's population reached approximately 16.05 million, and the figure increased by about 18.17 million in 2006, according to public data provided

"I think this will put a lot of pressure on students who are trying to be competitive job applicants."

Gustavao Restrepo,
Freshman
Computer science major

by Google.

As of July of 2012, New York boasted a population of about 19.57 million residents, while Florida boasted one around 19.32 million.

Miami's population stood at a staggering 363,177 in July of 2000; 412,460 in July 2006, and increased by 1,432 residents in July 2012.

Despite Franco's and other students' perceptions about the major role senior citizens play in the state's growing

population, those over the age of 65 are not causing the rise.

And other students didn't share Franco's relaxed disposition.

"The fact that Florida is growing so rapidly is alarming," said Gustavo Restrepo, freshman computer science major. "I think this will put a lot of pressure on students who are trying to be competitive job applicants."

In fall 1981, the University had over 11,000 enrolled students. By fall 2000, that number stood at 31,458 and climbed to 50,394 in fall 2012 -- making it the second largest university in the state.

If becoming a marketable job applicant is an issue, the University thinks it can help.

"One of the things that I think will be most beneficial is an internship in areas of interest," said Darren Gregory, assistant director of Career Services.

"Students can also take part in the

professional development workshops offered by the department [to better market themselves]."

However, a state population on the rise presents issues beyond those concerning career development for students.

A larger population generally means a greater need for water and land use, which may exhaust the state's environmental resources, according to Gail Hollander, associate professor of geography, and Jeffrey Onsted, assistant professor of geography.

"Sea-level rise can be an issue," said Hollander. "As water levels rise, higher levels of salt water may seep into the [state's aquifer system], making it harder to barricade the saltwater from the freshwater that's needed [for consumption]."

Loss of farmland to potential housing developments is something else to watch

SEE POPULATION, PAGE 2

Professor works to save coral reefs and their revenue

KIERON WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Originally from Venezuela with a doctorate in marine biology from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, Mauricio Rodriguez-Lanetty was very far from home when he came to the University in 2012 after serving as an assistant professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Aside from being closer to his field, Rodriguez-Lanetty moved to Miami to better address an increasingly troubling issue: coral reefs are dying all over the world due to global climate change.

"Logistically I realized it was a bit difficult in Louisiana for myself and my students to get to the field. It always involved significant funds to get involved,"

Rodriguez-Lanetty said. "I moved my lab and brought along some of my students, and I think it was the right move because the reef is in our backyard."

Scientists estimate the loss of one-third of the world's coral reef systems in the next 30 years if nothing is done, taking with it a worldwide revenue of over \$300 billion.

"The value of coral reefs is worldwide; everything from fisheries, tourism industries and pharmaceutical industries depend on them," Rodriguez-Lanetty said. "Unfortunately, we've actually been seeing a gradual decline in reefs over the last 50 years due to human activity, and now we have the pressure of that magnified by the effect of global climate change."

According to Rodriguez-

Lanetty, most of the problems that threaten coral reefs are not immediately visible, such as the toxic microbes in the runoff of nearby human development areas, the acidification of the ocean or the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

But one is immediately apparent—the phenomenon of coral bleaching or when the microalgae that live symbiotically inside coral is lost so significantly that the coral pales in color, leaving it nutritionally compromised and dying.

Determined to fight the effects of coral bleaching and other dangers, Rodriguez-Lanetty decided to study the coral reefs in the Great Barrier Reef of Australia, which were adapting better to rising temperatures than other coral around the world.

"The first thing that I needed to do was convince the National Science Foundation that this type of work is relevant not only for the local area, but that it will also have implications to understand how coral reefs respond to environmental stressors irrespective of where you are," Rodriguez-Lanetty said.

NSF concluded that Rodriguez-Lanetty was the ideal scientist for the job.

A handful of Ph.D. students, including Anthony Bellantuono, joined him on his research trip.

What Rodriguez-Lanetty and Bellantuono discovered in Australia has been described as a scientific breakthrough: some coral reefs had the ability to "activate" a specific set of genes in order to produce a protective protein that would help the coral

acclimatize.

Since all species of coral share common genes, it may be possible to "activate" these genes in other species as well.

The next step for Rodriguez-Lanetty is experimentation.

"Field research in Miami has been difficult because we do not want to tamper with coral that has already been compromised," he said.

To work around this, he has developed a relationship with private coral nurseries around the city.

"They provide us with organisms that we can manipulate and need to understand, so this interaction has been a highly successful relationship."

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WORLD NEWS

House ready to ok government-wide \$1.1T budget

Shunning the turmoil of recent budget clashes, Congress is ready to approve a massive \$1.1 trillion spending bill for this year, a compromise financing everything from airports to war costs and brimming with victories and setbacks for both parties. The huge bill furnishes the fine print - 1,582 pages of it - for the bipartisan pact approved in December that set overall federal spending levels for the next couple of years. With that decision behind them and lawmakers eager to use the election year to show they can run a government, there was little suspense about the spending bill's fate.

UN says pace of Israeli settler attacks up 4-fold

The annual rate of Israeli settler attacks against Palestinians has almost quadrupled in eight years, U.N. figures show, buttressing claims that Israeli security forces have largely failed to stem the so-called "price tag" campaign in which thugs cut down trees, deface mosques and beat Palestinian farmers. Israeli leaders have repeatedly denounced such attacks - the defense minister last week branded them "outright terrorism" - and the military says soldiers are under strict orders to stop them.

Officials: Obama likely to ok phone record changes

President Barack Obama is expected to endorse changes to the way government collects millions of Americans' phone records for possible future surveillance, but he'll leave many specific adjustments for Congress to sort out, according to three U.S. officials. That would thrust much of the decision-making on Section 215 of the USA Patriot Act toward a branch of government deeply divided over the future surveillance apparatus.

For more world news, check out FIUSM.com.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 25, Issue 51, in the article, "Today's lecture on American Eugenics," Edwin Black was incorrectly labeled as a novelist. Edwin Black does not write novels, he is a writer of non-fiction.

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

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Student complaints result in federal change for loan services

LOANS, PAGE 1

requests for loan deferments, reporting borrower activity to credit reporting agencies and answering questions from borrowers.

A servicer manages a loan on behalf of a lender, so borrowers may choose whether to take out a federal or private loan, but the borrower often has no control of who manages their loan. And once in repayment, the servicer remains the main point of contact for the debt.

The servicers simply act as a third party between lenders like the U.S. Department of Education, which today funds a vast majority of student

federal loans, and borrowers. the case for alumna Jeanette

“

I am appalled that loan companies would attempt to take advantage of students, this seems like another big corporate America scheme. I am happy someone is finally looking out for the little guy.

Omar Borimonoff
Senior
Business management major

While complaints have prompted the issuance of this new rule, some students have had no difficulties with their loan servicers. Such is

Rodriguez, who in 2007 took out a federal and private loan through Sallie Mae.

“Sallie Mae has been very helpful and understanding

with my economic needs,” said Rodriguez.

“If I ever need my monthly payments to be adjusted, they offer me options like deferments and income-based repayment to ensure that I can meet my loan responsibilities.”

Today, there are a large portion of students who take out student loans and struggle to stay current on their loan.

The rising number is evident: earlier this year, the CFPB announced that outstanding student debt totals approximately \$1.1 trillion, while another seven million borrowers are now in default on their debt.

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Majority of Florida's new arrivals under 25, creates competition for jobs

POPULATION, PAGE 1

out for, and flooding may also pose an issue.

“The greatest [alteration] in terms of land change is the loss of farmland to further urban development,” said Onsted. “Another thing is that we may see some areas inundated because of the rising saltwater.”

According to Onsted, rising sea levels may leave parts of the state flooded, thereby reducing the amount of land available for housing.

“Florida is a very large state,” said Hollander. “The government needs to have a smart geographic strategy of how to divide the resources for large schools like FIU to use.”

Yet, even in light of the negative aspects of Florida's rising population,

some can't help but look at the possibilities for positive outcomes.

“I believe students at FIU will play a big role in terms of where Florida goes,” said Hollander. “I think the students are motivated and are interested in bringing ideas to the table to create solutions.”

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University commemorates Martin Luther King Jr. with week of events

FIUSM STAFF

The University's Office of Multicultural Programs and Services will commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. with over a week full of celebratory events.

The annual MLK Commemorative Breakfast at the Graham Center on Jan. 17 will feature Clarence Jones, a former political advisor, counsel

and draft speech writer to King who helped draft “I Have A Dream.”

On Jan. 18, students will participate in the annual MLK Day of Service, working on different service projects in Miami Gardens. Students will depart from Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus at 7:45 a.m. and the projects will take place through 1:30 p.m.

The FIU Alumni

Association and College of Architecture and the Arts are sponsoring the “I Have A Dream” musical production of TheatreSouth Atlanta, Inc. on Jan. 19 in the Graham Center Ballrooms. The Broadway musical is a multi-media gospel show based on the words of King, featuring 120 historical images, 28 gospel songs and portrayals of historic moments during the civil rights movement.

MLK events will even extend to the Engineering Campus. On Jan. 21, the college will host “MLK Evening with Engineers” featuring guest speaker and alumnus Demar Metcalfe who will discuss his education and career path.

More information on these events is available online at FIUSM.com

COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION EVENTS

MLK COMMEMORATIVE BREAKFAST

WHEN: FRIDAY, JAN. 17 8 a.m.
WHERE: MMC GRAHAM CENTER BALLROOMS

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

WHEN: SATURDAY, JAN. 18, 9 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.
WHERE: MIAMI GARDENS

“I HAVE A DREAM”

WHEN: SUNDAY, JAN. 19 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GRAHAM CENTER BALLROOMS

MLK PARADE

WHEN: MONDAY, JAN. 20 8 a.m.
WHERE: LIBERTY CITY Northwest 54th Street

MLK EVENING WITH ENGINEERS

WHEN: TUESDAY, JAN. 21 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
WHERE: ENGINEERING CAMPUS ROOM 2300

YOUTH FORUM PEACE WALK

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22 10 a.m.
WHERE: BBC WOLFE UNIVERSITY CENTER BALLROOMS

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Panthers, keep it classy

JENNA KEFAUVER
Staff Writer

For most of the students here at the University, our end goal is to educate ourselves and then use that education to get a good job and support our families.

For some, that doesn't seem to be the case. Especially those who I see walking around in shirts that say things like, "I'm here to f*** s**t up". First, no, you're not. Second, you're paying thousands of dollars to attend this University, and you're going to wear that?

These professors are going to be the ones writing your recommendation letters and you want them to remember you as the kid who wore the shirt with a bunch of swear words?

As well as the girls who show up half naked to class. I once saw a girl wearing

“I'm not saying that you can't wear what you want, but maybe you should have separate club and school outfits.”

no pants. Just no pants at all.

And please, for the love of God, wear a bra. Especially if your shirts are loose fitting. I should at least have to buy you dinner first before seeing that much. A little bit of cleavage goes a very long way.

Also, onesies are not clothing. Those

are pajamas for small children.

I'm not saying that you can't wear what you want, but maybe you should have separate club and school outfits.

And that doesn't mean come to school in a suit and tie or a skirt suit. That's not necessary. If you are, however, wearing a nice outfit to school, don't pair it with 6-inch stilettos with a 2-inch platform on the front. That's not business attire; that's confusion.

You can wear yoga pants or jeans, but maybe tone down your shirt selection. Don't wear shirts with marijuana leaves on them. Make sure you're mostly covered and you at least look decently professional. Remember that these professors can control your future.

Just a few words of advice.

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Fixed on our cell phones

STEPHANIE PIEDRAHITA
Contributing Writer

We're at that point in human history where we say "we can't live without our cell phones."

Some will say that they aren't dependent on technology at all but I beg to differ.

It isn't uncommon to see students on campus walking around with their eyes glued to their cell-phone in order to feel in touch with the world around them. It's gotten to the point where we'll have panic attacks if we don't feel our phones in our pockets and we'll be willing to dish out serious money to have it replaced within the next few days.

While it's nice to know about what's on the minds of your friends at all times, you might miss out on life itself. The technology we have now is meant to be used as a tool, not a crutch. Moderation is key and we're sitting at a buffet of information we actually don't need to consume.

Disconnecting from the virtual world will indeed put you in touch with the real world but of course there's a fine balance between the two. Re-evaluate how much time you spend on your cellphone or

on the web — is it affecting how much time you study?

Does your battery get drained by the end of the day? Do you find yourself checking your Twitter/Facebook/Instagram while you're out with your friends? If you've answered yes or have done this before, then you're an addict.

To get rid of this dependency, we should remember how we lived our lives before the abundance of technology. I've learned to turn off my cell-phone during times I don't really need it like during class, while you're in a meeting, at work and at social events. Granted, we might want to take a quick picture every now and then but there is no reason to have your phone on to look at pictures of silly cats during a lecture.

Use your phone for what it's actually meant for! Phone calls when you need to make them and texts when you need to send a quick message. You can save the small talk for when you see someone in person. If you really feel the need to distract yourself from daily stresses, at least be productive when you do. Reading articles about global issues or about things that actually



concern you are far more interesting than seeing someone complain about their day on social media.

We need to stop finding excuses to be on our phones all the time and realize actual human interaction is far more valuable

than liking a few pictures. So go put down your cell phone, walk outside and see how high definition your life is.

-opinion@fiusm.com

THE BEACON | Editorial

Rosenberg Rowdies signaling an end to lofty University Presidents

Gone are the times of University presidents sitting behind desks and being almost nonexistent to students. No longer are presidents some shadowy figure.

Instead, presidents around America have been taking a more proactive approach towards their students. And the students are taking notice.

Since his installation in 2009, Mark B. Rosenberg championed a campaign to show students who he was.

Through taking "selfies" and using social media, he has made his face and name synonymous with FIU. So much so that last week we reported on how a group of enthusiastic students at basketball games in beach clothing call themselves, "The Rosenberg Rowdies."

Mark B. Rosenberg- look him up and you'll find him on Facebook. The group known as "FIU Meme Generators" have also taken a liking to Rosenberg, posing with him in several meme style pictures and using him as a constant joke over the last couple of years.

From buff cartoon versions of him with a chain around his neck saying "El Presidente," to him showing the FIU meme generators from his balcony that "All that the light touches is FIU." One Facebook user says, "I love our president; he's the coolest university president EVER!"

In the social media age, this isn't new. One president, Steven Knapp of George Washington University, has done just about everything to connect with his undergraduate students. He even went so far as to live on campus, just a stone's throw away from a dorm notorious for partying.

Another president, David Hodge of Miami University, in Ohio brought to his school an intramural broomball team.

One president went so far as to allow nursing students of the University to watch her give birth to her twins.

Even so, why are our fellow students attracted to the idea of naming their group after their president? Do they feel like by naming themselves after the president that it will make him more sociable and perhaps listen more readily to students and their questions?

Or do the students see him as simply a character to parody, nothing more than "sticking it to the man" while also trying to coax him into making himself look silly?

As university presidents become more visible, and with groups like the Rosenberg Rowdies forming, will more students start getting to know their presidents?

We applaud President Rosenberg and his desire to connect with students. While to us it does seem a bit strange to have a university president this in-touch with the students on campus, we see this as a possible turn toward the future of what university presidents

will be doing. They will be out randomly talking to students about issues on campus, attending events and socializing.

Presidents need to be social by nature and we think that Rosenberg is a prime example of the future of university presidents. Rosenberg isn't being "Worlds Ahead" — he's the world right now.

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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Panthers volunteer on MLK day of service

GISELLE CANCIO
Contributing Writer

Since 1994, the Center for Leadership and Service has planned and executed the annual MLK Day of service. In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., the purpose is to bring Dr. King's teachings to life by bringing together the community in celebration of diversity and freedom for all.

Usually, the day of service is held on the FIU Campus, but for the first time this year, it will be held on multiple sites.

"We are excited to be partnering with six different organizations within Miami Gardens to bring out volunteers to seven different sites," Zach Gruenhagen, one of the staff members from CLS said.

The day of service will be dedicated to the residents of Miami Gardens. Volunteers will be working at several different sites focused on social issues such as housing equality, at-risk youth, public safety and health services.

Across the nation, many individuals, corporations, organizations and schools chose a day to be "a day on instead of a day off" by participating in service around their community. FIU's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service will be held on Saturday, January 18.

"We are expecting 200 to 400 students to be in attendance, assigned to different sites around Miami Gardens in a three-hour span," Gruenhagen said. "So far, the sites include a kick-off at Betty Ferguson Recreational Complex, Miami Gardens Food Pantry, Parks and Recreation of Miami Gardens, Rebuilding Together and Miami-Dade County Fire & Rescue.

At the City of Miami Gardens site, the students will be assisting with a day of peace that is being held to promote anti-violence in Miami Gardens. They will also help create a butterfly garden with the department.

At the City of Miami Gardens Park and Recreation, there will be service projects at three parks: Cloverleaf Park, Bunche Park and Bennett M. Lifter Park. At Cloverleaf park, students will be creating a butterfly garden with a girl scout troop and the office of sustainability. At Bunche Park, students will be painting concrete seating areas to bring some color to the park. At Bennett M. Lifter Park, students will be painting parking blocks and fences to bring color to the park.

At the Miami Gardens food pantry, students will be helping with the weekly distribution as well as collecting canned goods from all volunteers in order to re-supply the food pantry.

At a Miami Gardens home, with "Rebuilding

MEET THE ARTIST



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

As part of the 23rd MLK commemorative celebration, Multicultural Programs and Services organized an event for fifth and sixth graders from Dade County public schools to meet Henry Cole (right), the author and illustrator of his book "Unspoken: A Story From the Underground Railroad." Artwork from the book is now on display in the Graham Center Art Gallery.

Together Miami," skilled volunteers from OHL School of Construction will work with FIU students to re-construct a home.

At the Miami Dade Fire and Rescue, FIU Students will help install fire detectors within Miami Gardens homes.

At the last site, in conjunction with "Mentoring Valuable Proteges," and partnering with Barry University and Florida Memorial University, students will assist with a basketball clinic

at Betty T. Ferguson Rec Center.

"This is my third day of service, and I am excited to be a part it. The different locations sounds like a fun, new idea," Monica Sanchez, junior majoring in broadcast journalism said.

As Dr. King would often say, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."

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Museum shows tribute for civil rights activists

EDWIVE SEME
Staff Writer

"After 50 years - Can we dream together," is this year's Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration in The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum, curated by Kalai Mathee, assistant dean for Evaluation and Assessment and professor in the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. This annual exhibit devotes more than one day to the late civil rights activist and shows how his vision has spread. It seeks to

unite everyone in the spirit of equity, reminds the audience of global injustices and helps students appreciate those who fought for civil rights.

"For me, doing this exhibit is to try and make the students understand that there is a history we shouldn't forget," said Mathee. "And we need to fight to improve history and the treatment we get as minorities."

On Jan. 7, the exhibit had its opening reception as part of the Muse-

um's Wednesday Art After Hours. The show had a successful turnout with about 130 people attending. The reception opened with Douglas Wartzok, provost and executive vice president at the University. Events constituted two speeches, a cover of "Ol' Man River" by biology major Deandre Rogers and more civil rights songs by the University group Freedom Singers who contributes to the show every year.

This year the show included a tribute to Nelson

Mandela, "Remembering Madiba: Prison to Presidency," which gives the audience an overview of the Nobel Peace Prize winner.

In addition to these tributes, Mathee included artworks by Cambodian artist Chanthou Oeur, a survivor of the Cambodian genocide by the Communist Party of Kampuchea and a freedom fighter. His works are inspired by his country's history, representing his view on the brutal massacre.

In addition, there was more art pertaining to

the fight for freedom and equality by current University students and alumni.

"I wanted the students to think about what they learned from the documentaries and how can they juxtapose to where they are right now," said Mathee.

Kaila Mathee sought not only to educate these students, but also have them reflect upon the on the past and present to educate others.

Topics in the artwork that students submitted range across various themes, from

apartheid and racism to women's rights and issues of gender.

The exhibit is currently available to the public for free on the first floor of the Museum and will stay open until Jan. 31. In the near future there will be a series of lectures, a movie night, a forum and a dinner to accompany the exhibit. More information on these upcoming events can be found at the Museum.

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Bestselling author presents "Goliath" on Israel

CRISTINA GARCIA
Staff Writer

Amidst news of the American Studies Association's academic boycott of the State of Israel, today a new voice enters the conversation.

Students for Justice in Palestine is proud to present Max Blumenthal, American journalist and New York Times bestselling author, to enlighten Panthers of the reality on the ground in Israel and Palestine. As part of a nation-wide tour, Blumenthal, will be visiting Modesto A. Maidique to speak about his latest book, "Goliath: Life and Loathing in Israel."

The book begins in 2008, during Israel's war on Gaza, detailing the development of Israel after the collapse of the Oslo peace process. Blumenthal reveals that the right-wing government has turned the State of Israel turned into a space where civil liber-

ties are targeted and racism abounds. It is a space where "half of Jewish youth declare their refusal to sit in a classroom with an Arab; and where mob violence targets Palestinians and African asylum seekers scapegoated by leading government officials as 'demographic threats,'" as stated in the book's overview.

On his personal web site, Blumenthal wrote about various responses his book received.

Blumenthal wrote that J.J. Goldberg, an editor from the Jewish Daily Forward, was very critical of the book. According to Blumenthal, he complained about the chapter titles and the content, "but makes no attempt to present what [he] actually wrote in them or why they are titled as they are." For instance, Goldberg claimed Blumenthal did not address "rockets bombarding Negev towns," when in fact Blumenthal "wrote on the first page of [his] book that 'Hamas' armed wing... fired dozens of rockets' in November 2008."

Goldberg added that "outside of the far-left and anti-Israel blogosphere," "Goliath" was ignored.

However, reactions from others like Akiva Eldar, an Israeli journalist and author who for over 30 years served as chief political columnist for Haaretz, told a different story.

"A significant part of [Goliath's] strength lies in the effect that is naturally created when a foreign correspondent describes the reality of your life and surroundings," she wrote in Al Monitor. According to SJP, the book "exposes the myth of Israeli democracy as [Blumenthal] describes the horrific politics behind Israel's military assault on Gaza."

Within the chapter titled "Hill of Shame," Blumenthal mentions Haifa University — where 20 percent of students are Arabs, the highest percentage of any Israeli university — actively and publicly supporting Israel.

Besides breaking up peaceful demon-

strations, the school made an announcement that said "As a show of solidarity with [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers fighting in Gaza and residents of the south [...], the University of Haifa has made its central tower into a national flag [...]. The university is not an ivory tower and is inseparably connected to the community."

Much is left to be said about Israel, the treatment of Palestinians and a university's political role within a community. The book serves as background for Panthers to discuss all this and more.

To continue the conversation, you can go to Graham Center 150 at 4 p.m. The event will provide free food, drinks and a chance to discuss these issues with your peers.

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University roundtables discuss hot news topics

JUNETTE REYES

Life Director

The first Tuesday Times Roundtable at Modesto A. Maidique Campus took place this Tuesday, Jan. 14. Activist and humanitarian Carl Wilkens moderated the first roundtable, with the topic of discussion being the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and what is to be learned from it 20 years later.

Rwanda was comprised of three ethnic groups in 1994: the Hutu, the Tutsi and the Twa. According to the United Human Rights Council, "Hutu extremists within Rwanda's political elite blamed the entire Tutsi minority population for the country's increasing social, economic, and political pressures."

The president at the time, Habyarimana, further encouraged the divide between the Tutsi and the Hutu through the use of propaganda. This made the Hutu fear and resent the Tutsi, who happened to be the minority.

The trigger point for the Hutu to commit acts of violence against the Tutsi was the day in which the plane that was carrying President Habyarimana was shot down.

According to the United Human

Rights Council, the Rwanda genocide led to the slaughter of 800,000 men, children and women. Not only did this include the Tutsi but individuals within the Hutu that opposed the elimination of the Tutsi.

Wilkens was present in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide, as he was living with his wife and three children in Kigali. Wilkens chose to stay behind while his family left to safety. In doing so, Wilkens was eventually the only American that remained throughout the entire genocide to help and protect the Tutsi.

This is just one of a variety of topics that will be discussed during this semester's series of Tuesday Times Roundtables. As Eric Feldman, coordinator in the Office of of Global Learning Initiatives previously said to The Beacon, "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."

The Tuesday Times Roundtables is 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.

The second Tuesday Times Roundtables at MMC will take place on Jan. 21. The moderator will be Professor Stanley Fish of Humanities and Law in the College of Law. The topic of discussion will explore the boycotting of Israeli universities, as discussed in Fish's column published in The New York Times, "Academic Freedom Against Itself: Boycotting Israeli Universities."

Other topics this month include female aggression and competition on Jan. 21, to be moderated by International Relations Librarian Ava Iuliano and recovering World War II's looted art on Jan. 28, to be moderated by Manuel Gomez, associate professor of law.

The roundtables occur every week at MMC in Graham Center 150 and every other week at Biscayne Bay Campus in the Wolfe University Center 159. Free lunch and copies of The New York Times are provided at every discussion. No RSVP is needed.

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MMC ROUNDTABLES

JAN. 21 - STANLEY FISH

WHEN: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
WHERE: GC 150

JAN. 28 - AVA IULIANO

WHEN: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
WHERE: GC 150

FEB. 4 - MANUEL GOMEZ

WHEN: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
WHERE: GC 150

FEB. 11 - TUDOR PARFITT

WHEN: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
WHERE: GC 150

FEB. 18 - STEVE SCHWARTZ

WHEN: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
WHERE: GC 150

FEB. 25 - BEVERLY DALRYMPLE

WHEN: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
WHERE: GC 150

MARCH 4 - LAURA BOUDON

WHEN: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
WHERE: GC 150

MARCH 18 - ALOK DEORAJ

WHEN: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
WHERE: GC 150

MARCH 25 - ANGELA SALMON

WHEN: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
WHERE: GC 150

APRIL 1 - TBA

WHEN: TBA
WHERE: TBA

APRIL 8 - SHENGGAO WANG

WHEN: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
WHERE: TBA

No RSVP needed. Free lunch provided.

2014 Panther Camp Facilitators and Peer Advisors

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Executive Director: Jeffrey Gutierrez
Director of Programming: Daniella Bernasconi
Director of Sponsorship: Tyler Dykstra
Co-Director of Recruitment: Shaq Thomas
Co-Director of Recruitment: Alexa Chavarry
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Co-Director of Marketing: Sammy Hernandez
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Lawrence Ream
Nicole Rodriguez
Daniel Samaei
Michael Santiago
Marie Segui
Daniel Tovar
Allan Valiente
Malcom Wilson
Anthony Yabor

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Jenille Lopez
Pierre Smith

Peer Advisors

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Gerard Beauchamp
Chantae Brown
Christy Carral
Jeancarlo Casasola
Isabela Corzo
Hector Cuevas
Matias Daldi
Jonathan De La Cruz
Estefania Delgado
Melissa Diaz
Elizabeth Diaz

Kishma Fahie
Cory Fairfield
Ceresa Freeman
Madeley Gomez
Stephanie Gomez
Laci Jackson
Alessandra Krause
Zoé Lawrence
Yailiana Leyva
Hermmann Lopez
Andres Marquez
Christopher Martel
Mariam Martinez

Taniesha Mauvais
Nadine Mheisen
Victor Minacapelli
Gisselle Munoz
Kaitlyn Nicholson
Katerina Pasquariello
Nicole Richardson
Tirelle Roberts
Alexa Santos
Michelle Theurer
Adrian Ulloa
Yessenia Urena
Kaitlyn Woods

"Vapor Trails Remix:" an album to check out

COLUMNIST



LUIS SANTANA

Released in May 2002, Rush's 17th album, "Vapor Trails," was greeted with happiness by fans. After five years on hiatus due to their drummer, Neil Peart's, personal tragedies, people were happy to see another Rush album. Hearing the album was a different story, however. The original cut is very muddy and loud. The bass doesn't sound like Geddy Lee's smooth licks. Nor is the guitar reminiscent of Alex Lifeson's virtuoso guitar skills, but instead sounds just like someone strumming as hard as they

drum roll in the intro, proving that this album is truly remixed. Each song sounds clear, as it should've sounded ten years ago: triumphant and ready to meet the world. But this album is not without its flaws.

The album art of the vinyl, though different on the exterior, is the same on the inside folds. The pictures of the individual band members, while looking powerful ten years ago, look tired now, and old. And the tarot cards which were a prominent feature to the song "Peaceable Kingdom," seem now like playing cards with no significance.

I find it offensive that Rush didn't offer a sort of trade in of the album. Saying, "Hey, that album was terrible, mail it back to us,

Each song sounds clear, as it should've sounded ten years ago: triumphant and ready to meet the world.

can. Even Neil's drumming fails and makes everything cacophonous. People weren't happy, one fan even remixed the album himself, titling it "Vapor Trails: Less Vapor, The Bubba Skarda Mix." It alleviated some of the problems, but was hardly the remix the album needed.

In 2013, Rush fans' prayers were answered with the OFFICIAL remix. Rush even admitted that they had messed up in the original mix of "Vapor Trails," and wanted to make sure that fans got an album that sounded the way it should. And boy does "Vapor Trails" sound the way it should!

The first track "One Little Victory," is as explosive as Rush wanted their entrance to be after a five year hiatus. The sounds of an electronic distortion intermingle with the

and we'll give you the new one for free." This would've brought shrieks of joy from the fans and would've also made Rush seem less money-hungry. Here they seem to say, "Listen, we mixed it terribly, but you'll have to pay us for this new mixing if you really want it." It just doesn't seem like the band I've grown to love to do that sort of thing.

While the "Vapor Trails Remix" is actually an album you can listen to without destroying your eardrums, it's not what it could've been. And while I'll never be upset to hear Rush's music, they won't be living in the limelight too long pulling stuff like this.

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Technology being used for recreation services

GISELLE CANCIO
Contributing Writer

The recreation center is moving towards a paperless operation including wireless score-keeping for intramural sports.

As of Spring 2013, iPads have been become an integral part of an employee's work day.

With the wireless internet available, the supervisors are able to complete accident reports and work requests for broken machines on the iPads.

While in the past the maintenance crew would have to come out to check a broken machine, now the reports include a picture, taken from the iPad, and it has become a more effective process in ordering new parts for the machines.

"Hopefully it will allow for fewer machines to be broken at a time since it should be a faster repair service process," senior electrical and computer engineering major Gabriel Alvarez said.

Supervisors aren't the only ones using the iPads.

The personal trainers are using them for client's information and it highly benefits those participating in the FIU Lose It Program.

The Lose It Program is based upon TV's Biggest Loser series and it promotes weight loss in a competition-based atmosphere.

The program was adopted to help promote health and wellness to the University community and according to the recreation center's website, it has already helped the FIU family lose over 2,000 pounds.

"The trainers would be able to record

done instantly.

"With the scores posted the next day, students would sometimes come in and complain because the scores would be switched or listed under the wrong team," Assistant Director for Intramural and Club Sports Matt O'Connor said. "The immediate posting of the score allows for teams to check the website to confirm."

Unfortunately, the games played at the intramural fields are not currently being recorded via WiFi.

Although the plan was to have both locations launch the paperless scorekeeping at once, spotty WiFi at the fields has prevented that.

The recreation center is working with UTS to fix this problem and there will be testing as soon as the spring sports start.

"The goal is to be as paperless as possible, so we hope to fix the problem soon," O'Connor said. "We will always have paper as a backup because we like to be prepared."

Recently, a scoreboard was installed in the intramural fields making it easy for the players and spectators to know the score.

This also helps the supervisors confirm the referee's scores and what is posted on the scoreboard match.

"The quick posting of the scores may spark more student interest in intramurals, maybe at some point there will even be social media updates on scores," Alvarez said.

At this point, almost all forms have completely turned over from paper to paperless.

The only ones that are still on hard copies are rental agreements and waivers because they need signatures.

PANTHER OF THE WEEK



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Senior diver Sabrina Beaupre was named Conference USA diver of the week, her third C-USA weekly honor this year, this past week. Beaupre dominated against Central Connecticut State University on Jan. 11 by winning both diving events and setting a program-record in the 1 meter dive. Beaupre put up a score of 335.85 in the event, besting her previous school record of 323.85 on Dec. 1, 2011.

“

The goal is to be as paperless as possible, so we hope to fix the problem soon.

Matt O'Connor,
Assistant Director
Intramural and Club Sports

”

medical history, weight loss data from workouts and keep notes of things that occur during these one on one sessions," Director of the Recreation Center Rob Frye said. "I know some may be concerned of their information being on an iPad, but we guarantee it is a secure system."

In addition to being able to complete reports over WiFi, rosters, game sheets, brackets and electronic score keeping are all added functions which benefit intramural sports.

All intramural sports played in the gym are recorded on the iPad immediately after it ends. This minimizes mistakes since it is

The recreation center is looking at potentially doing electronic signatures to alleviate the last of the paperwork.

Having the facilities request online allows students, faculty and staff or off campus departments to make a request for the field, gym or fitness rooms from the comfort of a computer.

"If two groups want the same space, there is a time stamp when the document is submitted so it is awarded to the group who turned it in first," Frye said.

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Out with the Knights

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

According to the Orlando Sentinel, the 2014 chapter of the University of Central Florida versus FIU football book has been closed.

The series between FIU and UCF, which began in 2011 and was supposed to continue every year until 2016, will skip over the 2014 game.

That game was supposed to be Sept. 6 at UCF, but that's the week after UCF returns from playing Penn State in Dublin.

Usually, when teams travel overseas to play a game, they receive a bye week after their return.

FIU, on the other hand, already has a full non-conference schedule for next

season, so moving the game was difficult.

Future games are currently still to be played after the 2014 season concludes.

Along with that, if an FCS opponent is chosen as is being predicted with the short notice situation, the Panthers will not play three straight big conference games as Sept. 13 and Sept. 20 opponents are the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Louisville.

The Cardinals beat the Panthers of FIU 72-0 in the 2013 season.

Along with that score, the Knights came to Miami and won with a score of 38-0 in Week 2.

The Knights lead the all time series 2-1.

The Knights were led by

quarterback Blake Bortles who declared for the NFL May draft soon after the win in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl in early Jan.

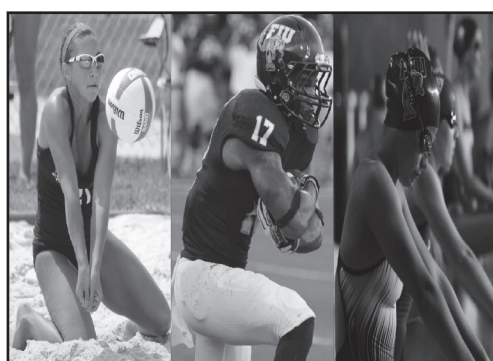
He has been projected to be a top 10 draft pick.

If the Panthers elect to go along with the same attempts of the Knights and attempt to fill the spot with an FCS opponent, noting the FIU lost to Bethune-Cookman University last semester and they are an FCS school.

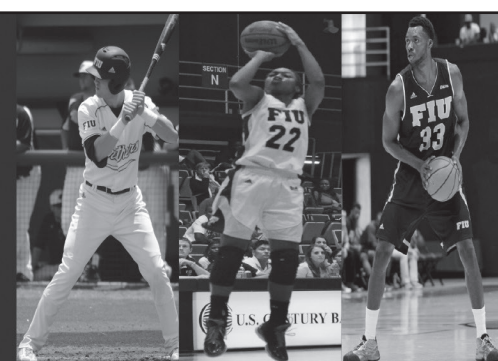
The cancellation of the game was confirmed by a UCF Athletics spokesperson.

FIU Athletics denied comment on the matter.

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Randy Horner: the journey to Miami

OSCAR BALDIZON
Staff Writer

It's been quite the journey for Randy Horner to arrive where he is at now; the head coach of one of the most up and coming women's swimming and diving teams in the NCAA and one of the most successful athletic programs at FIU. A journey that began in Jefferson City at Missouri State University in 1991.

Horner swam for the Bears from 1991 to 1993 and served as a student assistant coach in 1993-94, graduating from MSU in 1994 with a degree in elementary education.

his coaching abilities but he knew he was hungrier for more. He realized it was time to move on and took a head coaching position at the University of New Orleans.

All that led to was Horner completely restarting the UNO men's swimming and diving program and leading the return of swimming and diving to the Lakefront Aquatic Center after the facility was shut down in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. In honor of those efforts he was featured in a New Orleans-based magazine, *Gambit Weekly*, "40 under 40," which featured community members for their efforts in

guide the Panthers through a stellar first half of the season. The team just wrapped up their home meets for the year with a crushing defeat over Central Connecticut State on Saturday afternoon where they swept meet, winning all 13 events.

The Panthers have already broken four team records, a Conference USA record, and had two swimmers qualify for Nationals with "B" cut times at their biggest mid-season meet, the Mizzou Invite, late last semester. A meet designed to give a coach an idea of where the team will be at by the end of the year, where records falling isn't uncommon but



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Randy Horner (left) experienced a lengthy journey that ultimately led him to FIU. In his time as the FIU coach, Horner has reconstructed the program and along with quality athletes is building a nationally recognized team.

He didn't always know he wanted to be a coach and actually started off teaching eighth-grade math at a local middle school. He later began officiating baseball games to make some extra money and soon realized he also wanted to interact with the athletes and that there was much he could help them out with.

Through his connections in the school system he worked in he was able to get his start in coaching in the very sport he had competed in for so long: swimming.

He then spent four years as the head coach of both boys and girls teams at both Springfield Parkview High School (Springfield, Mo.) and Kickapoo High School (Springfield, Mo.) where he was the Missouri state boy's Swimming Coach of the Year in 1997 and also took Kickapoo to an Ozark Conference Championship.

While Horner was quite successful at the high school level, he had bigger aspirations for his coaching career and decided to take a chance and become a volunteer assistant coach at his alma mater while continuing to teach.

"I quit the high school coaching job and took a calculated gamble that could lead to bigger opportunities and went over to MSU everyday after school, worked all afternoon and gave up all my personal days to travel with the team and help out as much as I could," Horner said.

Horner admits that the first year at MSU was tough but his sacrifice and talent for coaching would not go unnoticed and he was rewarded with an assistant coaching position the next year. He would spend nine years in Jefferson City honing in on

rebuilding a positive New Orleans in 2007.

The UNO men broke all 18 school records from 2008-10 left from the previous era of the swimming program and the women's program, which Horner built from the ground up, broke all 18 school records during the Horner era, including 17 of which were broken by Horner's own recruits.

Now in his fourth season since arriving at FIU, Randy Horner has once again revitalized a program that was mediocre at best before his arrival.

In his first full season of recruiting, Horner produced the No. 23 recruiting class in the nation and shattered 11 school records. During his second year, the Panthers were recognized by College Swimming & Diving as one of eight female breakout teams for their 2012 Sun Belt Conference Championship performance where FIU swept all the conference swimmer, diver and coaches of the year awards. FIU collectively broke 10 program records, four Sun Belt Conference records, claimed five Sun Belt championships in addition to having nine medalists and 13 finalists in the SBC Championships.

It's hard to imagine a program improving so rapidly but the trend would only continue in his third year with not only the continued record breaking, but two FIU Panthers, Sonia Perez and Johanna Gustafsdottir, swimming at the Division I National Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana this past March.

Which brings us to this year where Horner has continued to

definitely something you hear about much more often at Conference meets at the end of the year.

Horner's best skill is his ability to recruit top tier athletes from overseas. A trait Horner says he realized early on at Missouri State would be beneficial. FIU currently hosts athletes from seven different countries in the swim program, but it is definitely a calculated risk which does present more problems than the ordinary American recruit.

"The toughest part about coaching is the logistics and working in a system with limited resources, but seeing their dreams come true to be college athletes is definitely worth it. We're doing so much more here at this program than just making them swim faster and when you watch them grow as a person, with swimming as the vehicle, that's where the true reward lies," Horner said.

Swimming often goes unnoticed among the athletic programs but that's something that is changing with Horner at the helm and he definitely has a vision for the program here at FIU.

"I truly think the sky's the limit because there are no obstacles in our way. We have been able to build a credible swimming program where athletes of the high level each year want to be a part of and were hopefully going to score points at this year's nationals, a big step forward nationally," Horner said. "We want to win this new, tougher, C-USA we are a part of and keep working our way up to becoming a powerhouse program."

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FIU baseball program releases 2014 schedule

RUBEN PALACIOS
Sports Director

Home sweet home is the theme of the upcoming baseball schedule.

The FIU baseball program has released its schedule for the 2014 season and it features a vast majority of games under the Miami skies.

FIU will play a total of 54 games this season, 34 will be at home and they will be out of the state for only 16 games.

FIU opens the season with 11-consecutive home games. Opening night will come on a Friday night in Miami when FIU hosts visiting Rutgers University on Feb. 14 at 6 p.m.

The series will span three games through Sunday.

The Scarlet Knights finished last year with a 31-25 record.

Stetson University, Stony Brook University, Florida Memorial University and Dartmouth College round out the 11 home games to start the season.

The Panthers will take a break from NCAA opponents on Feb. 27 to play the Miami Marlins in an exhibition game in Jupiter, Fla. at 6 p.m.

FIU has often played exhibition games against the Marlins in order to showcase its talent and learn on how to improve and get to the professional level.

The 2014 season also represents FIU's inaugural season in Conference USA, which will provide a number of high quality opponents.

FIU's first C-USA game will come away from Miami when it travels to Charlotte, N.C., on March 7 to take on the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

The Panthers first C-USA home game will come against the top team in the conference when they take on the Rice University on March 14 at home at 6 p.m.

Rice is a national powerhouse when it comes to baseball.

They have won the C-USA crown repeatedly in recent history, taking the honors in 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013.

The reigning C-USA champs

have been regulars at NCAA Tournament, making trips in 2005-13.

The Owls won the College World Series back in 2003.

FIU hosts rival Florida Atlantic University between April 18-20 and plays a single game in Boca Raton on May 13.

The home series against FAU will count toward the conference standing, but the away game at FAU will not.

The Panthers conclude the regular season in New Orleans,

Baseball 2014 Notable Games



Feb. 14
Opening Night
Rutgers Univ
6 p.m. - Home



Feb. 27
Exhibition
Miami Marlins
6 p.m. - Jupiter, Fla



March 7
C-USA Opener
UNC-Charlotte
4 p.m. - Away



March 14
'13 C-USA Champs
Rice Univ
6 p.m. - Home



April 18
Rivalry Game
Florida Atlantic Univ
6 p.m. - Home



May 21-25
C-USA Tournament
Hattiesburg, Miss
TBA

La. when they visit Tulane University on between May 15-17.

After the Tulane series, FIU will head to Hattiesburg, Miss., for the C-USA Tournament between May 21-25.

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Writers workshop to teach publishing nitty-gritty

MARISOL MEDINA
Staff Writer

Anyone interested in following the footsteps of FIU alumnus, Dennis Lehane, author of “Shutter Island,” will have an opportunity to know the ins and outs of becoming published this Saturday at a workshop organized by Gulf Stream Magazine, FIU’s literary magazine.

Julie Marie Wade, an award-winning author and professor of creative writing at FIU, will lead the workshop, followed by a Q&A session, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Biscayne

Gulf Stream, FIU’s only literary magazine since 1989, first in print and now exclusively online, offers students writing poems or prose a chance to be initially published.

“Becoming published is a really mysterious process for some people,” said Wade, because readers often see the finished product but have no idea how the writer got there.

Wade will dedicate the workshop to the process of becoming published by an established publication, on how to interact with different journals and the process of sending submissions.

“It is about finding an avenue to publish without an agent and how to get your name out there,” said Wade.

She will also talk about how to deal with rejection and how to minimize rejection stress, since, in her words, “it is a part of the process.”

Veronica Suarez, graduate student of creative writing and editor-in-chief of Gulf

Stream Magazine, said it is a great opportunity for those who want to make a career of creative writing just like alumni Dennis Lehane and Richard Blanco.

“The creative writing program at FIU is very well recognized and this workshop will be led by a faculty members,” said Suarez.

Suarez, a writer herself, is familiar with what writers want out of their careers and she said, “the most important thing is that you want others to read what you write and this is a great opportunity to learn how to do that.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF FABIENNE JOSAPHAT/GULF STREAM LITERARY MAGAZINE

Julie Wade, who has published both as a poet and a prose writer, will be presenting tips and tricks toward publication on Jan. 18.

Additionally, she reminded those students interested in writing that they can submit their poems or stories to the magazine until March 1.

“We have over 600 submissions each semester and review each carefully,” said Suarez, who added that the magazine does not charge a reading fee, unlike other publications.

“That is why we need fundraisers, so we

can keep that service for free,” said Suarez.

The magazine publishes twice a year at gulfstreamlitmag.com. Anyone interested in registering for the workshop may do so by visiting the website or by paying cash at the door.

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“That is why we need fundraisers — so we can keep that service for free.”

Veronica Suarez
Editor-in-Chief
Gulf Stream Magazine

Bay Campus.

The workshop is a fundraiser for the magazine and will cost \$25 for regular admission and \$15 for students.

SGC-BBC discusses housing construction updates

ALYSSA ELSO
Staff Writer

Progress on the new residence halls at the Biscayne Bay Campus was the main topic at the first BBC Student Government Council senate meeting of the spring semester.

“We have narrowed our selection down to two vendors,” said Emerald Nesbitt, Housing Senator.

Nesbitt, who represents the 300 or so residents of Bay Vista Housing, is looking to get residents better amenities than what they currently have.

“The dorms we have now are not

in good condition,” states Nesbitt. “What we are looking for is more dining options, rooms with full sized beds and a better facility overall.”

The new residence hall is set to open for the fall 2015 semester, after plans to have Royal Caribbean employees occupy the current Bay Vista residence halls was announced by President Mark B. Rosenberg over the winter break.

While the report on the progress of the new residence halls seemed like the most important update on Monday’s agenda, other issues were discussed.

The council elected three new senators and discussed upcoming events.

The first major event of the semester, hosted by Student Government Association for students, is a lecture series on Feb. 5 featuring stand up comedian W. Kamau Bell of the FXX show “Totally Biased.”

A few days later on Feb. 10, the eighth annual town hall meeting will take place featuring an open forum with President Mark B. Rosenberg open to faculty, staff and students.

This semester SGA also plans to reach out to Maritime and Science

Technology Academy high school students to give them a glimpse into how a university run student government works.

“MAST SGA students have reached out to us and are interested to learn about what we do,” said Richard Azimov, vice president of SGC-BBC. “At some point this semester we will plan to meet with them.”

A meeting to discuss the budget will also be held this semester.

As for the newly appointed senators, three vacant positions were filled as well as an executive board

position.

Maria Pulido-Velos was appointed as arts and sciences senator, Xinguo Tian as the hospitality management Senator and Oluwatobi “Tobi” Adekoya as senator at large.

Two current members were also moved up, Elianis Nieves was appointed Chief of Staff and Olivia Dehaarte as appointed Speaker Pro-Temp.

SGC-BBC senate meetings take place every Monday at 3:30 p.m. and are open to all students.

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GLADES Club participates Tropical Biology Symposium

ROBERTO RAIMUNDEZ
Contributing Writer

Christine Pardo, a senior biology major and president of the FIU’s GLADES club, was excited to introduce students to the Tropical Biology Symposium this past Sunday, Jan. 12.

“I used to be the only undergrad attending these symposiums, through GLADES there’s a larger undergrad presence,” Pardo said.

Hosted by Kushlan Tropical Science Institute, this symposium began as a way for two local professors — Ken Feeley from FIU and Albert C. Uy from University of Miami — to see each other more often to discuss their work.

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden became the meeting place for professors from different institutions to share their research with one another.

At Sunday’s symposium, professors from both local universities presented their work. Professor Maureen Donnelly from FIU presented her work on amphibian conservation; Professor Floria Mora-Kepfer from UM presented on wasp behavior; Professor Michael Heithaus from FIU presented on predator roles; Professor Justin Stoler from UM presented on his work with dengue fever; and Professor Kevin McCracken from UM presented on altitude adaptation.

Among these professors,



Nigel Pitman of Duke University (left) and Todd Palmer of the University of Florida (right) were keynote speakers at the event.

FIU doctoral fellow Paulo Olivas presented his work on climate change at the symposium.

In addition, there were two keynote addresses by Nigel Pitman, the Robert O. Bass Senior Visiting Scientist at the Field Museum in Chicago and Research Associate in



ROBERTO RAIMUNDEZ/THE BEACON

Duke University’s Center for Tropical Conservation, as well as Todd Palmer, the Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Florida.

The keynote speaker was Nigel Pitman, Robert O. Bass Senior Visiting Scientist at the Field Museum in Chicago and research associate in

Duke University’s Center for Tropical Conservation.

Pitman discussed the abundance and diversity of Amazonian trees explaining that even with 16 thousand tree species, 227 hyper-dominant tree species make up 50 percent of the individual trees in the Amazon.

“A study is being conducted on the correlation between deforestation and specific tree species,” said Pitman.

The second keynote speaker was Todd Palmer, associate professor of Biology at the University of Florida. He talked about ant-plant mutualisms in tropical Africa.

In his lecture, Palmer joked about the relationship between ants and trees, saying that they are “in a

complicated relationship,” because although some ants are sterilizing, they increase the fitness of their host tree.

The Tropical Biology Symposium offers opportunities for undergraduate students to begin to rubbing elbows with graduate and faculty researchers with field work projects.

“What began as a way for grad students to be exposed to their professors’ research is now including undergraduates with an interest in tropical biology,” Feely said.

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