

## NOTHING BUT NET



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Xu Jing Lun, senior in engineering management, Raymond Borrero, junior in health services administration, and Yang Li, senior in engineering management, watch as the ball that graduate student studying epidemiology, Darryl Pronty, shot swooshes through the hoop during their evening basketball session.

## College of Law recognized as a best value school

**CAMILA FERNANDEZ**  
*Staff Writer*

Tuition, the cost of living, Bar-Test passing rates, debt accumulation and employment success are all factors students consider when applying for law school.

While a six-figure debt looms over the nation's law students, FIU's College of Law was recently graded a B+ as a best value law school by The National Jurist.

The school's average debt of its grads in 2012 was \$94,937 and the employment rate was 78 percent.

Despite paying over \$20,000 in tuition annually, law student Allan Zullinger looks beyond the debt and says law school is an investment.

"It's three more years of school and it's a higher degree so it's going to cost more money, you're going to have to take out loans and you're going to have to work hard," Zullinger said. "But we're all here

because something drew us here. Now we love it and we can't wait to take it to the next step."

University of Alabama led the rankings with an average debt of \$67,611 and 89.3 percent employment rate. University of South Dakota ranked fifth with the lowest average debt in the nation -- \$54,352.

Other Florida universities that made the list: Florida State University, nine out of the 20 best valued law schools, and the University of Florida, was given an A minus despite not being a top school.

Being that FIU's College of Law is a public law school -- the only one in South Florida -- its low-cost tuition rate was Zullinger's main reason for choosing the school.

According to College of Law Dean Alexander Acosta, a significant reason why it is difficult to reduce the

**SEE LAW, PAGE 2**

## University faculty create book on black race

**NICOLE MONTERO**  
*Staff Writer*

Early in 2007, Yaba Blay, co-director of the Africana Studies Program at Drexel University, had an idea for a book that would challenge society's perceptions of race. The first thing she did was interview and write biographies on people who identified with the black race but did not necessarily appear to be black.

One of the people Blay

interviewed was Noelle Theard, a professor in the African and African Diaspora Studies Program. After the interview, the two started talking about the project.

"She told me that she was looking for a photographer," said Theard, who fell in love with photography at an early age. "I thought that I was the perfect person for the project."

"(1)ne Drop: Shifting the Lens on Race," published on Nov. 28, 2013, is a combina-

“That one drop of blood can be a point of positive identification with Black culture, as opposed to something that needs to be hidden or something that people are ashamed of.”

Noelle Theard  
*Professor*  
African and African Diaspora Studies

tion of written biographies and photographs that investigate the lived experiences of

people who identify as black or have their "blackness" questioned.

"They're people like me. People that maybe don't look black on the surface, but still identify as black because of culture and heritage," said Theard.

The book, which took two and a half years to put together, portrays the biographies and experiences of more than 50 individuals. The individuals' portraits are also shown—some taken by Theard and others taken by photographers under her direction.

Theard got her bachelor of arts degree in journalism at the University of Texas in Austin. She studied photojournalism and worked as a photographer for the Miami Herald for five years. After her time with the newspaper, she decided to go to graduate school at FIU and got her masters degree in African Diaspora Studies.

She continued to do projects -- one on global hip hop.

**SEE BOOK, PAGE 2**

## UPD transparent about sex offenders on-campus

**ALONSO MONTANO**  
*Staff Writer*

The University is home to over 50,000 students who come from various cultures and diverse backgrounds. Some of the students might have had problematic pasts which may include a history of sexual misconduct and offenses.

There is no current law that prohibits sex offenders from attending institutions of higher education in Florida; but in accordance to state statutes, as

part of their probation process, registered sex offenders must state that they are going to college and specify the name of the institution.

According to The Florida Department of Law Enforcement: "The designation of a person as a sexual predator or sexual offender is neither a sentence nor a punishment but simply a status resulting from the conviction of certain crimes."

Florida records show over 100 registered sex offenders attending South Florida

universities and colleges; and when it comes to sexual offenders at FIU, the University Police Department and the Office of Admissions follow a standard protocol to adhere to the law while providing the "best possible environment" for the rest of the students.

"We have an admissions review committee. When we have students who have some kind of history that is questionable, the committee meets to decide whether or not they

**SEE POLICE, PAGE 2**

## Board of Governors approves point system for state funding

**FIUSM STAFF**

The Board of Governors recently approved a new performance model for universities which will use a 50-point system to determine state funding.

Any university that does not receive at least 26 points will lose one percent of its state funding in 2014-2015 and will not receive any additional money allocated for performance funding.

In the previous model, all active state universities shared \$20 million.

Funding ranged from \$2.6 million for top performers University of South Florida and University of Central Florida, to about \$430,000 for low-performing schools like

New College of Florida.

Now, the three universities earning the lowest amount of points would not be eligible to receive any performance funding, even if they surpass the 26-point threshold.

Schools deemed most susceptible to the cut are regional universities like Florida Atlantic University and the University of North Florida.

The Board of Governors is asking the state for \$50 million in additional funding under these new performance funding rules.

The board is also asking lawmakers to allocate \$321 million to update facilities and finish building project on university campuses.

## WORLD NEWS

### Obama tightens reins on surveillance programs

Tightening the reins on the nation's sweeping surveillance operations, President Barack Obama on Friday ordered new limits on the way intelligence officials access phone records from hundreds of millions of Americans — and moved toward eventually stripping the massive data collection from the government's hands.

But Obama's highly anticipated intelligence recommendations left many key details unresolved, most notably who might take over as keeper of the vast trove of U.S. phone records. Final decisions on that and other major questions were left to the Justice Department and to intelligence agencies that oppose changing surveillance operations, and to a Congress that is divided about the future of the programs.

### Syria says ready for cease-fire, prisoners swap

Syria's foreign minister said Friday his country is prepared to implement a cease-fire in the war-torn city of Aleppo and exchange detainees with the country's opposition forces as a confidence building measure ahead of a peace conference opening next week in Switzerland. Walid al-Moallem told journalists about the cease-fire plan after meeting in Moscow with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov. He did not divulge details of the plan, which would contain "measures to enforce security" in Aleppo, 310 kilometer (190 miles) from the Syrian capital, Damascus.

### Uganda's president opposes tough new anti-gay bill

Uganda's president opposes an anti-gay bill passed by lawmakers that calls for life imprisonment for gays, even as he characterizes homosexuals as "abnormal" who should be rehabilitated, according to excerpts of his letter to the speaker of parliament. President Yoweri Museveni's opposition to the bill comes despite pressure from evangelicals as well from lawmakers from his own party.

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

# Law school evaluated on tuition, pass rates and employment

## LAW, PAGE 1

cost of the University's law school is simply the high cost of Miami living.

By working full-time and taking advantage scholarships, Zullinger is savvy with managing his costs. Besides the low-tuition rate, the school's student-to-faculty ratio of 12.8 to 1 is another valued factor, according to Acosta.

Acosta said at the school, professors try to get to know each student individually to match their individual interests.

The school was also recognized for its diversity.

According to the National Jurist, law schools have difficulty diversifying their student body, threatening their academic rankings.

The University's College of Law is ranked as the third most diverse law school nationally, however.

"I'm not aware of any school that has gone faster in the rankings as we have," said Acosta.

The school also ranked first in Bar-passing rates in 2005, 2007 and 2009. In 2012,

## COLLEGES OF LAW 2012 BY THE NUMBERS

	FIU (B+)	UF (A-)
Average debt	\$94,937	\$72,974
Tuition	\$18,841	\$21,421
Cost of living	\$26,024	\$15,740
Two-year bar pass avg.	85.2 pct.	89.2 pct.
Two-year bar pass state avg.	78.9 pct.	78.5 pct.
Weighted employment rate	78 pct.	69.9 pct.

the school has an 85.2 percent passing rate, above the 78.9 percent state average.

"The students and faculty really make the school what it is. It's more than a ranking, cost of tuition, or test scores,"

Zullinger said. "Everyone is out to help each other and everyone wants to put FIU on the map."

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# Book changes historic "one-drop rule"

## BOOK, PAGE 1

"I was trying to find a way to bring photography and the academia together. I was always interested in figuring out how to bridge those two worlds," she said.

In 2010, Theard started teaching at the University and went back to get yet another degree. She got a master of fine arts in photography at Parsons, the new school for design, which she finished last year.

"Photography, especially portraiture, is really powerful," Theard said. "It gives the viewer a deeper understanding of the individuals and everything they are going through. This is specifically true for the book because we are trying to shift the way that race is perceived."

The name of the book is a reference to the historical term known as the "one-drop

rule." This rule, which originated in the early 20th century, meant that if a person had even "one drop of Negro blood," then they were considered black. This meant that if the person's great-great-great-grandmother was black, then the person was also considered black—even if their skin color was white.

"Historically, the one-drop rule is basically the rule of hypodescent—which says that if, for example, your father was white and your mother was black, you would be black because you had one-drop of black blood," Theard said. "You would automatically be placed in the subordinate group."

By creating this book, Theard and Blay wanted to change the idea of the "one-drop rule." They wanted to turn it into something that was inclusive and positive.

"That one drop of blood can be a point of positive identification with black culture, as opposed to something that needs to be hidden or something that people are ashamed of," she said. "It is something that can be celebrated and honored."

"(1)ne Drop: Shifting the Lens on Race" can be purchased on Amazon. The book also has a blog at yabablay.com where people can submit their testimonials and continue to contribute to the story.

"The story doesn't end with the publication of this book," Theard said. "It only gets more complicated when we talk about race in this stage because blackness is not a simple identity. It's one that is very complex and inclusive."

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# Police update students on sex offenders

## POLICE, PAGE 1

should be admitted," said Chief of Police Alexander Casas.

Casas also emphasized that sexual offenders can be employed as faculty and/or staff. However, there are some restrictions that prevent them from performing certain jobs.

"For example, they would not be able to work at the Children's Learning Center with children," Casas said. "Or when the athletics department has some kind of summer

camp like basketball camps or football clinics."

A list of names of current sex offenders attending the university is available to the public on the police department website, police.fiu.edu.

"We are very transparent about it," Casas said.

However, some students like Silvia Berganza not only did not know about the list on the FIUPD website, but were also unaware that sex offenders were allowed on campus.

"It's interesting," said Berganza, a graduate student.

"I didn't know they [sex offenders] were allowed in school."

When asked if sex offenders should be allowed in school, Berganza made her opinion quite clear.

"I feel they could be a danger to me," Berganza said. "I actually carry pepper spray with me in my purse."

And even though UPD makes the information available to the public, students like Berganza believe more should be done to let students know about the subject.

"They should at least

send us e-mails like when they do with events and stuff like that," Berganza said. "I would've finished school without ever knowing about this."

The list found on police.fiu.edu is actively being updated as sex offenders enroll or leave the school.

"We very much believe in making that information available to anybody that is interested because everybody has the right to know," Casas said.

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# University SCUBA program ends

## SCUBA, PAGE 8

go wrong during a dive and were taught the ability to make the right decisions at the right time according to the scenario.

Every semester the students went on a trip to the Florida Springs where they learned about Florida's ecology, and when Weisman took students on the 52nd trip out there last semester, he had to announce that it was the last one. In the 19 years of the program's existence, there was not one incident or accident.

Maryel Gonzales, a fifth-year mechanical engineering major, used to have a huge fear of swimming in deep water.

A former student of the program, she wrote a letter to Weisman as did other students:

"You provided a safe and trusting environment that helped me realize that all it took was for me to visualize myself doing each task, actually doing each task, and finally accepting that I no longer had to fear the unknown."

Weisman said he is disheartened the

most that "the administration lost sight of the most important people at this university: the students."

Weisman will continue teaching diving courses at the Biscayne Dive Center, but they won't be for credit. Despite that downside, students will still have the opportunity to be involved in scuba diving.

"It was my passion, it was my dream," Weisman said. "I got to live that dream for almost two decades."

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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**  
**RE: ISRAELI BOYCOTT**

Recently there was a piece in the Beacon in favor of the anti-Israel boycott as a statement of solidarity with “Palestinian civil society.” Wrong. The PA (the Palestinians’ government) opposes the boycott.

The same article claims to speak for the majority of FIU students in supporting the boycott. Unless there is some tiny bit of evidence, this claim is also bogus.

There are many, many reasons why more than 200 American colleges and universities oppose the boycott, but I want to highlight three:

When there is conflict, we need more, not less, dialogue. Universities have traditionally promoted open discussions, which is a crucial role that universities play in democratic societies. This boycott wants to diminish, not enhance, discussion. Nothing could be more counter-productive.

Israeli universities are at the very cutting edge of technological advances in medicine, agriculture, IT, aerospace and security. The world needs these discoveries; so to bar Israel from scientific collaboration would be to deny life-saving technologies to the people of the world. That is simply stupid.

This boycott is profoundly selective, it singles out Israel while ignoring human rights abuses by China, Cuba, Iran, and the list goes on. Given the global history of anti-Semitism, singling out Israel while there are much, much worse offenders makes one question the motives of the boycott-happy, anti-Israel movement itself.

Most all of the FIU community is grateful to President Rosenberg and Provost Wartzok, as well as more than 200 other American academic leaders, for speaking out in favor of dialogue, open discussion and cooperative research.

*Nathan Katz, Professor  
School of International and  
Public Affairs.*

## “Man of Steel 2:” a comic book student’s dream movie

**CHRIS SANTIAGO**  
*Contributing Writer*

In June of 2013, Zack Snyder’s blockbuster hit “Man of Steel” made an impact in the rebirth of the legend known as Superman, and Snyder left the movie with many easter eggs.

Perhaps the biggest spoiler of all was the showing of the Wayne Enterprises logo on the satellite that was destroyed during the final battle between Superman and General Zod.

Who owns Wayne Enterprises? Bruce Wayne. Who is Bruce Wayne’s alter-ego? That’s right, Batman. And this past summer at Comic Con in San Diego, California it was announced that the sequel to Man of Steel would feature Batman as a supporting character in the film.

Fans went ballistic at this surprise announcement and have taken to the Internet to share their voices and opinions.

Then possibly the most controversial of all announcements came shortly afterwards: it was revealed that the role of Bruce Wayne-Batman was given to none other than Ben Affleck.

The responses were not benevolent to say

the least.

Most fans reacted in an outraged manner and weren’t shy about letting the world know how they felt.

I am a big comic book nerd and yes, I was one of the numerous amounts of people that criticized Affleck.

But after carefully thinking about the possibilities Affleck can bring to the icon, I soon realized how it all could be done; how Snyder could make this sequel happen.

Ben Affleck is the perfect age for the role, the early 40s which is about how old Bruce Wayne is supposed to be in this time period.

He will be tired, weary, unwilling to fight and, in some aspects, broken.

Batman will have been semi-retired and have been using his Bat-drones to clean up Gotham for him due to the fact that he doesn’t have the same energy as he used to.

But, now that Superman has emerged in Metropolis and caused such destruction during his fight against General Zod, it will be time for Bruce Wayne to, once again, don the suit and have the big confrontation against the Man of Steel himself.

The “World’s Finest” is being brought into the cinematic universe and if Snyder wants

this movie to shatter box office records like I know it will, he should give this movie a brutal fight sequence between the two heroes.

A fight that fans have been waiting for decades to see come alive on the big screen.

That means Batman using all his knowledge to beat Superman and Superman having to try to restrain himself from killing Batman.

This will be the biggest and most brutal collision in superhero cinematic history and it will, in the end, force the two to work together in unison to defeat the yet-to-be-named antagonist in the film.

I believe that Henry Cavill and Ben Affleck will have great on-screen chemistry together being that both of them have great experience as actors.

Zack Snyder realizes that this movie will be a very touchy and sensitive one to work on and I have no doubt that he will bring the two legends together in a perfect manner.

Have faith, everyone.

The dynamic duo will be brought to the big screen in the way that, respectively, gives both Batman and Superman the justice they both deserve.

*-opinion@fiusm.com*

## Shuttle chivalry: stand up for a lady

**JENNA KEFAUVER**  
*Staff Writer*

I see a lot of things at FIU.

A lot of really disappointing things.

But the most disappointing of all happened when I was on the shuttle back from BBC.

I saw a girl get onto the shuttle only to stand up because a kid in the back refused to sit on one instead of the two seats he was occupying.

She stood until a student, who was obviously raised correctly, gave up his seat to her and offered to stand for the next 45 minutes.

When we got to Biscayne Landing and there still wasn’t a free seat, I told the kid who stood up that there was a seat behind

me.

The kid behind me was angry, but he can deal with sitting next to

In the immortal words of Stephanie Tanner: “How rude!”

But this also shows that the

“

I saw a girl get onto the shuttle only to stand up because a kid in the back refused to sit on one instead of the two seats he was occupying.

”

someone for 45 minutes.

I was so disappointed that he refused to give up a second seat so that a girl could sit down. It’s not even as if he had to stand up, he just had to slide over.

shuttle drivers need to keep a better count of how many students have come onto the bus because I have seen too many times when a group of students gets on the bus only to have to walk straight back

off after paying because the bus was full.

I understand that from an economic standpoint, it doesn’t make sense to send another bus, but it’s what needs to happen. Last week, I went to the shuttle stop 15 minutes before the shuttle was scheduled to leave and there were already 20-30 people waiting in line for the shuttle that was completely full.

The University needs to pay for more buses to come more often, and not charge us more money.

We already pay enough for parking and the shuttle to take us back and forth, they should be able to get a few more buses.

*-jenna.kefauver@fiusm.com*

## Fantasy: more than just nursery rhymes

**LUIS SANTANA**  
*Staff Writer*

Aragorn fighting off orcs, Harry Potter casting spells, Arthas pulling Frostmourne from it’s stone. What do each of these have in common? They are characters in a fantastic universe that people of all ages can enjoy and learn from.

Being in this universe though, they are only seen as the fictitious characters that they are. Despite their good traits, they are seen as characters that are akin to those in Humpty-Dumpty because they are fake and unrelatable. This notion is wrong.

Some of these fake characters have done things just as human as any

real person. They’ve shown us the sides of ourselves we want to improve, sides of bravery and courage.

Fantasy also shows darker sides of humanity. Sides that we want to hide but at some point must confront.

Fantasy is more than something for children. It’s a lens through which we can see a more pure version of the world.

Sometimes, it’s a picture of a simpler time: of magic and horse drawn chariots, a world of fairies where dreams are made real.

Or other times, it’s a modern world with magic infused into it. But each show us ways not only to malign the world, but to enhance, enchant, and fantasize it.

**For the rest of the column, visit [fiusm.com](http://fiusm.com).**

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## Student's book about death personified published

**CAROLINA DE LA FUENTE**  
*Contributing Writer*

FIU is home to many excellent students. In this group of overachievers and high thinkers is our very own Carlos Paolini, who recently published his first novel, "When Adam Lacroft Met Death," this past October.

Paolini is a 19 year old freshman here at the University and is currently majoring in advertisement. Weird, I thought, since he loves to write and his dream is to become a writer. I asked Carlos if writing was his hobby, "College is the hobby," he replied. Paolini truly does enjoy advertisement, however, and believes he can use it in certain ways to further his writing career. As a way to get his book out there, Carlos got in touch with a production company and made a short movie trailer based on his novel. When I asked him to give me a preview, he told me, "Soon. February!"

At age 10, Paolini attempted to write his first novel. "It was a classic, utopian-destroy-the-future-kind-of story," he laughed about it, "I only got up to the first chapter." After that he dropped writing for a while but knowing he's always enjoyed it, he then

picked it up again during his teenage years. He began "When Adam Lacroft Met Death." "It was really vain, it had no drive," he said. It was about two years ago when Paolini began to make the story more complex and it began to come together as a real novel.

Paolini's novel is about a young man who gets a second chance with death. In this story, though, Death is depicted as a human being; a beautiful young woman to be exact. "I love making characters out of evil women," he says. "Death is my favorite, she's so twisted." It's a fun, exciting young adult novel that takes you through the life of Adam Lacroft, a kid with an average teenage life that comes to an end in a horrible car crash. He gets a second chance when he meets Death, a beautiful girl who gives him an ultimatum: If he can find the person who killed him, he will get his life back. And that's when the fun begins.

It took over a year of writing and finishing the novel to then take it to an editor and get it published, which took another 8 months. The process consisted of getting in touch with an editor who helped him edit a lot of his work.

It was mostly words and phrases he wasn't too exactly familiar with because of his clash in his English-Spanish language barrier. After 8 hardworking months, once it was ready, Paolini contacted a self-publishing company. He had two options: self-publish or to find a big publisher. Looking for a big publisher would be a longer process, Carlos explains. "I couldn't wait, I was so anxious so I said let's just self-publish." He joked about how tired of reading his own novel he was, since the process requires proofreading so many times.

What mostly surprised me about Paolini was that he's lived in Venezuela all his life and just recently moved here to study at the University, so writing a novel in English, his second language, must have been a challenge I assumed. "I prefer writing in English," he told me. Spanish on the contrary, is too formal. "It's easier to write and use phrases young people can relate to in English." Writing in English allows him to have a more "chill" way of writing; he uses phrases such as "FML" so it can give the reader a more relatable experience. Though one day he does want to write a novel in Spanish.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLOS PAOLINI

Freshman advertising major Carlos Paolini wrote and self-published a book about death personified.

Being self-published and having his books on the shelves of Barnes and Nobles doesn't necessarily mean he lives the life filled with book signings and traveling. Its refreshing to know how much of a normal and down to earth life he lives. "Nothing has changed, the book is pretty new so I'm still waiting for it to get known."

As Carlos waits for the day he will become a well-known writer, he'll be working to complete the full trilogy of his story. He already has the plots in mind and tells me to expect new characters and a new look on Death.

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## First Late Day Latte to feature China as theme

**JUNETTE REYES**  
*Entertainment Director*

On Jan. 23, Campus Life at Biscayne Bay Campus will be holding the first Late Day Latte event of the Spring 2014 semester.

As the title suggests, the Late Day Latte are events in which coffee is served to the student body over at BBC. What makes the Late Day Latte events unique is that each one is planned with the "Worlds Ahead"

initiative in mind. Campus Life at BBC does this by theming the Late Day Latte events around a country or region within the world.

"We kind of do that to theme it around the world because we are very international. Here, we want to be able to reach out to every student like that," said Kaytien Franco, the assistant marketing/public relations assistant in the Office of Campus Life at BBC.

In addition to the

serving of coffee, treats and snacks are also provided. Campus Life at BBC go out of their way to maintain the authenticity of the themes by finding vendors around the area that provide coffee and treats from the country or region that is being featured.

"For one Late Day Latte, for example, we went out to find vendors and found an actual Turkish coffee place around the area to come out and provide actual Turkish

coffee and treats and snacks for the students," said Franco.

Alongside the Republic of Turkey, previous countries and regions that have been featured as themes include Haiti, Latin America and South Africa. The most recent Late Day Latte before the Spring semester started took place in December around finals week and, therefore, had no theme.

The Late Day Latte

events typically occur in the late afternoon and serve as a pick-me-up for students. Franco cited it as one of their busiest and most successful events, as it usually gets quite the turnout.

The first Late Day Latte event of the Spring semester will take place in the Academic Center 1 Atrium at BBC from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.. Campus Life at BBC will kick off the series by featuring China as the

first theme of the semester, with Chinese tea, coffee and treats slated to be served for the students. The Late Day Latte events take place on a monthly basis.

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### LATE DAY LATTE

When: Jan. 23 4 p.m.-6 p.m.  
Where: AC 2

### FIU BLOCKBUSTER



JUNETTE REYES/THE BEACON

Students queue outside GC 140 for the Student Programming Council showing of "The Conjuring."

## SPC at BBC hosted Haitian themed Kompa Night

**JUNETTE REYES**  
*Entertainment Director*

The Student Programming Council situated at Biscayne Bay Campus had their Kompa Night on Thursday, Jan. 16. The event is the first one of many this Spring semester that occurs on a monthly basis.

The event is like a regular dance with music, food and activities, except it is themed differently every month, specifically around a genre of music. The first night was themed around Kompa music, which is a genre of music that originates from Haiti. The genre of music known as Kompa is characterized by the use of drums, congas, cowbell, guitars, keyboards, a horn section, a modern synthesizer and a bass. It is also labeled as a modern form of meringue, which is another genre of music native to Haiti.

Previous genres or themes that have been featured include Reggae Night and Havana Night. Havana Night

was particularly done in accordance with Hispanic Heritage Month this previous fall semester. The Student Programming Council tends to theme the events around a genre that has not been featured before or a genre that might be associated with something taking place in that specific month.

"They try to tie it in with a genre of music they haven't done in a while or they'll theme it depending if there is a special occasion happening that month," said Kaytien Franco, the marketing/public relations assistant in the Office of Campus Life at BBC.

According to Franco, Kompa had not been used as a featured genre of music for a while, so they decided to bring it back for this first event of the semester. JBeatz, who is a Haitian artist, was featured as the guest artist during Kompa Night. Kompa Night took place in the WUC Ballrooms at BBC from 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

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# Television shows to look forward to in 2014

**ALEXANDRE NUNEZ**  
*Contributing Writer*

With the beginning of a new year comes the promise of new and hopefully improved seasons and continuations of television series. Here are some of the few TV shows I am looking forward to watching in 2014.

## “Mad Men”

So far, there have been six incredible seasons. Now, there is only one season left and I can't help but wonder what exactly AMC is thinking. With “Breaking Bad” having ended last year and now “Mad Men” ending in 2015, what else do they have left? Lets face it, “The Walking Dead,” “Mad Men” and “Breaking Bad” are AMC's greatest shows; the rest are just benchwarmers. With the approaching end of “Mad Men,” I can't help but wonder if there's something up AMC's

sleeves. Oh well, at least we have another guaranteed solid season of “Mad Men” to look forward to.

What will be Don Draper's final fate? Personally, I hope he ends up in a coma. I say this because he has consistently passed out and/or hallucinated throughout the seasons, so I see a hospitalization in his future.

The seventh and final season will have 14 episodes that will be split into two seven-episode parts, airing in early 2014 and 2015. The first half of the final season will premiere on April 13, 2014.

## “The Walking Dead”

So The Governor is dead. Hershel is dead. Little Ass Kicker's (Judith) fate is yet to be known and the whole gang has been separated. If you ask me, it's a bit reminiscent of the second season's finale.

Here's to hoping that the next eight episodes are nothing like

the last eight episodes. Get back in the game; you're AMC's only future hope right now.

The remaining episodes of season four of “The Walking Dead” will air on Feb. 9, 2014.

## “Game of Thrones”

One word to sum up last season: wow. Are you guys ready for season four? Last season, we had the Red Wedding, which was just tough to watch. Here's to what will hopefully make up for that, if only a little: Purple Wedding. I will say no more.

Also, when are the dragons finally going to get bigger and finally be put to proper use--blow stuff up--by Daenerys Targaryen, a.k.a. Khaleesi?

Season four of “Game of Thrones” will air on April 6, 2014.

## “Sherlock”

Here is something I once heard

someone say and I couldn't agree with more: Sherlock is better than the films with actor Robert Downey Jr., while the films are better than CBS's “Elementary.” “Sherlock” is back and very much alive in series three. With solid writing and amazing acting, be sure to receive another great chapter to this new TV adaption of the famous detective.

The first episode in the series, “The Empty Hearse,” aired in the U.S. on Jan. 19. The remaining two episodes, “The Sign of Three” and “His Last Vow,” are slated to air on Jan. 26, 2014 and Feb. 2, 2014 respectively.

## “Orange Is the New Black”

The first season of “Orange Is the New Black” was surprisingly good and I am just ready for season 2.

Is Piper Chapman going to get her sentence increased for beating the hell out of that Jesus girl? Is

the Russian mother going to get her kitchen back? Is the pregnant girl going to fess up and tell who the real baby daddy is?

So many questions; thankfully, Netflix airs all episodes at once.

“Orange Is the New Black” is slated to return some time in 2014.

## “House of Cards”

This political drama remake starring Kevin Spacey will have you rooting in favor of dirty politics. The only other thing I'll add is that I hope David Fincher would direct the first two episodes of season two, as he did with season one of “House of Cards.”

Season two of “House of Cards” will be released in its entirety on Netflix on Feb. 14, 2014.

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# Sitdown with Flight Williams from Outta This World

**JUNETTE REYES AND DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS**  
*FIUSM Staff*

In collaboration with WRGP Radiate FM's radio program titled Local Radiation, FIU Student Media has had the chance to previously sit down and interview artist Smurphio from the local electronic funk band known as Afrobeta.

This time, FIU Student Media got to sit down with Flight Williams, a local artist involved in the hip-hop scene of Miami.

Flight Williams is a member of the collective hip-hop group known as Outta This World, OTW for short.

Flight Williams is also known for his solo material and is currently working on material outside of Outta This World, including released singles “Circus,” “Where You At Wit It,” and “Monsters” from his upcoming solo mixtape titled “Lucid.”

Here is how the interview with rapper Flight Williams went:

## How long have you been in the rap game in South Florida?

I've been rapping since about I'd say third grade. But I've been taking it seriously, I'd have to say, since about my 10th grade year in high school.

## Tell us a little bit about your latest material.

I dropped a project with my other group mate, Rell Burgundy, called “Raw.” Dropped that in March, I believe it was, of last year. Now I'm currently working on my second solo mixtape, “Lucid.”

## What are some of your favorite singles from your latest material?

“Circus” is a good one. I'd say “Circus” is something you can put up in the club, put in your car. “Where You At Wit It,” I dropped that one too. I dropped another one called “Monsters.” That one is more on the lyrical side. It really is more about the lyrics, trying to get more into the personal side of my music. “Monsters” is a good one as well.

## What artists have influenced you and your music?

I would have to say I'm a real big fan of Big L. Just the way he freaking kills everything he gets on. His freestyle, word-play and punch lines. I'm a real big fan of punch lines. I'd also say Heresy; just laid back, be yourself, cool music. And Lil Wayne, the old Lil Wayne; “Tha Carter II” and previous. Those are pretty much my influences when it comes to rap.

## How do you feel you are contributing to the hip-hop scene in Miami?

I feel like me and the other two cats I have with me are being real. I feel like we are bringing that real personal music back. It's about us, man. That's real, taking it back to the way hip-hop music started. Going back to the roots of hip-hop.

## What are some common themes in your music and lyrics?

It's just me and myself, really. No theme in particular. Just going at it with myself.

## Do your rhymes reflect a lot upon the city? Do you make any references about Miami and it's culture?

Oh, yeah. I'm always making “pimping” and “macking” references. I feel like that whole “pimping” and “macking” aspect came from the south. I feel like artists like Trick Daddy and even Rick Ross have the “pimping” and “macking” aspect in their music. So that's something I can say from Miami that I really can put in my music.

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# Sea level rise and flooding: Do you see what I sea?

## SEAS, PAGE 8

This can ultimately lead to the contamination of our fresh water sources. Goodbye tap water, showers, and green lawns.

Sea level has been slowly rising over the last 5,200 years.

Thanks to the Industrial Revolution and increased CO2 emission in the atmosphere, the amount of glacial melt filling into the ocean is increasing at record rates. More CO2 in the atmosphere means higher temperatures, and hot weather warms the sea, expanding the volume.

In the documentary, Pete Harlem of FIU utilizes the relatively new LIDAR system that estimates what areas will be affected by each foot of sea level rise. That program can be accessed at: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov>.

“South Florida's Rising Seas” is not just science. The documentary zeroes in on the political roadblocks that prevent the long term measures and legislation needed. The

“political will” may only show itself when it is already too late.

However, local politician and city commissioner Michael Góngora disagrees, claiming that some cities are already dealing with the problem.

“I helped create the stormwater master plan that the city of Miami Beach implemented, as well as the original task force,” Góngora says.

But the biggest question is: are we protected? The documentary claims no, at least not for much longer. Congress has already begun altering national flood insurance plans to eliminate some of the subsidies and increase premiums for many coastal homeowners.

They cite the irrationality of insuring development along the coasts that they know to be high risk—a major setback for those who already own coastal property; forcing homeowners to worry about property values and paying high insurance fees.

In summation?



REBEKAH KEIDA/THE BEACON

The impact of sea level rise can be seen in the flooded streets of Miami Beach on Lincoln Road.

The documentary presents that sea level rise is happening and that if we work together, then it may be possible to create an innovative solution and save the state of Florida.

The documentary will air again on WBPT2 Jan. 29 at 8 p.m.

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## Former Panther uses his voice as way to the big leagues

**PATRICK CHALVIRE**  
*Staff Writer*

He once called college games at local high schools throughout the city, but he is now the voice for the three-time NBA champion Miami Heat.

Not many people may know Michael Baiamonte and though his name may not ring a bell right at tipoff, his voice resonates all throughout South Florida.

Before becoming the official voice of one of the NBA's top teams, he roamed FIU, graduating in 1986 with a bachelors degree in business.

Baiamonte loved public speaking too. At Gulliver High School he called basketball games.

and said 'Someone gave me your college application, it says you were a basketball announcer, we are looking for a basketball announcer, would you be willing to come and audition for the job?'

Since an arena was still just a dream, jumping from school to school to work games is what was needed for Baiamonte to do what he loved and he knew that sacrifices would have to be made to reach the top.

"We played at local high schools, we played at community colleges, we played almost anywhere we could find a court around town," Baiamonte said. "I went as far as Miami Beach with this team to play. We were gypsies."

on the path to success.

For Baiamonte, a friendship with Jose Pineda did it.

Meeting earlier in his high school career at Belen Jesuit Preparatory School, they would grow a bond that is still strong till this day and Pineda knew the passion Baiamonte had in sports and calling basketball games.

As the years past and nothing new came out of the Heat, Baiamonte would end up speaking to Pineda, now the Spanish voice for the Miami Heat.

Pineda had taken a job with the Heat as a tickets salesman and kept a bug in the ears of the right people who would be able to help his long-time friend.

"One day I'm working in Corporate America, my phone rings and the person on the other end identifies himself as the PR Director of the Miami Heat and says to me, 'Our announcer is sick, can you announce the game tonight?'" Baiamonte said.

With the credibility Baiamonte had built amongst his friends and colleagues, he originally began to think it was a cruel joke but soon realized that suspicion was all in his head.

Baiamonte announced his first ever professional basketball game at the Miami Arena in 1989.

Though it later became under the title of a permanent backup position, having his foot in the proverbial door aided Baiamonte to gain experience until one day all his dreams came true.

"Going into the fourth year of the team's existence, there's an article that shows up in the Miami Herald one day that says the Miami Heat announcer is leaving the organization to go take over a family business in San Diego, California," Baiamonte said.

Already on the phone making calls, Baiamonte went back to the Heat and re-auditioned for his dream job.

Baiamonte has since spent the last 23 years calling endless Miami Heat games, from Tim Hardaway hitting a game-winner against the Orlando Magic in the 1997 playoffs to earn the first ever playoff series win for the Heat, to Ray Allen's famous three-pointer in game six of the 2013 NBA Finals, that helped revive the Heat to defeat the San Antonio Spurs for their second-straight title.

The NBA world has been introduced to many of Baiamonte's clever slogans, including his "Dos Minutos" at the two-minute mark of every quarter.

As fans cheer during games at the

**SEE VOICE, PAGE 7**

## Baseball: youth is key to success

**COLUMNIST**



**FRANCISCO RIVERO**

The FIU baseball team had a superb season last year as they finished

six games under .500 with a record of 26-32.

Now, the Panthers look to use the experience they gained from last year and apply it to the 2014 season.

In 2013, the Panthers started off the season on a hot streak winning eight of their first 10 games.

However, due to inexperience and inconsistency with pitching, the Panthers started to fall and could never become more than a .500 ball club.

Having your star junior pitcher Michael Ellis and senior closer Mike Gomez out for the year really didn't help the Panthers cause.

However, even with those two big losses FIU still managed to find new talent and continue developing that talent.

What you have to remember is that most of the Panthers pitching staff last season where young guys.

In fact, former pitching coach Drew French expressed to me that it was the first time a lot of these guys were seeing division one hitters.

With a year of experience and the help of new pitching coach Sam Peraza, FIU pitchers now looks to enhance their skills and lead a young solid rotation.

Peraza himself brings to FIU nine years of pitching coaching experience along with producing a total of four conference Pitchers of the Year and eight All-Americans as a pitching coach.

Peraza spent last season guiding the pitchers at California State University, Northridge, where the Matador pitching staff had

one of its best seasons in program history.

Peraza's pitching staff produced the best team earned run average in the program's last 21 years.

Now, that's all fine and dandy but if the season starts and the Panthers pitching begins to fall into the same trap it did last season, no one is really going to care about what Peraza did last year.

The fact is that Peraza enters a team that had a total earned run average of 5.03, gave up 287 earned runs and allowed more walks than runs with 289.

However, there are some bright points to this Panther staff with one of those being the emergence of junior pitcher Mike Franco.

Franco came to FIU last season recovering from Tommy John surgery and was restricted to the amounts of innings and pitches he could do. Even with the restrictions, Franco was able to post impressive numbers with a record of 5-4, an ERA of 5.23 and 50 strikeouts to only 33 walks.

Now after a year of restrictions, Franco is off the leash and can now step up and become the leader of this rotation.

Switching over to the offensive side of the ball, this was an area that the Panthers actually excelled in last season.

With a total batting average of .283 the Panthers were able to knock in 312 runs, 46 home runs and 110 doubles.

Most of which were provided by a man that was fighting for a spot on the team last year.

Sophomore first baseman Edwin Rios was one of four players trying to earn a starting spot at first base.

The decision was made to choose Rios not because

**SEE YOUTH, PAGE 7**



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL BAIAMONTE

Michael Baiamonte, an FIU graduate, relishes his role as the voice of the three-time NBA Champions Miami Heat.

When he filled out his entrance application to FIU, one question was asked that would lead him to a path he could only have dreamed of.

"One of the questions was, 'What was an accomplishment of yours in high school that you're most proud of?'" Baiamonte said. "My response to that was that I had come up with this idea of announcing the boys basketball team in high school. We were a very small private school, no one was announcing games."

As the basketball program began to take shape in 1981, former sports information director Rich Kelch needed an announcer for future games and came across Baiamonte's application that same year.

"Rich Kelch called me, at home,

It wasn't until 1987, a year after graduating FIU, when word spread that a professional team would be coming to Miami, a blessing for Baiamonte who saw it as the chance to make his dream become a reality.

"So I'm excited, we're getting pro basketball here, I'm already announcing at the college level, I bet you I have a great shot," Baiamonte said.

Eager and ready for his time to prove his ability, Baiamonte sent in a letter to the organization stating his interest to being the team's announcer. Unfortunately, he received a reply informing him that the position had already been filled.

It is understood that knowing the right people can truly help a person



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# Turner adds to coaching staff *Shade enters the spotlight*

## RUBEN PALACIOS *Sports Director*

The FIU football staff is rounding out. Head Coach Ron Turner announced the additions of three coaches to his staff in Kerry Dixon II, Rob Harley and Shannon Moore.

Dixon will join the FIU staff as its running backs coach, after being in the same role for Florida Atlantic University since Jan. 2012.

“Kerry is a very bright young coach, has great communication skills and is a person of high integrity,” Turner said in a statement. “He’s familiar with the South Florida area. He has a lot of connections with a lot of high school coaches which will be a big plus. He’s a really good fit for us.”

Dixon started his collegiate playing career as a quarterback at Baylor University in 2000, and even started two games as a true freshman before moving to receiver the next season and redshirted with an injury. Dixon transferred to Hampton University from Baylor, where he continued to play both receiver and quarterback.

“I’m blessed. New era begins,” wrote Dixon II on his Twitter when commenting on the FIU job.

### Linebacker guidance

Rob Harley, a former Ohio State University safety (03-05), will enter his first year at FIU as the linebackers coach. Harley spent the last two seasons as a graduate assistant under Michigan State’s Head Coach Mark Dantonio. Harley was a part of Michigan State’s Rose Bowl winning-team this past

season.

Harley was a member of the Buckeyes’ 2002 National Championship team as a safety. During his playing days at Ohio State, his team’s went a combined 29-8 and made it to three-straight bowl games.

“Rob brings a lot of energy and passion to everything that he does,” Turner said. “He’s going to have a great future in this business.”

### Special team lookover

After eight seasons and many different positions at South Dakota State University, Shannon Moore comes to FIU to serve as the special teams coach.

Moore’s latest position with SDSU was that of special teams coordinator and tight ends coach. He was also the running backs and tight ends coach from 2006-08, before taking on the task of special teams coordinator and quarterbacks coach during the 2009 season.

Moore’s career began at SDSU when he served as a graduate assistant during the 2003 and 2004 seasons, working with the running backs, tight ends and special teams.

“Shannon brings a lot of special teams experience,” Turner said. “He was at South Dakota State for eight years as special teams coordinator and tight ends coach. I almost hired him last year, so he was the first person we thought of when the position opened up. He’s very knowledgeable in terms of special teams, a great communicator and is very passionate.”

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## COLUMNIST



RUBEN PALACIOS

Sophomore guard Taylor Shade opened a lot of eyes when she scored 26 points on 9-of-13 shooting from the field against rival Florida Atlantic University on Jan. 15, but just not mine.

My eyes have been wide open about the talent Shade holds since the very first time I saw her play over a year ago.

I first saw Shade play in a preseason exhibition game, which FIU won. Shade entered the game as a freshman with no prior game experience, but that didn’t intimidate her.

Shade played in 10 games as a freshman -- a total of 35 minutes the entire season -- but she impacts games in ways that don’t necessarily show up on stat sheets. See, Shade is a fearless player. She doesn’t back down from anyone despite being listed at 5-foot-6.

Speed, hustle and grit are all traits that Shade embodies to a tee. I once described her defense to a fellow reporter as “relentless, she basically gets

inside the other player’s jersey.” Players like Shade don’t come often. Some players do have more talent, some have more size but few have the heart and desire to win that Shade does.

She wears her emotions on her sleeve. Sometimes it’s good, and sometimes it’s not. On occasion, her body language will let her teammates know that she’s frustrated at them or at a play they didn’t convert, but, she treats herself with the same expectations, too. When she messes up a play, she gets upset at the person wearing the FIU number five.

Shade also gets emotional with those who support her and her squad on the court:

“From the bottom of my heart, thank everyone who came out to show love tonight. I’m so grateful to have supporters like yall,” She wrote on Twitter after her dominant performance against FAU.

Shade is the only player on the women’s basketball team not named Jerica Coley to lead the team in scoring this year. Shade scored 18 points on opening night against Florida Gulf Coast, otherwise Coley has topped the scoring charts in

every other game.

The thing is, Shade has that ability to score. She’s elusive, quick and dazzling with a basketball in her hand, but just needs to let the game come to her. At times, she feels a need to score -- maybe to relieve some of the scoring burden off Coley -- but that usually ends in a forced shot.

When she’s under control, Shade is efficient. She’s second on the team in scoring as of Jan. 16 with 10.1 points per game, which is a monumental jump from the six total points she scored during her freshman campaign. Shade is also shooting the ball at an exceptional rate, she is shooting 44 percent from the field -- leading all scores, including Coley, with at least 50 shot attempts -- and leads the team with a 39 percent connection rate from behind the three-point line.

The talent is there, it just took everyone a year later to realize it. Shade, if she continues to improve like she has, will be the player called upon to fill in the massive shoes Coley leaves behind.

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# Baiamonte plans to stay

## VOICE, PAGE 6

American Airlines Arena during such calls, some critics don’t seem to agree with his style and energy.

In 2005, a staff member of the Boston Globe included Baiamonte in a playoff prediction article for the Heat and New Jersey Nets and some of the advantages the Heat had, which read, “An undeniable advantage at home with one of the NBA’s truly hideous public address announcers.”

An article that Baiamonte still has at home.

He understands the way the business works, the way fans and critics are and understands that his job is to make the games fun for South Florida fans, not the fans from Boston or New York.

Baiamonte on occasion has continued to call FIU football and basketball games but also plans to continue working with the Miami Heat and doesn’t seem to have any plans of leaving.

According to him, Pat Riley would have to get security to drag him out of the building.

“South Florida is my home,” Baiamonte said. “It’s where I’ve lived almost all my life. It’s where my wife and I raise our kids. I’m sitting center court watching Dwyane Wade, LeBron James and Chris Bosh play basketball every night. I plan to be behind that microphone.”

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# Youth becomes experience

## YOUTH, PAGE 6

of his bat, but because of his glove.

What came next was an offensive outburst nobody saw coming.

Rios ended the season with a batting average of .332, 52 runs batted in, 9 home runs, a slugging percentage of .558 and Rios’s calling card 20 doubles.

I mean that amount of doubles this guy was hitting last season was insane.

I remember going to the press box and every time Rios came up to bat everyone had double written on their scorecard already.

Another key offensive player for the Panthers is located just across the diamond at third base.

Junior third baseman Josh Anderson played his first year at FIU last season after transferring over from Yavapai College in Prescott, Ariz.

Anderson finished the season with a

batting average of .279, 42 RBI’s, 7 home runs and 22 doubles.

Between Anderson and Rios, they accounted for almost half of the extra base hits for FIU last season.

There’s no doubt that with these two guys in the heart of the order for the Panthers next season finding ways to score runs will not be an issue.

It’s now up to Head Coach Henry “Turtle” Thomas to gather this group of young and talented players and harness the potential that each have.

The fact that the Panthers only finished six games under .500 with a young team, two star players out for the year and a mostly road dominate schedule makes me believe that this season can be a bright one for FIU baseball.

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## Goodbye SCUBA: diving program ends

SAMANTHA DAVIS &  
REBECA PICCARDO  
*FIUSM Staff*

Bob Weisman to the University in 1995. He had just gotten out of the Coast Guard, had completed his master's degree, and had a dream to run a boating and diving safety program. It was then that the Dive program was born and Weisman took on the role of Boat and Dive Safety Officer.

He may have started out with little more than 15 personal tanks and no equipment, but the program grew and over the course of 19 years. Weisman certified 4,213 students, with some continuing on to become scientific divers under his training.

"The dive program inspired many to pursue marine conservation efforts and I think it's a shame that the program was removed because it was the best diving program in the country in 2013," said Manuel Garcia, a senior biology major, who was a volunteer with the program.

According to Weisman, the program was self-sustaining and never required financial support from the administration.

"They terminated the program because they did not feel it was important and viewed it as a liability after FIU acquired the underwater reef base Aquarius," Weisman said.

However, professor Jim Fourqurean, chairman of the University's Diving Control Board, said that the program was cut due to changes in the qualifications for the diving safety officer position.

Fourqurean said that with the acquisition of the Aquarius reef base, the diving safety officer position now requires commercial

diving and saturation diving experience.

Rogelio "Roger" Garcia, the new dive safety officer, is also the Aquarius operations director.

Fourqurean also mentions that the diving program was not terminated, it was moved to the University college, so that the program would be taught as a non-credit course. However, "only 30 students enrolled for the course, and that was insufficient enrollment to fund the program," said Fourqurean.

Ashley Villamizar, a senior and criminal justice major, was enrolled in the program for the spring 2014 semester and was very disappointed when she checked her email before classes started and found out that it was cancelled.

"All I was excited for from May 2013 on was signing up for the Advanced Class which I did as soon as classes were available for the picking," Villamizar said.

Andrea Jones, a senior majoring in marine biology, wrote a letter in hopes of convincing administration to keep the program. "The program is the gateway to my future," she said.

Sasha Sikaffy, a graduate student in environmental studies, also wrote a letter:

"The dive program was a valuable resource because many of the graduate faculty and doctoral students in marine sciences are certified through the program."

Students did not just sit in a classroom or read a textbook. They learned about physics, physiology, oceanography, marine biology, environmental issues and medical aspects of diving. They learned about things that could

**SEE SCUBA, PAGE 2**

### PACKED PANTRY



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Sarah Keneally, Senior Health Educator for Student Services, packs a back from the food pantry which is open to any students in need of it.

## Upcoming LGBTQA event celebrates a new you

ARIEL WEINSTEIN  
*Staff Writer*

All throughout the world, there are boys and girls who are struggling to be their true selves. They fear that if their friends and family find out they are gay, they will not accept them.

This is why the 3D Series event; "A New Year, A New Me... Will they Accept Me?" was created. It targets University students who have recently come out to their families, acting almost as a support group.

Edwin Serrano, a grad-

uate assistant for FIU Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Questioning and Allies Initiatives, is the leader and host of the new event, "A New Year, A New Me... Will they Accept Me?"

By attending the event, Serrano hopes that his audience recognizes the LGBTQA Initiatives as a place where LGBTQA people can find support and comfort.

"A lot of what we do is geared towards to students who are simply seeking for somewhere to go, and feel

safe, and our events is a place all are welcome at," Serrano explains.

With three staff members, one full time associate director, and two graduate assistants, along with many other volunteers, the organization along with multiple sub-committees, has been around for a few years, helping LGBTQA students throughout the University.

They host various events throughout the year, such as 3D 'Dine, Discuss and Deliberate' Series which are lunchtime lectures with the organization.

SAVE Dade, Miami-Dade County's leading organization dedicated to protecting people who are LGBT against discrimination, has been asked to attend and speak at the event.

Although their topics will be heavily based on transgenders, there will also be talks and speeches geared toward other aspects of the LGBTQA community as well.

Serrano said it is sometimes hard for students to return home over the holidays, because they may

feel pressured that it is once again time to hide who they really are.

"When we were planning for this semester's 3D events, we wanted to cover topics and issues that could reach out to any college student's experience.

This "New Year, New Me" phrase is so common, that many students can relate, whether it applies to beginning the process towards transidentity, telling your family you support same-sex couples, or beginning to accept your sexuality" Serrano states.

Approximately 20 students, faculty, and staff are expected to show up. For students coming from MMC, transportation by the Golden Panther Express runs daily to BBC.

The event will be taking place at BBC in the WUC-155 from 12-2pm on Thursday Jan. 23.

Serrano also claims this event "will speak to those interested in learning about coming to terms with a new identity, or lifestyle."

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## PBS airs documentary production by FIU professors

REBEKAH KEIDA  
*Contributing Writer*

If you live in South Florida, then sea level rise is probably happening right under your nose. The 30-minute documentary, "South Florida's Rising Seas," produced by FIU School of Journalism and Mass Communications professors Kate Macmillan and

Juliet Pinto, addresses just that.

They discuss the issue resulting from ignoring the rising seas, and how cities like Miami beach are becoming inundated without a cloud in the sky. This connection has yet to be realized by Floridians and it is important that they note just where this water is coming from.

Florida resident Fernanda Uesler,

26, lives on Ninth Street and Pennsylvania Ave. in Miami Beach. "You can't even cross the street sometimes! The water gets up to my knees and I am 6' 1"! There must be a problem with the pipes or something," Uesler says. But infrastructure is not the only problem.

"Gravity will no longer do the job," warns John Englander, the

author of "High Tide on Main Street" and the narrator of "South Florida's Rising Seas." Due to the rising sea, rainwater is no longer able to drain into the ocean or bay. Gravity actually works against us during high tide, when water from the bay creeps through the sewer systems and into the streets.

The documentary does a good

job of illustrating the many problems that stem from the inevitable rise of the sea. For example, salt water intrusion occurs as salt pushes through the porous limestone; it begins to permeate the fresh water aquifers and canals used by residents.

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