

Job reports point to drop in youth unemployment

RAUL HERRERA
Assistant News Director

Generation Opportunity, a non-partisan youth advocacy organization, recently released its Millennial Jobs Report for December 2013 which pointed to an effective 15.9 percent non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for 18 to 29 year olds, a drop from June 2013's 16.1 percent rate.

When it comes to causes behind the unemployment numbers, Generation Opportunity believes that it is tied to government regulation.

"I think there are a lot of causes, but it's our view that the root cause is the fact that there's a whole bunch of government overregulation," said Corie Whalen, spokesperson for Generation Opportunity. "We're having a big situation where the federal government thinks it can manage the economy, and yet what we're seeing as a result is that entrepreneurial enterprises are being stifled, and jobs are not being created as always needed to employ millennial at healthy rates."

In the November 2013 Millennial Jobs Report, Generation Opportunity

President Evan Feinberg pointed to the Affordable Care Act as an example of what he believes to be bad economic policy from Washington.

Forty-nine percent of 18 to 29-year-olds approve of the president's current job, according to a Gallup poll for the week of January 2 - 5 of 2014.

"We've seen small businesses especially say they aren't hiring because they can't afford to use the mandates in Obamacare," said

science major disagrees. She mentioned sequester and the government shutdown as contributors.

"Government regulation isn't the sole cause of the deterioration of the economy," said Fonseca, the president of the FIU College Democrats. "Just look at the recession: it was primarily because of Wall Street, big businesses, that essentially tried to cheat the system, and then completely deter government. And plus, President Obama bailed them

“One of the big crises our generation is facing is that only half of us are actually using our degrees when we graduate, so I would say that young people really need to take that responsibility before they take on such a large effort to actually go to college.”

Corie Whalen
Spokesperson
Generation Opportunity

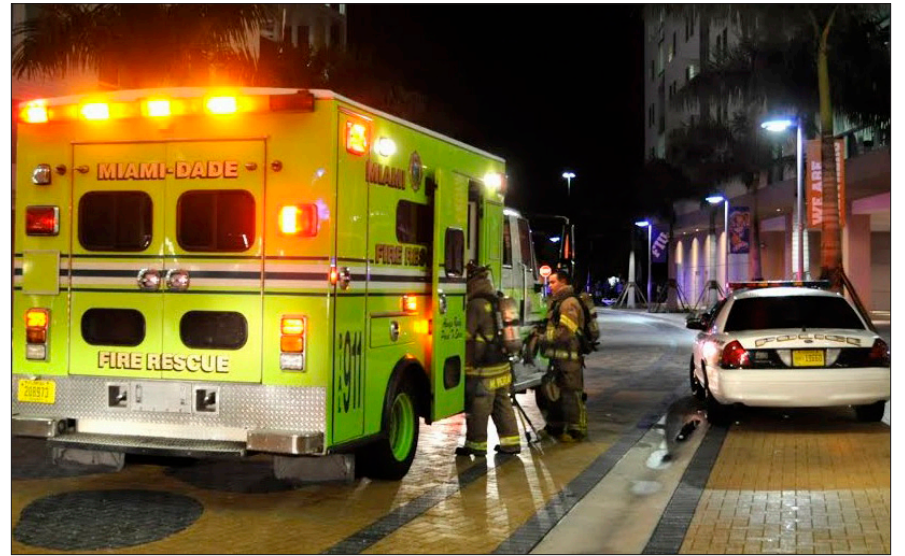
Whalen, who believes that the Affordable Care Act is one of the root causes behind these numbers.

Meanwhile, Sahara Fonseca, sophomore political

out. It's essentially a little bit of government regulation that causes big businesses to retaliate with a sort of [attempt] to cheat at the system."

Generation Opportunity's

IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Fire rescue responded to a kitchen fire on the sixth floor in the east wing of Parkview Hall around 10 p.m. on Jan. 21. Several residents of the east wing were not allowed back into their rooms the night of the 21st and were forced to sleep elsewhere due to investigation and flooding from the building's sprinkler system.

findings were compiled through the use of government statistics according to Whalen. It collected numbers from the 18-29 demographic -- data specifically from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The group is funded by several donors, which, according to a Washington Post article, include TC4 Trust and Freedom Partners. These organizations are said to be part of a donor network formed by Charles and David Koch, better known as "the Koch brothers."

The Koch Brothers are known for their donations to fiscally conservative groups, such as Americans For Prosperity, and civil libertarian groups, such as the American Civil Liberties Union,

according to reports by the New York Social Diary and the Wall Street Journal.

When asked about her group's funding, Whalen stated that while Generation Opportunity is indeed supported by various benefactors who "believe in their cause," they respected the right to anonymity of these donors like any nonprofit.

Fonseca finds that this is a way for the brothers to continue managing the economy and politics.

"They've been trying to maneuver their way into politics since the deficit," said Fonseca. "The Koch brothers have been influenced by their father who did live through the Communist era, and so they're just trying to reflect "Atlas

Shrugged" ideals and they try to install their individualistic beliefs into the economy."

"And they have a lot of power, because they have a lot of money, they have a lot of influence, and they can buy off politicians, they can create organizations," said Fonseca.

Feinberg stated that the necessary solution to the unemployment rates is limited government involvement in the private sector.

"Well, first of all, we would love to see Obamacare replaced with more market-oriented reform," said Whalen. "We also think that we need reform, in measures of security, all entitlements because those are slated to go bankrupt in

SEE YOUTH, PAGE 2

New alert system undergoing improvements

MARIA BRITOS
Staff Writer

The University's new alert system was put to the test when it was merely weeks old when an active shooter barricaded himself in a nearby apartment complex.

More than 60,000 emails and 50,000 text messages were attempted to send -- but less than

“We decided not to shut down the old system until the new system was fully operational to ensure no outage of service.”

Amy Aiken
Director
Emergency Management

10 percent were actually delivered, according to the FIU Alert Incident Report.

Amy Aiken, director of the Department of Emergency Management, said the alert system

is still undergoing an upgrade process that began in November 2013.

The new system is supposed to activate emergency alerts through text messages, email, social media and voice calls to subscribed users as well as speakers and phones throughout all campuses.

But the upgrade has left the alert system inconsistent and unorganized.

The Dec. 8 event in which Miami-Dade County Police responded to an active shooter in a neighborhood south west of Modesto Maidique Campus, some students received multiple alerts and repetitive emails, while others did not receive an alert at all.

Aiken said the reason for multiple alerts was because the old alert system was still activated at the time the new system was launched.

"We decided not to shut down the old system until the new system was fully operational to ensure no outage of service," said Aiken. "The old method of sending emails has since then been deactivated."

Users received four copies of the same email for the initial alert because FIU Police needed to alert both the Modesto Maidique Campus

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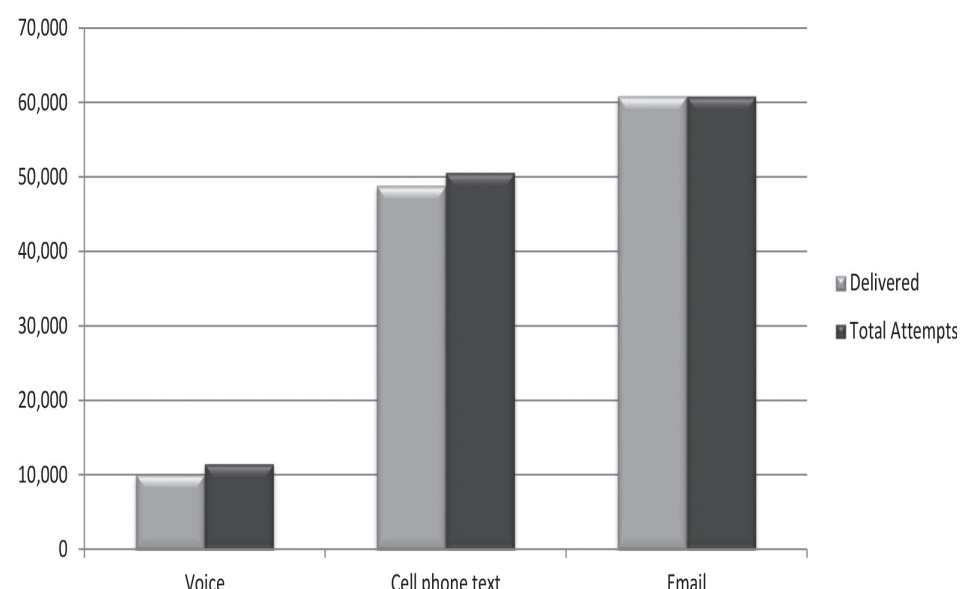


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

and the Engineering Campus. When the second alert was sent, most methods of communication were selected unintentionally, including email.

"I received at least four emails saying

the same thing in a matter of an hour," said Elizabeth Cajes, sophomore finance major. "At

SEE ALERT SYSTEM, PAGE 2

WORLD NEWS

Bird flu spikes in China ahead of Lunar New Year

A spate of bird flu cases since the beginning of the year in China has experts watching closely as millions of people and poultry are on the move ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday, the world's largest annual human migration. China has reported more than 50 H7N9 infections in 2014 after the strain jumped from birds to people for the first time last year. The virus remains hard to catch and most cases have been linked to contact with poultry, but scientists worry that could change if it mutates into a form that allows it to spread easily among people.

A look at key fighting groups in Syria

Here's a list of key fighting groups inside Syria: - SYRIAN GOVERNMENT - Despite major defections early in the conflict and the loss of significant territory to rebels, the Syrian military remains a potent force against an outgunned opposition. President Bashar Assad's inner circle has largely remained cohesive and united, avoiding high-level defections that would sap its strength. The military has successfully exploited its greatest advantage, its uncontested airpower, to pound opposition-held areas and sustain far-flung bases holding out in rebel territory. Assad has bolstered his overstretched military over the past year with the creation of the National Defense Force, a pro-government militia that draws heavily from Syria's minority communities and reportedly receives training from Iran.

Hungary: nations get threat about Sochi attacks

Hungary's Olympic Committee says it has received an email message written in Russian and English threatening its athletes with terrorist attacks at the Sochi Olympic Games. The International Olympic Committee confirmed there was a message but downplayed the severity of it. Bence Szabo, secretary general of the Hungarian Olympic committee, told the sports daily Nemzeti Sport on Wednesday that the message also urged the Hungarian delegation to stay away from the Winter Games, which run from Feb. 7-23.

For more world news, check out FIUSM.com.

Unemployment thought to be caused by overregulation

YOUTH, PAGE 1

the next decade, and our generation that's paying into those really won't be receiving them. We're looking for reforms in that area as well. And overall, we need to reduce the debt burden that our generation is going to be left with."

"We would like to see young people organized to make reforms that really treat our generation [correctly] because right now we aren't seeing that," said Whalen, who mentioned that young people need an organization equivalent to AARP to make sure that the youth do not receive the "short end of the stick" in policies.

When it comes to individual 18 to 29-year-old job seekers, Whalen recommends different solutions.

"With economic freedom comes personal responsibility, so we encourage young people when they're looking at going to college to really look at the job market for the major you're choosing is," Whalen said. "One of the big crises our

generation is facing is that only half of us are actually using our degrees when we graduate, so I would say that young people really need to take that responsibility before they take on such a large effort to actually go to college."

Darren Gregory, assistant director of Career Services, stressed the importance of networking and internships, as well as making oneself stand out.

Fonseca agreed, pointing to internships as being important.

"You have to have at least two internships in your resume so you can have a job," said Fonseca.

While their opinions on political causes and solutions were different, all those interviewed seemed to want to encourage students.

"Students shouldn't be discouraged at all," said Fonseca. "The market is one thing, and statistics are another, but honestly, students have the drive, and with their resume and with their experience, people can make it work."

"This does make me worrisome about the type of job that I'm going to get, but as I'm looking into the other research that they put into it, these are jobs that don't require skills," said Fonseca, who clarified that sometimes the jobs that are unavailable are not high-level.

Fonseca said higher education improves students' viability for obtaining jobs, and increases their skills.

"I feel like you're not really set to have a job, but it does qualify you more than the pool of people who don't have jobs," Fonseca said. "It's statistically proven that if you do have a higher education you have more chances of achieving a job that would have better salary, you can have more stability, and it's overall, better."

"I'm not saying higher education will solidify your chances in the job market, but it will increase your chances of having a stable job."

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FIU working on new alert system

ALERT SYSTEM, PAGE 1

first, I even thought it was a road construction alert."

The old system has since been deactivated.

Still – less than 10 percent of alerts were actually delivered. Aiken said this could have been a result of incorrect numbers entered into the system by users.

"I was definitely confused by all the emails, especially the multiple text messages," said Alex Carrillo, junior biology major. "It wasn't until I saw a

Facebook post that I realized it was an actual emergency."

Despite kinks that need to be worked out determined by the incident report, Aiken said the important part of the occurrence was that the message was effective and communicated properly and that there were no injuries or chaos experienced.

Aiken explained that there were a number of complaints on the multiple emails; however, the department "wanted to keep the old system active until we were

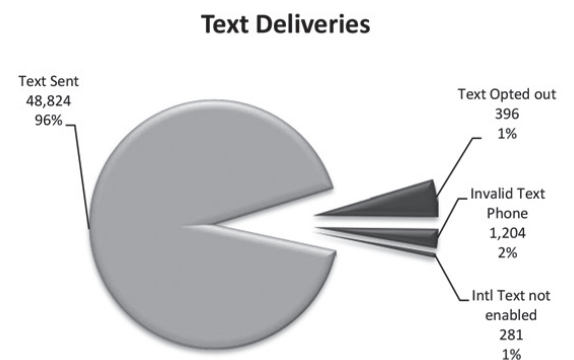


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

certain that the new system of the department was functioning correctly."

She apologized on behalf -maria.britos@fiusm.com

BBC to upgrade campus library technology with new center

ASK!, PAGE 8

Although one student agreed comfortable furniture is needed in the library, they were more concerned with the use of space and positioning of furniture.

Xiaochan Wu, a hospitality graduate student, said the library's second floor currently has plenty of space that is not being used, so the ASK! Center will need an efficient layout to maximize the benefits of the budget.

"The layout is another very important problem," she said.

Cooper said seats will be next to windows so students have a view of the campus.

Better lighting will also be available to accommodate students reading, using computers and conducting general work in the library.

The need for new computers will be addressed by removing the old computers on the first floor and replacing them with new ones on the second floor, according to Cooper.

He said all seating will have USB outlets and there will be plenty of elec-

tricity available so students can use their laptops and other equipment with ease.

Students can still check out computers on the first floor and use them on the first floor with access to wireless internet, but Cooper said moving the computers to the

“They will be able to discover the support they need without walking to different areas in the building, or in separate buildings on campus.”

Corie Whalen
Spokesperson
Generation Opportunity

second floor is a safety measure to protect the equipment from a potential flood or hurricane.

"The first floor is not as safe as the second floor," he said.

The ASK! Center is in the early stages of development, and testing out furniture samples and getting student feedback is the first step.

Then hard construction will begin in February or March with the installation of walls and floor work.

Next, the furniture that students help select will be placed; lastly, the technology will be installed.

"We're hoping to launch this by the fall semester," said Cooper.

During the renovations, the second floor will remain open because construction will only impact a fraction of the library space, according to Cooper.

The space being renovated will be cornered off as students await their ideal library space.

"We are planning this new accumulation of services at the ASK! Center to provide additional convenience," he said. "In many ways, it will be a one-stop shop for students."

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Panther kicking apps online

DANIELA CADENA
Contributing Writer

Certain objects, topics, or fetishes attract all of us. I am personally fascinated by hobbies. They make us extraordinary humans, exposing each person's hidden talents. Our hobbies are conversation starters. They keep us motivated to keep moving forward.

The fact that they make us forget our differences, where we come from, what languages we speak and just let us appreciate the passions that bring us together, truly intrigues me. It is one of few things that can gather millions of people at global levels. That is how it all started: I became somewhat obsessed by how musicians, soccer players, dancers and basketball players could be so different but all share a love for one particular thing.

Being a full-time student with five classes, two part-time jobs, as well as being Director of Fundraising for the AMA here at FIU, and trying to get my start-up out there is nearly impossible. But the fun I have doing it makes it so worth it.

It is difficult for people to take you serious, especially when you are in an "idea" stage. And it is sad to see how many people underestimate you, but those are the ones that inspire you to keep going. To not give up, even when

you feel like all doors are slammed in your face.

The more you ask and persist, the sooner you will come across individuals like Boris Hirmas, Andrej Kostreševic, Robert Hacker, Juan Caraballo, among others, who are inspired by your determination. And those people will help you and guide you beyond your wildest dreams.

One of the things that made all the differ-

“
If people are not laughing at your dreams, then you are not dreaming big enough.”

ence was taking advantage of my professors. They are priceless assets, which we as student sometimes take for granted.

And the other secret ingredient was my own classmates. We are part of a university with over 55,000 students; we must take advantage of this. I took any opportunity to find out what other students do. What their passions are. And then each of them gave me their opinion.

During my fall semester, I was coming to

school, working and going to MeetUps, workshops, and networking events, and Hackathons. I was part of #teamnosleep. During an entire semester and prototype building, thanks to all the people I met, I was able to put together Squid.

I learned how to make a website (Squidapp.co), I learned how to use Photoshop, and now I am learning Illustrator. If you love what you are creating, you will meet amazing people just like you that are going against all odds to make their dreams come to life as well.

Creating a startup while you're in college is a great experience; you have nothing to lose. You open amazing opportunities, discover people with great connections, and learn way more than if simply spent your time sitting, studying, eating and watching TV.

Now after a year of working on Squid, I have decided to launch my Kickstarter campaign. I want people to come together for what we are passionate about.

I am not going to lie, many people have laughed and continue to laugh at my attempt to bring Squid to life. But then I read that Grayson Marshall said, "If people are not laughing at your dreams, then you are not dreaming big enough."

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BEACON | Editorial

New point system puts unnecessary pressure on students

Another year down, more the pressure to graduate on time is mounting.

Now, it's the Board of Governors breathing down our necks.

Florida is moving toward a funding system based on accountability and performance, which means that, if passed, all 12 state universities will lose 3 percent of funding to which they were entitled before this change.

This change would begin in fall 2014.

The universities will have an opportunity, based on performance, to ultimately regain that 3 percent.

A 50-point scoring system would be established (five points per metric) and each school must score at least 26 points to be eligible for a portion of the \$50 million in new funding BOG has requested from the Legislature.

The three schools with the lowest scores will not be eligible for performance funds, and will see a 1 percent reduction to their base funding that could grow to as much as a 3 percent reduction by the second year of the model.

The common metrics that will be used to dictate funding will include the percent of bachelor's degree graduates employed and/or continuing their education; average wages of employed baccalaureate graduates, cost per undergraduate degree; six-year graduation rate for full-time and part-time first time students; academic progress rate (second-year retention with GPA above 2.0); bachelor's degrees awarded in areas of strategic emphasis (includes STEM); and university access rate (percent of undergraduates with a Pell grant).

"Timely graduation, the reduction of excess student hours and review and possible elimination of low production programs and programs whose students do not graduate on time and get good jobs are examples of efficiencies," said Provost Douglas Wartzok in an email sent to the University community earlier this week.

Graduating in four years becomes rather difficult when 40 percent of the student population is considered part time, according to fall 2012 enrollment data.

A lot of career paths focus on internship experience during our undergraduate years, but if we're pressured not to delay graduation, our internship experience suffers.

At the same time, there are students with special circumstances, like student parents, that are limited scholastically by their responsibilities. Some students are forced for financial reasons to take fewer classes to accommodate their children's schedules; for many reasons, it takes single parents alone anywhere between six to 15 years. Students may graduate on time, but with fewer internships on their resume, they may not do as well when seeking employment after graduation.

Student savors real-time interaction

ZOE LAWRENCE
Contributing Writer

Do you ever feel like sometimes we are becoming... too accessible?

Please, don't get me wrong. I love technology and its many benefits. The fact that we can see our loved ones faces from a thousand miles away with an application built onto our cell phones is a major accomplishment for the human race. Not even 20 years ago, the idea was unfathomable. We have gone from writing letters and waiting dreary months for them to cross seemingly endless seas, to merely tapping a screen and seeing the people we love from halfway across the world. Email, Facebook, Twitter and many other social networks have made it easier for us to find

people we connect with, but is it stopping us from building lasting relationships?

I met a young man a couple of weeks ago, on a 31-hour bus ride from New York to Miami. It was an instant connection, not romantically, but an uncanny, intimate level I believe all humans have the ability to share with one another. We talked about everything under the sun. We touched on our views on love to a shared feeling of being misunderstood by our families. It was an amazing feeling to experience a connection that didn't end with exchanging our Facebook accounts. It's weird to think that I spent well over 24 hours with this person and I don't even know his name.

In all that time, our names simply didn't come up. Our pain came up. Our hopes and dreams

also surfaced. But no names, no Instagram usernames, Facebook pages or Twitter accounts were exchanged. Sometimes we sat in silence and shifted our attention to the trees slipping away behind the window glass. It was magical. The way I could get to know so much about a person in such little time.

It hit me after I got off the bus that we would probably never encounter each other again. Isn't that astonishing? In the world that I've grown up in, these things only happen in romantic comedies with vague misconceptions about normal human interaction. But here I was, experiencing it firsthand.

Something about this encounter completely intoxicated me with a feeling I never quite knew before. I know I can speak for many today that I have devalued the simple

things about human interaction and exchanged them for emojis and vague text messages.

I, and many others, am becoming way too comfortable with dealing with others behind lit screens.

I want to hear passion changing the pace of someone else's voice. I want to see how their words curl their mouths whenever they start conversation with me. Little moments like these create tides of blissful feelings deep within me.

Just talking to someone – no binding contracts presented in the form of a Facebook request, no way to tell if I'll see this person again – just two strangers sharing a couple of words and laughs, then continuing gracefully with their day is what I want.

-opinion@fiusm.com

University easy on Sunday mornings

JENNIPHER SCHAFER
Contributing Writer

Throughout the week it's often hard to find a place to sit and enjoy my mocha frappuccino, let alone find a decent place to study.

All too often I retreat into my dorm room and lock the door. It probably doesn't help that as an English major I have more assigned reading than time. Living here has its advantages, I just never thought one of them would be Sundays on-campus.

Saturdays are a whirlwind of catching up and trying to get ahead while doing mundane chores.

Sunday is a day to recharge with quiet walks around campus. Sundays you have the ability to find the gazebos free. It's very relaxing to sit up on one of the benches and listen to nature.

The campus is great either for brisk or leisurely walks on Sunday. The nature trail near Parkview Hall is not as crowded, giving one the sense of actually being on a nature preserve as opposed to a small enclosure.

The swinging picnic tables in the courtyard by the large fountain are also available. These shaded spots offer a much desired place to take notes, outline papers, and read while enjoying a shady spot.

If you live on-campus don't sit trapped in your room on Sunday thinking it's going to be the same. Get out and enjoy the spots you can't secure during the week and smile knowing you have them to yourself then.

For the rest of the column, visit fiusm.com.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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Female leaders honored by FIU over breakfast

GISELLE CANCIO
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association, the Office of Governmental Relations and the Women's Center hosted the a Women Who Lead Pre-Conference Breakfast in order to celebrate and honor the year's work of FIU's female student and administrative leadership.

"We wanted to provide the opportunity to glean various meaningful insights from three of FIU's greatest supporters and introduce many of FIU's more influential women," Alexis Calatayud, Director of Governmental Relations for SGA, sophomore majoring in political science.

Three women were selected to speak and host a panel, and they were selected because of their desire to build up and pour into the next generation of FIU women leaders.

"They have distinguished themselves throughout their careers as women of commitment and service to the South Florida

and, particularly, the FIU community," Calatayud said.

U.S. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, State Senator Anitere Flores and State Representative Jeanette Nunez, all of which are FIU alumni lead the discussion with the students.

They discussed how to develop leadership, embrace the unexpected journeys career paths may lead into and balance career objectives and personal lives.

All three women shared a very direct message on pursuing goals and not being afraid to launch into ventures that are out of one's comfort zone. Sometimes a planned out life does not work out as planned, and it's a matter of rolling with the punches and embracing opportunities as they arrive.

As women, it must be understood that the ideal of a woman's balanced career and personal life are false expectations. Rather, women must focus on the work, time and relationships at hand at each given moment which include being 100 percent present

at all times. In this way, we appreciate and invest into each part of our lives intensely, rather than investing in several things at once.

"The Pre-Conference Women Leadership Breakfast was an incredible opportunity to interact with women leaders that excel both in the professional and personal realm," Tiffany Roman-Biffa, sophomore majoring in international relations, said. "It also gave me a new perspective in how to take advantage of my leadership roles to learn more about myself and what I want to achieve in life."

There were distinguished guests of the FIU community present, including Dr. Anne Sippin, Dr. Cecile Houry and Barbara Bader.

Dr. Sippin has been in the field of education for over 30 years. She currently advises international students and scholars on immigration issues and specializes in F-1 and J-1 issues. She was born in Cuba and grew up in Miami, and is an undergraduate alumnae from FIU.

Dr. Cecile Houry was

AWAITING FAME



MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

After a pageant filled with graceful performances and glamorous gowns, the Miss FIU participants lined up to await the results of the pageant.

recently appointed Assistant Vice President in the Office of Engagement. She also received the FIU Community Award in October 2011.

Barbara Bader is the founding director of FIU's Educational Leadership Enhancement Program that began in 1993 — a position she continues to hold today. In 2004, she was recognized for her leadership and continuous outreach to colleagues and was the recipient of the Florida Association for Women in Education Presidential Award.

Female leaders were given the opportunity to glean insight from three

of the most powerful and humble public servants in the State. Student leaders were given perspectives of two women in their thirties who have well established business and political reputations. One of these women is in her early sixties with decades of leadership growth and has reached the highest level of office and colleague and community esteem.

"It was a fantastic event! All of the speakers were engaged, honest and wonderful," Tylis Woodstock, sophomore majoring in political science, said. "It really motivated me as a political science major

that it's fine if I'm unsure about how I want to use my degree because it's flexible. Internships will direct me to my purpose like it did for Senator Flores."

More information will be available for the Women Who Lead Conference in early February and the conference will take place March 24 at MMC and March 25 at BBC.

"We are excited this Pre-Conference breakfast will encourage women to attend the actual conference in March," Calatayud said.

-giselle.cancio@fiusm.com

Project Downtown offers comfort to less fortunate



PHOTO COURTESY OF RAYID SAKIB

Waleed Mohammad (center), one of the co directors of Project Downtown and an FIU alumnus, talks to visitors gathered for the Friday activities in the parking lot near the Stephen P. Clark Government Center.

CRISTINA GARCIA
Staff Writer

Generally, when Friday afternoon comes around, people are dying to go home, away from daily stresses and the cold. However, on-campus roam a few individuals that ignore the urge to snuggle up in bed, and turn

instead towards downtown.

Every Friday, for the last eight years, a group of students meet at the University of Miami around 5 p.m. and lead the way downtown to offer food and conversation to those less fortunate.

The gatherings were started by a small group of students dissatisfied with the

community's treatment of the homeless and needy. Instead of letting their frustrations dissipate, they gathered one afternoon, prepared a modest gift and turned their objections into action.

After the first event, the students joined forces with Muslim Students Association National in 2006 and thus was born Project Downtown.

"Although volunteers are primarily Muslim Students Association members, the event is open to any volunteer," said Fahad Imam, co-director of the project. "Occasionally we get high school kids, local schools and families involved."

According to Imam, it's not uncommon to have families volunteer then be so moved they pledge to come back or help in some way.

Waleed Mohammed, an FIU alumni and co-director, has been involved with the project for over three years. He says that the project is about more than just passing around food.

"One of the most important factors is we listen to how their day was. Oftentimes they get ignored," he said. "They can get by in terms of basic needs, but they need someone to hear their stories."

The stereotype of a homeless person is someone on drugs or an alcoholic, but the volunteers say they found the complete opposite.

"We could be in that situation, in line next week. Quite a few are well educated, but down on their luck," said Mohammad. "Project Downtown is a modest gift from a bunch of poor college students."

The materials distributed by the volunteers come from two major sources: Project Downtown funds or organizations that prepare food and donate it. According to Imam, the funds are donations from the community, so there are limitations as to what they can do.

According to Rayid Sakib, a junior biomedical major and active volunteer in the project, "volunteers don't have any specific roles within the project."

However, there are tasks they all take care of. Volunteers prepare the food, distribute it, socialize with visitors and look after the line.

Sakib said he usually takes care of the line. Volunteers that monitor the line look out for latecomers, making sure to bring them the front of the line so everyone receives at least one serving.

"My first time was as a freshman, but I couldn't go the next semester. During my sophomore year, I couldn't stop going. I made sure I didn't have exams," he said. "It feels nice to be with them and make a difference in their life."

Students that want to participate can contact the group at projectdowntown.org.

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Local jazz group to perform in West Palm Beach



PHOTO COURTESY OF 3AM

Members of 3AM from left to right: Christopher McGill, 2nd Tenor, Michael Medina, 3rd Tenor, Mark Jenkins, 1st Tenor, Arlan Hampton, 4th Tenor, Kelvin Mitchell, bass and Jeffrey Henderson, baritone.

SAMANTHA DAVIS
Contributing Writer

A Florida-based Gospel jazz group known as 3AM is performing in West Palm Beach and they have a passion for sharing the word and God's love through the ministry of music. If you want to be energized and enjoy upbeat music, then Origins Church is the place for you to be. The performance is January 25 at 5 p.m. The event is free and everyone is welcome to come out and enjoy their performance.

Christopher McGill, Michael Medina, Mark Jenkins, Arlan Hampton, Kelvin Mitchell, and Jeffrey Henderson came together in Tampa,

Fla. in 2009 to form the group 3AM. When they first began making music together, they were about 85 percent a cappella.

"A capella was our main focus. When Chris and Mike joined, they brought the neo-soul and R&B sound," mentioned third tenor Michael Medina. Their music has since evolved into a mix of soul, jazz, R&B and gospel. Their goal is to inspire listeners and open people's hearts to Christ.

The name 3AM comes from Chapter 14 in the book of Revelations in which 3 angels came from heaven and made a proclamation to the world to come out of sin and bad habits because the hour of the Lord's judgment was

upon them. "Basically: get ready, everyone, because Jesus Christ is coming. This is what we say in our music, this is how we address people in the streets and this is what we believe," said fourth tenor Arlan Hampton.

Jeffrey Henderson, a baritone in the group, described the group roles by saying, "Everybody is important to the whole of 3AM. The structure of our vocal arrangement includes a bass singer at the bottom, a first tenor at the top, and different voices between tenors and baritones to give a varied sound. We have a soulful lead singer, a contemporary pop style singer and crooners. You get a mix of everything when you listen to 3AM."

Some of their songs include "Blessings," "Keep Movin" and "Empty," which are part of their album "All Because of You". They will be performing songs from this album at the event and are excited to share their music with the audience.

First tenor Mark Jenkins said they're expecting a large turnout. "We're expecting to have a lot of different churches to come in. We're planning on getting people from all over South Florida, the tri-county area: Dade, Broward and Palm Beach. We're expecting a large crowd; we're expecting to pack the place."

Although they are excited for their upcoming performance and are optimistic about the turnout, preparing for the concert has not been easy. In discussing the difficulties they face, Henderson said, "One of the biggest challenges is where we're located. A couple guys are outside the state of Florida and several of us live in Florida but in different cities. Our location has created some limita-

tions but because we are doing God's work, He has always found a way to help us make sure that our ministry is heard by the people who need to hear it. We look forward to different challenges. It gives us strength to know that we have the obstacle of being in different cities but the Lord still makes a way for his ministry to come through."

When they rehearse, they use technology to the fullest extent to make up for the distance between them. They practice individually using email, drop boxes or whatever is the best way to share information. When they get together in person, they make the most of their time by rehearsing and polishing up what they previously practiced apart from each other.

Despite the challenges, this group is going places: in the past year they've been to Macon, Georgia, Atlanta and St. Louis. A plan to travel to Chicago in the next month and a half is in the works and they could potentially travel to Toronto, New York and the Bahamas.

One of their best experiences was in St. Louis as bass singer Kelvin Mitchell recalled, "We built relationships that have carried onto today. A lot of times you may go to a city, you may meet someone and you're probably with them for the time that you're there and unless you connect with them or make a conscious effort to do so, you'll probably never talk to that person again. But we were able to make some really nice relationships with people in St. Louis and I think no matter where we go, they'll always have a place in the success of our ministry both individually and collectively."

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Two local acts to perform live at museum tonight

JUNETTE REYES
Entertainment Director

Local acts Awesome New Republic (ANR) and Jacuzzi Boys will be performing tonight at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA). MOCA is bringing in the two acts as part of their series of eclectic live music known as "Music at MOCA."

This performance in particular will see Jacuzzi Boys and Awesome New Republic

perform a selection of hits from the U.K.

Jacuzzi Boys is comprised of Miami natives: drummer Diego Monasteri, guitarist Gabriel Alcala and bassist Danny Gonzalez. Their recent releases include the self-titled LP that came out in 2013, which had tracks such as "Be My Prism," "Double Vision," "Hotline" and "Guillotine," as well as the "Glazin" LP released in 2011, which included tracks such as

"Zeppelin," "Vizcaya" and "Automatic Jail." Their sound is one characterized by lo-fi, psychedelia and old-school pop.

Jacuzzi Boys will be performing a selection of their favorite U.K. pop hits from the '60s and '70s at MOCA.

Awesome New Republic is an indie two-piece band comprised of Michael John Hancock and Brian Robertson. They have been active since 2003 and had their debut

album titled "ANR So Far" released in 2005. "ANR So Far" received critical acclaim from several online magazines, such as "Pitchfork Media."

Some tracks on "ANR So Far" include "Kill South Beach Dead," "Fearsome Father," and "Going Down." "ANR So Far" was a combination of two albums titled "Witness Now the Birth of an Awesome New Republic" and "Courageous" that Hancock

and Robertson previously worked on while studying at the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami. Their unique sound is one characterized by soul and punk. ANR will perform hits from alternative rock bands from the U.K., including Blur, Pulp and Elastica.

The "Music at Moca" performance will start at 8 p.m. with a DJ set by Lolo of Sweat Records. Jacuzzi Boys and ANR are slated to

start afterwards. Tickets are priced at \$10 while admittance is free for members of MOCA. Beverages courtesy of Heineken will be included in the admission price.

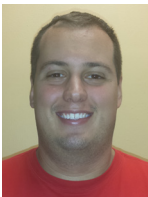
For more information and to purchase tickets in advance, visit mocanomi.org or call (305) 893-6211.

The Museum of Contemporary Art is located at 770 NE 125 Street in North Miami.

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Sneak Peek: Kobe Preludes continue domination

COLUMNIST



FRANCISCO RIVERO

This upcoming weekend will see the release of eight sneakers, by far the most releases in one weekend so far this year. From Nike Trainers to Jordan Retros,

if you're the type of person that enjoys variety, then this is the weekend for you.

Lebron strikes gold with graffiti

This weekend will see the Lebron 11 "Graffiti" and my personal choice for shoe of the

year thus far. The Graffiti will be released on Saturday, Jan. 25 and will sell for a retail price of \$200.

The sneaker itself is a high top shoe with a mostly black and white color to it while also consisting of the color red inside the shoe and on the Nike swoosh.

However, what makes this

Lebron 11 different from all the other 11's that have come out so far is its unique black and white graffiti pattern that takes up most of the shoe.

I will be the first person to say that I have not liked the Lebron 11's so far, in fact I have not bought one pair of 11's. However, I've already

made sure that I have money pulled out of the bank to purchase the Graffiti.

If you're the type of person that enjoys having unique styles of shoes on their feet, then this is the shoe for you.

SEE SHOES, PAGE 7

English electronic duo to visit Miami for two shows

JUNETTE REYES
Entertainment Director

The English electronic music duo known as Disclosure will be coming to Miami this Saturday, Jan. 25 for two performances.

The electronic duo is comprised of brothers Guy and Howard Lawrence. At only 22 and 19 respectively, the brothers have already received recognition for their debut album titled "Settle," including a nomination at the 2014 Grammy Awards for

"Best Dance/Electronica Album."

"Settle" was released on June 3, 2013.

The first Disclosure show will take place at The Fillmore Miami Beach at Jackie Gleason Theater, which is located at 1700 Washington Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33139. The show itself actually sold out recently, tickets having been priced at \$28.50. Tickets might still be found in websites such as StubHub, although prices have significantly increased. The cheapest ticket available on StubHub is priced at \$74.60.

The Fillmore performance is open to the general public and is slated to start at 9 p.m.

The second Disclosure show will be at Grand Central, which is located at 697 North Miami Ave, Miami, FL 33136. The performance at Grand Central is simply a DJ set and not a live performance. It will act as the official Disclosure after party, following the performance at The Fillmore. Other acts expected to perform before Disclosure's DJ set are local acts DJ Santiago Caballero, DJ/producer Pirate Stereo, and Panic Bomber

as well as Los Angeles DJ/producer Samo Sound Boy.

Tickets for the Grand Central show are still available for \$25 and can be purchased through grandcentralmiami.com.

The Grand Central performance is slated to begin at 11:30 p.m., which is when the doors will open. The Disclosure performance at Grand Central is not open to the general public and is an 18+ only show.

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Panthers close out homestand with rival

PATRICK CHALVIRE
Staff Writer

The mens basketball team will end their three-game home stand with a matchup against rival Florida Atlantic University, Saturday, Jan. 25.

The Panthers are coming off a 68-64 win over East Carolina University and will take on the Owls for the first time as members of Conference USA.

The Owls (7-12, 2-2 C-USA) are coming off a win themselves, defeating Harvard College 68-53 Tuesday night. They're led by Pablo Bertone and Jackson Trapp, scoring an average 18.1 and 10.6 points per game, respectively.

The Panthers (10-9, 2-2 C-USA) continue to be led by senior forward Tymell Murphy, who's averaging 16.5 points per game and a team-high 30 blocks. The team will also need the added support of redshirt senior forward Rakeem Buckles.

Buckles, who is listed at six feet seven inches, averages 9.4 rebounds per game. Earlier in the season Buckles ranked as high as second in the nation in total rebounds but has since dropped in the

rankings and currently ranks 15 in the nation with a total 179 rebounds.

Earlier this season, the Panthers offense found its rhythm and even recorded six-straight wins, but since the team has struggled to find its identity and keep a consistent flow as they go deep into conference play.

Buckles spoke after the game against ECU and understood that despite his size advantage, points have not come easy for the Miami native.

"Today [Jan. 18] was definitely a confidence booster," he said. "I tried to come out today and be aggressive and stay positive."

Buckles ended the night with 18 points, going 6-of-12 from the floor, with 11 rebounds, four steals, and one block. The 18 points and 11 rebounds was also Buckles' eighth double-double of the season.

For Head Coach Anthony Evans and the coaching staff, most of the focus is centered on the teams ability to play stout defense.

Unfortunately for the Panthers, they've allowed 69.7 points per game while putting up 68.2 of their own per game.

"I'm a defensive coach,

so I preach using defense for better offense," Evans said. "That's the one thing you can do, defense is a constant. If you get deflections and turnovers, they will lead to easy baskets."

Prior to their matchup against the Pirates, the Panthers suffered one of their worst defeats in program history, losing to the Old Dominion University Monarchs 52-36 on Jan. 16.

The 36 points currently stands as a career low for any Panther team. The previous record was originally set back in 2008 after a 76-38 loss to Georgetown and once again in 2011 after a 73-38 loss to Middle Tennessee State University.

Despite a 20 point game from Murphy, the entire Panther team shot a combined 5-of-29 from the field.

"It's frustrating sometimes when you know you've got players that are capable of helping the team in multiple ways, not just scoring," Murphy said. "It's just tough when you're trying to get it going and it's not going."

Turnovers has also been a concern for the Panthers. Currently averaging 14.4

PANTHER OF THE WEEK



JASEN DELGADO/ THE BEACON

Senior forward Rakeem Buckles recorded a double-double on Saturday, Jan. 18 against East Carolina when he scored 18 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. He also added four steals, a block and an assist.

giveaways per contest, the lack of movement has drained any momentum for the team and handed it off to their opponents.

"I think the ball is stopping too much," Evans said. "It's going to one person, it's sticking instead of crisp ball

movement so we could get open shots."

As the Panthers welcome their in-state rivals, they will need the continued success of their "Batman and Robin" duo if they hope to come away with a victory. Both the Panthers and Owls are

both just a game and a half behind ODU for the number one spot in Conference USA. The Owls also lost to the Monarchs earlier in the season.

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Men's soccer head coaching vacancy filled

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer



SCOTT CALABRESE

On Tuesday, Jan. 21 the FIU Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia announced that former East Tennessee State University Men's Soccer Head Coach Scott Calabrese has accepted the same position left vacant by Ken Arena. Arena left to be an assistant on the staff of the L.A. Galaxy in the MLS.

"I am extremely grateful to Pete Garcia, Julie Berg, Bobby Staub and the entire search committee for presenting me with the opportunity to be the next head men's soccer coach at FIU," said Calabrese in a statement to FIU Athletics. "This is an

incredibly exciting opportunity. FIU is a program with a rich history of success, with national championships in '82 and '84 as well as incredible run to the final four in 1996. It is clear this is a program capable of success at the highest levels of college soccer. Though the history is impressive, I am even more excited for the future. I was very impressed with the overall vision for both the men's soccer program and the athletic department."

Calabrese is used to quick results as he took a program at ETSU that started in 2008 and won Atlantic Sun Conference championships in 2010 and 2013 which were included in his four consecutive seasons of 10 wins or more.

That streak went from 2010 to 2013. He also had two NCAA tournament appearances.

The Newton, Conn. native brings some

professional time to FIU.

He served as an assistant coach for the Carolina Courage of the WUSA, and helped lead them to the WUSA title in 2002.

He also played professionally for both the Rhode Island Stingrays and the South Carolina Shamrocks between the years of 1995 to 1998.

Calabrese was a member of the 2006 Olympic Development Program Region III coaching staff as well as the goalkeepers coach for the U.S. Women's National Team. Calabrese has an "A" coaching license, and is a Level I and II certified goalkeeping instructor with the NSCAA.

This will not be Calabrese's first stint in this state as he was an assistant at Stetson University from 1998-1999.

"Scott Calabrese brings a championship pedigree to FIU," Garcia said in a statement to FIU Athletics. "The success

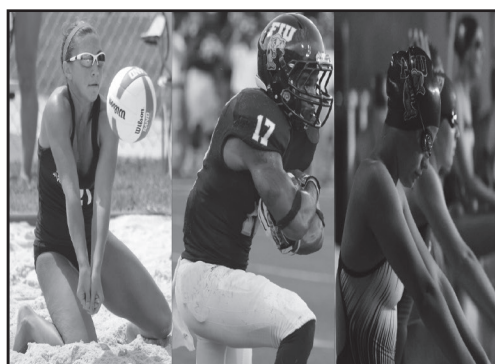
he has had at East Tennessee State both on the field (NCAA Tournament in 2010 and 2013) and in the classroom (Three-straight NSCAA Team Academic Award winner - 2011, 2012, 2013), along with the coaching experience he possesses are what will guide our men's program to new heights. We are thrilled to have him as our head coach and expect great things for the future of FIU men's soccer."

In the final year under Arena the Panthers went 6-10-1 with a Conference USA record of 2-6-1.

The Panthers went 2-3-1 at home and 4-7-0 away.

The Panthers were carded 46 times in total in 2013. 44 of those were yellow cards with the remaining two being red cards.

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



Recreation Center offers new classes and plans expansion

GISELLE CANCIO
Staff Writer

The Recreation Center is offering new PantherFIT classes this semester and will be approving bids for the architecture of the expansion.

"There will be an added gymnasium, an expansion of the cardio and free weight room and two group fitness rooms added with one specifically for spinning," Director of Recreation Services Rob Frye said.

In addition, there will be an expansion of locker rooms and a revamped office for the trainers.

The trainers, which are all undergraduate or graduate students, are currently working out of a storage closet equipped with office furniture.

The plans include a more spacious office in order to make working more comfortable.

Bids are currently under review for the architecture of the expansion and the projects are expected to start construction in Spring of 2015 with completion in Summer of 2016.

"I'm disappointed I won't be an enrolled student when the expansion is completed, but I think it's great that they are adding needed space in the cardio section and an extra gym," Senior Health Administration major Stephanie Suarez said. "Sometimes I walk into the rec center and have to walk right back out from the congestion of people."

While they plan for the future, the Recreation Center always tries to add new activities or services for the

students to engage in.

PantherFIT group fitness classes have become a popularity amongst the students.

"I've made it a habit to include PantherFIT classes in my weekly schedule because they are a fun and diverse way to get my exercise done for the day," junior Communication Arts major Kristen Gonzalez said.

According to the Recreation Centers website, PantherFIT group fitness classes are a fun, motivating and challenging way to fit exercise in your daily schedule.

Generally an hour in length, the cardio/strength and mind/body classes reflect the latest trends in group fitness.

The classes are separated by categories, and the following areas are offered: Group Strength, Cardio, Dance Fitness, Mind/Body and Specialty.

With over 80 classes offered weekly, three of the additions this semester are Spin Energy Zone, Bollywood BodyWork and Power Yoga.

Spin EnergyZone is a five component spin class focused on training the body, mind and willingness to keep pedaling. Half the class is on the bike and the other half is off the bike, providing the participants with total body training.

Bollywood WorkOut is indian cultured cardio. It is a dance class that is constant moving and burning fat with eastern jams in the background.

Power Yoga offers continuous movement from one position to the next creating an effective aerobic workout.

There is a combination of stretching and strengthening moves and it is effective for beginners and/or experts.

There is a consistent schedule throughout the semester and they are posted online at recreation.fiu.edu.

Depending on the time of the day, the classes are either free or \$2.

Most afternoon classes have the added cost and most morning and weekend classes are free. Students need to register before the class starts since there is a maximum capacity per session.

Aside from the PantherFIT classes, the recreation center is trying to enhance the front desk check-in station.

"With the possible funding from the technology fee, we are looking to get a system at the front desk that allows the staff to see the students face when the ID is swiped. We currently only have a card reader that says if the card is invalid or valid, but the checking of the identity is manual," Frye said.

In order to implement this system, research needs to be completed because it needs to be compatible with the current systems.

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The Recreation Center is also working on adding online payments for the adventure recreation trips and facility rental fees so that students and/or faculty staff can save the trip to pay in person.

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Tough matchup awaits swim team in Florida Gulf Coast University

LUIS BARROSO
Staff Writer

As the end of the season approaches the FIU Swimming team looks to face a very tough opponent in fellow Sunshine State rival, Florida Gulf Coast University this upcoming Saturday, Jan. 25.

The Panthers look to stay on the right track as they are coming from a victory on Senior Day against Central Connecticut State University, a meet where FIU was able to sweep all 13 of the events to come up with a convincing 146-90 win over CCSU.

With this performance from last week against CCSU the Panthers also went on to sweep the weekly Conference honors, by being recipients of the C-USA Swimmer of the Week, as well as the C-USA Diver of the Week.

Junior Courtney VanderSchaaf was awarded her first the Swimmer of the week honor with her performance over the Blue Devils, a performance which involved winning both of her events, the 50 freestyle that she capped off with a time of 24.67 seconds, as well as the 100 freestyle in which she recorded a time of 53.57.

On the other hand, senior Sabrina Beaupre took home the Diver of the Week award coming off an impressive performance

on her Senior Day on the diving boards. This marks Beaupre's third diving honor of the season.

Sabrina also won both of her events the 1-meter and 3-meter diving, and setting a new program and pool record on the 1-meter diving board with a mark of 335.85, a score that tops her previous school record of 323.85 and the pool record that was previously set by Carrie Dragland of 326 in the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Center.

On top of her record breaking performance on the 1-meter platform, Beaupre also went on to win the 3-meter event with a score of 330.67 for the Panthers.

These are some of FIU's key to success this season, along with senior Sonia Perez Arau, freshman Lily Kauffman, freshman Jennifer Alfani, that have also won weekly of the week honors, but this is a team in which anyone can step up at any given week to give the surprise and lead the team to victory.

In the other side of the coin, Florida Gulf Coast University is a very tough opponent and will try to snap FIU's winning streak, the Eagles have a very rich tradition on the swimming and diving events as they have won the last five CCSA Conference Tournament Titles in consecutive fashion (09-13).

As well as having three olympians in the past two Olympics of 2008 and 2012. The Eagles are currently ranked the their highest program rank at No. 27 in the country according to CollegeSwim.com. They also have many weapons under their sleeve such as freshman Kira Toussaint on the back and freestyle, Junior Karen Vilorio on the back and IM events as well as many others.

The matchup has been changed from its usual meet place on FGCU to another location due to renovations on the FGCU Aquatic Center, an ongoing issue that has led the Eagles to cancel two January meets so far this season, but for the FIU meet, they have decided to relocate the event as well as change the hour from the original 11 a.m. start to a 2 p.m. start now.

Nevertheless it will still be a clash of titans in the swimming pool for this two successful Universities.

This will mark the second to last meet for the Panthers before the C-USA Championships next month, a finish point where all looks will be directed to, but before that they will seek to beat another fellow local rival Florida Atlantic University for the second time this season.

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Jordan Retros fall short

SHOES, PAGE 5

As far as the uniqueness of the shoe it is one to truly admire.

This is yet another way that basketball superstar Lebron James is applying the Miami culture into his products.

We saw it for the first time when he came to Miami and released the Lebron 8 south beach, which had the Miami Vice colors.

Although graffiti originally came from the subways of New York City, there is no doubt that the graffiti art that we see in Miami is just as impactful and just as expressional.

Kobe Preludes continue January domination

Also releasing this Saturday will be yet another installment of the Kobe preludes, the Kobe 8 Prelude.

Selling at a retail price of \$200 the Kobe 8 Preludes are a low top sneaker that explodes with a variety of colors.

The shoe contains the colors red, black, blue, green, neon green or "volt" and purple.

This explosion of color makes the Kobe 8 Prelude stand out from all other shoes that will be releasing this weekend.

Nothing even comes close to the multitude of colors within their design.

The only problem that I'm starting to see with the Kobe preludes is that they are starting to repeat.

In fact, the Kobe 8 preludes are not even the first Preludes to come out with a variety of

colors.

The theme is just starting to get boring and if the brand wants to compete with the Lebron 11's and Jordan Retro's then they need to change things up.

Jordan Retros fall flat this weekend

Along with the Lebron 11 Graffiti and the Kobe 8 Prelude will be the release of not one but two Jordan Retros.

The Jordan Retro 10 "Infrared" and the Jordan Retro 1 "Gym Red".

The Infrared is a mid-top sneaker that has a black and grey tone throughout most of the shoe with a hint of orange located at the bottom of the show.

While the Gym Red is also a mid-top sneaker with a completely black color base with red laces and a red bottom.

During any other weekend these Retros would be a solid purchase however, the problem for Jordans this week is that they are competing against an explosion of color with the Kobe 8 Prelude and the Graffiti that is one of the hottest shoes to have come out so far this year.

To put it plain and simple, the Jordan Retros this weekend are just too boring.

They are dull, solid in color and nothing crazy to look at.

When placed alongside the Kobe's and the Lebron's the customer's eyes are not going to drift anywhere near the Jordan's due to their lack of color and design creativeness.

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GISELLE CANCIO
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These are some of FIU's key to success this season, along with senior Sonia Perez Arau, freshman Lily Kauffman, freshman Jennifer Alfani, that have also won weekly of the week honors, but this is a team in which anyone can step up at any given week to give the surprise and lead the team to victory.

In the other side of the coin, Florida Gulf Coast University is a very tough opponent and will try to snap FIU's winning streak, the Eagles have a very rich tradition on the swimming and diving events as they have won the last five CCSA Conference Tournament Titles in consecutive fashion (09-13).

As well as having three olympians in the past two Olympics of 2008 and 2012. The Eagles are currently ranked the their highest program rank at No. 27 in the country according to CollegeSwim.com. They also have many weapons under their sleeve such as freshman Kira Toussaint on the back and freestyle, Junior Karen Vilorio on the back and IM events as well as many others.

The matchup has been changed from its usual meet place on FGCU to another location due to renovations on the FGCU Aquatic Center, an ongoing issue that has led the Eagles to cancel two January meets so far this season, but for the FIU meet, they have decided to relocate the event as well as change the hour from the original 11 a.m. start to a 2 p.m. start now.

Nevertheless it will still be a clash of titans in the swimming pool for this two successful Universities.

This will mark the second to last meet for the Panthers before the C-USA Championships next month, a finish point where all looks will be directed to, but before that they will seek to beat another fellow local rival Florida Atlantic University for the second time this season.

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Jordan Retros fall short

SHOES, PAGE 5

As far as the uniqueness of the shoe it is one to truly admire.

This is yet another way that basketball superstar Lebron James is applying the Miami culture into his products.

We saw it for the first time when he came to Miami and released the Lebron 8 south beach, which had the Miami Vice colors.

Although graffiti originally came from the subways of New York City, there is no doubt that the graffiti art that we see in Miami is just as impactful and just as expressional.

Kobe Preludes continue January domination

Also releasing this Saturday will be yet another installment of the Kobe preludes, the Kobe 8 Prelude.

Selling at a retail price of \$200 the Kobe 8 Preludes are a low top sneaker that explodes with a variety of colors.

The shoe contains the colors red, black, blue, green, neon green or "volt" and purple.

This explosion of color makes the Kobe 8 Prelude stand out from all other shoes that will be releasing this weekend.

Nothing even comes close to the multitude of colors within their design.

The only problem that I'm starting to see with the Kobe preludes is that they are starting to repeat.

In fact, the Kobe 8 preludes are not even the first Preludes to come out with a variety of

colors.

The theme is just starting to get boring and if the brand wants to compete with the Lebron 11's and Jordan Retro's then they need to change things up.

Jordan Retros fall flat this weekend

Along with the Lebron 11 Graffiti and the Kobe 8 Prelude will be the release of not one but two Jordan Retros.

The Jordan Retro 10 "Infrared" and the Jordan Retro 1 "Gym Red".

The Infrared is a mid-top sneaker that has a black and grey tone throughout most of the shoe with a hint of orange located at the bottom of the show.

While the Gym Red is also a mid-top sneaker with a completely black color base with red laces and a red bottom.

During any other weekend these Retros would be a solid purchase however, the problem for Jordans this week is that they are competing against an explosion of color with the Kobe 8 Prelude and the Graffiti that is one of the hottest shoes to have come out so far this year.

To put it plain and simple, the Jordan Retros this weekend are just too boring.

They are dull, solid in color and nothing crazy to look at.

When placed alongside the Kobe's and the Lebron's the customer's eyes are not going to drift anywhere near the Jordan's due to their lack of color and design creativeness.

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ASK! Center Underway at Biscayne Bay Campus

SOFIA GALIANO
Staff Writer

New furniture is being tested on the second floor in the Glenn Hubert Library at Biscayne Bay Campus this month.

The furniture testing is part of the renovations to create an Academic Skills and Knowledge Center, or ASK! Center—designed to accommodate students' concern for comfortable seating, better lighting and newer technology.

The ASK! Center will have a common service desk providing technical assistance, tutoring and writing services, a librarian and more to facilitate students' needs.

It is scheduled to open fall 2014.

"Students will easily be referred from one service

to another, or get help more quickly as they orient themselves to academic work, and complete a paper or class project," said Bryan Cooper, associate dean for Technical & Digital Services, in an email.

"They will be able to discover the support they need without walking to different areas in the building, or in separate buildings on campus.

The ASK! Center will resemble The Hub, located on the second floor of the Green Library at Modesto A. Maidique Campus by the addition of new furniture and computers.

However, Cooper said The Hub is mainly a union of the Division of Information Technology and the Libraries.

The ASK! Center will offer services from both the Division of IT and the Libraries, along with the Center for

Excellence in Writing, Center for Academic Success and Office of Business Services.

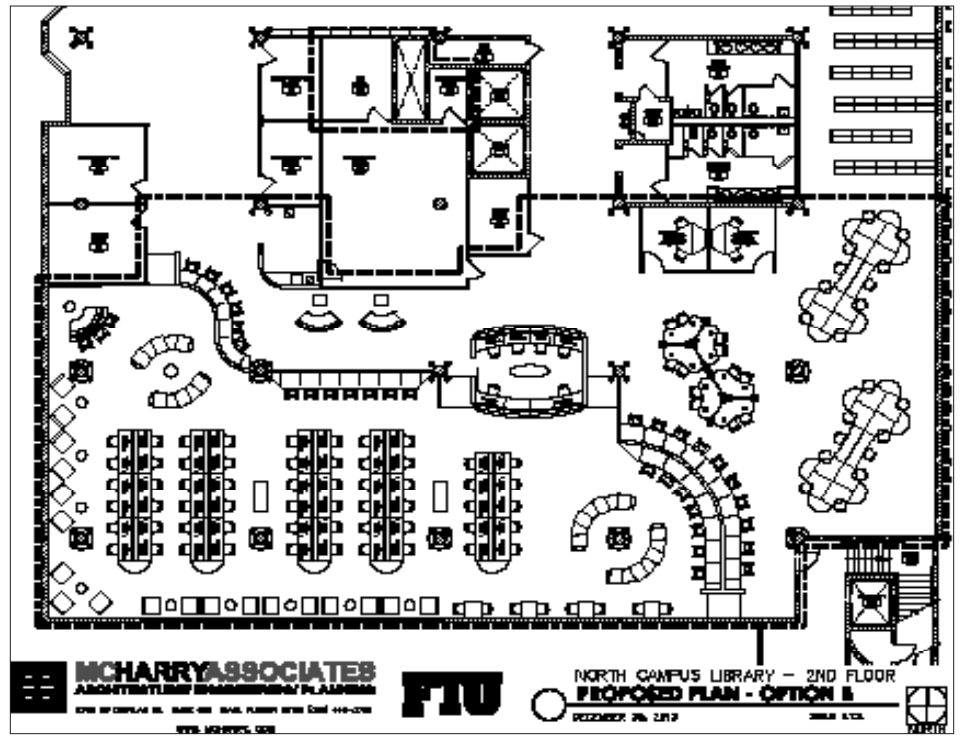
The renovation project is funded by student technology fees and five percent of tuition costs per credit hour.

For this reason the Student Government Association, along with any willing student visiting the library, will test sample furniture and complete surveys before the final pieces are selected.

Cooper invites students to visit the library to trial run furniture since the renovations are based on student input.

He said students' concern for comfortable seating will be met with home-style furniture surrounding the ASK! Center and will be "more like they had at home."

SEE ASK!, PAGE 2



COURTESY OF BRIAN COOPER, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR TECHNICAL & DIGITAL SERVICES

Above is the floor plan for the upcoming ASK! Center.

SGA-BBC President sets goals for the new year

ALYSSA ELSO
Staff Writer

Plans to improve the Biscayne Bay Campus are of utmost importance to Student Government Council President Fu Zhou-Wu, as she sets her goals for the Student Government Association in the new year.

One of Wu's main goals is to get a second road access to Biscayne Bay Campus.

The only road to access BBC has been a concern for students, because it tends to be time consuming.

This road can often be frustrating when forced to travel at school zone reduced speeds of 15 miles per hour due to the high school and K-8 center that students need to pass by to reach campus.

Only having access to one road will also cause delays in case of emergencies.

"Last year, in May there was major rainfall which caused a flood and many students and faculty were stuck here," said Wu.

Last year, SGA began the Second Road to Success Campaign in order to create a second access road for students, faculty and staff to

easily get to and from BBC.

This year, Wu hopes to make more students aware of this campaign in order to make it a realization.

"We want to spread the word to students so that they can become advocates, and we are looking for ambassadors [for the campaign]"

“

During my administration, I came up with a five-year vision plan that I hope the future leader will continue.

Fu Zhou-Wu
President

Student Government Association

Wu said.

Currently, there are talks of three possible alternate roads: one from 135th Street, another from 143th Street, and one accessed through Oleta River State Park.

According to Wu, the most viable route would be from 135th Street, as there is already a walking path there and it would lead students straight to campus.

Plans to get the electronic welcoming sign

back up and running is also in effect. Broken for about a year, the sign is used to inform students of upcoming events that are taking place on campus.

"It is very important to me to get the sign fixed as soon as possible," said Wu.

Dining options at BBC are of major concern

to most students, who according to Wu often complain of lack of variety or having nothing available on the weekends.

"After collaborating with Business and Services the university is going to bring a Subway and a Starbucks to campus," said Wu.

The Subway is set to replace Bistro Subs and Cafe at the Bay. While Starbucks, which will be open on weekends, will be located inside the Glenn Hubert Library.

As many projects have yet to begin, one that Wu is happy to see nearing completion is the renovation of the Wolfe University Center.

"Having the facade of the Wolfe University Center renovated is a really good thing," said Wu.

"We [SGA] did not fund the entire project, but we did fund a large chunk of it."

The grand opening is set to take place on Mar. 31.

A recent issue that has been brought to Wu's attention from students is the placement of the One Card machine. Many students have had trouble finding the machine that is currently located in WUC and Wu is working to get it moved closer to the bus pick-up.

Wu, who has many high hopes for SGA this semester, has also planned for the future of SGA.

"During my administration, I came up with a five-year vision plan that I hope the future leader will continue," said Wu. "The long term goals include having student government chambers, housing and an amphitheatre."

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FIU remembers Cuban national hero at annual breakfast

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Contributing Writer

What better way to celebrate a Cuban national hero than with some cafe con leche and pastelitos?

In observance of Jose Marti's birthday on Jan. 28, FIU commemorates the literary figure by hosting a breakfast for the Jose Marti Scholarship Fund.

The Fourteenth Annual Jose Marti Scholarship Fund Breakfast will allow students at BBC a morning filled with cultural enrichment, celebration and free food.

The annual breakfast celebration helps bring awareness to Marti's accomplishments, as well as help fund the scholarship program.

"Free for the entire community, anyone can come and also donate if they want to," said Mayra Exposito, member of the Jose Marti Breakfast Committee.

Every year outstanding undergraduate students attending BBC are awarded from \$2 hundred to \$1 thousand at the scholarship breakfast.

This year, the event will be hosted by NBC6 reporter Laura Rodriguez. A Miami native, she started out as a weather anchor for Telemundo and worked her way up the ladder as a general assignment reporter at CBS58 in Milwaukee and then as a co-anchor for the Noticiero Telemundo in Wisconsin.

Her achievements in her career serve her as a role model to other

students making an effort to get an education and make their dreams come true. Her participation at the Jose Marti Scholarship Breakfast brings motivations to future graduating students.

There will be scrambled eggs, Cuban toast, cafe con leche, ham croquettes and pastelitos. The breakfast is free to all attendees.

Jose Marti, a revolutionary, independent freedom fighter and poet, was famous for his literary work, including "La Niña de Guatemala," "Los Zapatitos de Rosa" and "Cultivo Una Rosa Blanca."

"Jose Marti was an idealist. He was able to see beyond the present," said Raul Moncarz, professor emeritus at the College of Business.

His work will once again come alive with the collaboration of the students from the David Lawrence Jr. School. Students participating in this event range from K to eighth grade.

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Jose Marti was an idealist. He was able to see beyond the present.

Raul Moncarz
Professor Emeritus
FIU College of Business

They will perform poetry, dance and sing the famous Cuban song, "Guantanamera." Another participant at the breakfast will be keynote

speaker Dr. Eduardo Lolo, Professor of Spanish and Hispanic Literatures at Kingsborough Community College.

This year, all participants had to answer the following question, "In spirit of Jose Marti, what are the main values to universal human rights and the definition of global citizenship?"

The event will take place on January 28 at the WUC ballroom from 8:15 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

"Until now, this date has always been respected, even if it lands on a weekend we would still celebrate it as a brunch," said Moncarz. "We have received a lot of participation from the community and different units of the University."

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