

University funding to be determined by a new point system

JEFFREY PIERRE
Asst. News Director

The state's public universities will now have its state funding scrutinized and re-assessed after an incentive and performance based model was recently passed by the Board of Governors. Each university could essentially lose up to 3 percent of its funding if they fail to receive at least 26 points in a 50-point system to grade schools performances.

Concurrent with the approval of this new program, the BOG has asked the Florida Legislature for \$50 million in new funding. The universities that score above 25 will receive their predetermined share of the funding.

Accompanying this request to the legislature, BOG proposes to take \$50 million out of the universities' base budget, which amounts to about 3 percent of each school's individual budget. The BOG allocates approximately \$6 to \$7 million out of the \$50 million for FIU.

Any university that scores above 25 on the 50 point scale will have this 3 percent reduction restored while

the universities that score below 25 will have only 2 percent restored to their base budget. In the case where all universities score above 25, then the three lowest scoring universities will lose 1 percent of their base budget.

The money loss from the low scoring universities will be redistributed to the higher scoring universities based on their total scores.

Board of Governors Chair Mori Hosseini and State University System Chancellor Marshall Criser III, both recently elected to BOG, are quarterbacking this new strategy that they believe will "laser-focus the board" in three critical areas: funding, quality and systems synergy.

"Our board has developed a performance funding model that will incentivize quality by assessing items like retention rates, graduation rates, and post-graduation success as well as providing university specific metrics targeted to each institution's distinct mission," said Hosseini in the State of the System address on Jan. 16.

In this new performance model, the board has adopted 10 metrics

to grade schools where each of the 12 institutions will be evaluated on their level excellence and if the case where the school is not in a state of excellence, then they will be graded on their level of improvement. The school's level of improvement or standard excellence can each receive up to five points, making each category or metric worth up to five points. Of the 10 categories, seven will be identical with the 12 institutions, while in most cases, nine will be the same with one institution-specific metric left to each university to determine.

The one -- or two, in FIU's case -- institution-specific metric will allow each university to craft a tailored performance test that will directly correspond to the schools individual identity and vision.

For example, a multicultural and international institution like FIU will be graded on the number of minority students who receive bachelor's degrees. The Board of Trustees also chose to evaluate the school's ability to guide students to graduation without excess hours or classes. This put the pressure on advisors to steer

AND THE WINNER IS...



MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Andrea Mirabal (center), a sophomore biology major, was crowned as Miss FIU during the 2014 pageant this year.

students on the right path, according to their respective majors.

Some statewide metrics that the university will be graded on are the

percent of graduates employed and/or furthering their education, the

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Student parents balance classes and children

CRISTINA GARCIA
Staff Writer

For some students, college life consists of beer pong, gym time and lectures, but what about the students with live-in extracurricular activities, i.e., children?

Twenty-three percent of undergraduates enrolled in college in 2008 had at least one child. Of those students, less than 10 percent completed their bachelor's degree within six years of starting college, according to the USA Today. Some parents find it necessary to take time off to tend to their families.

Megan Villamar, a senior English major, currently carries the mother load.

In 1994, during Villamar's sophomore

year in Florida State University, she became pregnant with her first daughter and attended college during her pregnancy. After the birth of her daughter, she tried to return the following semester, but found it too difficult.

"I was away from her and I didn't have any support, so I stopped going to college and went to work," Villamar said.

Villamar has two young boys and has to take classes while they are in daycare.

When asked if she considered looking into University-offered services, Villamar said she wasn't aware of any services the University offered student parents besides the Children's Creative Learning Center.

"At first when I started, Christian was not even [2.5-years-old]. I was looking into the

preschool program, but he wasn't old enough," she said. "And I wasn't sure when I would graduate, if I'd have to take him out of FIU."

According to the Center's site, Villamar should not have worried because the Center is available for students, staff, faculty, alumni and anyone in the general community that wants to enroll their kids. Associate Director of the Children's Creative Learning Center, Libby Kirsch, said the facility has parents that go so far as to place their children on a waiting list as soon as they're born.

Roxie Picos graduated in 2013, but has had her 5 year old daughter enrolled since she was 2.5-years-old.

"When I came here, I fell in love," said Picos, noting how impressed she was with the

security measures employed by the Center.

The only thing Villamar would have to worry about after graduation would be the increase in tuition and fees, since students pay less than non-students.

The Center was established in 1975 after various faculty members and student parents wanted some form of child care, according to the associate director.

In the beginning, there was a donated trailer on University-donated land and the program was funded by United Way; during that time, the Center cared for anywhere between 15-30 children.

After 1987, it became a "self supported

SEE PARENTING, PAGE 2

Miss FIU pageant opens doors for participants

CRISTINA GARCIA
Staff Writer

Multiple outfit changes, two hours and four rounds later, there was a Miss FIU 2014. The journey for these women was long, but inspiring, and the multiple winners saw their hard work recognized with the support of the crowd, flowers, plaques and scholarships.

Andrea Mirabal, who never saw herself in the pageant scene, now holds the title of Miss FIU 2014.

As her name was called, her smile went from ear to ear and tears rolled down her cheek.

"I still can't believe it," said Marabel, sophomore biology major. "I've been preparing for this pageant for longer than I can remember at this point and when I first applied, I just wanted the experience... Instead I'm walking out as an improved woman, a proud Miss FIU who is happy to represent her school in the best way possible."

The committee looked for

women who were enthusiastic and willing to break out of their shell. They wanted to show women that they didn't need to change themselves to be a part of this pageant, rather to be the best you can be.

"The pageant allows for new opportunities, the chance to meet new people and truly an experience of a lifetime," said Bianca Gutierrez, recruitment and education coordinator, sophomore majoring in public relations. "This pageant is different from the rest because it is

student focused. Contrary to normal pageants, Miss FIU represents the diversity found at our institution."

In addition, the women participating learn about societal issues, develop professional and personal skills and of course, get to showcase their talent.

The Miss FIU scholarship pageant has been a part of the Miss American organization since 2004. It is a campus tradition that recognizes the potential of female college students who will serve as

ambassadors of FIU and its local community.

The pageant winner, first runner up and second runner up receive scholarships thanks to Student Government funding. Miss FIU is considered an official preliminary for the Miss Florida scholarship pageant, in which Miss FIU 2014 will advance in order to represent University.

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WORLD NEWS

Ukrainian protestors occupy government buildings in Kiev

Ukrainian protesters seized a government ministry in the capital and besieged several governors' offices in western regions Friday, raising the pressure on the country's Russia-leaning government. But President Viktor Yanukovich showed little willingness to negotiate, promoting his hawkish top aide to his chief-of-staff. The seizures could complicate talks between opposition leaders and Yanukovich, who has demanded the demonstrators leave other administrative buildings in Kiev that they have occupied for nearly two months. The opposition wants Yanukovich to resign in favor of a new election.

Bombings rock Egyptian capital, killing 6 people

A string of four bombings hit around Cairo on Friday, including a car blast that ripped through the Egyptian capital's main security headquarters and wrecked a nearby museum of Islamic artifacts. Six people were killed in the most significant attack yet in the city at a time of mounting confrontation between Islamists and the military-backed government. The attacks fueled fears of an increasing militant insurgency in retaliation for the military's July 3 ouster of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi and the subsequent crackdown on his Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamists.

For more world news, check out FIUSM.com.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 25, Issue 54, in the article titled "ASK! Center underway at Biscayne Bay Campus", the quote, "They will be able to discover the support they need without walking to different areas in the building, or in separate buildings on campus," was attributed to Corie Whalen, spokesperson of Generation Opportunity, when it was Bryan Cooper, associate dean of Technical & Digital Services who said this.

In the same issue, in the sports section, the photo titled "Panther of the Week" was incorrectly credited to Jasen Delgado. The photo was taken by Carl-Fredrick Francois.

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

Low performing schools may lose money under point system

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median average full-time wage of graduates employed one year after graduation, average cost per undergraduate degree, six year graduation rate, academic progress rate and percent of undergraduates with a Pell Grant.

The Board of Governor placed an emphasis on the metric concerning the number of undergraduate and graduate degrees in areas of strategic emphasis, especially in science, technology, engineering and medicine fields.

Hosseini called on schools to conduct a "stress test" to determine whether the university is financially resilient and could perform in today's challenging environment. Programs that fail to produce jobs for students after graduation will be subject to inspection and could even be closed.

In a memorandum released on Jan. 20 by President Mark B. Rosenberg and Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartzok, they identified 14 programs at the University that

BOG classify as "low production." The list included a bachelor's in statistics, a master's in African-American studies, fine/ studio arts, liberal arts and sciences, physics and a doctorate in dietetics and social work.

The Board of Governors expects the results of the each Board of Trustees stress test and review by the fall of 2014.

"The new measures are really directed towards students being successful," said Wartzok.

But concerns arise in the implementation and execution process of the program.

Low performing schools will be penalized by losing funding.

Wartzok said taking money away from the low performing universities will have an adverse effect, as those schools will likely never improve and continue to lose money.

Wartzok's biggest objection to the performance model though is that there is only one level of excellence defined for every university.

"Every university does not have a student profile like the University of

Florida," said Wartzok.

He explained that institutions should not be expected to perform at the same level of excellence as schools like UF. FIU is unique in that it is a large commuter school, which sets it apart in how the school achieves compared to other universities.

"Many of our students work," said Stephen Sauls, vice president of Governmental Relations, "They take longer to graduate because they work."

Ultimately, FIU and each public university will be faced with the challenge to excel and be rewarded, or conversely, perform below acceptable standards and be punished.

But leaders like Sauls choose to focus less on the punishment and more towards the students.

"We're trying to do better and we're trying to do better all the time," said Sauls. "We want to help them get the courses they need and the counseling they need to be successful and finish their degree."

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Parents face extra challenges

PARENTING, PAGE 1

University Auxiliary," according to Kirsch; numbers increased to 40-50 children per year. Currently, the Center cares for approximately 60 children.

Kirsch noted that the Center was very different from a daycare.

Rather than merely babysitting the children, the Center fosters an educational environment, providing age-specific learning experiences throughout the building

and surrounding areas.

Having a form of child care is only one element that increases a parent's ability to succeed in school, said a report by Women Employed.

Parents that seek higher education face obstacles other students may not. For many single parents, completing a degree could take between six to fifteen years. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy notes that 61 percent of women who have children after enrolling in college fail to finish their

degree.

Women Employed said a few other factors make up the "ideal community college experience" for student parents to excel. Some factors include affordable housing, having faculty alert counselors when student parents are in need of assistance, advising and financial aid.

According to Women Employed, "a college degree opens the door to the middle class."

A college education equips parents with skills and creden-

tials necessary to earn a family-supporting wage. U.S. Census Bureau statistics show that as a woman's education level increases, so does her income.

However, "every semester there's this temptation to go back to work because I am a financial drain on my family right now. I'm going to school and I'm not working and I still have to pay for daycare," said Villamar.

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Peers exhibit biology research

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Zenone, who is Chair in the Organizing Committee, emphasizes that "organizing

this event has been a huge team effort."

During lunch break, attendees will have the oppor-

tunity to take a boat tour of the bay or go on a Lizard Walk with grad student James Stroud over lunch should the

desire strike attendees.

Together the members of the Biology Graduate Association organized registration, funding, food, logistics of the events, and reviewed the presentations, with guidance offered by Dr. Kevin Boswell.

A number of possible FIU students will also be attending the Biology Research Symposium, which provides a meeting ground for the professors to interact and introduce them to fellow students and professors.

With over one hundred registered attendees, the symposium is a way for students to experience presenting to a large audience.

Additionally, the symposium will be streamed and broadcasted for people to view off campus should they miss it.

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CAREER FAIR

Spring 2014

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Textbook tips: how to save money on books

STEPHANIE PIEDRAHITA
Staff Writer

I've never liked accepting book advances. I feel that if I ever did, it would be agreeing to pay the steep and abusive prices for our textbooks. I have never met anyone who was perfectly fine with the idea of paying over \$600 worth of textbooks – like I did my first semester – but it didn't take me long to learn about the alternatives.

I managed to reduce the cost of books and school supplies from \$400 to \$60 this semester alone. How? Well, never EVER go to the FIU bookstore to begin with.

A simple one subject notebook costs \$3 compared

to 99 cents anywhere else. You can only imagine how big the price gap must be when you look at textbooks, many which are mandatory in order to pass a class.

This is where I share wisdom that was recently passed down to me...the bookstore isn't the only place you can get your textbooks.

That of course, is painfully obvious and even common sense to a degree but there certainly are students who get the short end of the stick and end up broke after only the first week of class.

So, how did I only spend \$60 for all of my textbooks this semester? Amazon.

The internet is truly a

“It's ridiculous that these books are mandatory the first week and then become paperweights that gather dust.”

beautiful place full of books that are one-third of the cost displayed at the bookstore. You can buy the book brand new for a few dollars less or you could rent the book out up until a month after school is done.

So, instead of buying one of my textbooks for \$180 I only paid a whopping \$17 for a rental in extremely good condition and you can

totally do the same.

“Oh but mine is a custom book!”

No worries, usually those books are two different texts put together and they put the word “custom” in the front to make you pay more money.

If you speak to a professor, they will usually be fine with you buying older versions of the book or even tell you what two books

would cover your entire curriculum for the semester without breaking your bank – they were students once too.

When you buy textbooks at the bookstore, you're paying for convenience. Aside from the fact that they're expensive, sometimes textbooks are useless.

I remember my first semester I only had to use one textbook and that was during finals week.

Personally, I feel it's a waste of money to buy textbooks to begin with since all of my professors (so far) have stuck to lectures and class notes. If you're a good student, the textbook might not even be necessary for

you to pass. Showing up to class, taking notes, asking questions and sitting in on study groups has worked for me and many others.

It's ridiculous that these books are mandatory the first week and then become paperweights that gather dust.

If there is anything I can guarantee that you will learn from textbooks, is that you shouldn't be satisfied with getting robbed by buying them.

You don't have to be a broke college student after all.

-*opinion@fiusm.com*

Getting three-dimensional in the near future

GIOVANNI GARCIA
Staff Writer

With technology progressing throughout the years, the one thing that would be great to have is a machine called a 3D printer.

What is a 3D printer? It is a machine that creates a three-dimensional object that would be otherwise hard to produce by hand or in huge quantities. The amazing thing about these printers is what you can make with it.

Recently, 3D printers were used to create artificial organs for patients who do not have a donor organ available. As mentioned in the Huffington Post, powdered materials were created to make edible objects for use in a 3D

printer.

On my trip to Animate! Miami, I met with Justin Cooper, captain of Zero Point 3D, who would print people as a figure.

He had a rotating platform that would photograph every curve of your body so that the printer could create a near perfect image of the person.

When I asked him how many could be produced he responded, “it depends on the thickness of the object and the formation. Some objects are hollow while other are completely filled.”

What was interesting was that Justin built his 3D printer to entertain people walking by. He learned how to build his by looking at how MakerBot, a 3D

printer company, worked and functioned.

This made me curious about buying or creating our own 3D printer, so I spoke with Rick Zicarelli, coordinator of machining, mechanical fabrication and materials engineering at

“By then, we could even make chocolate figures of ourselves if we want to.”

the FIU College of Engineering and Computing.

When asked how easily we can buy a 3D printer, he answered that

RadioShack already sells them.

The price range for one now is \$500 or more depending on how accurate you want an object to be.

There is no learning curve to use a 3D printer, rather it is about the method of printing the object.

Zicarelli has made several objects using resin, plastic and many more.

“The pros for using a 3D printer is being able to create prototypes easily, create multiple materials, some cheap and affordable; and you can do composite machining,” he said. “The cons on the other hand is that the strength of the material will vary and there will be less accuracy.”

So will we have 3D printers in the near future? I say we will, and

so does Justin and Zicarelli.

The ability to create intricate objects, prototypes and important parts will change a lot for our everyday usage.

The price range will vary when more and more printers are created. As for creating your own, without any experience in building it, it will cost you more than just buying a premade one – the same when it comes to buying or building a computer.

Either way, the likeliness of every person owning a 3D printer will increase in the next several years. By then, we could even make chocolate figures of ourselves if we want to.

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Smells like intimacy; Panthers, keep it private

STEPHANIE PIEDRAHITA
Staff Writer

When I was in kindergarten, there was a little boy who had given me a pair of earrings for my birthday, along with an announcement to the whole classroom that I was now his girlfriend.

That relationship lasted a week since it was some other girl's birthday the week after, but it was very cute and brave for the boy to have done that.

We held hands, I got a few kisses on my cheek every few minutes and we even shared our crayons – which was a super big deal at the time; it was adorable.

As I grew older, I'd see the same kind of hand holding in middle school and now kids were getting creative. They'd buy balloons or flowers instead of sharing crayons.

I even remember how girls would talk for days about how red their cheeks were when their crush pop-kissed them for the first time.

“I'm all for showing your partner affection whenever you feel the need to, but do it in a way where you're not causing a public disturbance.”

Puppy love and affection was still cute when we were kids and it still is now.

What is not adorable is walking through campus and seeing some serious tongue action from the couple going at it up against a wall.

Public displays of affection, or PDA, is at an all-time high since Valentine's Day is right around the corner. It seems that couples feel they need to one up each other in corny-ness.

I've been keeping score and I've seen just about five different couples thinking they are in the middle of their honeymoon, a little sad considering this was all in the Graham Center.

I would expect this from high school kids, but when you see an adult couple acting like it's their prom night in the middle of campus, all you could really do is shake your head and hope you don't see anything profane.

I'm all for showing your partner affection whenever you feel the need to, but do it in a way where you're not causing a public disturbance.

We're all more than capable to realize that there is a time and place for romantic outbursts and if that place happens to be near a sidewalk on my way to class, we definitely need to get

more imaginative than that.

I applaud couples who don't feel the need to be attached to their partner's lips all the time and are satisfied with actually talking and hanging out with each other and developing their relationship past the physical aspect of things.

If you're trying to make a point about how much you love your significant other to the rest of the world, congratulations. You've done it and now there is an article about it so cheers. However, they're called 'intimate' moments for a reason.

Direct your attention and care to them in private, those will be the memories and words they'll remember more than that one time you were all over each other during lunch, I promise you.

-*opinion@fiusm.com*

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New exhibitions, diverse artists for spring



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PATRICIA AND PHILLIP FROST ART MUSEUM

Above is a piece that will be featured by Haitian artist Patrick Farrell.

EDWIVE SEME Staff Writer

ING Art never sleeps and the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum knows that.

Carol Damian, Museum director and chief curator, and her team of curators plan years ahead

to be prepared every semester and keep exhibitions “fresh.” This semester is packed with new exhibitions from diverse artists, curators and museums.

“We really try to keep within the International University idea: that we’re exposing our students and the community to different things from all over the world and

all periods of art,” said Damian.

The museum embraces the Worlds Ahead motto and International label by presenting artists from different backgrounds – Hispanic, African-American, Caribbean, etc. Instead of sticking to a specific theme, the museum focuses more on educating its guests and exposing them to all types of artworks and topics.

Whether it’s ongoing or upcoming exhibits, the museum always has something to offer the community. The Frost prides itself on the element of surprise.

“We want to keep things looking fresh; we don’t want people to think that they know what’s happening, that they can anticipate it,” said Damian. “It’s sort of a surprise, every time you come in the museum you’ll find something new.”

Wednesday After Hours the museum opens up multiple exhibitions. Students are encouraged to check out some of the ongoing exhibitions.

Humberto Castro’s “Tracing

“We want to keep things looking fresh; we don’t want people to think that they know what’s happening, that they can anticipate it.

Carol Damian
Director and Chief curator
Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum

Antilles” will be on display until Feb. 2 and is curated by Ana Estrada. Through these artworks Humberto Castro, Cuban-American artist, gives Panthers a history lesson about the islands of the Caribbean, covering socio-cultural, historical and political elements.

Last Wednesday After Hours, “Architectures of Light” and “LAT 65.31 N LONG 114.13 W” were curated by Francine Birbragher.

“Architectures of Light,” by Argentinian artist Karina Chechik, is a series of paintings of architectural settings – reli-

gious and cultural – and nature. It goes deeper than just beauty, it explores questions the artist has tried to answer over the years about humanity and its search for the divine and spiritual. The exhibit will be opened until April 13.

“LAT 65.31 N LONG 114.13 W,” by Colombian artist Miler Lagos, is based on the artist’s investigation on the experiences of early Arctic explorers in the Canadian Arctic. His project brings light to this remote region and its natural resources. It will

SEE MUSEUM, PAGE 5

FIU becomes greener with RecycleMania

TRACY MENDEZ Contributing Writer

Ready, get set, recycle!

To promote waste reduction, the Office of Sustainability will participate in RecycleMania, a competition held at American and Canadian universities and colleges in which schools collect and record trash and recyclables accumulated during an eight-week period starting Feb. 2.

Last spring, the University ranked 142 out of 523 colleges with 27.8 percent of recyclable trash recorded, and first place in Florida.

RecycleMania has several different ranks consisting of who recycles the most

per capita, which school generates the least amount of trash and recyclables in total, and which school has the best recycling rate as percentage of total waste.

The award? A trophy made of recyclable materials. But the true award is that of spreading awareness of waste reduction and recycling, according to RecycleMania Inc.

In 2010, America generated 250 million tons of trash, 85 million of which was recycled, which is a 34 percent recycling rate according to the American Society of Civil Engineers.

In 2013, the US was given a ‘B-’ in the ASCE American Infrastructure report card. The numbers are up, while the solid waste is going down, which is a good sign for 2014.

“I think as part of a metropolitan city,

having such a beautiful campus with vegetation and species like we do, it is a privilege and we must take the measures necessary to conserve it and not take it for granted,” said freshman sociology major Maria Moren.

FIU has an extensive recycling program called ‘FIU Recycles’ which includes both single stream recycling –plastic bottles, cardboard, paper, glass bottles and jars, aluminum materials-and specialized recycling stream –ink cartridges, cell phones, pens and markers.

These specific bins are conveniently located all over the campuses. FIU’s Office of University Sustainability and the FIU Facilities Management Department work together in these efforts.

“[I’m hoping to see] overall increased

awareness of students and faculty at FIU of the day to day role they can play to make a difference by recycling. FIU has a great recycling program with the single stream recycling. If you were go through the traditional garbage, you would find many items that are actually recyclable. However, people didn’t take the time to or perhaps didn’t even know they could recycle what they just threw away,” said Jeremy Squires, an intern at the Office of University Sustainability.

“I think the first thing you have to do is increase people’s knowledge so they are able to make informed decisions. Hopefully, the RecycleMania competition gives a platform for increasing people’s knowl-

SEE GREEN, PAGE 5

Miss FIU 2014 pageant winner announced

PAGEANT, PAGE 2

The scoring is broken down into 5 pieces: private interview, lifestyle & fitness in swimsuit, talent, evening wear and on-stage question. The judges focus on how the woman can express herself and how well she will be able to represent FIU.

The contestants go through workshops. The first was a contestant orientation in which all information regarding the pageant was distributed to the contestants. The second was “Miss FIU News,” where the contestants were able to sit down with Miss FIU 2013 Natalie Diaz, and ask questions for advice, motivation or just what to expect. The third workshop was “Your Best You,” and this day was dedicated towards fitness and nutrition tips, healthy lifestyles and stage presence. The last workshop was “The Next Miss FIU” and this day the committee went over the final details, platforms, talents and a run-through of the show.

“The girls put in months of work for

preparation, to get in shape, workout, practice their talent and research platforms and social issues for their interviews,” Pamela Castillo, executive director, senior majoring in international relations. “I never thought the day would come, but I am so happy we have over 200 people in attendance helping us crown our Miss FIU 2014.”

Through the show, several talents were showcased, such as lyrical dance, jazz dance, belly dancing, flag spinning, contemporary dance and live painting.

Mirabal’s talent portion was belly dancing. She has been performing at shows since the seventh grade, but this was the first time she was in a competitive setting. She usually focuses on her performance, but this time she had to worry about the judges.

The following individuals were awarded: Non-Finalist Best Talent – Alison Roldan, Non-Finalist Best Interview – Victoria Camus, Most Photogenic – Brittany Spencer, Viewer’s Choice – Alison

Roldan, Miss Congeniality – Andrea Mirabal, Second runner up – Nicolette Sheaks, First runner up – Brittany Spencer, and Miss FIU 2014 – Andrea Mirabal.

During her time as Miss FIU, Mirabal wants to advocate for Operation Smile, an international children’s medical charity that aims to provide safe, effective, reconstructive surgery and related medical care to children born with facial deformities. Operation Smile has inspired her to pursue a career in reconstructive surgery.

“This was a new experience for me, I had never competed in pageants before, but the committee is so encouraging and made me feel confident the entire way,” Andrea Mirabal, sophomore majoring in biology and Miss FIU 2014 said. “My family, boyfriend and friends also reminded me not to be my worst enemy and to give it a try. It feels amazing to hold this title and I am so happy to represent a school that has given me so much in one short year.”

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MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

For the talent portion of the competition, Mirabal (above) performed a belly dance number to impress the judges.

Actors “Ride Along” unimpressive movie

MARTELL HARDING
Staff Writer

Not too many people can say that they haven't seen at least one of the many “Friday” movies and most of you may have taken your kids to see “Ice Age” and it's many sequels, and we all know about the 5'4” comedic legend in the making.

It was at the premier of “Ride Along” where I had the opportunity to meet John Leguizamo, Ice Cube and Kevin Hart, the three stars for the new comedy, “Ride Along”. Shortly after the interviews, we all went into the theater to watch the movie. However, I'll get to the interviews first.

Benny Blanco from the Bronx, as most like to call him, was the first in line. Steering clear of repetitive questions, I proceeded to ask what his favorite movie was, “this year I'm a big fan of 12 Years a Slave and Dallas Buyers Club...” he responded. To which I agreed, “Those are some great films, for years to come.”

I also wanted to know if Kevin Hart was a diva, “No actually he wasn't...” he said, “He's as funny off camera as he is on camera.”

Funnyman Kevin Hart, who plays high school security guard Ben Barber, approached me in a mock-tuxedo long sleeve shirt. We briefly talked about his favorite dish that his mother cooked him, grits and eggs. He complimented her highly, regarding that everyone else's grits are, “Soupy grits.” He also told me that if someone were to make another movie similar to “Goodfellas,” he would love to play a role like Joe Pesci, “No one would ever expect me in a role like that.” That one is for all you aspiring screenwriters out there.

As Ice Cube drew near, I sensed an aura of thug life. He walks tall, never removing his shades from his eyes. Although, obviously anxious to view the screening I quickly asked him which role he'd like to do in his career. Shocked by the question he responded, “I'd like to be in a role similar to Tony Montana in Scarface.” I felt silly, not already assuming such an answer. Seeing an OG like Ice

Cube in such a badass role would be genius. Take note aspiring screenwriters.

The film itself unfortunately wasn't as exciting as meeting the great men who were in them. Directed by Tim Story (Fantastic Four, Taxi Driver, Barbershop), a director who specializes in general entertainment, tries his best to bring a lacking script to life. It comes to a slow start and although it is funny, it's only slapstick humor. Throughout the film you await some sort of essence or sense of pacing but we're left with one liners from Kevin Hart and expletives from Ice Cube and overly predictable situations. The action from this action-comedy is also missing somewhat.

That said, if you're a fan of Kevin Hart and want a good date movie, this comes highly recommended. It is funny, even if it isn't constantly funny. This movie is rated PG-13 for sequences of violence, sexual content and brief strong language.

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RecycleMania raises awareness

GREEN, PAGE 4

edge here on campus about just how easy it is to actually recycle just about anything instead of thinking they can't recycle this or that or that it's too much of an effort to recycle something,” continued Squires,” he said.

By putting forth recycling programs and volunteer initiative around the university, FIU hopes to reach a goal of recycling 50 percent

of its waste stream by 2015.

The only way to help with the ongoing battle to win the planet back is by getting involved. Recycling is simple, it only takes an extra five seconds of your time to determine which rubbish goes in which bin – normal and recyclable bins are located right next to one another.

Participate in RecycleMania 2014, help FIU become a greener school and help do your part in

reducing the amount of waste you produce.

RecycleMania is a trademarked nonprofit program that began in 2001 as a competition between Ohio University and Miami University.

The program is managed by Keep America Beautiful and supported by the US Protection Agency's Waste Wise Program and College & University Recycling Coalition.

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The Rebel Set release gloom

JUNETTE REYES
Entertainment Director

The Rebel Set have found themselves in the crypt with their reverb-drenched album titled “How to Make a Monster.”

Released this month, “How to Make a Monster” is the Phoenix, Arizona natives' fifth album since their formation in 2007.

The release deviates from earlier works such as “Ghost Town Silence” and “Across the Relentless Sea,” released in 2008 and 2009 respectively. “How to Make a Monster” instead continues the surfer rock/surfer pop vibe that can be heard in The Rebel Set's music in recent albums “Poison Arrow” and “Nightmare,” released in 2010 and 2011 respectively.

Still, “How to Make a Monster” is not a direct continuation of the sounds established in “Poison Arrow” and “Nightmare” and instead shows off more of the gloomy, moody side of The Rebel Set.

An upbeat tempo is still very much present in “How to Make a Monster.” Dark undertones distort the sound in such a way that an atmosphere of gloom

and doom is present.

The vocals are muffled and mostly unintelligible. An organ is also present throughout every song in varying degrees and is what I believe adds a sinister hint to the music.

The gloom is almost comical as it reminds me of the kind of music that would act as the theme to “The Munsters.”

Were it an actual genre, I would label it as “Monster Rock.” Especially the track titled “Planet Katey,” which is a mostly instrumental track with the exception of a piercing female shriek.

The Rebel Set is comprised of frontman and guitarist Joe Zimmerman, drummer Jeff Doing, organist Katey Trowbridge and bassist Brandon Goehner.

Overall, I'd say “How to Make a Monster” is quite the enjoyable album and succeeded in presenting the kind of atmosphere that would be expected of a release with such a title.

Final verdict: 4/5

To read the rest of the article, visit fiusm.com.

Sneak peek of spring exhibitions at Frost Museum

MUSEUM, PAGE 4

be open until March 30.

On their next Wednesday event, Feb. 12, they will be opening two new exhibits.

“Capture the Moment,” curated by Cyma Rubin, consists of the 164 photographs of Pulitzer Prize photographers from the first in 1942 to the present.

This exhibit, which has traveled all over the world, is from the “Newseum” in Washington and includes renowned news and featured photographs such as Joe Rosenthal's World War II photo of the flag raised by US Marines in Iwo Jima from 1945, the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina from 2006 and many more. There will be panels with some of the photographers being shown.

Once opened, it will remain until April 20. “Aesthetics and Values” will also be opening that night. The annual exhibition of contemporary Miami artists is curated by the students of the Honors College, whom are studying diverse majors other than art.

“That's an exciting thing to promote especially at FIU, because this is students doing this, and we take that very seriously,” said Damian. Everything from research, planning, fundraising, curating and organizing the exhibits is done by students, providing them with a platform to demonstrate their creativity and expose them to how a museum functions. It will be opened until March 9.

On March 26, they will open another exhibition titled “Our America: The Latino

Presence in American Art,” which will run until June 22.

This exhibition is from The Smithsonian American Art Museum's Latino art collection and is organized by curator E. Carmen Ramos. It explores how Latino artists have established an identity for themselves and shaped American art and culture.

A couple other exhibits will open later in the semester by artists Monika Weiss, Philippe Dodard, Arturo Rodriguez, Luis Cruz Azaceta, Simon Ma, musician Mirta Gomez, and an exhibit by the students of the FIU Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies. All these exhibits will explore different topics and questions.

“I don't want to just hang pretty stuff on the wall that doesn't deliver a message,” says Damian. “I want the work to be provocative; I want it to expose students to something they don't know.”

More information can be found on their website. Calendars are provided at the museum.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PATRICIA AND PHILIP FROST ART MUSEUM

Pictured left is Joe Rosenthal's World War II photo of the flag raised by US Marines in Iwo Jima from 1945. This will be featured in the “Capture the Moment” exhibition, curated by Cyma Rubin.

Pictured above is Emilio Sanchez's “La Rumba Supermarket,” from the late 1980's. This will be featured in the Patricia & Philip Frost Art Museum this spring along with the other works mentioned in the article.

'Underrated' international player continues rise

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

The word that has been unanimously used to describe the career of junior guard Marco Porcher Jimenez is "underrated" by his coach, his teammates and himself.

"I think that it is true that he is underrated," Head Coach Anthony Evans said. "I think Marco has a skill not a lot of people have to shoot the basketball, but he has got a pretty good basketball I.Q., is a solid defender and is decently athletic. When you look at him you don't think he could jump but he can."

"I'm definitely underrated I think. I can shoot but there are things that I can do more than just shoot. I sometimes just get stuck on shooting but I'm going to keep working and next year, and with the few games that are left this season I can show everything that I have and what I can do. It's all on me. The mental part of the game to have confidence in all of my abilities and go out there and play," Porcher Jimenez said. "I like the style this season because [Evans] gives us freedom on offense and he tells me to shoot the ball when I am open. Then, defensively, he pushes me. Like, on days when I don't feel like defending but he makes it fun for me to play defense. I get excited a lot and he is stressing defense and that is good because I've always been told defense can get you anywhere and there is always room for a defender on a team."

The Malaga, Spain native is playing the sport that he

picked up secondarily as well.

"When I played in Spain, my dad was the assistant coach and it was fun playing for him. That is when I first

the game of basketball.

When he was a junior in high school, he moved to Oak Hill Academy in Virginia.

There he met Keith

currently sitting out due to transfer rules at Louisiana State University.

Hornsby, who is one of three key people in his family, as his brother Russell

"He was one of my best friends my junior year. We [Porcher Jimenez, Staten and Hornsby] were the "Three Amigos" and we all got along," Hornsby said.

he looked like the recording artist of the same name," Hornsby jokingly added.

Porcher Jimenez is averaging 16.7 minutes a game and has seen action in 18 of the 19 games as of Jan. 24.

He has a 41.8 field goal percentage and 31.8 percent from behind the three point line.

He has nine steals and four blocks on the season.

"I think he is still developing," Evans said. "He is becoming more comfortable and he knows what I want from him and what my expectations are."

I think as the season keeps going on he will get a lot more comfortable and he has the opportunity to come back next year and finish with his senior year."

"I will need to step up next year as it is my last but I'm still taking this year very seriously," Porcher Jimenez said. "When it comes to the seniors like Tymell [Murphy], Rakeem [Buckles] and Ivan [Jurkovic] this is their last year and I would think it is disrespectful to just take this year as practice. We should work hard as their teammates and be productive because that is better for them and their futures."

As of Jan. 24, the Panthers were 10-9 overall and 2-2 in Conference USA play.

There are 11 games remaining in the season not counting this past weekend's game against the Owls of Florida Atlantic University on Jan. 25.

The next game up will be a matchup against Marshall University in WV on Jan. 30.

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CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

Junior guard Marco Porcher Jimenez has been deemed 'underrated' by not only himself, but by his coach and his former teammates. In the game against Old Dominion University, pictured above, he scored three points while adding two rebounds and a block.

started playing basketball, that is when I first started getting into it," Porcher Jimenez said. "Before that I loved baseball and I'm a New York Mets fan. Before I moved in Spain I played baseball and it was a new experience to me [to play basketball] and back then it was just fun, I didn't take it that seriously."

Porcher Jimenez admitted it was like a playground feel when he was a child playing

Hornsby and Juwan Staten.

Both of those young men were his teammates on the basketball team, and those self-proclaimed "Three Amigos" all play Division I college basketball.

Staten is currently at West Virginia University after a brief stint at Dayton University.

Hornsby also took a major upgrade in collegiate choice going from the University of North Carolina, Asheville to

runs track at the University of Oregon and his father is famous musician Bruce Hornsby, added on that he believes Marco is underrated.

"Marco could always shoot the lights out and I thought he always had a lot more talent and skill than he got credit for," Hornsby said. "I'm glad to see he's been turning heads."

Hornsby also shared a little info on the relationship that the three athletes had.

"He was funny and a laid-back dude, and I could easily relate to that because I figure myself the same way. We had similar interests and a similar sense of humor as well. I knew if we went to the same college that we would be best buds but we didn't end up doing that."

"Marco once had a sty for about a month and we all made fun of him for that. We called him 'The Sty and Jay Sean' because we thought

Softball announces 55-game schedule for 2014

GIANCARLO NAVAS
Staff Writer

After a 27-28 record in the 2013 campaign, the FIU softball team looks to take the next step, heading into their first Conference-USA season.

With the 55 game schedule released, we will see the Panthers get tested against Big 10, PAC-12 and ACC opponents.

First pitch of 2014 is in the newly renovated FIU softball complex where they will take on Maryland University on Feb. 7 in the Felsburg Memorial tournament (Feb. 7-9).

Right after the Felsburg memorial is wrapped up the Panthers will host the FIU Classic (Feb. 14-16), where they will notably take on the University of Wisconsin Badgers who finished with a stellar 43-13 record last year.

FIU will also participate in the Louisville Slugger tournament (Feb. 28-March 2) hosted in Tempe, Ariz. where the Panthers will play Women's College World Series participant Arizona State.

FIU returns home to take on Michigan State University following the Louisville Slugger tournament.

The Conference-USA schedule kicks off with a matchup against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte 49ers on March 8 with a double header.

First game being at 4 p.m. and the second starting at 6 p.m.

On March 12, FIU will go on a 10-game road trip, which starts in Jacksonville, Fla., where they will take on Jacksonville University.

The next day the Panthers play a game on neutral field with Notre Dame in Orlando.

The Fighting Irish finished with a strong 43-15 record and won the regular season Big East title last year, a good test for FIU near midseason.

The Panthers stay in Orlando to take on the University of Central Florida on same day. The road trip finishes on March 23 at the University of Alabama at Birmingham where FIU will play UAB in a C-USA matchup.

Continuation of C-USA play goes into Miami as FIU returns home to play East Carolina University on March 29.

FIU will take a Florida road trip starting with a short two game series against Florida Gulf Coast University on April 4 before heading into Boca Raton to take on rival Florida Atlantic University in a C-USA showdown.

The FAU Owls won two of three games last year against FIU and had a similar record to the Panthers 2013 record at 28-29.

Following the road trip and a series against the University of Texas at San Antonio starting April 12, the Panthers go to Marshall University and face off against the 2013 C-USA champion on April 18.

Marshall finished with a 36-22 record the previous year and looks to be a strong way to begin closing the 2014 softball season for FIU.

The Panthers final home series is against North Texas University and starts on April 26, North Texas and FIU split games in the 2013 season, each winning one apiece.

FIU plays its last regular season series on the road against Southern Mississippi starting on May 3.

The C-USA tournament begins on May 8 and ends on May 11 in Boca Raton, Florida, as the FAU Owls will play host to the conference tournament.

In the 2013 season the Panthers lost to Troy University in the second round of the Sun Belt Conference tournament, having an early exit from the postseason.

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Softball: winning is common for Jake Schumann

YOSVANNY RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Jake Schumann is the man at the helm of the FIU softball program. Schumann is the third head coach in FIU softball history and has amassed a record of 55-55 over two seasons.

Prior to FIU, Schumann spent four years as the head coach at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. During his tenure at Texas A&M-CC, Schumann managed to increase his win total each season, accumulating a 120-104 record overall.

The 120 wins gave Schumann the most wins in school history. Schumann was named the Southland Coach of the Year in 2011, his final year at TAMUCC.

Schumann also had stints as the head coach at Texas A&M-Kingsville where he also spent four years and Carl Albert State College where he spent two years.

At TAMUK Schumann also totaled 120 victories, and coincidentally enough also the most in school history.

From the start, Schumann knew he wanted to be a coach. Yet, coaching softball was not exactly at the forefront of his mind.

"I think everything happens for a reason," Schumann said. "I did a little stint in the Marine Corps and got out to try to play professional baseball and when that didn't work I had to find a job."

After professional baseball didn't pan out for Schumann, he decided to capitalize on molding young minds in his expertise.

"I went back to school to get my teaching license, because I always felt I wanted to coach and I wanted to coach college baseball. The guy

who coached me in college had switched over to softball because he had two daughters and gave me my first opportunity, Schumann said. "I figured I'm going to do it because I had already accepted a high school baseball job in Ariz., but he gave me the opportunity to coach at the college level which I always wanted to do. So, I figured it was going to be my foot in the door; I'll be on the baseball staff next year and we'll just go from there. Well, two years there we're 101-16, finished third in the country at the World Series."

Schumann's success put his name on the forefront of young and up and coming coaches, earning him a head coaching job.

"You have success and the phone rings and that's how I got my first head-coaching job. I took over a really bad program at Carl Albert and won there and thought about coaching baseball after that but the phone kept ringing for softball, and that's kind of just how it was," Schumann said. "Every job I've ever had I've never applied for, people have sought me out and given me the opportunity to succeed and I just stayed with it. It's been good to me and my family and I couldn't go back to baseball now its just so many differences."

One of the main differences in coaching softball as opposed to baseball; according to Schumann, isn't anything as far as strategy is concerned but more so has to deal with how you manage the players emotions.

"One of the best coaches in our game, coach [Mike] Candrea from Arizona; coached the Olympic team, always said girls have to feel good to play good and boys have to look good to play good,"

Schumann said. "I think that's the biggest difference. If a girl got into a fight with her boyfriend or she did bad on a test, its going to be on the forefront of her mind when she comes on the field and its our job to help them with their confidence and make sure they know that

After playing college ball, Schumann spent some time in the minor leagues in hopes of getting called up to the big leagues.

Unfortunately, for Schumann that didn't exactly pan out.

However, Schumann played in a time where steroids were used

personal choice. I personally don't feel steroids makes you hit a ball further, it doesn't make you throw a ball faster, I think obviously, and I'm not a scientist it probably helps you play the game longer, and that's about it. As far as the A-Rod's and the Bond's and Clem-



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Softball Head Coach Jake Schumann (above wearing hat) has won during all of his coaching jobs and hopes to continue that trend at FIU.

once they get here their day is a little bit better. I think for boys, at least when I was playing that field is your refuge, that field is your man time. But for girls, if they are going to perform, they have to feel good and that's in all walks of their life. That's the hardest thing to do as a coach."

Schumann played baseball at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M for two seasons before transferring to Ball State.

by a large portion of baseball players, which could have put him at a disadvantage. But, Schumann doesn't seem to think that steroids play a large role in enhancing a player's performance.

"When I played people used," Schumann said. "That's probably when it started coming out in the 90s, well that's when the media started talking about it anyways, I'm sure its been around a lot longer than that. But, I think it's a

ens's and those guys, they're the best of the game; and regardless if they used PEDS or not, I mean everyone has their own opinions, but if you're asking me its still baseball."

Schumann will look to improve on his .500 record as he and the Panthers begin their 2014 campaign Feb. 7 against the University of Maryland.

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McKinzie providing inside punch for FIU women

STEVEN ROWELL
Staff Writer

With FIU standing at 8-10 including 2-3 in conference play and senior guard Jerica Coley breaking records and getting recognition after recognition; under all that this season has been the emergence of junior forward Tynia McKinzie.

With the departure of two frontcourt players last season, McKinzie knew her role and expectations would increase for this season.

"She [Head Coach Cindy Russo] knew that we were going to have to play more this year so in the summer me and Bri [sophomore forward Brianna Wright] we stayed the whole summer and we were just working on our game and stuff," McKinzie said.

This season has seen McKinzie become a regular rotation player and eventually being in the starting line-up after only seeing limited action in her first

two seasons at FIU.

McKinzie, an Oviedo, Fla. native has become a key low post scoring option for the Panthers this season to help complement the perimeter scoring ability of Coley.

So far this season McKinzie is averaging 8.3 points per game and 6.1 rebounds per game.

The junior did not see the court much to start the season and finally saw extensive action for the first time on Nov. 29 against Valparaiso in which McKinzie posted a double-double of 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Since then, McKinzie has established being a low post presence and has shown the ability to score inside and grab rebounds.

So far this season McKinzie has reached double figures in eight different games and has three double-doubles so far this season including a career high of 16 points



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM LEWIS

Junior forward Tynia McKinzie has stepped into a role with heavy minutes at the forward position.

along with 10 rebounds in a loss against Wake Forest back on Dec. 29. McKinzie was huge in FIU's first win in Conference USA with 14 points on Jan.11 against an East Carolina University team that had more size than the Panthers.

For Coley, McKinzie's production is something that she knew McKinzie can do.

"We all knew what she was capable of so she is coming out more and just doing it and definitely wanting to post up," Coley said. "She is a great back to the basket type person who makes some good moves and she has a nice strong body so definitely when I see I want to give her the ball."

Russo also has confi-

dence in McKinzie's ability in the low post even when at times McKinzie doesn't.

"Sometimes I don't think she knows how good she really is," Russo said.

Once senior center Davydova was sidelined for eligibility issues it put the weight on the likes of McKinzie and Wright to fill the void down low.

"When Marita [Davydova] all of a sudden went out we realized we really had to step up but I was sad to find out and we know how much she was looking forward to coming back and playing her senior year but at she gets to come back and we get to graduate together," McKinzie said.

While Coley won't get the chance to play alongside Davydova again the senior sees the potential of a strong frontcourt next season of Davydova, McKinzie and Wright.

"I think she [Davydova] will be ready next year to play and Brianna and Tynia

will only get better," Coley said.

So far this season Wright and McKinzie, who were both played together on a travel team before college days, have provided the punch inside with Wright being the more consistent rebounder and McKinzie providing more of the inside scoring.

With the goal of an NCAA tournament berth in mind, McKinzie's continued production inside will be crucial in reaching that goal.

"I think my presence will be really important because the guards can only do so much but we have to be able to help not only offensively but defensively since there are a lot of good post players in this league," McKinzie said.

"She will have to be consistent and to stay out of foul trouble and do a good job like she has," Coley said.

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Butterfly garden project cements relationship with MAST at FIU

PAOLA MOLINI
Staff Writer

The University invited students from MAST@FIU to participate in the restoration of a butterfly garden at Oleta River State Park.

The College of Architecture + Arts, along with the School of Environment, Arts and Society, are collaborating with MAST@FIU students to design and plant a new butterfly garden.

On Dec. 6, a group of students from the high school magnet program, joined in the planting of several Florida native seedlings, in the shade house at Biscayne Bay campus.

Once grown, the plants will be transferred to Oleta's butterfly

“The School of Environment, Arts & Society really wants to try and get MAST@FIU students involved as much as possible,” said Nicholas Ogle, Environmental Coordinator of the School of Environment, Arts & Society.

“The advantage they have of being on a college campus is being able to benefit from those resources. Not only the resources, but the campus itself.”

Throughout the activity, MAST@FIU students organized in three stations where Ogle, along with Oleta's ranger, Jennifer Roberts, spoke to students about Oleta's history and the connection between butterflies and their host and nectar plants.

“Butterflies use different plants as different life cycles.

“Each butterfly has a different host and food source plant. This activity was a good way to show MAST@FIU students the interaction and the importance of different butterfly species.”

MAST@FIU has been housed in FIU facilities since last year. The program allows high school students to attend a school that is different from the ones designated by county, and it specializes on a field that provides students with an avenue to focus on a specific career.

“We are part of Miami Dade Public Schools, but we have a partnership with FIU, so our students attend class on campus,” said Gina Koch, Lead Teacher of MAST@FIU.

Through this partnership with FIU, these high school students have opportunities to start getting involved in Academia before graduating.

“The idea is that when you have a school on a college campus, you can do activities such as the butterfly garden. MAST@FIU students can work with FIU professors, they can go into the research labs, and they can attend lectures,” said Koch.

Natalie Antnor, freshman at MAST@FIU, said she enjoyed learning about the butterflies, how to identify them, as well as what plants they like to eat and which ones will help these species prevail.

“It makes us know more about



PAOLA MOLINI/THE BEACON

Throughout the Biscayne Bay Campus, butterflies can be frequently spotted fluttering amongst the flowers planted in the various butterfly gardens around campus.

The advantage they have of being on a college campus is being able to benefit from those resources. Not only the resources, but the campus itself.

Nicholas Ogle
Environmental Coordinator
School of Environment, Arts and Society

garden with hopes of restoring and preserving the Monarch and Atala butterfly species, both of which have been close to extinction.

They use a host plant as a larva, eat that plant, and once they become a butterfly, they require a different plant for food source,” Ogle said.

the environment,” Antnor said. “We are the next generation and I feel we have to be able to understand because we are going to be the ones taking care of it.”

Students from MAST@FIU have planted coontie, fire bush and scorpion tail seeds for the host and food source of the atala and monarch butterfly.

Professors Robert Rovira and Nick Gelpi, along with CARTA students, are working on the design and the construction of the garden.

“We are fortunate that the project with CARTA was going in Oleta,” Ogle said. “They are putting together some different designs all made from woodcrete material, which is more porous and allows water to drain easier.” Both departments are hopeful of unveiling the garden sometime in May.

“At the moment students plant the seeds and care for them,” said Ogle.

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New year, semester and movie series on-campus

MARIANA NAVA
Contributing Writer

Every semester the Student Programming Council of Biscayne Bay Campus brainstorm ideas for events that they think will allow students to take time to kick back after the stress of their classes.

They have found that movies seem to do the trick.

“We basically just make plans for the semester for the students to enjoy themselves and take away stress from class work, and when they take a little downtime, they can go watch the movies,” said Stephanie Felix, SPC movie director.

This spring, SPC selected three movies to honor Black History Month – “Fruitvale Station,” “42” and “The Butler.”

These will be shown for students to see how these stories have shaped today's society.

SPC also wanted to mix things up with different movie genres.

They chose to show the science-fiction film, “The Hunger Games,” and the romantic drama, “The Notebook,” as a drive-in movie.

SPC has been organizing movie showings since last semester. It always tries to be innovative, sometimes adapting the movies to the season.

The first movie showing, “Fruit-

vale Station,” is based on a true story and portrays the experiences of a 22-year-old man named Oscar Grant on the last day of his life. In one day, he faces different situations where his friends, enemies, strangers and family are involved. The showing is planned for Jan. 29.

In Feb. 5, students can watch the film, “42.”

The movie is based on the life of the first African-American baseball player, Jackie Robinson, and his arduous fight against racism to join the Major Leagues.

In Feb. 12, students can catch a showing of “The Butler,” a drama about a man who served eight presidents during his stay in the

White House.

This movie series event will take place at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater in BBC at 12 p.m., where FIU students can attend for free.

There will be a second showing of each movie in the Wolfe University Center, room 157, at 5 p.m.

The drive-in movie experience will be open to the public, but SPC is still working out the times.

For more information about the movie showings and other events that SPC has planned for this semester, visit the Campus Life office in BBC.

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Biology Symposium brings University together

ROBERTO RAIMUNDEZ
Staff Writer

There are very specific situations in which students and their professors get to act as peers. A research symposium is just one of them.

The 2014 Biology

Research Symposium will be taking place Saturday Feb. 1 in BBC at the Marine Science Building 150.

The Biology Research Symposium provides an opportunity for students and professors to come together and present their research to

one another.

The spirit of the symposium helps break down the barriers between professors and students, allowing them to present their work among peers.

The symposium will cover all aspects of biology

and research will be presented orally or with a poster diagram.

Potential presenters submitted abstracts that were reviewed by members of the Biology Graduate Association: Adam Zenone, Mike Britton, Julia Gehring, Jason

Howard, and Rosa Rodriguez Pena.

“This year, there are more than five undergraduates presenting their own research, out of a total of forty presentations,” said Adam Zenone, Marine Biology graduate student.

“Although normally a keynote speaker would also present, the symposium has a larger number of students applicants, and we felt that more opportunities to present should be offered.”

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