

Rosenberg not content with being ‘okay’

MADISON FANTOZZI
News Director

Performance Funding Model: FIU

President Mark B. Rosenberg left the Feb. 10 town hall at Biscayne Bay Campus with some questions to answer: when will the University see more faculty, more advisors, more courses and new academic programs at BBC?

Rosenberg said the University is always thinking of new degree programs, “but if they’re not linked to a need in today’s workforce, it will be difficult to push through.”

This is in line with the new performance funding model and its metrics set forth by the Board of Governors.

Most of the topics in Monday’s meeting circled back to a discussion on these metrics, with Rosenberg addressing both student and faculty concerns with the reality that future funding is undetermined.

However, Rosenberg said the University is going to be “okay.”

“We’re going to do better than okay,” Rosenberg said. “I want the most money we can get.”

Although the system still needs approval by the state legislature, Rosenberg thinks it will determine the University’s direction for the next few years.

“What the heck are we doing here?” Rosenberg said. “What we do here will be determined by the metrics outlined by the Board of Governors.”

The model includes eight measures common to all Florida state universities: employment rate, wages, the cost of degree, graduation rate, grade point average, the number of Pell-grant recipients, the number of bachelor’s degrees in STEM and the number of graduate degrees in STEM.

Two additional measures unique to each university make up the 10-metric system. For FIU, these measures are the percent of bachelor’s degrees without excess hours and the number of bachelor’s degrees awarded to minorities.

Universities can earn up to five points in each category. Any university that scores below 26 points on the 50-point scale will lose 3 percent of its funding. In the case that all universities score a 26 or above, the three lowest scoring schools will lose 1 percent of their budgets.

Rosenberg said he wants the University to excel in all 10 areas, but there may be some give and take.

“We’re spending a lot of time trying to figure out how

Metrics	Excellence					Improvement				
	5	4	3	2	1	5	4	3	2	1
Percent of bachelor’s graduate employed/continuing education 1 year after graduation	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
Average full-time wages of undergraduates employed 1 year after graduation	\$40k	\$35k	\$30k	\$25k	\$20k	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
Average cost per undergraduate degree	\$20k	\$22.5k	\$25k	\$27.5k	\$30k	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
Six year graduation rate	70%	67.5%	65%	62.5%	60%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
Academic progress rate	90%	87.5%	85%	82.5%	80%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
Bachelor’s degrees awarded in areas of strategic emphasis	50%	45%	40%	35%	30%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
University access rate	30%	27.5%	25%	22.5%	20%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
Graduate degrees awarded in areas of strategic emphasis	50%	45%	40%	35%	30%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
Percent of bachelor’s degrees without excess hours	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
Bachelor’s degrees awarded to minorities <i>*University awaiting BOG final acceptance of numbers for this metric.</i>	6,100	6,050	6,000	5,950	5,900	200	175	150	125	100

*OFFICIAL STATE NUMBERS APPROVED BY BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

The infographic above highlights the University’s standing in gold.

to lower the average cost of the undergraduate degree,” Rosenberg said.

But Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Jessell said the University has to figure out how to offer cheaper degrees without compromising quality.

“If you’re not concerned with quality, any numbers guy can find a way to lower the cost,” Jessell said. “But we’re not going to lower the cost to the point of deviating from the quality of education.”

The University is eligible for two points in this category, with the average cost per undergraduate at \$26,730.

While Rosenberg joked that the performance funding model “isn’t something invented on the fifth floor,” he said the University is working to improve itself based on these metrics.

In terms of excess hours, this could mean better

advising options; and for employment and wages, this could mean offering more internships and guidance in career placement.

“I want to own this process,” Rosenberg said. “If we don’t, chances are we won’t get funding.”

Deans from respective BBC colleges offered suggestions.

Dean Mike Hampton of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management noted the school’s thousand-hour job and 300-hour internship graduation requirement for its students.

“We work with the industry and provide support for our students,” Hampton said. “We help increase the

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University outlines parking problems but PG6 comes first

ALONSO MONTANO
Staff Writer

The Office of Sustainability said it wants to work to improve the parking situation starting with Parking Garage 5, but Director of Parking and Transportation Lissette Hernandez said the department’s main concern

right now is the construction of Parking Garage 6.

The department’s report, that was presented to the Faculty Senate, outlined parking issues with enforcing administrative-only parking, a disregard to stop signs, speeding, carpool spaces, timing of traffic lights, area lighting, use of the tram

shuttle, a need for bike lanes and problems produced by roping off parking for special events.

Hernandez dismissed some of these problems, and addressing the others may be on the back burner for now.

But Hernandez did explain that the parking enforcement staff is working to detect any

parking violations.

The report pointed to issues enforcing administrative-only parking. Hernandez didn’t note a problem.

“Our enforcement staff goes around campus verifying for staff or administrative parking as well as for students to make sure everyone has a decal,”

Hernandez said. “And if anyone parks illegally — either staff or student — they will be given a ticket.”

Another issue outlined is the timing of traffic lights, which some believe is inconvenient.

Hernandez said the lights

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Students pessimistic about jobs despite rising numbers

SIMONE GARVEY-EWAN
Staff Writer

Many college students rely on jobs in retail as their primary source of income. Some use their funds recreationally, while students like sophomore English major Breeana Bauduin use every cent to pay their way through school.

“I need my job. Without it, I can’t afford to pay for school and I know I’m not the only student who faces this struggle,” said Bauduin.

Last year, South Florida created 21 thousand retail jobs, according to the

“Perhaps one of the greatest mistakes job seekers make is that they ‘assume’ that there are no jobs available.”

Darren Gregory
Assistant Director
Career Services

Florida Retail Federation. This large influx of employment opportunities may help soothe the 16.1 percent of unemployment amongst young adults varying from ages 18-28. Prior to these jobs being created, many students found job hunting to be a difficult task.

Christina Sanchez, a junior majoring in elementary education who recently started working at Zara at the Dadeland Mall, said she looked for a job in the area for months until she finally stumbled across her current place of employment.

“I was lucky to get the job. For a while,

it seemed that every place I went to wasn’t hiring at the time,” Sanchez said.

Students sometimes lose hope of ever finding a more concrete job as they spend more time in retail without ever making strides towards their employment after graduation.

The Millennial Job Report states that only 43.6 percent of 18-28 year olds are employed full-time. This may be because a large majority of young adults are working part time through college and

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WORLD NEWS

US easing immigration rule for terrorist support

Syrian warplanes pounded a rebel-held town near the Lebanese border on Wednesday, activists said, in an apparent attempt to dislodge opposition fighters from the area and consolidate control over the border region. Yabroud is the last rebel stronghold in Syria's mountainous Qalamoun region. Backed by Lebanon's Hezbollah fighters, the Syrian army has been on a crushing offensive there since early December. The assault on Yabroud comes a day after a tense session between government officials and opposition leaders at peace talks in Geneva.

Corruption sting follows Indian athletes to Sochi

The taint of corruption followed India's Olympic athletes everywhere in Sochi. They were not allowed to enter the Olympic stadium marching under the Indian flag. They were warned the national anthem would not play if they won any medals. But the athletes had done nothing wrong. Their administrative exile was the result of ethics violations by the Indian Olympic Association, which had elected two corruption tainted officials as its leaders. Although the IOC executive board reinstated the Indian Olympic body Tuesday, five days after the games began, the episode laid bare India's intractable problems with corruption on an international stage.

Syrian opposition seeks Russian help in talks

The Syrian opposition is urging Russia to take a more forceful stand with the Syrian government to help kickstart faltering peace talks in Geneva. Anas al-Abdeh, a member of the opposition's negotiating team in Geneva said Wednesday they expect Russia - a key ally of Syria's President Bashar Assad - to put pressure on the government delegation to show flexibility at the talks. The two sides have been unable to agree on a common agenda for the second round of talks that started Monday. The U.N. said that a meeting between senior U.S. and Russian officials - who are backing the process - with U.N. mediator Lakhdar Brahimi will be held Thursday, a day before it was originally planned.

University weighing its options to improve under performance funding model

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students' compensations so that when they graduate they are making that higher wage."

"It's more than just 120 hours of courses," he said. "It's about planning, support and resources."

Dean David Klock of the College of Business proposed more faculty and Associate Dean Allan Richards of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication presented a need for more advisors.

Rosenberg said he cannot promise any more resources, however.

"Resources are what they are and I can't promise one more dollar," he said.

The budget sits at \$430 million for academic programs.

Rosenberg did promise, however, that tuition will not go up this academic year. But even that sliver

a difficult tradeoff.

The University is eligible for the full five points for its access rate,

rates up, we would have to drive the acceptance rate down, too," Rosenberg said. "Maybe we don't recruit from certain high schools."

Rosenberg said the University is studying the consequences of maintaining or shutting down access. The University could lose points in an area where it currently excels.

While the system presents challenges for the University, Rosenberg said he can't disagree with the metrics.

"It will only make us better," Rosenberg said.

See where FIU stands in each category online at FIUSM.com

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"We're not going to lower the cost to the point of deviating from the quality of education.

*Kenneth Jessell
Chief Financial Officer
Office of Finance and Administration*

of good news has its share of consequences.

"Maintaining tuition now could mean a much lower acceptance rate in the future," Rosenberg said.

For a university that values community access and fosters an urban mission, this is considered

which is determined by the percent of undergraduates with a Pell Grant.

FIU does not rank in excellence for its graduation rate nor its academic progress rate. Instead, BOG denotes annual improvement — both at 3 percent annually.

"To drive graduation

Parking director dismisses some parking problem claims outlined by department

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were set up with the help of professional engineers to ensure student safety.

"We hired engineers and the settings that [the traffic lights] have are based on an engineer's report," Hernandez said. "They were added to control traffic and for the students' safety."

The report also revealed changes in parking garage lighting. The Blue Garage now has LED lighting and PG6 will too.

Hernandez did, however, acknowledge a lack of bicycle lanes.

She said there are plans to implement bicycle lanes in the future

and that the department is currently working with Facilities to enhance certain roads, since some streets cannot allow bicycles in their current conditions.

Another issue is additional transportation between Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay campuses.

Hernandez said the Golden Panther Express was added on Tuesdays and Thursdays to accommodate the large number of students commuting to BBC.

The department is also working with Miami-Dade County Transportation to make a bus stop and house express buses at MMC.

An upcoming concern will be the closure of PG5 the first week of

March due to The Fair opening its gates.

Hernandez discarded any possibilities of making Lot 5 a permanent FIU parking lot.

"That's not possible because of the contractual agreement we have with the fair right now," she said. "Parking Lot 5 is actually on fair grounds and the agreement was that we will use it eleven months a year and the fair will use it one month."

Hernandez said that there are no other construction plans in the works. "At this point of time we are only dealing with PG6," she confirmed.

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Labor department reports most college graduates found work in January

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then find it difficult to make use of their degrees after graduation.

Students like Bauduin don't feel secure in the current job market and think their options are limited.

"I don't want to be stuck in retail my whole life, but it seems that's all I'm eligible for at this point," Bauduin said. "No one is looking to hire me for the

little-to-no experience that I have in my major so far. So I work in retail because those are the jobs looking for my age group."

But despite this pessimism, employment in Miami is on the rise with a 1.2 percent increase of job gains since last year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Darren Gregory, assistant director of Career Services, commented on the irresolute nature of

those seeking employment.

"Perhaps one of the greatest mistakes job seekers make is that they 'assume' that there are no jobs available. Consequently many do not apply diligently for jobs," Gregory said.

In the same recent article, Gregory also claims that students should take advantage of opportunities such as those offered in Career Services and student leadership groups.

Employment in Miami is on the rise with a 1.2 percent increase of job gains since last year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition to this increase, proper self-marketing and constant efforts in job seeking play major roles in taking students out of retail and into major-related fields.

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Truly a “Hallmark” holiday

LUIS SANTANA
Opinion Director

Normally I spend Valentine’s Day hanging out with a couple of friends, watching TV or playing video games. The whole time I spend time making glib remarks of how “this is a Hallmark holiday,” while wishing secretly that I too could be spending this romantic holiday under the intoxicating power of love.

This year is different since I’ll actually be spending Valentine’s Day with my date at Vagabond. At the venue there will be a local act, Jean Jacket, playing a tribute to The Cure called “Friday I’m in Love.”

No longer will I just be doing things for myself this day. Instead I’ll be spending the day with my date, but when I begin to think about it, I notice the differences a relationship has made in my life.

I notice I no longer only have to think about myself. Instead, I’m thinking of the person that I am going to spend my day with. I’m thinking about what I should get her, what we should do and ultimately what will make her the happiest. That’s what scares me – not only about Valentine’s day, but relationships in general.

I’m not accustomed with having to think of other people in my life. Sure, I care about my family and close friends, but I’ve never really been in a serious relationship where I’ve had to show a level of caring and it’s scary.

It’s scary because caring about someone means you are putting your heart on the line and allowing yourself to possibly get hurt. It means that you need to watch what you say around your significant other, because you don’t want to look like a fool – which I’ve done many times. It means you no longer go to the store to buy stuff for you, but you buy things that the other person will enjoy as well.

Relationships cause you to actively examine yourself. You notice the things in yourself you can improve.

I am now masterful in the art of door holding, as my girlfriend can attest. But I’m also horribly adept at sticking my foot in my mouth, as she can equally attest. Soon enough, you meet their family and learn how to interact respectfully with their parents – not only in family gatherings, but also in more private settings. You learn there are some jokes you should make, and others that you shouldn’t. There’s things you should say, and others you shouldn’t. You learn

“It’s scary because caring about someone means you are putting your heart on the line...”

that, if the other person really cares about you, they will stick by you, even when you do really dumb things.

For me, this is the first Valentine’s Day I’m spending with someone that I’m actually in a relationship with. It is a “Hallmark” day for me, not in the sense that I’ll be buying cards from said company, but that I’ll be remembering all the moments up to this point.

I’ll remember the moments during winter where we huddled together for warmth. I’ll remember when I told her that I wanted to kiss her and how scared I was. I’ll remember driving home those nights being happy that I’m no longer alone.

Standing there during the show, I’ll look forward to spending many more days like this with her.

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THE BEACON | Editorial

The Housing Games: may the odds be ever in your favor

A University with 50,000 plus students and 3,200 beds is a conundrum in of itself. But when the Office of Housing and Residential Life decides to hold a lottery for those looking to live on-campus, a bigger controversy arises.

In theory, the idea of a lottery where each ticket holder has an equal chance seems great, but when the odds are against a particular group, the process becomes not-so-fair, masked behind the lottery title.

The office says it wants to appeal to freshman who once felt disadvantaged because upperclassman had housing priority, but it seems that disadvantage has been displaced onto the latter.

Freshmen reported that living on-campus helps them get better grades, makes them feel more connected and that they are more likely to come back next year and graduate.

“We’re all about students graduating,” said Joe Paulick, director of Housing.

What about the upperclassmen who see the graduation light at the end of the tunnel, only to have the housing obstacle in their final semesters?

The housing office says the new system is not meant to curtail upperclassmen from living on -campus. To prove this, it has given some students priority: those with Florida Prepaid, presidential scholars, international students, students with disabilities and athletes.

Groups were chosen based on the roles they play on-campus. But what about the the 4.0 student? Aren’t these valuable, respected roles on-campus?

Those displaced by the Royal Caribbean Cruiseline partnership at Biscayne Bay Campus are also exempt from the lottery – the least the University can do for these students.

But now that a handful of special student groups will be given such a preference, how many of the 3,200 beds are even left for the lottery? Maybe the housing office should drop the lottery title altogether and acknowledge the shift in students that it is giving priority.

Students shouldn’t be the ones who suffer from this housing crisis. They are stuck in the middle of this transition and were never notified by the housing office at all.

As freshmen and sophomores, upperclassmen had the priority. Now as juniors and seniors, those privileges have been revoked.

After freshmen, sophomores and special groups of students are given priority, what sort of odds are left for upperclassmen?

The idea of a pool of applicants with an equal chance seems great, but we’d like to see the results of the lottery to determine just how fair it really is.

Perhaps sticking to a first-come, first-served basis where no one is given some sort of exclusive priority would be best for the housing office if it is tired of hearing student woes.

Because we all know what our odds are when we buy a lottery ticket: slim to none.

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Mature love: tell them how you feel

JUNETTE REYES
Entertainment Director

If there’s one thing I advocate wholeheartedly, it’s the idea of being straightforward in life.

The truth, while blunt and mercilessly honest at times, is something I feel should be released for most of the part.

This is especially true in matters of the heart, as cheesy as that might sound. While the idea of liking someone else still makes me feel silly and childlike, it’s still very much a mature act. It’s no longer schoolgirl crushes, but instead an attraction that could potentially blossom into something serious if pursued on my

“Just be honest with yourself in acknowledging the presence of an attraction...”

end and reciprocated by the other.

In order to pursue and see this attraction to its end, whether it be a happy or sad ending, the first thing you must do is simply put yourself out there and let it be known that you like this person.

How you do it is on you. Just make sure you don’t come across too strong, as this might scare the other person away. Just be honest with yourself in acknowledging the presence of an attraction so that you can be honest with the

object of your affection.

The important thing here is to realize that we are no longer adolescents, but young adults. A degree of maturity is expected from us in several aspects of our lives. It should be the same with your love life, or lack thereof.

If you like someone, don’t be stuck in the high school mentality and stop playing games. Avoid all the child’s play that should have been left behind ages ago and be straightforward. It’s not only for your own benefit, as you’re being honest with yourself, but also for the benefit of the other person who might have been clueless this whole time until you let them know exactly how you feel.

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Do’s and Don’ts of Valentine’s Day

LUIS SANTANA
Opinion Director

It seems to most people that Valentine’s Day is a day where you take your significant other to the most expensive restaurant. While I find nothing wrong with that, I do find something wrong with everyone doing it. There is so much more that you can do. Here are some recommendations.

DO

Spend an evening in nature: It doesn’t have to be Naples, but spending a night out under the stars in a park. Bring some cute little lanterns with you and maybe some pizza. Make sure to have some music playing as well to keep things light and tender.

Go see a show: Whether an art show or

a rock show, take your significant other to something culturally enlightening. It’ll be cool to break out of the norm. Maybe even dance. Afterwards, you can go eat, sit on the trunk of your car and reminisce.

Stay at home: Have you ever sat on the roof of your house while looking at the sky? Have you guys ever walked around your neighborhood with the wind blowing? It’ll be extra special to be outside on Friday because most everyone will be out at a restaurant! Spend quality time at home with your significant other just talking about life. You can cook them a meal, save money while also brushing up on cooking skills.

DON’T

Go to the movies: This is one of the worst kind of dates, specially when you are first

getting to know someone. You pay to sit in a crowd and watch a screen for two hours. If you’re not bored, your date surely will be.

Take her to a club: If this is your idea of romantic, you may need to get your head examined. A room stuffed full of people, expensive drinks and humidity mingled with perfume will only make your date upset.

Valentine’s Day should be a day of intimacy. Don’t run out and do cliché things just because they are what most people do. Try and break the mold. Allow yourself to be natural. Most importantly, enjoy the night and own it no matter what the outcome. Be happy knowing that you spent it with someone that you cared about.

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Criminal justice major wins Hearts in pageant



JAHREL FRANCIS/THE BEACON

Junior criminal justice major David Maya, brother of Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) was crowned the 2014 King of Hearts for Sigma Kappa.

GISELLE CANCIO

Staff Writer

On Tuesday, the Las Vegas Casino King of Hearts pageant raised over \$10,000 for the Sigma Kappa Foundation.

Being a traditional theme for the past five years, there were 12 contestants aiming

to win the hearts of the Sigma Kappa sisters.

“The hard work and sleepless nights have been beyond worth it,” Bianca Pino, president of Sigma Kappa, senior majoring in sociology said.

“We were able to surpass last year’s total which was \$8,000, and crown a great

individual that cares so much about our philanthropy and organization, which in the end was all we wanted.”

The 2014 King of Hearts is David Maya. He is a brother of Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) and is a junior studying criminal justice.

“I have an interest in spreading awareness about

Alzheimer’s, having lost my grandmother a little over a year ago to this fatal disease,” he wrote in his application.

Pino is excited to work with him throughout the year and hopes to build a bond that will take their philanthropy work to the next level, while creating lasting memories along the way.

The planning for the event started during winter break, and it resulted in a week of tabling, a pit event and of course, the pageant.

Tabling was done for viewer’s choice donations and the selling of event shirts. The pit event was called “Are You Smarter than a SigKap?” and it was a jeopardy game against Sigma Kappa sisters.

They also incorporated a ticket power hour sale where contestants had to compete to sell the most tickets. The winner received additional viewers choice points.

“In a King of Hearts, we expect a gentleman that can uphold our chapter’s values of Personal Growth, Loyalty, Friendship and Service, as well as having morals and values that can apply to our chapter.” Pino said.

“Our chapter devotes their time and energy to our value of Service and we would want our King of Hearts to hold that same kind of passion and drive for us to continue giving back to our community.”

The pageant consisted of four rounds. The first round was introductions, where the contestant briefly introduced himself. The second round was impersonations, where each contestant had the opportunity to do their best impersonation of up to three sisters.

The third round was scenarios, where each contestant was put in a situation where King of Hearts would need to help solve the problem or issue.

The final round was trivia, where random questions pertaining to Sigma Kappa’s philanthropy and history were asked along with why they wanted to be King of Hearts.

All proceeds go towards the Sigma Kappa Foundation which donates towards all three of Sigma Kappa’s philanthropies: Gerontology with a focus in Alzheimer’s,

Inherit The Earth and Maine Sea Coast Mission.

It also provides scholarships to Sigma Kappa sisters nationwide and a relief fund for sisters and their families that may have been affected by natural disasters.

This foundation is considered both the local and national philanthropy because the foundation supports three different causes.

There have been four previous King of Heart’s prior to this: Javier Nahmias (Beta Theta Pi) 2010, Alexander Estrada (Theta Chi) 2011, Luis Portuondo (Tau Kappa Epsilon) 2012, Rodrigo Aldorino (Sigma Phi Epsilon) 2013.

“I would say the biggest success besides having raised so much money for great causes is that due to King of Hearts, our national headquarters will be awarding us the Platinum Circle award,” Pino said, “which is an award to the Sigma Kappa chapters that raise the most money towards the Sigma Kappa Foundation.”

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Theatrical production to shed light on women’s issues

ARIEL WEINSTEIN

Staff Writer

For centuries, men have been considered the superior gender in most cultures.

Unfortunately, men have taken advantage of this and have put women through horrifying negative experiences. Women have had to endure rape, less pay, no right to vote, and many more issues as well.

At the same time however, women have shown men just how strong, successful, and beneficial they can be, proving to the world that they are equal to men.

The University recognizes how significant women’s experiences are, and how influential they can be to other women.

This is why on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014 at 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 21, 2014 at 8 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014 at 7 p.m., the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, specifically the Women’s Studies Student Association (WSSA) will be hosting a production called “The Vagina Monologues.”

This event has been taking place at the University for over ten years now, with 600-1,000 people attending the three night

event. Although people tend to believe mostly women attend, there is actually a decent balance of both University and community men and women at the production.

“The Vagina Monologues” is a two hour play that is intended to raise awareness about negative experiences women and girls face, in terms of violence, and also positive experiences women have had as well.

Guadalupe Juarez, one of the executive producers of “The Vagina Monologues,” describes the production as “a collection of women’s experiences, both

good and bad. The author Eve Ensler, aims to empower women and celebrate the vagina.”

The monologues consist of multiple women who each share a different experience they have had involving their vagina.

Juarez explains that this event is so important because, “female sexuality is often perceived as a taboo and with the help of this performance, we hope to change these thoughts into more acceptable ones.”

Juarez also explained that because people saw “The Vagina Monologues,” they gained a better understanding of the issue

of violence against women and girls.

One aspect Juarez hopes people will walk away with is “a better sense of how critical it is for women and those who love them, to join the efforts to put an end to this horrendous issue.”

The WSSA feels that this production is so important, that it is a must-have experience.

“Everyone’s feedback after attending the show has always been positive and an experience they truly enjoy” Juarez said.

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Choosing the right gift for Valentine’s Day

CAROLINA DE LA FUENTE

Contributing Writer

Valentine’s Day: the day every couple loves to celebrate to the fullest. It’s the day people are seen around school holding teddy bears, balloons, flowers and all that mushy stuff. What have you gotten your significant other? Here are some ideas I had for some V-day gifts.

For all the men out there looking for the perfect gift for their significant other, I know it can be very hard. Most men get stressed at the idea of gift giving, especially to a significant other. One way you can’t go wrong is getting her some jewelry. You don’t have to make your lady say, “He went to Jared,” but a nice pair of earrings or a necklace from an affordable medium will always make her smile. Be observant and choose wisely based on her style. Go to her favorite store and think, “Would she wear this?”

If you want to go a little deeper, think of her favorite outfit

and choose something that will match it perfectly, it’s a nice way of showing you were being thoughtful. If you don’t think jewelry will rock her world, there are always watches, sunglasses and clothes; the possibilities are endless for you guys. Girls also love treats. Go the extra mile and get her some macarons from a nice bakery. That’ll probably win her over.

As for the ladies, it can get hard to give a gift for a special guy, because it can be hard to think of a good present they would enjoy. The best resort would be some shoes. Guys love a good pair of shoes. They can get a little pricey but there is always a store to fit every budget. Some good stores that have nice shoes for men include Aldo, Urban Outfitters and sometimes even, Forever 21. A good alternative could be something for their car. Guys love accessorizing their car. There is also the option of a nice pair of headphones. Who wouldn’t love receiving some Beats by Dre, eh?

Accessories and shoes are definitely easy, budget-friendly ideas for gifts. It is something you can never go wrong with if

you choose it wisely, of course. But what if you’re a risk taker and you want to go the extra mile for your special someone? Your best shot would be to make them something.

There’s nothing that warms anyone’s heart more than a homemade gift. No matter how bad it could possibly come out, your effort is what shows the most and that’s always awesome. Use your arts and crafts skills and make them a photo album, or maybe a charm for them to hang on their car or keychain. If you want to take a different approach, write them a poem, create a romantic playlist, or maybe even a painting. Those are all small gifts that require no budget and can hold a lot of meaning to them.

Whatever approach of gift giving you choose this year for your significant other, it’s certain that all of them will put a smile on their face. Just remember to be mindful of them and choose everything with love. Also, always include a card!

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Date ideas for Valentine's Day

LAURA CALDERA
Staff Writer

It's Valentine's Day and all the couples are anticipating love songs and red hearts. The only problem, though, is that you haven't thought about Valentine's Day because this is college and you are anything but prepared for this day. It could also be that you have completely forgotten that this day exists, weren't expecting to have a boyfriend/girlfriend this year and now have to cram for an idea, or you simply just didn't know what to do. Well now you get to relax, and check out these ideas for a date!

1) Land ho!

If you don't mind spending a little to achieve this date night with no qualms or fear, then take a ride on the Heritage of Miami docked at Bayside Mall. This ride will give you and your lover that sunset, honey-coated sailboat tour that you never thought could exist. The tour can last for about an hour and a half, but believe me, it's worth the fantasy.

2) Ah, the live music

Out of all things Valentine's, nothing goes better with food and music, than music and food. If you want the less casual, but still delicious seafood choices, then go to Monty's. Monty's has a Raw Bar and live music like nobody's business. The one in Coconut Grove has a more outdoor style that can really set the mood. If you want live music, but not so much the seafood, then why not try going to Cauley Square on US1? The ambiance is still there and there is more than one restaurant to choose from. This Valentine's Day, they'll have both their classic Rock N Roll band playing and the jazz band for this special night. Oh, smooth.

3) Out and about

There is nothing in the book of dates that says you totally can't have a small outdoorsy date on the night of love, but to achieve something as awesome as this you'd really have to be the master of dates. I'm not this person but I can say that going out to one of the many local nature preserve parks here in Miami, and setting up a nice picnic is probably the most romantic idea ever. Keep in mind though, that all national parks close at sunset and your picnic may have to be planned accordingly. If you want to extend your picnic, and add a bit of jazz while you're eating, then try going to the Deering Estate in Old Cutler. They'll be having a jazz concert for Valentine's Day and you can bring your own lawn chair, blanket, and/or a picnic basket for the two of you. There is a general admission fee for this concert, but parking is 100% free.

4) Really going out on a limb here

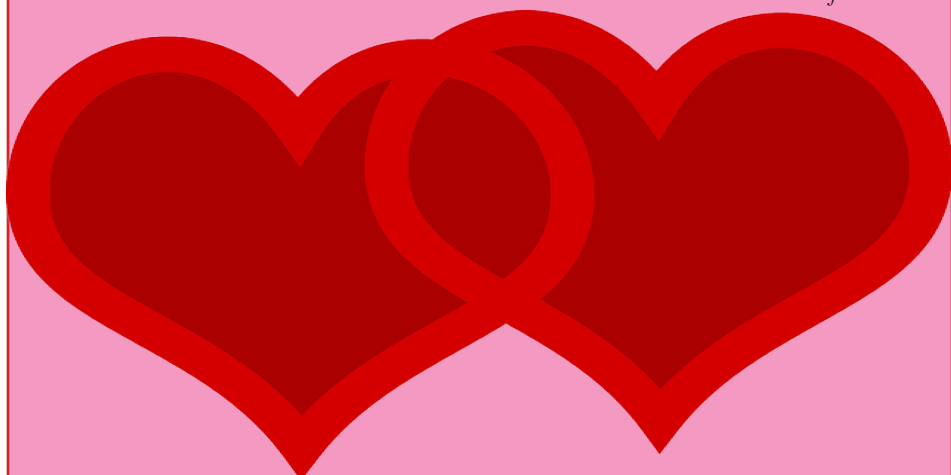
Why restrict yourself to run of the mill restaurants when you can simply go out this year to have fun? In fact, let's go a full 180 and take a stroll to Sky Zone where you and your other half can go and jump off almost-walls and into foam pits. And come on, let's be honest, you probably would have never thought of spending your Valentine's Day like this before. If you want that spontaneity but you don't want to jump and you just happen to know a few ice tricks, then the Kendall Ice Skating Arena is great for you. If you want, they also have a DJ from 8:30pm to midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.

5) Homemade hearts

Let's be honest. You don't want to go out this evening. You just want a small romantic dinner and you don't want anyone there but you and that special someone. And let's just say you know how to make a killer dinner. Then do that. Stay home that night and cook a nice dinner together. And if neither of you want to cook then simply order take-out. Most restaurants now-a-days don't mind customers ordering take-out and will let you do so. So go ahead and wrap yourselves in a blanket and watch movies, or talk, and enjoy that evening with that special someone.

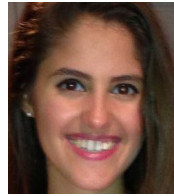
Happy Valentine's Day!

-laura.caldera@fiusm.com



Take Valentine's Day with a grain of salt

COLUMNIST



CAROLINA BARRETO

If your glare is setting the souls of each couple you spot on fire, and you're waiting for the day to end to go home to your cat, Netflix and maybe stop at Publix to get ready for your Valentine's Date with your two favorite men--Ben & Jerry--I've got the songs for you.

As you listen to "Skinny Love" by Bon Iver, it's time for you to begin letting go of the resentment you feel towards a past relationship.

Justin Vernon begins by asking a love that is thinning out to just last a little longer.

It's deeply painful, but beautiful.

The song perfectly emulates the bittersweet feeling that comes with love.

The song's instrumentation makes it raw.

Each guitar strum feels like a cut in which you'll pour a little salt if you return to your skinny love.

"The Trial of the Century" by French Kicks is the end of the line.

The simple piano riff goes with the anxious tapping your fingers get when you've let go of something that was once a part of you.

Your insides tremble, bones rattling like the guitar's tremolo.

The chorus is a hard blow of a wave of memories but beautiful ones.

The song reminds one to be thankful for the good moments spent together in the past while telling you it's okay to move on now.

So you've moved on, but your next candidate shot you down. "Hey Boy" by The Blow will explore the reasons why that happened with you.

You'll be clapping along to a lighthearted approach to the dark side of romance.

Shelly says there's always a reason for being turned down.

"Awkward" by San Cisco is a culmination of the awkward moments either spent on a bad date, a forced text conversation, or terrible small talk.

When you don't want the love, it's hard to be nice.

It's even hard to stop the flirting with someone you're really into even when the one on the receiving end isn't really welcoming it.

"Take It As It Comes" by Vivian Girls is the best advice you'll receive on Single's Awareness Day.

I highly recommend anyone needing love advice listen to this song.

We get caught up in these Hollywood ideas of what love is that we allow our actions to be driven by our emotions. We need to remember to use our head and reason things.

Sometimes, we get lonely and will give into the pressure of calling someone who clearly isn't interested for the hundredth time. Cassie in "Take It As It Comes," is the voice of reason you need in that moment on display in the United States. It will be open to the public at the Frost Museum until June 23.

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SOFTBALL

FIU runner-up at Felsberg Memorial

YOSVANNY RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

The FIU softball team fell just short of a perfect start to its 2014 campaign, losing to the DePaul University Blue Demons 1-0 in the final game of the Felsberg Memorial.

The Memorial was also the debut of FIU's new look stadium which took place on Feb. 7.

FIU swept day one of the Memorial by getting wins over the University of Maryland Terrapins, 15-9, and the Jacksonville University Dolphins, 5-3.

The Panthers (4-1) were able to come out on top in the slugfest that was game one of the Memorial. FIU came out of the gates hitting on all cylinders, defeating the Terrapins 15-9. They were led by freshman first baseman Stephanie Teixeira who went 4-5 with one RBI and junior infielder Krystal Garcia who had two hits in the game including a grand slam.

The second game of the day saw far less offense as both teams combined for eight runs, in the 5-3 Panthers

victory over the Dolphins. Last year's freshman standout, sophomore pitcher Corinne Jenkins got the starting nod for FIU. Jenkins pitched a complete game allowing three runs on five hits while striking out six Dolphins to help the Panthers secure the win. Jenkins held the Dolphins best hitter, senior shortstop Karson Tuck without a hit in four at bats. Tuck received All Atlantic-Sun Conference first team honors in 2013.

The Panthers were able to get it done on the offensive side of the ball with efforts from sophomore catcher Aleima Lopez, junior outfielder Rebekah Sanchez, and Teixeira who combined to go 6-10 with two RBI's.

The Panthers picked up on day two of the Memorial right where they left off on day one, sweeping the day with two walk-off wins over DePaul, 8-0, and Maryland, 6-5.

Jenkins took the field for her second consecutive start and delivered with a complete-game shutout. The Panthers wasted no time disposing of the Blue Demons, as they were able to put them away in

just five innings.

For the third game in the row Teixeira led the way for the Panthers with 3 hits in as many at bats, including a walk-off two run double in the fifth inning that gave FIU an 8-0 lead, which constitutes in an early knockout loss for DePaul.

The win over DePaul gave FIU the first seed in the Memorial and forced them to play fourth seeded Maryland.

In game two of the second day, Head Coach Jake Schumann called upon Jenkins for the third time in two days. Jenkins, who pitched a team high 132.2 innings in 2013, only tossed 46 pitches in 5 innings in game one of the double-header.

The rematch against the high-powered offense of Maryland would result in a thrilling high scoring finish, which resulted in another FIU victory, 6-5. Jenkins gave FIU two innings of work, allowing two runs on three hits. Senior Mariah Dawson relieved Jenkins.

Dawson pitched four innings, allowing three runs on six hits, but would leave

with a no decision. The game went into the bottom of the seventh inning knotted up at, 5-5. Leading off the inning for the Panthers was Teixeira who already hit a walk-off early that day. Sure enough, Teixeira hit a shot toward the left center field wall that was less than a yard away from leaving the park and sending her squad to the championship game.

"Sometimes," Teixeira said. "I get the feeling off the bat that I'm like 'You know what that's going to be a really good shot,' but with this fence I guess it's just warning track."

Regardless, Teixeira managed to reach second base on the hit, giving the Panthers a golden chance at a win, with a runner in scoring position and no outs. Schumann decided to put in sophomore outfielder Marisa McGregor to pinch-run for Teixeira.

"I was really nervous," Teixeira said. "I was like 'please put someone in for me.' I was just relieved."

McGregor would eventually score the winning run on a bases loaded pinch-hit

walk-off walk from sophomore infielder Dani Mowry.

The final game of the Memorial featured a rematch against DePaul, which FIU had pummeled, 8-0.

However, DePaul started Kirsten Verdun, a three-time All-Big East first-teamer, in an attempt to slow down the Panthers. DePaul is 3-0, allowing just four runs, and striking out 28 in games in which Verdun pitches. However, in the two games where she has not pitched they are 0-2 and have been outscored 20 to zero while striking out just five players.

"I feel good I'm sure the team feels good," Junior outfielder/pitcher Shelby Graves said. "It was really good for us to be strong, this is the strongest we've come out since I've been here we all gelled well. I think I just need to work on having a little bit more confidence in each pitch that I'm throwing and just nail the spot every time instead of second guessing it a little bit."

For FIU, Graves would take to the pitching circle. Graves matched Verdun pitch for pitch, as both pitchers took

a shutout into extra-innings. In extra-innings team's start off with a runner on second, usually a team will bunt the runner over to third and then try to get them home with just one out. That is exactly what DePaul would do, scoring the expected one run in the eighth inning. When it was FIU's turn to lay down the sacrifice bunt, it was popped up and put away for out number one of the inning. With one out and a runner on second as opposed to third, Verdun was able to retire the next two hitters, making DePaul the winner of the Felsberg Memorial.

"We practice base-running and bunting almost everyday in practice," Schumann said. "It just comes down to execution when the games tight and its hot and people are cheering can you keep your bearing and can you keep your focus and we just didn't do that in the seventh inning or in the eighth inning today and we came out on the short end. But, we're just going to keep going, we're 4-1 on the weekend and we're happy."

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Freshman Texeria receives Conference USA honor

YOSVANNY RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

This off-season FIU softball Head Coach Jake Schumann signed the first high school All-American in FIU history, freshman first baseman Stephanie Teixeira.

Teixeira had countless accolades during her tenure at Gulliver Prep. including making the All-Dade first team three consecutive seasons from 2011-2013, as well as being named softball player of the year her senior year.

In her first week as a Panther, Teixeira has earned conference player of the week honors.

"Our first ever high school All-American to come here and she showed out this weekend," Schumann said. "Ten hits in her first college weekend it's pretty impressive. I made a comment to coach [Sharon] Palma 'I think there's an alien in number 13's jersey.' I mean you just don't do that, hitters like that come along every 20 years, that just doesn't happen in your first weekend in division 1 against the quality pitching and the teams that we just played. If she continues to grow and understand the game and continues to learn, the sky's

the limit for her. She will be an All-American here one day if not a multi-year All-American."

Coming out of high school Teixeira was the number three-ranked player in Florida according Maxpreps.com. So why choose to come to FIU?

"I chose FIU," Teixeira said. "Not only because of my family and friends that want to see me close, but also because I feel that in Miami a lot of people feel that they have to go far to be good and to be part of a good program. And I want to start a trend here in Miami, which I see



STEPHANIE TEIXEIRA

that there is a lot of local talent that wants to come here. So, I feel that I accomplished to get people to believe that they don't have to go far to be part of a good program."

In just five games with the FIU softball team Teixeira is already making history at FIU.

In her first five games as a Panther, Teixeira has accumulated 10 hits, four doubles, five RBI's, and has scored four runs.

Teixeira's .714 average is the highest in FIU history through the first five games, her 10 hits are only two shy of Tania Somoano's 12 in 1998.

However, despite her amazing start Teixeira feels like she could

have done more.

Teixeira graded her performance in the Felsberg Memorial tournament.

"Just because of the way it ended, I would give it a B," Teixeira said.

In the final day of the Felsberg Memorial FIU fell to the DePaul Blue Demons in 1-0 extra-inning heartbreaker.

It was the first time all season that Teixeira failed to get a hit. Teixeira was shut down by a veteran pitcher, in three-time Big East all-conference player first-teamer, Kirsten Verdun.

Teixeira went 0-2 with two strikeouts. It was the first time in her young collegiate career that Teixeira had struck out.

"I felt really confident, but I didn't feel like myself," Teixeira said. "Because there is a lot of stuff I'm very superstitious and I feel like I wasn't comfortable, and the fact that the pitcher somehow knew all my weaknesses and she just kept throwing it against me. It just kind of got to me."

Many of the best athletes are creatures of habits, whether it be having a certain meal before each game, wearing that lucky pair of underwear, or getting the same parking space each game.

These are the little things that could make the difference in how

an athlete performs. Teixeira is no different.

"This whole weekend I had my hair braided on the sides and last game I didn't." Teixeira said. "Another superstition was I play with earrings and one of my earrings was missing, so I had to take them off. I also couldn't find my towel that I use in between games to wipe my hands off, so that got to my head a bit"

Often times if you are constantly hitting every pitch the opposing team throws at you, as Teixeira is, teams will begin throwing at you as a form of intimidation.

Teixeira's recent play has definitely put a target on her back.

"Before I came to this program," Teixeira said. "Or before I started softball, people warned me 'Listen they're going to try and pitch around you and they might even hit you so that you don't get anything on them.' so I was like 'ok it might not happen but I guess ill take that into consideration' sure enough I got hit about four or five times this weekend."

This weekend alone Teixeira was hit by pitch four times. No other Panther was hit more than once.

But, the batters box wasn't the only place where Teixeira was getting hit, in the final game

vs. the Blue Demons a runner barreled into Teixeira while she was attempting to field a ground ball.

"I wasn't surprised because it happens," Teixeira said. "But, it was really unexpected. When I got off the bag to get the ball I looked right into her eyes and she looked like she wanted to kill me and as soon I saw her face I was like 'This is not going to be good.' and sure enough she hit me with no mercy. She hit me really hard and I twisted my knee a bit but I'm fine. My mom actually came up to me and said 'Its okay because that's what separates you from her, if you were to hit someone like that in the baseline you would look to see if they were ok, she didn't look back she just kept going.'"

FIU is going to need to have mayor production from the fourth spot in the line-up in order to keep pitchers from throwing at the Panthers young slugger.

Regardless, The freshman seems to be a true star in the making that might single handedly put the end to the saying "you hit like a girl" as well as lead FIU to a stretch of winning seasons, while breaking some more records along the way.

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MICHAEL SAM

Michael Sam story bigger than it needs to be

COLUMNIST



RHYS WILLIAMS

It's 2014 and a man came out as openly gay to the nation.

Some may not think that this is a big deal, but it's who he is and what he does for a living that has made it big time news.

Michael Sam is a 6-foot-2, 255-pound defensive lineman who played football for the University of Missouri Tigers.

That man is the Co-Defensive Player of the Year for arguably the best conference in college football, the SEC, and led his team to a 12-2 season in his final collegiate year, including an AT&T Cotton Bowl win over Oklahoma State University 41-31.

In an interview with Chris Connelly of ESPN's Outside the Lines, Sam said it the most basic way that he could.

"I am a gay man. I happen to be one," Sam said. "I'm not afraid of who I am. I am not afraid to tell the world who I am. I am Michael Sam. I'm a college graduate. I'm African-American and I'm gay."

It's not that big of a deal.

He is a beast of a football player who, in my opinion, is a top 10 defensive player and an early round draft pick.

On seeing him play and hearing about him throughout the 2013-2014 college football season, if I were an NFL team executive, I would take him in the second or third round.

In our current time and society, there is no way that his being gay should be as big of a deal as it is.

Yes, the sports world is behind the times in

some ways, with one of them being the possibility of the first openly gay athlete in professional football, but it is not a change that I didn't

a distraction to the wellbeing of the team and if he could help us win.

That should be the case here. Now, yes,



PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

Former University of Missouri defensive lineman Michael Sam broke the LGBTQA border for professional sports by announcing that he is an openly gay man. He is eligible for the NFL Draft in May and was the Co-Defensive Player of the Year in the Southeastern Conference.

expect at some time within the next few years.

As a former football player, but mostly as a young man, I would have been fine with having a teammate who was gay as long as it was not

there are people who have come out more anonymously saying that it isn't the best fit in a locker room, including New Orleans Saints linebacker Jonathan Vilma; and, yes, there will

always be people against having an openly gay man in a "manly-man's" sport but the same thing happened with desegregation in regards to minorities in sports and we know what happened with that.

I don't think that Sam will be the Jackie Robinson of the LGBTQA community for sports unless he goes out for whatever team drafts him, leads a defense to a number one ranking for a couple of years and gets a few championship rings... but he won't have his number retired by every team in the NFL.

I do, however, think that the media has blown this up to bigger than it should be.

If he can separate his play on the field with his personal life, which we have seen that he can do as he put up insane numbers in his final collegiate campaign — 48 tackles, 19 of those for of 97 yards, 11.5 sacks for 71 yards lost, two pass breakups, nine quarterback hurries, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery for 21 yards — then let him play at the level he deserves to play and the level he has worked his whole life to earn.

Watching his performance, I think that the best fits would be with the Philadelphia Eagles, who need an improvement on the defensive line pretty badly, or the Baltimore Ravens, who showed a clear lack of defensive power after losing future Hall of Famers Ray Lewis and Ed Reed.

That is what it boils down to, though.

I acknowledge that I am being repetitive, but if he is a great football player who can do something positive on the field for an NFL franchise, let the man play. Plain and simple.

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NFL prospect makes historical announcement

COLUMNIST



FRANCISCO RIVERO

April 15, 1947 is a date known as the most historical moment in the world of sports.

On that day baseball hall of famer Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier by becoming the first African American to play major league baseball.

Fast forward almost 67 years later and the date Feb. 9, 2014 will go down in sports history as well.

On Feb. 9, a young man by the name of Michael Sam told the world that he was a gay man.

In today's age hearing something like that comes as no surprise, what is surprising is the fact that Sam was a defensive end for the University of Missouri Tigers football team.

That's right, a football player came out and told the world that he was a proud gay man.

The acceptance of homosexuality in sports is still an issue, but we are slowly but surely making big strides to change that.

I found myself hanging out with some friends when I first came across the news and couldn't help but think to myself: it's about time.

The fact that we as a society can't embrace the lifestyle of a gay person's life is simply outrageous.

Granted some people may have religious beliefs or just simply don't agree with that lifestyle and that is understandable.

However, to treat homosexuals as anything less than another human being is simply gut wrenching.

In sports we embraced when Robinson broke the color barrier, we were inspired when two 19 year olds from a small village in India were given a chance to play in the MLB.

However, some people were sickened and disturbed when basketball player Jason Collins announced that he was gay, making him the first active player in the NBA to do so.

Something there just doesn't add up if you ask me.

In a sport that has been called "deadly" or even known as a "gladiator" sport, to think that a gay male would ever come out or even play was thought to be ridiculous.

Even players who were gay kept silent for fear of losing their job or becoming outcast in the locker room but not Sam.

Sam is an All-American defensive lineman, he was voted AP's SEC co-Defensive Player of the

Year and collected 48 tackles, 11.5 sacks, 19 tackles for loss and two forced fumbles his senior season.

In an interview with ESPN Outside the Lines, Sam indicated just how openly he felt about his lifestyle and the sport that he plays.

"I've come here to tell the world that I am an openly proud gay man," Sam said. "This is something that I've known for a while to me this is just telling another person 'Hey I'm gay' it shouldn't be a big problem."

Sam also understands the historical pressure that his announcement has on not just himself but for future generations of gay athletes.

"I understand just how big this is because this is a big deal," Sam said. "Nobody has done this before and it's a nervous process but I know what I want to be and that's a NFL player."

For years, we have been programmed to think that football is a 'man's' sport and that only the toughest of the tough can compete.

Yet, when Sam made his announcement, we as a society couldn't expect the fact that for four years a gay man was not only playing football but playing the game at a high level.

This stigma or serotyping of

gay athletes needs to come to an end, we have seen in the past that gay athletes can not only play but compete at higher levels than some athletes who are straight.

Many people feel that Sam will not be able to stand or be expected into a NFL locker room, but I have a hard time understanding this.

Yes, we may have found out about Sam being gay on February 9 but he had told his entire team at Missouri months before.

For months not only were their no issues, in fact the team came together to protect and help out Sam in his times of need.

"Michael is a great example of just how important it is to be respectful of others, he's taught a lot of people hear first-hand that it doesn't matter what your background is, or your personal orientation, we're all on the same team and we all support each other," Missouri Head coach Gary Pinkel said in an interview with ESPN. "If Michael doesn't have the support of his teammates like he did this past year, I don't think there's any way he has the type of season he put together.

This is a locker room filled with young men that are ages 17 to 22 and they show this much maturity.

Yet you are telling me that when Sam goes to the NFL in a locker room that's has men in their 30s that they will act less mature than a college locker room?

I'm not buying that I'm sorry, yes Sam will face individuals and players who are strongly against his lifestyle but to say that an entire league will not accept him is just idiotic.

The fact is that we live in a world where people and ideas of lifestyles are changing every day.

67 years ago we believed that African Americans couldn't play sports because it was a white man's game.

67 years ago it took the courage of one man to say no and continue to push for not just himself but for a whole group.

Sam now finds himself walking in the same footsteps of Robinson all those years ago and I hope, for not just his sake but for the sake of an entire group of people, that we as a society and embrace the courage and power that this young man has shown the world.

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Housing, partnerships discussed at Town Hall

MADISON FANTOZZI
News Director

President Mark B. Rosenberg addressed student concerns on Feb. 10 at the SGA town hall at BBC, which included dining options, transportation alternatives and parking woes.

Rosenberg noted that with the growth of the campus, as it welcomes partners like Maritime and Science Technology Academy, Royal Caribbean Ltd. and Miami Science Museum, comes not only a greater demand for such services, but also more resources to make them possible.

In regards to parking, a relatively new concern for BBC, Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Jessell said the University is weighing new parking options but any project would come at the price of students.

While Rosenberg does not like the idea of a parking garage, Jessell said it is an option as well as experimenting with the parking fee by charging students more or less depending on how close they want to park to campus.

Rosenberg asked students how much they would be willing to pay for better parking services, but Jazmin Felix thinks students shouldn't have to fork over any extra cash because they are merely victims of the downturn parking situation.

"We're being displaced by Royal Caribbean and MAST. I shouldn't have to pay. We shouldn't be punished," said Felix, SGA-BBC nursing and health sciences senator. "I didn't ask to be pushed back to Kovens. Before you know it, I'll be in the bay."

Jessell pointed out that the MAST students are not old enough to drive and RCL is paying for replacement parking.

But Felix said the University needs to consider the parents, the faculty and other traffic that comes along with partners like MAST and RCL.

"It's starting to seem less about the [University] students and more about everyone else," Felix said.

But Rosenberg said that MAST and

RCL are aligned with University initiatives and offers resources. "It's a trade off we have to be mindful of," he said.

Director of Parking and Transportation Lissette Hernandez said there will be more permanent spaces by Wolfe University Center and Academic Center I by summer.

In regards to transportation, students and faculty offered Rosenberg their recommendations for a second access road to BBC.

Jeffrey Sodusta, an SJMC graduate who works at Campus Life, noted that he was almost late to work after encountering the train on West Dixie Highway, an accident on 151st Street and the school zones directly leading to the BBC entrance.

"Access through Oleta River State Park is the best bet," Sodusta said.

The University is also looking at 135th Street and 143rd Street as secondary access points.

Christina Reddick, coordinator of campus recreation at the BBC Recreation Center, recommended 143rd Street, but also proposed working with the elementary and high schools on 151st Street to mitigate the traffic.

"It's a good road but the schools complicate moving in and out. That's the reality of it," Reddick said. "There are parents who get out of their vehicles to direct traffic. And while we appreciate the effort, it's not safe and it's not alleviating any traffic."

Rosenberg was unaware of such a safety hazard and encouraged the University community to better document these cases.

Lieutenant Allen Lowe said he is working with both the schools and public works to address issues on 151st Street. SGA-BBC is working on its Second Road to Success campaign to determine additional access.

Students presented more familiar concerns in regards to food services and other on-campus amenities.

Students said they stay well past 7 p.m. when restaurants close and are left with limited snack options from vending

TATTED UP



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Kierra Holmes (right), freshman studying hospitality management, gets a glitter tattoo painted on her arm from a camera booth company promoting to students.

machines that don't always work correctly.

Jeff Krablin, assistant vice president of business services, said an analysis determined that an hour before closing, business curtains at campus dining locations and they do not break even.

With MAST and RCL creating a greater demand, the University is planning to expand hours and create new dining options on campus, Krablin said. BBC will add a Subway and a Starbucks by fall 2014.

In addition to parking and dining services, RCL will create new BBC housing by fall 2015.

According to Jim Wassenaar, executive director of Student Affairs Operations and Auxiliary Services, two firms are currently in talks with the University to build the housing facility.

A final recommendation will be made on Feb. 17 for a development adjacent to the Kovens Conference Center. The facility will have 430-450 beds.

The campus will also see additional

facilities by MAST and the Miami Science Museum.

Rosenberg said the University is planning for a facility of dual use by MAST and FIU, and that he hopes for the inaugural class to graduate from the new school. He also mentioned a facility that would be constructed near the marine science building by the Miami Science Museum. He said the University is not ready to reveal more information about these developments.

Rosenberg left the town hall leaving some questions unanswered regarding malfunctioning elevators, additional shuttle services, bike paths and offering additional courses at BBC.

In response to the latter, Rosenberg said the University is always thinking of new degree programs, "but if they're not linked to a need in today's workforce, it will be difficult to push through."

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Pucker up: kiss your way to a healthy relationship

MARIA BRITOS
Staff Writer

In the midst of Valentine's Day, the spirit of love is seen through red-hearted decorations around campus and events promoting the day that to some it may come as a celebration while to others just a normal day.

Couples around campus are getting ready to enjoy Valentine's Day with special dinners and expensive gifts. But while these materialistic compensations are highly expected in a romantic relationship, one recent study by Oxford University suggests that a way to keep a healthy relationship is with the simple act of kissing.

The study, which included an online survey with over 900 participants, found that kissing in both short-term and long-term relationships play an important part for couples. The participants were asked to answer questions about the importance of kissing in their relationships.

Study conductors, Rafael Wlodarski and Professor Robin Dunbar, from Oxford University explained that there are three main stages to kissing. The first is that it helps "assess the genetic quality of potential mates," according to Wlodarski, the second is that it promotes arousal between partners before sex, and lastly that

it helps keeping mates together.

For Daniela Montiel and Chris Bedwell, this study seems accurate in terms of their relationship.

"I find that kissing most of the time is more of an expression of love," said Montiel, a senior psychology major. "It's what suggests the union of two people."

Wlodarski, a student researcher at the Department of Experimental Psychology at the University, said that kissing has been seen in other animals like chimps and bonobos, however; it is not as common as in human behavior.

Both Wlodarski and

Dunbar published part of their research in two articles on the same topic, Archives of Sexual Behavior and Human Nature.

For women, the study found that they rated kissing higher than men. This is because, according to the survey, women tend to be more selective in choosing a partner for a potential romantic relationship. This selection also includes men and women who rated themselves are more attractive, but are not in any long-term relationship.

"It's kind of hard to find a partner before kissing, especially in Miami where people say being in a rela-

tionship is harder than any other city," said Olga Kadir, junior hospitality and event planning major. "But I think every woman has high expectations for her future partner."

The study also found that women, more than men, believe that kissing during a long-term relationship is more important since it plays a key role in compromising affection and attachment among couples.

"I agree that kissing is a very important part in the beginning stages of the relationship," said Jenelle Smith, sophomore journalism major. "Kissing is a very intimate moment that should be cherished more."

Dunbar also further explained that single women are better at understanding where they stand in the mating market. This adds to their expectations of future partners, and kissing is important in assessing a potential partner.

While kissing helps to increase arousal during sex, Wlodarski and Dunbar's research still suggest that kissing has a more abstract role in any kind of romantic relationship.

Still, the main reason why human beings perform the act of kissing and the meaning behind is a unique mystery.

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