

## MEETING THE PRIZE-WINNING PROFESSIONALS



MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Kimberly Paz, senior advertising major (left), looks at some of the Pulitzer prize winning photographs featured at the Frost Art Museum in the Capture the Moment: The Pulitzer Prize Photographs exhibit.

## University ranks third in state for performance

MADISON FANTOZZI  
*News Director*

The Board of Governors released final funding recommendations to the Florida Legislature based on its performance model: FIU ranked in the top three and is eligible for \$7,268,298 in new funding, according to a Feb. 14 memorandum from President Mark B. Rosenberg.

BOG asked the Florida Legislature for \$50 million in new funding and took \$50 million out of state universities' base budget—three percent from each—to reallocate, based on a 10-metric 50-point system that measures university performance.

Universities that scored above 25 points had their full share of base

funding restored. The three lowest scoring universities lost one percent of their base budget, which was redistributed to the four highest scoring universities.

The University scored 34 points, restoring its \$5,464,558 share and granting it \$1,491,676 in additional funding.

University of Florida scored highest with 42 points—eligible for more than \$11 million in new funding. University of West Florida scored the lowest with 21 points. The University tied with University of Central Florida.

The model includes eight measures common to all Florida state universi-

**SEE STATE, PAGE 2**

## Engineering Center still feels distant after 30 years

IRECH COLON  
*Staff Writer*

The College of Engineering and Computing is celebrating its 30th anniversary this month, but it still feels alienated and sometimes forgotten by the University, as it sits almost a mile and a half west of Modesto Maidique Campus on Flagler Street.

Eric Trujillo, a senior computer engineering major, said many students don't even know the college exists and there is practically no outreach or events.

"I wouldn't say segregated, but I would use the term overlooked," Trujillo said.

On Feb. 21 the college will host its 13th annual Engineering Expo to celebrate its anniversary. Dean Amir Mirmiran said the expo brings the engineering and computing community together.

"We want to have one day a year during the National Engineering Week to open up the doors of our labs and facilities, bring students of all ages and give them an opportunity to see for themselves what it means to be a biomedical engineer or a computer engineer or a computer scientist," Mirmiran said.

"We are celebrating the anniversary of the college, the next

era," Mirmiran said. "Our next decade will be about the ranking of the college and showing that the college has gone a long way."

The college was one of the first when the University was established in 1973. According to Mirmiran, South Florida didn't have any engineering schools. In 1984, what used to be the College

"I wouldn't say segregated, but I would use the term overlooked."  
Eric Trujillo  
Senior  
Computer Engineering

of Technology become the College of Engineering and Design.

Three decades after that, the college developed accredited graduate programs, began enrollment of doctorate programs and became devoted to research and innovation in the different fields.

According to the annual reports on the CEC website, more than 5,000 students have graduated with a bachelor's, master's or doctorate degrees within the college in Fall 2012 alone.

Although the college is home to many students, being that the campus stands a mile away from the main campus, it does not receive the same love and attention as the Modesto Maidique or Biscayne Bay campuses.

"The problem with not being on the main campus is that it's beautiful and we have limited space here," said Stephanie Strange, associate director of student access and success.

Alejandro Padilla, freshman and computer engineering major, said he just wishes the Engineering Center was within the main campus to avoid a drive. However, he does enjoy other amenities at the Engineering Center.

"It's always cool to see students playing ping pong and at the billiards table in between classes," Padilla said.

Strange devotes much of her time offering support services, professional development and outreach programs at the satellite campus.

"Because there is no official student services at CEC, it is always appreciative to receive visits from the main campus such as the Student Government Association and health services. SGA

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## University's mock election reveals students do not know Scott or Crist

EZITA RODRIGUEZ  
*Contributing Writer*

The University's American Political Science Association conducted a mock gubernatorial last week among University students. The results: more than half of voters selected an 'other' option instead of candidates Republican Rick Scott or Democrat Charlie Crist.

Of 993 votes, 171 voted for Scott, 235 voted for Crist and 587 voted for 'other.'

Charlie Crist and Rick Scott have both been Fla. governors within the last decade. Some students were voting without

knowledge of either candidate which could have damaged results.

"A lot of students asked who they were," said Lucas Miranda, president of Pi Sigma Alpha and a senior majoring in political science and international relations.

Many students also claimed no party affiliation.

Polling stations were placed in front of the Graham Center and Green Library on Feb. 3 and 4.

"I think given the distance from the actual election, my suspicion is the number of those who chose 'other' may come down later in the year," said Sean

Walsh, advisor of Pi Sigma Alpha and political science professor.

The association plans on conducting the same simulated election a month before the actual Nov. 4 gubernatorial election date.

It also gauged student knowledge on on-campus electronic cigarette policies.

Most students marked that smoking electronic cigarettes is allowed on campus, however it is prohibited. Most students seemed to be unaware of the 2011 decision to ban smoking including electronic cigarettes and tobacco related devices.

"We wanted to conduct our

own numbers of how many students were aware of the policy on electronic cigarettes; we actually got the idea from the story last year in the Beacon," Walsh said.

On the ballot it stated: "Electronic Cigarettes are prohibited on FIU campuses," in which students had the option of picking true or false. The majority—579 students—picked false.

Students were also asked what the campus policy should be concerning electronic cigarettes. The majority—437 students—believed electronic cigarettes should be permitted on campus.

Some still seem to have the

misconception that electronic cigarettes are permitted.

"Most people do it, so it must be allowed' is the common belief," Miranda said.

The elections are still months away, but Pi Sigma Alpha wanted to see if there was a correlation of state level politics versus campus knowledge.

The results on 'other' being the most popular candidate, and the fact many students were unaware that electronic cigarettes are prohibited, was a surprise to Walsh.

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## WORLD NEWS

### Crimes against humanity in North Korea, UN panel finds

A U.N. Commission of Inquiry has found that crimes against humanity have been committed in North Korea and recommends that its findings be referred to the International Criminal Court, two people familiar with the commission's report have told The Associated Press. The commission, which conducted a yearlong investigation, has found evidence of an array of such crimes, including "extermination" and crimes against starving populations.

### Thousands of zoo animals killed in Europe yearly

People around the world were stunned when Copenhagen Zoo killed a healthy 2-year-old giraffe named Marius, butchered its carcass in front of a crowd that included children and then fed it to lions. But Marius' fate isn't unique - thousands of animals are euthanized in European zoos each year for a variety of reasons by zoo managers who say their job is to preserve species, not individual animals.

### Military nears holy grail: pizza that lasts years

They call it the holy grail of ready-to-eat meals for soldiers: a pizza that can stay on the shelf for as long as three years and still remain good to eat. Soldiers have been asking for pizza since lightweight individual field rations - known as meals ready to eat, or MREs - replaced canned food in 1981 for soldiers in combat zones or areas where field kitchens cannot be set up.

## CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 25, Issue 63, in the story titled "Freshman Texeira receives Conference USA honor," Sephanie Texeira's last name was misspelled. In the story titled "University outlines parking problems but PG6 comes first," it says Parking and Transportation is working to put a bus stop and house express buses at Modesto Maidique Campus, but it is at Biscayne Bay Campus. *The Beacon* will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

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# Students chosen in Housing and Residential Life lottery

JEFFREY PIERRE  
Asst. News Director

Prospective housing students found themselves either on the good or bad side of a housing lottery process on Feb. 12 when they received the results of the housing lottery.

The Office of Housing and Residential Life established a lottery-style process to eliminate partiality of the previous system that leaned towards returning upperclass students.

"It's very similar to last year's process but what we've done is made it a lottery process because we have more demand than supply," said Housing Director Joe Paulick. "One of the things most important is that it's going to give everyone an equal chance to apply."

Paulick said the Housing Office's main objective was to ensure that incoming freshmen and returning sophomores do

not feel confined to the dorms left over after upperclassmen receive their preferred arrangements.

With the change, the University's housing process becomes similar to that of other state universities such as the University of Central Florida and the University of Florida, which provide students with an equal opportunity.

The new process and results of the lottery were received with mixed feelings.

Ben Sabbath, a junior majoring in health and fitness, received the email welcoming him to start selecting his housing arrangements for next year. His sentiment was more understanding than most of his peers.

"I can pick and I'm not on the waiting list like a lot of people are," Sabbath said. "I think it's fair simply because it gives first year students an equal chance. I know statistics show that every year 33 percent of students drop out, so I'm not worried."

Deshawn Willingham, freshman hospi-

tal major, was lucky to find housing for next year but still felt a lack of consideration from the school.

"I was selected," he said. "But I know several people who weren't selected at the same time. What are they supposed to do?"

Displaced students now face the option of enduring probability that comes with the waiting list or move off-campus. Students who were housed at Biscayne Bay Campus, were exempted from the housing lottery, however. The University will also pay their bus fare to and from Modesto A. Maidique Campus and BBC until new housing is available at the north campus.

The list should keep students optimistic with hopes that lottery winners will release their room reservations. The Housing Office will close the waitlist in August and with it, the hopes of housing prospects.

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# University eligible for \$7.2 million in new funding

## STATE, PAGE 1

ties: 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 science, technology, engineering and math 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.

The University received the highest number of points for its access rate, determined by the percent of undergraduates with a Pell Grant. It received another five points for its improvement in the number of bachelor's

degrees awarded to minorities.

It scored the lowest number of points for the average cost of the undergraduate degree, receiving two points on a \$20,000 to \$30,000 scale with the median cost of \$26,730.

Rosenberg said the University is working to figure out how to lower the cost of degrees.

The actual amounts of performance funding will be

determined by the legislature.

Rosenberg and Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Jessell were unavailable by press time.

For the Board of Governors' full evaluation of FIU, visit FIUSM.com.

-madison.fantozzi@fiusm.com

# Engineering College celebrates 30 year anniversary this month

## CENTER, PAGE 1

has been really good to us," Strange said.

Having these types of social connections allows a unity amongst all colleges within the university. "They do try and they do make the effort," Strange said.

The 13th Annual Expo complements the college's anniversary as it promotes their mission to discover students' interests and talents in science and engineering.

More than 1,200 students from elementary, middle and high school attended last year's expo.

According to Mirmiran, it serves to educate students from a variety of ages and expose them to the "wonders of science" through a tour in the research

labs and hands-on projects like egg-drop contests and a walk-on-water project.

The expo and its activities serve to introduce the college to potential FIU students.

"There's an exposure on all different levels; to university life, to science and engineering and the understanding that anyone can learn science," Strange said.

Trujillo has also been witness of the great journey CEC has led him through in being able to apply his studies and to use all that he has learned as a computer engineer major.

"I felt very prepared for the job as FIU places a priority in research and teaching students to investigate and find information," said Trujillo, who interned with the

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

"The reason why I am very optimistic about the future of our college, is because the students that we have are of great talent and potential," Mirmiran said. "And any time we have offered an opportunity for them to compete at the national level, they have shined well, making me believe that we have a great future ahead for this college."

The U.S. News & World Report ranked the online engineering degree program among one of the top 50 in the nation, which ranked higher than the engineering program at University of Florida.

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## NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR STUDENT MEDIA:

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, RADIATE FM GENERAL MANAGER AND FIUSM.COM DIRECTOR

For an application packet, email Alfred Soto at sotoa@fiu.edu. Subject line should read: Beacon, FIUSM, or Radiate FM Application.

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 5 P.M. ON MARCH 8.

## University Apartments are like a Community

JENNIPHER SCHAFER  
*Staff Writer*

I've lived on campus since the fall semester. Nestled in a quiet studio apartment away

from the larger housing complex, my apartment feels exactly like my own place even though it is

on campus. The university apartments have their advantages and disadvantages.

Generally these units are reserved for graduate students. They are designed to

be near an authentic apartment community. We have a clubhouse instead of a common room.

We have a volleyball court full of beach sand and our own basketball court. We even have a

barbecue grill under a wooden oversized gazebo. I've heard that these units are slightly larger

than even the ones in the University Towers though I've never brought out a measuring tape to

be certain. With our own parking surrounding the buildings and even our own entrance,

it certainly feels like a private apartment and

not a dormitory.

In my unit the stove is highly efficient and it isn't often that I find my cooking surfaces

heating unevenly. The refrigerator is a standard size, leaving me plenty of room to stock it as I

need to. It is older but in good condition. The windows allow plenty of natural light in when

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Nestled in a quiet studio apartment away from the larger housing complex, my apartment feels exactly like my own place even though it is

on campus.”

I open them to read by sunlight. It is also very quiet at night over here away from louder areas

of the campus. The water heaters never leave me stuck with cold shower water or dish washing

water. The apartment also holds the cool air from my air conditioner inside very well.

These apartments are not perfect though.

They are older and older buildings have

little issues from time to time. Some units have central air conditioning while most have energy

wasting window and wall units. While this detail doesn't affect the residents since we do not

have to pay our utility bills individually, it most certainly costs the university. The flooring in

the units is dreary in a combination of browns, whites, and grays creating a dingy look even if

they have just been mopped. Some units have scuff marks in the tile making it look even worse.

The kitchen has limited counter space. Dish drying racks are necessary but take up nearly all

of the space provided. It is also difficult to store utensils since the drawer is too narrow for a normal sized silverware tray.

Larger problems exist as well. The units are prone to forming mold and mildew year-round.

When leaving for winter break students are instructed to leave

their air conditioning units on to

try and avoid this occurrence. While my apartment has been blissfully bug-free save for some

sugar ants, bugs have been reported in some units. The worst is the flooding. Every time it rains

there is a small lake in the courtyard of some of the buildings. My own building sees about a

foot to a foot and a half of water when it rains. I have arrived at class soaked up to my shins

because of this flooding. Another issue at the UA is the lack of a safety emergency call button in the newer buildings. These call buttons are crucial because they can bring the university police to your door right away if there is an emergency.

Even with all of its faults, I wouldn't trade my UA unit for another spot on campus because I like it in this quiet oasis from events. I enjoy my little slice of peace and quiet just the way it is.

-*opinion@fiusm.com*

## Meal plans not flexible enough

JENNIPHER SCHAFER  
*Contributing Writer*

Along with living on campus I purchased a meal plan last fall. I figured it was the way to go.

I wasn't sure how I would prefer to spend my meal options on campus and so I opted for the VIP5 plan. I understood that I would be required to purchase the same dollar amount for a plan in the spring term but I never knew it would have to be the exact same plan. The lack of flexibility regarding students' choice for their dining options needs to be addressed.

When I was finished with the fall term I innocently requested to give myself more dining dollars and lower my unlimited Fresh Food Company meals to three days a week instead. I was interested in more dining dollars for several reasons. I do enjoy cooking more for myself on the weekends but it would be a waste of money not to use the plan I had purchased.

I often have friends who do not like eating at the FFC for one reason or another. The policy of not allowing people to sit inside without purchasing often separates me from friends who prefer other restaurants. These two reasons topped the list for me.

I was told it wasn't possible.

You see, the meal plan must remain identical for two semesters consecutively. It was not

made clear to me when I selected the plan that I would be stuck with it until April. This policy

is too strict. In particular it restricts the students' options and forces them to stay committed to a dining plan which perhaps wasn't the best option for them.

Mistakes are made in these selec-

tions not by carelessness, but by a genuine attempt to see what is best for the individual.

Sometimes what we think is the best option just isn't and that should be ok.

The policy in place may be an attempt to ease paperwork on

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The lack of flexibility regarding students' choice for their dining options needs to be addressed.

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employees or to streamline the process.

In this day of electronic records it should not be that difficult to make minor alterations.

The options to a student whose dining dollars are dwindling are to either put more money on the plan, not get the ten percent discount when eating on campus, or to simply accept it and do nothing.

I don't understand why the school fails to address this when so many students rely on these plans.

I don't know the inner workings of the dining options office, but it seems reasonable to me to allow students a little more flexibility.

Perhaps locking them in a budgetary commitment but allowing them to move meals and dollars around between semesters would work.

It may require a few extra office hours or employees to manage the files, but in the end it would create a happier student population who were well-fed and satisfied with their plans.

-*opinion@fiusm.com*

## When the chalk hearts are gone

LUIS SANTANA  
*Opinion Director*

Valentine's Day is over. The annual holiday of hearts and flowers has passed and now that the love filling the air has faded, you look at your partner and wonder where it all went. Well let me remind you that love and its expressions aren't meant only for Valentine's Day.

Just because a day has been set aside to express your care for someone doesn't mean that's the only day to do so. I think so many people look at Valentine's Day as the only day of the year that you should or can show someone that

you care about them when really it's not. It's just a brief moment in the long span of a year where everyone decides to show their significant other that they care.

Show the person you're with every day that you love and care about them but don't think you have to do anything grand or outlandish either. Do small things to show them what they mean to you.

Have you ever tried your hand at poetry? Maybe your significant other enjoys the smell of a lovely bouquet. Or how about a card just because? Even something as small as a text saying "I hope your day is going well," can

mean the world to someone.

Remember as well not to take for granted the fact that someone

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Just because a day has been set aside to express your care for someone doesn't mean that's the only day to do so.

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loves and cares about you. As a child of divorce, I have seen firsthand what happens when you allow your love to fade and have realized that the lack of love not

only affects the relationship, but all of those directly attached to it. Only so many people in this

world can boast that they have someone far away from them who's thinking about them. And because of that, you should show your significant other what they

mean to you. Do your best to show that person every single day that you care about them. Remember that love isn't just a momentary thing, but rather a constant stream. Try cute little things like leaving sticky notes reminding them how much you care at work, home or school or taking them out somewhere just because. I don't know what tomorrow may bring, but I do know that I will be spending it with the person I love and because of that, I want to spend it showing them what they mean to me.

-*luis.santana@fiusm.com*

### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com) or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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## Ms. Push America crowned

**GISELLE CANCIO**  
*Staff Writer*

The 11th annual Miss Push America pageant and second annual War of The Roses spread awareness about Push America to over 15 million people via social media and word of mouth.

Alongside the awareness? Over \$12,000 raised.

"Our social media competition was a huge success in terms of the amount of people we spread awareness to," Fernando Trillo, director of service for Pi Kappa Phi, junior majoring in psychology. "Due to several "retweets" on twitter that students were able to get, we reached famous athletes, actors, actresses and reporters all around the world."

War of the Roses is a week of different events that spread awareness about Push America and it ends with the Miss Push America pageant.

Throughout the week, each sorority who raises the most money at the end of the day gets points allocated to their War of the Roses total.

Alongside the events, there were two other ways to get points allocated: raising the most money online and having the most tweets and instagram posts with the hashtags provided.

When verified accounts re-tweeted the information, it counted as more points.

The War of the Roses winner gets 10% back to their chapter's philanthropy.

Every event held tied back to Push America and spreading awareness.

Push America is a nonprofit organization, founded in 1977 through Pi Kappa Phi.

The events were Smash the Word, Push Challenge, Rose Hunt, Miss Push Fair and a friendship visit.

"The planning, time commitment and sacrifices are worth it. Knowing that people are so willing to support and learn about Push America is amazing."

Fernando Trillo,  
Director of Service  
Pi Kappa Phi

At Smash the Word, participants had the opportunity to throw sponges covered in paint at a large wooden sign that had offensive words towards people with disabilities.

At the Push Challenge, people were given disabilities like losing eye sight or the ability to walk and the goal was to complete a challenge.

At the Rose Hunt, participating sororities looked for roses in a small area located by the Graham Center to emphasize the teamwork Push America strives for. At the Push Fair, each contestant had to come up with their own event in order to raise money for Push America.

The friendship visit was coordinated with

## ARE YOU HIV AND STD 'FREE'



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Student Health Services has provided students like Charmilla Kirton, (center) marine biology major, with the opportunity to get tested for HIV or STDs for free provided by the Health Department.

Best Buddies and students with disabilities came to interact and play games with FIU students.

"The planning, time commitment and sacrifices are worth it," Trillo said. "Knowing that people are so willing to support and learn about Push America is amazing."

For the second year in a row, Alpha Xi Delta was crowned the War of the Roses Champion.

They were able to successfully raise over

\$1,800 through the online donation portal, alongside money donated at each event.

Viewer's Choice was awarded to Karina Peiro, a junior majoring in hospitality management.

The 2014 Miss Push America is Andrea Macias, a sophomore double majoring in event management and communications.

Most Philanthropic, which was the individual who raised the most money at their

**SEE PAGEANT, PAGE 5**

## Relay For Life to fundraise for American Cancer Society

**ARIEL WEINSTEIN**  
*Staff Writer*

Millions of people around the world have been affected by cancer. Whether having been diagnosed with the disease or having to go through watching a family member or friend battle through it, there are too many people who have had to experience cancer in some way.

The University recognizes how serious of a disease cancer is, and how terrible the effects are.

That is why on Feb. 28, at 6 p.m. at the MMC Ryder Business loop, until 9 a.m. on Feb. 29, the University Relay For Life committee, will be hosting the 10th annual Relay For Life event.

The event is sponsored by the American Cancer Society. The branch at the University is composed

of 40 members who planned this event for an entire year prior to the event date.

Relay For Life is a program where people make their own teams to create activities in individual tents, that fundraise for the American Cancer Society.

The program originated in Tacoma, Washington in 1985 by Dr. Gordy Klatt, who raised more than \$27,000 after walking and running around a track for 24 hours.

Although walking is a part of the program, there also various other activities that take place during the event, all hoping to raise money and awareness of cancer.

This year, there will be activities such as bounce houses, obstacle courses, food and a movie playing in the lawn hosted by the Student Programming Council.

In addition to activities, there are also three major ceremonies in the event, each of which will signify a different aspect of cancer.

The first of the ceremonies will consist of what is called the Survivor Lap. During this time, survivors of cancer will walk the first lap around the track, as a symbol of their triumph in the fight against such a horrible obstacle in their life, and celebrate that they are alive today.

The second major ceremony that will take place at the event is the Beautiful Lengths Ceremony. This ceremony is where over 100 men and women will donate eight inches of their hair. Their hair then goes to Pantene Beautiful Lengths, where they will design wigs for cancer patients.

Kawi Gonzalez, a senior majoring in biology, is the program's teams

director. She explains how the final ceremony, perhaps one of the more emotional times of the night, will go on.

The Luminaria Ceremony takes place at night in the dark, to remember everyone who has been lost to cancer, and to pray for and honor those who are still battling the disease.

"Candles are lit inside of personalized bags and are placed around the track as glowing tributes to those who have been affected by cancer. Each year we have more than 1,000 luminaria bags!" Gonzalez explained.

In past years, more than 2,000 people have showed up to this event. This year, there is an expected 90 teams participating, 2,500 to 3,000 people, and a fundraising goal of \$100,000. Within the past ten years, a grand total of over \$600,000 has been raised through the University Relay

For Life program.

Not only do people enjoy a fun night of activities while contributing to a great cause, but they also gain self-accomplishment, knowing that they helped people who needed them, and contributed to making their lives better.

Gonzalez explains that the event is important because "cancer affects everyone in one way or another. In the fight against cancer, silence is the last thing we need. We need to come together and make noise to finish the fight against cancer once and for all."

If anyone is interested in making a team for Relay they can contact Kawi Gonzalez at [FIUrelay2014@gmail.com](mailto:FIUrelay2014@gmail.com)

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## Flogging Molly to perform at Revolution Live this month

**CLAUDIO ZELAYA**  
*Contributing Writer*

Flogging Molly visits Revolution Live in February 19, while on their North American headlining tour, The Green 17 tour, with special guests, The Drowning Men. Flogging Molly is a punk-rock band based in Los Angeles, California and has been together since 1997.

Their brand of punk-rock is heavily influenced by Celtic instruments such as the violin, mandolin, and the accordion. Mixing in the sound of the rock N' roll we all know, with the traditional style of Dave King's homeland, Ireland; this is a testament to their infectious originality. They pay homage to their culture with songs like "Black Friday Rule" and "Factory Girls."

The band includes Dave King on vocals, Bridget Regan on the fiddle and tin whistle, Dennis Casey on guitar, Matt Hensley on the accordion, Nathan Maxwell on bass, Bob Schmidt on the mandolin and banjo, and George Schmidt on drums. Flogging Molly isn't a victim to the over commercialized practices that plague the music industry and have put their music before market-

ability. Their main objective is clear: play an exceptional live set the audience will love so much it hurts. Expect a fast paced show that will leave you wanting more once it's done.

Flogging Molly is on tour to support their album, Speed of Darkness, released in 2011. This LP includes hits such as the title track, "Speed of Darkness", "Don't Shut 'Em Down", and the track that

is definitely relevant in this period of economic turmoil, "Revolution." Don't worry about learning all the new tracks, even though you should, because Flogging Molly will still pay tribute to old hits from their four previous albums. On the day of the show, tickets will be \$30 at the box office, but why wait until the last minute? Save those extra 50 cents and buy

a ticket in advance for \$29.50! Doors open at 6:30 p.m so be there early to get close enough that sweat will douse your head during the set! It's not St. Patrick's Day, but why not wear green to support Flogging Molly's heritage, as they trade stories with you on stage as they would at a pub in Dublin, Ireland.

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# Unnecessary “RoboCop” remake pales to original

COLUMNIST



RAFAEL ABREU

Whenever we approach something, be it an event or a work of fiction, we bring with it our biases; no matter how hard we try, it's an incredibly difficult, if not impossible, task to see something objectively and without bias. Entering 2014's “RoboCop,” I told myself to be completely objective, to see it as its own film, and not to compare it to the 1987 original. Unfortunately, during parts of the film, I found myself doing just that, noticing how it differed in aspects to the original, which lines from the original are brought up, and whether or not it was as satirical and biting. One thing is for sure: there is almost no humor to be found.

“RoboCop” takes itself very seriously, which would have probably worked in its favor had it not

also featured sentimental moments that come off more as obligatory than genuine. However, a film of this kind probably shouldn't take itself so seriously; it could have at least been darker, which I would have preferred over whatever it thinks it is. “RoboCop” has a bit of an identity crises, sometimes coming off as the dark film I want to see, and sometimes coming off as a light action movie with very little action. A film like this should have been rated R, but for one unfortunate reason or another, it was rated PG-13 (for too many reasons to list here).

The film presents many interesting ideas about arrogant patriotism, powerful corporations, AI controlled forces (drones, for example), yet it never seems to bring to light what I thought was the most fundamental thing about RoboCop: Humanity. You see, RoboCop is supposed to be a robot, a man in a machine, but still mostly a robot. He is supposed to

be stripped of his humanity, yet, he still retains it, rendering him to still feel and have traumatic memories, which makes him just as human as anyone else. No matter how he may look, there is still a man underneath all the technology – there is still a soul.

The film never seemed to want to investigate this aspect of the character; this is probably because the character of Alex Murphy, who becomes RoboCop, is already conscious of himself from the get-go, never being full-on robot unless someone tinkers with his programing. Even then, Murphy is eventually able to override anything that makes him less than human, baffling all of the scientists who supposedly made him in such a way that would prevent this from happening. The plot of “RoboCop” then becomes muddled, becoming less special and more formulaic. Instead of following up on its talks about drones, corporations, humanity, and America, the

film merely trickles these ideas throughout, never fleshing them out and always making them seem more like ideas the writers wanted to put in the movie for the sake of having ideas. The themes presented that could be further explored for valuable insight are never utilized in the way they should be, leaving one with a film that only had a simple, not-so-special story that needed some other stuff to keep it “authentic.”

On the technical side of things, “RoboCop” looks nice, but half the time the camera insists on being shaky, as opposed to staying still. Why must a film be shot hand-held, especially a film that is supposed to be slick and polished? Why do filmmakers refuse to acknowledge the ever reliable apparatus known as a tripod? It doesn't even stay consistent: Scenes of people merely talking can have normal, non-shaky angles, but then go to a shot that appears hand-held. One thing I'll give the filmmakers

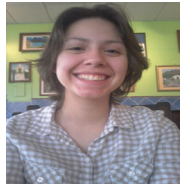
credit for is the use of the 360 degree shot; in many films this technique is useless and unnecessary, but this film manages to take advantage of it to show us other things around the characters that are actually part of the scene.

I'm not sure what to take from “RoboCop,” since it didn't seem to be well aware of what it wanted to give to its audience. It doesn't quite work as an action movie, since there aren't as many action sequences as you'd think. It isn't as dark as it could have been, though it does have a few good moments of edge. It isn't as biting as it wants to be, and isn't in anyway satirical like it had the potential to be. A remake of “RoboCop” had no reason to be made, and as this film proves, they couldn't even bother with trying to stay faithful to what made the original a classic.

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# Exhibition unifies human experience, philosophies

COLUMNIST



NATALIE BOJORQUEZ

Saravanan Parasuraman made quite the splash with his first exhibit outside the Indian subcontinent. “This Too Shall Pass...” was an amazing journey through the mind of this blooming artist. Parasuraman found a way to unify the human experience with his own personal philosophies. He touched on fundamental human experiences with pieces that depicted the shifting from one life form to another.

One that stuck out in particular was

a large canvas piece that was made with graphite. The piece entitled “Manuscript” was made up of giant rings with smaller, more intricate rings. Even these small rings had even smaller drawings inside it.

The artist layered these over each other using a light, clear lacquer that gave the whole piece a wonderful shine.

You were never really finished looking at this piece, every time you returned to it, a new aspect came out and you just had to keep looking for more. Another strong piece in the exhibit was the fiberglass white crab tied with a red string titled “This Too Shall Pass...”

According to the synopsis provided

next to the piece, the fisherman who caught the crab kept it alive to eat it fresh. Parasuraman used the crab to express that even death will pass. As a person, you know that eventually, death will come. It's the one thing that is completely unavoidable. The crab with the red string tied around it is so simple, but so soul shattering.

The crab knows that its death is imminent so it just waits for it to come because after death there is something. This crab could be anyone; it doesn't fear, it only accepts. The ability of Parasuraman to incorporate his own beliefs with his art makes it all more the enjoyable. Art with a back story makes this exhibit that much

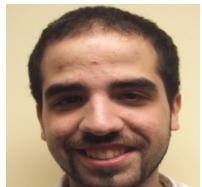
more alive and dynamic.

The only issue with the gallery was that there weren't many pieces. The quality of the pieces were great, but it left the observer wanting to see more of what this artist had to offer. Hopefully, with his next overseas exhibition, Parasuraman can bring more pieces that will leave the observer with a sense of belonging. “This Too Shall Pass...” was an introspective journey with the artist and while, the time with Parasuraman has passed, I can't wait to see what he has to show next.

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# Olsen pours heart out into “Burn Your Fire For No Witness”

COLUMNIST



ROBERTO LOPEZ-TRIGO

Angel Olsen, the singer and songwriter of her self-titled band released their album “Burn Your Fire For No Witness” along with drummer Josh Jaeger and bassist Stewart Bronaugh.

Angel Olsen is from St. Louis, Missouri and in recent years has been getting little snippets of fame and slowly but surely, making her way from the side stage to the main stage. The album “Burn Your Fire For No Witness” flexes its musical value,

using contrasts between their grungy folk-rock tracks and their simple, pure and haunting guitar and vocal tracks.

As well as, the great chemistry between the bandmates, and a powerful yet vulnerable voice accompanied by lyrics that will leave you speechless.

The only weakness that stops this band from really flourishing is the lack of rhythmic change and the daunting repetition of the harmonies.

In the song “Hi-Five” we catch a bit of this band's heavier side. In the instruments exists a bluesy rock sound accompanied by a folky rhythm, a piano that enters mid song, and a distorted vocal harmony that really gives this song character.

The most amazing part of this song is probably the personality of the lyrics that matches up so well with the instruments.

Lyrically, the song is about two people who are lonely and through the common ground of their loneliness, they become invested in each other's lives and see that they are stuck with each other.

This song at first sounds like it should be sad because she is so lonely, but it is actually a happy tune about two lonely people who comfort each other so that they are a little less lonely.

Another amazing song that follows up after “Hi-Five”, is “White Fire”. This song is much slower and is char-

acterized by guitar work that places you in the heart of Angel Olsen. When Angel Olsen enters, her tone is clear and her diction is crisp and clear.

The voice captures you and forces you to take a journey, beautiful in its execution and forces the listener into a melancholy state.

Although it is the longest song on the track, you never get bored of it and want to keep experiencing her.

The contrast between this song and the last consistently occurs throughout the album. This creates a constant source of musical stimulus.

Lastly, the only thing that caused this album to be less than superb is the lack of rhythmic change in the last few

songs.

Which makes for the end of the album to be quite boring past track nine on the album. For instance, the song “Enemy” is a little bit boring and the vibrato in her voice is quite distracting. But other than that, the album is quite good.

Through her songwriting you can see that she is pouring her heart out and in response, causes the listener's heart to vibrate sympathetically.

“Burn Your Fire For No Witness” is an album that should not be ignored, but a staple to any “faithful” indie rock listener.

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# Funds raised for Push America with pageant

PAGEANT, PAGE 4

individual event was also Macias.

Macias' event at the Miss Push Fair was titled “Respectability: Andrea's Push for America.” There were four components to the event, highlighting each one of Push America's values: teamwork, empathy, integrity and ability.

For teamwork, participants teamed up and raised both funds and awareness through facts Macias provided about Push America.

For empathy, the participants were placed

in the shoes of someone with a disability and they had to eat cake without the use of their eyesight or hands.

This brought about a new perspective of the challenges that someone with disabilities would face in their everyday life.

For integrity she made bracelets that served as a reminder of the morals that the participants learned not only at her event, but also throughout the week.

“The main focus of my event was on the last value of Push America, ability,” Macias said. “I wanted to prove to people that everyone can

make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities so I came up with an activity called the language of respect.”

Here, she had the participants come up with uplifting and inspiring words and phrases in order to wash out offensive words that are used at times when referring to someone with a disability.

Some of her favorite words and phrases were: “Push through it, you got this,” “Push forward,” and “Perseverance.”

As Miss Push America 2014, Macias would like to have more friendship visits at places

like Hope and The Learning Experience.

She also wants to bring about more interaction between Push America and the people with disabilities because that is what touches the brothers, and participants, the most.

“My biggest goal is to start up Theta Delta's own Special Olympics,” Macias said. “I believe that it is a fun way to not only interact with people with disabilities, but also expose the FIU community to what Push America is all about.”

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## MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Panther harnesses struggles of life for success on the court

**PATRICK CHALVIRE**  
*Staff Writer*

A diamond goes through heavy pressure before it reaches its final destination, whether it be a jewelry store or found on a wedding ring. For one Panther, the pressures of life have continued to strengthen him and refine him for his future.

Redshirt junior Dennis Mavin has fought his share of battles, but there's one life battle he carries with him on his back every time he takes to the hardwood.

The Gainesville native played alongside Dante Anderson, a 16-year-old basketball star at Eastside High School who was the state's consensus No. 1 boy's basketball prospect. He was killed in an automobile crash on May 19, 2007.

Anderson's number in high school was 22. Mavin now wears 22 in remembrance of his close friend.

"That's a little motivation, extra motivation, to keep me going," Mavin said.

"I think about him everyday and every time I play on the court. My freshman year at Eastside, he was a junior, he took me under his wing and showed me different ropes and showed me how to talk to people and how to carry myself as I got more exposure."

Mavin previously played for Florida Atlantic University prior to his time at FIU and wore the number 10 during his two seasons as an Owl. The number 22 had been worn by Greg Gantt, the Owls all-time leading scorer and also a close friend to Anderson.

Before Mavin could put on his Panthers jersey and take to the court at the U.S Century Bank Arena, he was forced to sit out last season due to transfer rules of the NCAA.

For the man who grew up playing basketball, having to sit and watch as the Panthers had one of their best seasons and making it to the Sun Belt Conference Championship Finals was tough, but only

aided in his future success.

"My expectations were to be better than I was at FAU. Sitting out a year and taking a step back, seeing the game from a different perspective," Mavin said. "I looked at it as a positive because I was able to get my body right, get my mind right and just see the game from more of a student standpoint. Just analyze the game better. I was able to just watch nothing but basketball. It was a learning process."

Now, many know the name Michael Jordan and some may even know of a particular "Flu game," in which Jordan scored 38 points in Game 5 of the NBA Finals with the Chicago Bulls against the Utah Jazz.

Jordan had come down with a stomach virus and was not expected to play, but with his team on the verge of a championship and his teammates in need of his skills, he did what was necessary and like Jordan, Mavin did the same.

Mavin attended high



JASEN DELGADO/ THE BEACON

Redshirt junior Dennis Mavin (center) has used every day problems in his regular life to help him prosper on the basketball court. He is averaging 11.7 points per game.

school at The Rock in Gainesville and during his senior year, fought off a similar flu that threatened to sideline him and helped his Lions advance to the round

of 16 in the state playoffs with a 28-point showing.

"That day was crazy because I really wasn't supposed to play," Mavin said. "I was sick out of my

mind but one of my best friends, Scottie Wilbekin, that's my teammate, and he told me, 'Man, we're not

**SEE MAVIN, PAGE 7**

## SERVE IT UP



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Sophomore Aleksandra Trifunovic and the rest of the women's tennis team will have their next match against Youngstown State University on Feb. 22, in Miami.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Taylor Shade prepares to shine in lead role

**STEVEN ROWELL**  
*Staff Writer*

One question that has constantly surrounded the women's basketball team for next season has been who will step into the leading role that will be left once senior guard Jerica Coley graduates after this season.

Sophomore guard Taylor Shade might be called upon to provide even more punch from the perimeter next season.

So far this season, the Boynton Beach native has shown the ability to produce.

While Shade saw very little playing time as a freshman she has made strides in her second season especially knowing that Head Coach Cindy Russo wanted Shade to become a major scorer this year.

Shade is averaging just short of nine points per game and so far has reached double figures in 11 games this season including two different times of scoring figures for four consecutive games.

Shade also posted a career high of 26 points in a victory at Florida Atlantic University on Jan. 15.

"I think Taylor [Shade] is doing a good job for us, this year she has really stepped in and provided an offensive punch for us," Assistant Coach Lindsay Bowen said. "She can penetrate, shoot the three, and has a nice little pullup jump shot and it helps out to relieve some of the pressure off Jerica [Coley]."

While Bowen has liked what Shade has brought on the court, she also has been impressed with Shade's dedication to being a student of the game.

"She is always trying to learn, she has come into my office to watch film with me and we sent film to her and that is huge," Bowen said.

Shade might be called upon to step into that leader role next season and Bowen sees the potential of Shade being able to fill that role.

"I think she will definitely have to play a bigger role next year, she will be a junior, she's knows the system, the culture, how we play and have to step up and play minutes at the point guard and shooting guard," Bowen said.

Shade feels confident in stepping into that role should she be called upon to become more of a leader and is using this season learning from Coley to prepare herself for the possibility of taking on a leader's role next season.

"I don't think I would have any problem adjusting to it, but as of late I have been a secondary leader, just trying to listen to Jerica [Coley] and then feeding off of her and helping my other teammates on the floor," Shade said. "So I don't think it would be a pretty hard adjustment I think I would fly into that position pretty well"

Shade also plans to improve on her conditioning over the upcoming offseason to prepare for next year.

"Conditioning first things first because I know probably next year I will have to play 40 minutes," Shade said.

With Shade possibly becoming FIU's main threat from the perimeter for next season and also the return of senior center Marita Davydova next year, both Shade and Bowen have likened the idea of the two forming an inside-outside tandem.

"I'm actually really really excited that Marita [Davydova] is coming back, she brings a lot of experience and a lot of skill set to our post-game," Shade said. "She'll help me out a lot in pick and rolls and getting other post players ready to play."

"I think that will be a nice little one-two punch, you have Taylor [Shade] running point guard, shooting three's and attacking and creating looks for Marita [Davydova]," Bowen said. "Marita is tough on the boards and also step out and shoot the three, I think with both of them it will be a nice balance for the team."



## MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Basketball triumphs from Jersey City to Miami

**GISELLE CANCIO**  
Staff Writer

Playing an average of 30.6 minutes a game and having a field goal percentage of .464 his freshman year is just the start of a successful basketball journey from a kid out of Jersey.

Jerome Frink, playing forward for the FIU men's basketball team, currently a sophomore studying liberal arts, came to Miami because of a few different reasons.

"Miami appealed to me because of the hot weather and culture," Frink said. "I also wanted a clean, fresh start. My neighborhood had some bad things and I wanted to get away from that."

He escaped with his younger brother and older sister who now all live together.

Practices come long and often, every day he is on the court improving on something different.

His goal is to develop skills as an individual while still having fun with his teammates.

So far this season, his three-point percentage has risen from .214 to .300 and his steals have risen from .4 to 1.1 a game.

"I try to work on stepping, ball handling, jump shots and of course, easy plays for my teammates," Frink said.

Although he's been in Miami

for less than two years, he has been able to build a bond with his teammates he never thought imaginable.

On the court, it's game time. Off the court, he and his teammates hang out at the movies, in the dorms and of course, playing basketball.

Frink has no preference over offense or defense and just aims to be sharper with each possession.

His best experience at a game was actually his first game with FIU, against Boston College, in Boston.

Although FIU came short of a win, he went 9-9 on the free throw line, and had a double-double with 22 points scored and 10 rebounds.

His favorite part of it all? His family came to watch him play.

"I look up to my father and wish he was able to come to more games with my family," Frink said. "He is my inspiration and I want to follow in his footsteps while still making my own."

Frink's father watches his games online and they talk as often as time permits.

Something different between his rookie year and now is his coach.

Anthony Evans, who was hired in April of 2013 became the eighth head coach in the history of FIU.

He came from being the head

coach of the Norfolk State University Spartans where he had back-to-back 20 win seasons.

The community and players were very pleased with the decision and have adjusted quickly.

"At first, it was a matter of getting used to how he coaches and his plays," Frink said. "It's gotten better as the season has progressed. He just has a different edge, new drills and practically a new system I had to readjust too."

Both of his coaches while being at FIU had a high intensity level and he has been able to learn different techniques from each.

Something Frink never thought he would be doing? Playing on a "Lime" sponsored beach court.

"At the beginning, it was distracting, but since we practice on it so many times, I've accustomed to it," Frink said. "Honestly, I love it. It's something so unique and everyone who comes to play on our court has something good to say about it."

Frink hopes to make it to the NBA, and will continue to work hard everyday to improve himself.

"I always want to make things easier for myself and my teammates and the only way to do that is with practice," Frink said.

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JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Sophomore forward Jerome Frink (right) has increased his numbers in most statistical categories from his freshman campaign.

## FEATURE

## Lacrosse team looks to move up to Division I-A

**JAHREL FRANCIS**  
Contributing Writer

In the world of athleticism there is a strong passion for the experience gained when you take part in a sport. From positive to negative, from field to bench and to the bleachers, athletes get fired up within that atmosphere. With lacrosse, that doesn't change.

Statistics show that in lacrosse you don't have to be of a certain build to perform as a skilled player like other sports. At FIU, the members of the men's lacrosse team look to have fun and enjoy tough competition. The team is up and coming and look to be accepted to the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association (MCLA).

The squad deals with big aspirations and obstacles that continue to get in their way.

"My wife always says, 'it's not a sport. It's a cult,'" Head Coach Mark Parets said.

Parets quoted his wife's words as even she is included in the world of sport as a wife and can see that rela-



JAHREL FRANCIS/THE BEACON

Head Coach Mark Parets (hat) discussed the practice plans with his players prior to their match with Florida Gulf Coast University on Saturday, Feb. 15.

tionship and passion. To explain the cult relationship is that of either you love it or hate it.

For the team, captain Eric Quisenberry, junior majoring in criminal justice and minoring in psychology, brought out Parets to coach. Parets played at Florida State University for over four years and coached for 13 years at Gulliver Preparatory School and Pine Crest School

among others. In his coaching experiences he gained a championship ring at Gulliver Prep and coached a player that later went to Duke University to win a national championship. He also coached Quisenberry on the Miami Select Lacrosse Team, which made the two familiar with each other.

"Right now we're recruiting, and building a team and a roster,"

freshman marketing major Rolby Seneus said.

It seems like all the team needs is numbers according to Parets.

"They've got all the talent in the world" Parets said. "Once we get about 25 kids that have this as a priority behind school, we'll grow by leaps and bounds."

When they are in shape with an adequate team they can bring themselves to greater competition.

With Parets, the players were able to play against the Israeli National Lacrosse Team, made of professional players, and performed well.

In this match the Israeli team donated uniforms for the team to fit the proper look for a proper game.

"Lacrosse takes many things from other sports," Parets said.

For instance; zone coverage from football, field vision of soccer and excelling as an individual from an basketball. With these attributes Quisenberry finds himself at the position of team captain as a well athlete also with experience under Parets.

Quisenberry would be noted as the star of the team.

"Yeah, I would say Q," senior psychology major Mark Sheffield said.

To highlight the team's playmaker Sheffield mentions "Q". Quisenberry played under Miami Select from 2005 to 2008 building his skills as a player. Sheffield also has experience and explains "Q" suits Quisenberry.

"You have to have something quick to call when you're running down the field," Sheffield said.

"I've seen a lot of them from when they started," Parets said.

The lacrosse team has great aspirations and potential. Being a player himself since 1978, Parets looks to stay with the team and have them flourish as a Division I MCLA team.

Still being invited to play for teams, Parets will stay in the sport for years to come.

"Lacrosse is the greatest sport out there," Parets said.

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## Mavin looks to NBA's Lillard as 'sleeping giant'

**MAVIN, PAGE 6**

going to be able to win this game without you,' and it gave me that extra motivation just to play because I really wasn't going to play."

Wilbekin currently plays for the Florida Gators.

Many athletes strive to make a name for themselves, turn their surname into a future household name, and even look up to previous successors. Mavin is no exception.

According to Mavin, there's one young star in the

NBA he looks up to: Portland Trail Blazers point guard Damian Lillard, and it's not just for his abilities on the court that makes him Mavin's pick.

"Him coming from Weber State and nobody really knew who he was, and he became

this star athlete," Mavin said. "Coming from a school like that, no one really expected too much, even though he killed his senior year and got drafted high, kind of like that sleeping giant."

As Mavin's basketball career continues, he remains

unsure where his path will take him.

He doesn't consider himself a sleeping giant like Lillard, rather, a diamond in the rough with plans on polishing his skills as each day passes.

"I have no cap, so it's

basically just to continue to get better each and everyday and continue to just live out my journey," Mavin said. "There's really no expectation, but the sky's the limit basically."

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## Hospitality on the high seas this summer term

ALEX BLENCOWE  
Staff Writer

On the high seas the hospitality students go this summer.

Students from the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management are studying abroad on the high seas aboard the beautiful Norwegian Cruise Line this summer.

The Hospitality at Sea programs cover three courses with 20 students per course and added graduate students over a 12-day trip through Portugal and Spain.

Students will be learning everything from management of injury to international safety issues and travel law.

In the past, students have visited places such as France, Italy, Monaco, the Netherlands and England, according to the program's faculty director, John H. Thomas, J.D., a maritime lawyer who has studied everything from Gaming Law to International Trade.

"One thing students learn is about multicultural situations and how to handle them," Thomas said.

This summer, 70

Chaplin school students and 10 architecture students will study cruise ship management skills, rules for crossing borders, standards of care, licensing for new contract businesses in foreign locations and much more including what to do if a traveler is injured on a safari.

"Our students have

“Definitely research before you go so you get a feel of where you're going and what you're getting yourself into.”

Stephanie Baril  
Senior  
Hospitality Management

found this to be a life-changing experience as they visit foreign countries together," said Thomas in an email.

"Some students have decided to join the cruise industry for a career. Many students [have] remained best friends with students they met on the trip and

travels."

Born and raised in Haiti, senior Stephanie Baril, a hospitality management major, gained a lot of independence and friendships from her experience in the Hospitality at Sea program last year, when she took a trip from Miami to Amsterdam, stopping at the cities of Madeira, Lisbon, Honfleur and Dover.

Her first time travelling alone, Baril experienced 15 days of travel with eight days at sea passing through Spain, Portugal, France and England respectively; she also spent an extra four days in Amsterdam after the cruise.

"I had to basically make my own friends and get used to my roommate," Baril said. "I actually enjoyed it and learned how to deal with other people."

While on board, Baril experienced the shouting of "Starboard! Starboard!" a signal used on ships when a passenger has passed away; Baril learned that ships have morgues where the deceased are held until they are delivered at the next port.

Additionally, Baril and her classmates studied all

## SNACK ATTACK



MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Jason Pinero (left), senior in communication arts, scopes out some sweet treats at a snack booth during a special vendor's boutique on campus with a variety of booths selling, snacks, jewelry and various trinkets.

kinds of cases on board including maintenance issues and travel law for transatlantic cruises.

"We got to see the engine room, where they navigate... you see the ocean and all the controls," said Baril. "We got to meet the ship's captain and the officers on board."

Baril is an avid traveller who has visited Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, France, England, Amsterdam, Portugal and Puerto Rico in her lifetime

so far.

"I'm used to leaving, just getting on a plane and going somewhere. I love to pack," said Baril. She said that learning about new cultures and places is always exciting. "When you're in the kind of industry where you get paid to travel, it's kind of awesome!"

Her dream is to become a General Manager in the Hospitality industry someday, and she has plans for an internship at a hotel

in Haiti after graduation.

"Definitely research before you go so you get a feel of where you're going and what you're getting yourself into," Baril advises future study abroad students.

She thinks that students who take this opportunity should should try to extend their trip and travel as much as possible.

"It was definitely a life lesson."

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## Study suggests caffeine helps in memory consolidation

ALEXI CARDONA  
Contributing Writer

When it comes to late night studying, coffee not only helps keep you awake, but as a new study suggests, it also helps you retain information for a short period of time.

A recent Nature Neuroscience study concluded that caffeine enhances long-term memory consolidation 24 hours after administration.

Some students and faculty members agree with the results, but offer alternatives to caffeine for memory consolidation and focus.

Researchers at Nature Neuroscience conducted a double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized trial on men and women who did not habitually consume caffeine.

The volunteers studied images of objects and were given either 200 mg of caffeine or a placebo.

They evaluated participants' recognition of images they saw the previous day, the target, new images, the foils and images that were similar but not identical to the ones they had seen 24 hours prior, the lures.

The results showed that the participants who received caffeine were more likely to correctly identify the lures than the participants who received placebos.

Maria Olenick, assistant director of nursing at the Biscayne Bay Campus College of Nursing and Health Sciences,

“

If there's a need for caffeine in your diet, there's something wrong.

Elina Sibony  
Junior  
Biology

sat in her office with a large Starbucks espresso lamenting her habitual consumption of coffee.

"It's a huge part of the nursing culture," she said.

Olenick agrees that caffeine will make people feel awake, but she explained it's because caffeine has a "detectable effect" on blood glucose levels.

Caffeine causes a spike in blood glucose levels that makes people feel alert, but fatigue sets in when glucose levels drop.

Elina Sibony, a junior majoring in biology, explains that caffeine can cause dehydration, which can contribute to fatigue, and has the opposite effect of caffeine on the body.

Sibony follows a vegan diet and makes fresh juices to keep her energy up instead of consuming coffee or caffeinated teas.

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"If there's a need for caffeine in your diet, there's something wrong," she said.

Corey Dagata, a junior majoring in psychology, drinks coffee twice a day to keep up with work and school.

She started drinking coffee regularly recently and said it helps her retain information while studying or doing homework late at night.

"I wouldn't say I'm dependent on it. It's a functioning caffeine addiction," Dagata joked.

Lorvin Ramirez, assistance food service director of Panther Dining Services at BBC, said the Bay Café sells 200 cups of coffee and 25 to 30 cups of tea a day on average.

This may not seem like much, but it does not include the caffeinated drinks students buy off-campus or from vending machines on campus.

Matthew Sampedro, a senior majoring in journalism, drinks coffee for the taste and not for the perceived benefits of improved memory or focus.

Sampedro said that sometimes coffee works for him as a pick-me-up and other times it doesn't. He does not agree with the findings of the study. "My memory is good as it is," he said.

From a nursing perspective, Olenick said there are other ways to get the energy students sometimes need after long nights studying and early morning classes.

She suggested drinking plenty of water, adopting good sleeping habits and eating six small meals a day to keep blood glucose levels stable, while balancing carbohydrates with protein and fiber for energy and to stay full throughout the day.

She acknowledged that health foods are expensive and that packing meals for an entire day at school is easier said than done.

Caffeine may be a temporary fix for exhaustion and poor concentration, but it eventually can worsen the cycle of energy and lethargy.

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