

Universities at core of reversing “brain drain”

JEFFREY PIERRE
Asst. News Director

While health services and hospitality jobs thrive in South Florida, growth in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields are sluggish. As a result, this stagnation in the STEM fields force young professionals out of the region leaving South Florida deprived of talented young entrepreneurs and innovators.

Ali Bustamante, a visiting professor for the Labor Research and Studies Center, research associate for the Research Institute on Social and Economic Policy and South Florida native, said he understood the confinements for young professionals in South Florida at an early point in his career.

“Living here all my life, knowing the region, the kind of jobs available, the industries and kind of life I could have in Miami, I knew that I would find a lot of constraints pursuing any professional aspirations that I had,” Busta-

mante said. “I knew if I wanted to be this professional, ultimately I had to leave Miami.”

The attitude shared by Bustamante and many other young professionals explains the steady migration out of South Florida and into cities like Seattle, Denver and Austin. This “brain drain” has affected the region for the past decade according to data from the Census Bureau and Brookings Institute.

The Census reports, in reference to the migration trends of young adults during the start and decline of the recession, that young adults are migrating into major metro areas that are known to have a certain atmosphere — college towns, high-tech centers and known mostly to be friendly to “twenty-and-thirty somethings.”

These regions often overshadow South Florida in areas other than sunshine, beaches and an infamous club scene. San Francisco: the classic startup and tech hub. New York: a musical and theat-

rical Mecca. Washington D.C.: where political savvy experts come to find a place on Capitol Hill.

“When you look at what’s on TV, you see a lot of stars making it in L.A. or in California,” said Matias Vargas, a freshman biomedical engineer and aspiring musician. “Then there’s Miami. We’re a city that doesn’t get spoken out on by the media. No one is saying Miami is where you go to make it as a songwriter or even make it in general.”

South Florida is especially disadvantaged — and particularly notorious for — when its talented 20- to 30-year-old graduates leave the state to work and open businesses rather than stay and build a stronger market, in most instances, in their home state.

According to a study done by Florida’s Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, only 58 percent of graduates with baccalaureate degrees stayed in the Florida workforce.

South Florida ranks



JEFFREY PIERRE/THE BEACON

Nabyl Charania, the managing director of Rokk3r Labs, was one of four speakers at an Entrepreneurs in Tech panel on Feb. 18 hosted by The Pino Global Entrepreneurship Center who spoke about a future tech hub in South Florida.

seventh in the nation when looking at college students per capita. The greater Miami metro area measures inadequately when looking at 24- to 35-year-olds with a bachelor’s degree — just 29 percent in 2012, the lowest figure among the top 50 metro areas, according to

Census data.

Bruno Phanord, a graduate student studying public administration with aspirations to be a major figure in Florida’s political scene, says universities play a significant role bringing in savvy individuals into the state and also in keeping in-state talented

young adults here.

“A school like FIU needs to master more effectively in showing students that they don’t need to go anywhere because the resources are here,” said Phanord. “Every institution has a responsibly to

SEE TECH, PAGE 2

Students and faculty weigh in on bitcoin currency

ROHAN JANI
Contributing Writer

Bitcoin, the peer-to-peer payment system of crypto-currency, has garnered lots of attention from domestic international traders to students alike — most recently, the Feb. 10 crash of a Tokyo-based exchange system.

The program generally covers the field of cryptography and utilizes computer algorithms to create a network of finance for its users. Its software runs on built-in clients, allowing users to make transactions in and out of a server.

With digitally-signed messages moving back and forth through networks, Bitcoin consumers engage in “data mining,” which essentially means rewarding 25 of the digital currency “bitcoins” based on a set count of 10 minutes for each round of code injected into the system.

Joel Villasuso, a sophomore in computer engineering, commented on both advantages and disadvantages of the Bitcoin system. He said the program is helpful, but can cause stress on society’s ways of gaining revenue.

“You’re going to gain revenue, but anonymity is just as good, too,” Villasuso said. “You can pay off basically anything you want using Bitcoin currencies and the funds are appreciable without being known.”

He said it carries a negative outlook, however.

“It provides ‘mining’ tools which utilize raw computer power for profit, but it takes up lots of efficiency to keep programs

running overnight,” Villasuso said. “Associated problems like overheating and theft from leaving devices idle can harm the system.”

Villasuso has used Bitcoin, but said he could never afford to buy anything. “I just wanted to get involved with the program and did lots of research on what customers do regarding Bitcoins in their possession.”

“

If FIU decided to invest in Bitcoin operations on our campus, [...] with FIU dollars converted into credits based on Bitcoin currency, I assume that it’s going to be successful.

Renato Gonzalez
Senior
International Relations & Political Science

”

Villasuso commented on his willingness to use Bitcoin.

“It is pretty unstable. It isn’t worth my time just yet to invest any cash or make any transfers. I personally wouldn’t bother with Bitcoin until I see it expand in our economy,” he said. “Right now, it’s relatively new in the financial sector, and it needs to be reliable and secure.”

He said when it comes to the ‘electronic wallet,’ the values are the most important to consider.

“Deposits can be faulty or full of glitches, and can compromise user integ-

egrity when funds are being exchanged,” Villasuso said. “One group of people can take control over a thousand innocent users who don’t want to risk being hacked as well, making it completely unreasonable to invest time in Bitcoins.”

A fair chance of risk for Bitcoin users came to life earlier this month when Mt. Gox, a Tokyo-based Bitcoin exchange

and social liberalization based on community-driven projects that run without much government interference. “I personally believe in open, community-driven projects: the projects that fund without a central authority,” Keener said. “Participants without any financial restrictions can now see change that is successful in the Bitcoin perspective. As a participant myself, I can see that minimal government interference is necessary to stimulate the economy.”

Keener referred to the idea of black-markets as an “irrational fear of the unknown,” labeling such issues as only a small problem and tries to focus on foreign subjects to further his education, including several collaborators based out of China who help him in his “crypto-assignments.”

“Money disappearing from the economy would be a very big drawback, alongside money laundering and storing funds in offshore accounts, which are all basically bigger problems on the horizon, since it’s mostly obscurity and is very scary to picture,” said Keener.

Keener said that if all the funding of an entire system like Bitcoin were drained out or removed from authorization, most customers would face the penalty of losing any revenue gained from engaging in such behavior.

Renato Gonzalez, a senior studying international relations and political science, tried to gain experience in Bitcoin from

system, experienced a massive collapse earlier this month.

According to a report from the New York Times, a “fundamental flaw in a computer program” created a problematic withdrawal chain for its customers who used Bitcoin exchanges. One of the earliest leaders in the virtual currency realm, Mt. Gox created complications for itself in only a matter of time.

But Bitcoins still has its share of users and advocates, like senior international relations major Chris Keener.

He promotes open-source technology

SEE BITCOIN, PAGE 2

WORLD NEWS

Russian security forces attack Pussy Riot members

Cossack militia attacked the Pussy Riot punk group with whips on Wednesday as the artists - who have feuded with Vladimir Putin's government for years - tried to perform under a sign advertising the Sochi Olympics. Six group members - five women and one man - donned their signature ski masks and were pulling out a guitar and microphone as at least 10 Cossacks and other security officials moved in. One Cossack appeared to use pepper spray. Another whipped several group members while other Cossacks ripped off their masks and threw the guitar in a garbage can.

Iran pressures its negotiators at nuclear talks

As Iran negotiated about a nuclear pact Tuesday, the country's top leader ordered his government to take precautionary steps in case the talks fail and the head of the Revolutionary Guards warned the Iranian negotiators against concessions that could tarnish the nation's pride. The comments by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the commander of the Guards, Gen. Mohammad Ali Jafari, reflected the difficulties faced by Iranian negotiators on the talks' second day. They are bargaining with six world powers for a full end to sanctions while trying to salvage their country's nuclear program.

Obama in Mexico to meet with N. American leaders

President Barack Obama headed into a summit Wednesday with Mexican and Canadian leaders eager to engage on issues of trade and other neighbor-to-neighbor interests, even as Congress is pushing back against some of his top cross-border agenda items. Obama, flanked by his trade negotiator and secretaries of Commerce and Homeland Security, stepped off Air Force One and onto a red carpet in Toluca, near Mexico City, where an honor guard lined the walk to Obama's limousine. At an ornate state government complex nearby, Obama was to meet with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper during the North American Leaders' Summit.

Entrepreneurs and techies agree talent is here, education needs to foster it

TECH, PAGE 1

imprint their city."

The University, however, has taken note to the problem brain drain poses and has been active in responding to the migration out of South Florida. FIU's collaboration with the Miami Foundation's Match305 project works to keep South Florida's brightest minds in South Florida. Through partnerships with Miami-Dade County public schools like Miami Northwestern Senior High, FIU encourages high school students to pursue higher education and, once enrolled, pursue degrees in the STEM fields.

Last year, President Mark B. Rosenberg was honored at the CEOs for Cities National Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan for addressing the problem of talent retention and utilizing the resources of the University as an anchor in the community, helping South Florida surmount its ecological, cultural, social and urban challenges.

CEOs for Cities is a national nonprofit organization with an ongoing national network of cross-sector, cross-generation urban leaders focused on making cities more connected, innovative and talented while investing in the city's distinctive assets.

"This project

[Match305] is focused on keeping our best and brightest in Miami. We are working together to turn the tide on Miami's 'brain drain' and improving civic engagement," said Rosenberg in his 2013 address

problem lies. Who is going to spark the change?"

Nabyl Charania, the managing director of Rokk3r Labs who also founded 30 successful tech startups in Miami, attests that South Florida has a

on Feb. 18 as part of a panel hosted by The Pino Global Entrepreneurship Center.

Through their success stories, they encourage in-state young professionals and out-of-state talent to invest in South Florida.

Barry Stamos, a San Francisco native and founder of Inbox Market Response, which he sold to Oracle for 1.5 billion dollars, left his home state to open a business specifically in South Florida.

"There's this idea in the [Silicon] Valley that Miami is irrelevant but that's not the case," said Stamos. "Miami is the capital of Latin America and we need to tap into this market unique to Miami."

Although promising, South Florida, as leaders like Charania, Bustamante and Stamos explain, currently is in a transition stage in creating a market attractive enough to keep young professionals in-house and bring in new talent and innovators.

Charania says South Florida needs one thing: investment.

"If you want to make Miami a part of your life and see it thrive, you're going to have to invest in it," Charania said.

-jeffreypierre@fiusm.com

"A school like FIU needs to master more effectively in showing students that they don't need to go anywhere because the resources are here. Every institution has a responsibly to imprint their city."

Bruno Phanord
Graduate Student
Public Administration

to CEO for Cities. "CEOs for Cities City Vitals report tells us we're ranked 51 out of 51 in engaged citizens. We know there's work to be done."

An optimistic Bustamante, who notes a recent progressive change in the region, says South Florida biggest game-changers aren't the young professionals who left but the leaders and innovators here looking for change.

"Who is going to make the first move?" said Bustamante, "That's where the

upcoming tech hub that will bring in investors and young professionals.

"People want to be here," said Charania. "They like the lifestyle here and, most importantly, they want to be a part of building something."

Charania, along with four other tech entrepreneurs, spoke to FIU students and local innovators about the success of their startups and the emerging market in technology and engineering happening in South Florida

Students and faculty discuss possibility of FIU adopting Bitcoin currency

BITCOIN, PAGE 1

Keener, his classmate.

"Bitcoin works, but with literally no accountability. It covers layers of encryption and makes it difficult to trace back to customers. I feel that if FIU decided to invest in Bitcoin operations on our campus, however, then I'd be interested," Gonzalez said.

"With FIU dollars converted into credits based on Bitcoin currency, I assume that it's going to be successful," Gonzalez said, who later pointed out that accountability is the major factor to debate on when it comes to identifying consumers of the market, especially students in this day of age.

Keener said he sees crypto-currencies as the new foundation for financial regimes.

Joshua Martinez, a senior in computer science with background in popular news and entertainment domain Reddit, is working on a crypto-currency project.

"I don't see any reason or merit to be against crypto-currencies," he said. "In the U.S. there are laws

against this in general, but I am for Bitcoin and related services since online presence is very important. If it stabilizes correctly, then I am for the idea of crypto-currencies."

"Right now, it's relatively new in the financial sector, and it needs to be reliable and secure."

Joel Villasuso
Sophomore
Computer Engineering

Martinez noted that within six months of its birth, the Bitcoin system had about one million people using its services.

"It's not about whether you should use it or not; that's more of a counter-productive question," he said. "You should know how the service works and how it regulates with everyone around you."

To Martinez, people need to be

enlightened on the topic before deciding on using a complex system like Bitcoin.

Meanwhile, Yuanyuan Fang, an adjunct professor of international political economy, said that function is key to Bitcoin services and argues that trading using Bitcoins is challenging, since the issue of liquidity is on the table.

"Investment is good, but with more alternatives," Fang said. "There's lots of manipulation and speculation that occurs when using Bitcoin."

Fang pointed to emerging markets like those seen in Russia which recently banned such a system. "The fact that countries decide on banning and not banning crypto-currencies makes the whole thing complicated." Fang would not support the Bitcoin system at FIU.

"It's pretty dangerous in this moment of time," Fang said. "We have to wait and see how it develops over the next five years. It's always best to see how things go before making a decision."

-camila.fernandez@fiusm.com

THE BEACON

EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR IN CHIEF
BRANDON WISE

BBC MANAGING EDITOR
REBECA PICCARDO

PRODUCTION MANAGER/
COPY CHIEF
CRISTINA GARCIA

NEWS DIRECTOR
MADISON FANTOZZI

ENTERTAINMENT DIRECTOR
JUNETTE REYES

SPORTS DIRECTOR
RUBEN PALACIOS

OPINION DIRECTOR
LUIS SANTANA

PHOTO EDITOR
STEPHANIE MASON

CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 348-2709
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
brandon.wise@fiusm.com

Advertising:
(305) 348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.

Afraid of the price of freedom?

LUIS SANTANA
Opinion Director

I am a commuter student. I drive from one environment to another almost every day of the week. I go to school – a place of fun and excitement, but also stress – and afterwards I drive home – a place that should be a sanctuary, but most times isn't.

My father got remarried about five years ago and had twin girls two years ago. During this time, I have seen what child rearing is and what it's like to have babies. I tell people jokingly, "I feel like '16 and Pregnant," except I didn't do anything wrong."

While my dad is rebuilding his life with a new wife, I go to bed wondering every night when my chance will be. When will I leave the cacophony I've known for a quiet sanctuary of my own?

I could've been living in a dorm on-campus or an apartment had I tried harder in high school, but I wasn't in that mind-set. I thought I wasn't going to go to college and just enlist in the military, but something happened – I decided not to go and instead followed the college route. Due to lack of

funds, I became the commuter student that I am today.

I'm sure many commuter students feel the same way I do, wishing they could live on their own, but for one reason or another they

“Are we too comfortable with what we have at home to leave it and live on our own? At home I have my insurances covered, I have a bed and food and if I moved out I wouldn't have those things.”

can't. I'm sure that I'm one of many who is asking: What steps do we need to take to live on our own?

What lengths do we have to be willing to go to live on our own? Are we too comfortable with what we have at home to leave it and live on our own?

At home I have my insurances covered, a

bed and food. If I moved out, I wouldn't have those things. I know that soon I would get my foot in the door of jobs and then things like insurance or other expenses would fall into place, but why am I reluctant to take that first leap?

I know people my age who have moved out of their houses along with some roommates and are doing just fine. I'm sure they can't afford the luxuries that those who live with their parents can afford, but they have the one commodity the rest of us so desperately desire: freedom.

When will we stop being afraid of what may be and take that first step into the large world of independence? When will we tighten our belts and forsake the luxuries in exchange for a level of pride in independence?

We won't until we dive headlong into the unknown; not with reckless abandon, but instead with a level of understanding. We need to do our research, budget and remind ourselves everyday why we want to move out. We move out to have the freedom we so desire.

-luis.santana@fiusm.com

Desperation never looks good

KESHA DORISMA
Contributing Writer

This past weekend I decided to come out of my hole and accompany friends to a nightclub. Within 15 minutes of being there a guy approached us and offered to buy all of us drinks, all five of us.

By the end of the night, he had bought all of us about six drinks each. At first, we were flattered by his friendly gesture to pay for our drinks, but by the end of the night we realized that even though we did not have to pay for the drinks out of pocket, we would end up paying for them in a more expensive way because he spent the whole night following us and would not leave us alone. Even when we started to decline, he kept insisting on buying

us more. We continued to take the free drinks and decided that we should all dance with him once to spare ourselves the guilty conscious, but we all knew that this was as far as we would go with him.

The fact is this guy was a major turn off, not because he was unattractive – he wasn't – but his approach was all wrong. He was the perfect example of how not to get a girl at the club.

First off, if you are at the club and see a group of ladies, I know it can be tough, but you must pick just one to pursue. You are not going to impress a girl by buying her and all of her friends a drink. Not only do you fail to make any girl in the group feel particularly special, but you will also come off as being the desperate loser that will settle for anyone who is silly enough to be caught in a "thirst trap."

After the second drink, if the girl is still not showing any interest, then you are only playing yourself by buying her more drinks. If you have to get her drunk for her to give you any attention, then she probably is not all that into you.

Just because you buy a girl a drink does not entitle you to follow her. It certainly does not mean that she will feel obligated to entertain you for the rest of the night, especially if you are giving her friends the same amount of attention – talk about desperation.

If you are trying to get a girl's attention, try to make her feel special. Treat her as if in a room of 100 women, she was the only one that caught your eye.

Remember, desperation does not look good on anyone.

-opinion@fiusm.com

Headphones serve more than one use

ARIEL WEINSTEIN
Staff Writer

Walking around campus, you can find a person with headphones on in almost any direction you look.

Why do people wear headphones?

If you think about it, the first reason people resort to headphones could be to listen to music.

An obvious reason for shutting out the rest of the world, but if you put more thought into it, there might be a deeper meaning behind the headphone wearing.

Have you ever put on headphones just because you want to be in your own little world? Sometimes everything around us gets to be so overwhelming. By disconnecting ourselves from society, it lessens the anxiety we feel.

I come from a family of four brothers and three sisters. Although road trips are not common in my family, when we are all packed up in the car headphones become necessary. The road trip will be exciting for the first hour until it gets to the point where I need some alone time.

This is where headphones come in and you can be in your own little world again.

Blocking out noise and chaos is a good way to relax, and headphones can lead to immediate relaxation.

Others wear headphones to indirectly connect with others.

Think about whether there was someone near you on the bus wearing headphones. Were they really listening to music, or was the volume all the way down so they could listen in on your rather interesting conversation with your friend?

Or maybe you're on a dance team and while walking to class, you are listening to the music for your dance, picturing the moves in your head, trying to rehearse before the big show.

Then there's that awkward moment when you're in the elevator with one other person and no one is talking or on their cell phone. With headphones, the situation is automatically less awkward because there's music blasting in your ears distracting you from the awkward silence in the elevator.

The point is, you never know what people are really up to when they are wearing headphones.

Until now, you have probably never put thought into the many reasons for such an invention.

-ariel.weinstein@fiusm.com

BEACON | Editorial

Florida funding can save future of FIU programs

With 34 points out of the Board of Governors' 50-point performance model, the University recently ranked in the top three, and is eligible for over \$7.2 million in new funding.

This new funding will be recommended to the Florida Legislature by the Board of Governors, now that their final funding recommendations have been released.

Although the future of this funding isn't a promised thing, we still commend the University for scoring high enough within the performance model to restore its \$5,464,558 share as well as an additional \$1,491,676 in funding.

Now, in the hypothetical situation that the University does receive this recommended funding of over \$7.2 million, we hope to see at least part of these funds used to save the academic programs from bachelor to doctoral that have received the threat of extinction within the University.

Several bachelor programs have been at risk of being cut due to insufficient funding that will result from a lack of degrees being awarded as well as job acquirement after graduation, including art teacher education, Portuguese language and literature and statistics.

Additionally, doctoral programs have also been at risk of being cut, including educational leadership and administration, social work, dietetics and dietitian, nursing and science.

It would be unfair for these programs to not see any of this funding be used for their benefit, now that the University could potentially maintain their presence.

The extinction of these programs hurt the University as a whole in terms of limiting the diversity of its students, meaning prospective students might look elsewhere for these programs. Moreover, it will also hurt the current students by limiting the probable academic pathways they can pursue if what they're interested in is no longer offered.

Favoritism should not be at play here, in terms of determining which programs should receive the funding. Which is why we propose that all of these programs should be saved.

Once the future of these bachelor and doctoral programs is secured, we ask that the remaining funds, if any, are used for the benefit of the top four colleges in need of funding at the University, however that may be determined. We are hopeful about receiving this funding and only ask that the University intelligently uses this funding for the benefit of our academic programs.

HAVE AN OPINION?



Do you love to write?
Apply at GC 210,
WUC 124 or online.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to 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.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.

Black out, Green on: SGA's block party

GISELLE CANCIO
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association is giving the term "lights out" a whole new meaning.

"We are trying to promote environmental awareness through something fun and innovative," Lillie Wilson, SGA MMC Chief of Staff said. "We will be celebrating our own Earth Hour as we encourage students to turn off their electricity and come down to the quad to participate in our activities."

The second annual "Black out, Green On" is FIU's largest sustainability event. It is an eco-fair of all sorts, and will be similar to a block party.

This energy awareness event will be held on Feb. 25 in the Housing Quad from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

There will be various tables advertising the green efforts of their departments and organizations alongside live performances.

"Going Green is a concept

we are trying to push with the students," Shannonlee Rodriguez, Coordinator for SGA MMC said.

The Student Government Association is hosting this event with the Resident Assistant Sustainability committee, the Residence Hall Association and the Office of Sustainability.

The Student Abroad Club will be providing eco-friendly facts, how to travel abroad having a green conscious and even tips on how to spread the efforts started here at FIU abroad to another country.

Southern Tide will have different activities and contests related to going green in exchange to win Southern Tide clothing and accessories.

RecycleMania will be hosting activities like bottle tosses, recycle trivia and ways to repurpose everyday household items.

If you've ever wanted to see chemistry experiments that don't damage the environment and promote "going green," the Chemistry Club will be at

the event as well.

"We want to provide engaging activities that educate and inspire our FIU community to take part in the FIU sustainability movement," Rodriguez said.

Last year's inaugural Black On Green On proved to be a success, with over 500 students in attendance.

"I had such a great time last year and I honestly learned about things I can do to better my surrounding environment," Andrea Vargas, junior majoring in public relations said. "The housing quad was literally lights out and everyone who was just pulling into the dorms wondered what we were doing."

Vargas enjoyed the glow aspects of last year's event and hopes to see that return. She was able to take home a pair of glow-in-the-dark glasses alongside personalized glow paint bracelets.

According to Wilson, this year will be similar to last year in the sense of activities, with

FEELING THE VIBE



JAHREL FRANCIS/THE BEACON

Matias Vargas, (left) freshman in biomedical, Chelse De Meillac, (center) junior in social work, and Mathew Sera, (right) sophomore in anthropology, chill out to a self-started jam session with guitar playing and hula hooping.

added things in the mix.

"There will be different DJ's and spoken voice throughout the night, so that the students can literally party with the lights off," Wilson said. "You'll have to come to the event to see what giveaways and glow pieces

we'll be providing this year."

The Student Government Association budgeted \$5K and is using that money towards giveaways and entertainment for the students in efforts of making FIU a greener environment.

"Entertainment, food,

giveaways, activities and sustainability awareness education... it sounds like a non-typical Tuesday night all FIU students should be involved with," Rodriguez said.

-giselle.cancio@fiusm.com

Double Feature at Revolution: Reel Big Fish and Shponggle

CLAUDIO ZELAYA
Contributing Writer

Revolution Live will be hosting not one, but two shows on the same night. Feb. 21 will be a night filled with so much music, you'll go home suffering from a concert coma.

This double feature is something that isn't seen as much as it should be. You must be asking yourself, "How is this magical night of musical satisfaction even humanly possible?!" Shponggle will be playing

inside Revolution while Reel Big Fish plays outside in America's Backyard.

Shponggle consists of Simon Posford, aka Young Brother, and Raja Ram, aka Quintessence. This duo plays psychedelic downtempo and has released six albums since 1998.

This isn't just a musical experience, but a visual experience as well. Shponggle have completed more than 52 shows in the USA with their visual attraction known simply

as "The Shponggletron."

This will be a stop on the "Museum of Consciousness Tour", named after their most recent release, with special guest, Desert Dwellers, and visuals by Zebbler. Doors open at 6pm and tickets are \$23 in advance and \$25 the day of the show.

Feeling a little more hyper and in need of a good sweat? Fear not! Reel Big Fish is just a few feet outside in the America's Backyard stage.

Reel Big Fish bring a fast paced rock known as ska, pairing righteous

vocals and fast guitar riffs with brass and wind instruments such as the trumpet, trombone, and saxophone make for a set of nonstop action and emotion!

Reel Big Fish is touring off their latest full length, "Candy Coated Fury," on the "Don't Stop Shankin Tour." They bring hits such as "Everybody Else Is An A**hole," "Sell Out," "Beer" and many more.

Speaking from experience, this show is a must due to their dedication to giving fans the best night of

their lives aside from the birth of a children or their wedding. Yes, it's that serious. Doors open for this show at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$21 in advance and \$23 the day of the show.

Two shows in one night? No room for complaints here! Which one will you be going to? It'd be hard to decide from these two! Why not go to both? Use your well-deserved tax returns and splurge on yourself a bit and embrace the concert hangover you'll have the morning after!

-life@fiusm.com

A festival of music, dance, art and environment

JUNETTE REYES
Entertainment Director

The Virginia Key Grassroots Festival of Music and Dance will be taking place this week. The festival takes place across a four-day span, having started on Thursday, Feb. 20 and ending on Sunday, Feb. 23.

The festival is a celebration of music, dance and arts featuring an eclectic and multicultural lineup of over 50 bands, including some local acts.

Some local acts in the lineup include

Afrobeta, Elastic Bond, The Cornerstoners, ¡Suéñalo!, Minimal, The French Horn, Spam Allstars, Locos Por Juana, Sosos, Uproot Hootenanny, The Resolvers, and Juke.

In addition to the live performances, music and dance workshops will also be available for festival attendees to partake in. Some of these workshops include world drumming, banjo and fiddle, and native flute.

The dance workshops for all levels will include bachata, salsa, and zydeco instruction. All dance workshops will take place before the live performances within the 10,000 square

foot wood floored dance tent.

A workshop on disk jockeying will also be available for festival attendees of all ages at Miami's Scratch DJ Academy Booth, where world-renowned DJs and teachers will instruct attendees.

Other workshops available will be offered in the festival's Healing Arts area, where attendees will also be able to participate in healing arts workshops that include meditation, yoga, Tai Chi, traditional dance, healing drumming and more wellness practices. Festival attendees also

have live art and installations and camping on the beach to look forward to.

Tickets are still available as four-day passes and single-day passes. The adult four-day passes were priced at \$100 if purchased in advance and are currently \$120 at the gate. The single-day passes were priced at \$25 for Thursday and Friday each if purchased in advance and are currently \$30 at the gate. The single-day passes were priced at \$35 for Saturday and Sunday each if purchased in advance and are currently \$40 at the gate.

-junette.reyes@fiusm.com

Pura Vida: the only way of living in rich Costa Rica

HOLLY MCCOACH
Staff Writer

Welcome to Costa Rica, a country nestled in between Nicaragua and Panama, where life is

lived to the fullest by its people.

Costa Rica translates to "rich coast," since the Spanish discovered how rich in agriculture the country was when they conquered it. If you are confused

by the "pura vida" greeting, you may want to become familiar with it if you planning on embarking on a trip to Costa Rica. The literal translation is "pure life," but it is used to describe life experiences

either as a question or an answer, your emotional state, or as a greeting for tourists. Step into the airport, and you will be sure to see signs with this phrase.

Luis Arguedas, a junior

Finance and International Business student, began his studies at the University a few years ago. He was born and raised in San Jose,

SEE VIDA, PAGE 5

Sit-down with local act The Cornerstoners

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

In the series of sit downs with local artists, FIU Student Media has had the opportunity to previously sit down and interview artist Smurphio from the local electronic funk band known as Afrobeta, local hip-hop artist Flight Williams from the collective rap group known as Outta This World, local DJ and producer Jesse Perez, Harlowe G. and Lauren from Jean Jacket, and Juan Turros and Michelle Forman of ¡Suéñalo!.

This time around, FIUSM got to interview The Cornerstoners in collaboration with the WRGP Radiate FM program called Local Radiation.

The Cornerstoners is comprised of emcee Michelangelo, drummer Alana Dym, guitarist ChrisP and bassist Sean.

How did you guys form?

Michelangelo: Back in around 2005, there was a venue in South Wynwood. It was called The Cornerstone. It was on North Miami Avenue and 20th Street. That venue lasted up until about 2007. Some of the original band members started at that time.

We all came together at that venue and started jamming together at their open mics. We just came up as individual musicians. We eventually decided to call ourselves The Cornerstoners.

The venue closed down and we just carried on the name and the whole

spirit of the place.

ChrisP: I'm not from the original lineup but from what I understand the Cornerstone was an unbelievable arts collective.

Michelangelo: It turns out I'm the only original lasting member from back in 2007 with Alana. Afterwards, then Krispy, then Sean. Back in those days, we used to have another emcee; his name was E. Grizzly. He's a really dope emcee.

We were more of an organic hip-hop band, organic in the sense that we used hand drums and more acoustic instruments. And we would just rap over that. Eventually we just evolved into a full grown sound of a fusion of hip-hop, rock and funk.

In terms of hip-hop, what are your biggest influences?

Michelangelo: I think as far as hip-hop, I probably bring the most to the table. Alana brings a lot of the hip-hop rhythms to the table, of course. But my biggest influences growing up... I really like Tupac.

I love Tupac so much because he was an emcee whose lyrics came from a place of emotion. That's what I feel like, my lyrics when I write them, they come from a state of emotion. We've got some emcees that are like catchphrase emcees; they're all about the punch lines, they're all about tricky metaphors.

To me, Tupac was always somebody who just came straight from the heart. He spoke about what he learned growing up with his momma. He was just real and there's something you can trace to a certain emotion that

you felt in your past. And that's why I feel like his music resonated so much with me. I would say Tupac is one of my biggest influences as an emcee growing up.

ChrisP: For me, my favorite hip-hop group would have to be The Roots. I love The Roots through and through. Black Thought is one of my favorite emcees. I really do admire poetry and I love everything Michelangelo puts down.

But something about an emcee that is gonna spit at 120 bpm, 150 bpm. Be like spitting 16th notes and it's all funny and it just feels good. That really does it for me. That's why I like Black Thought.

Alana: When it comes to The Roots, I really gained a lot of influence from Questlove from The Roots. Not just from The Roots but all of his side projects. Working with D'Angelo and how he basically pioneered neo-soul.

He just adds a sound to the field that is completely unique. That is really something I try to strive for with my sound as well.

Are there any recurrent themes in your music?

Michelangelo: A lot of my writing has changed from the past couple of years. A lot of the material that we have right now, that we're pushing and promoting right now, I speak a lot about time. It's kind of like a recurring subject in my lyrics.

I talk a lot about past, present and future, more so focusing on the present and acknowledging how the past is the past and the future is not

promised. That's definitely a recurring theme in my lyrics personally, time.

What genres tend to seep into your music?

ChrisP: The first album was a nice fusion of everything from Cuban jazz to hip-hop and funk and rock. But now, we're more so moving in a direction for what we're composing for the second album is a lot more groove-based rock.

Kind of like Rage Against the Machine or Queens of the Stone Age would be with a lot of cool progressive effects like Incubus would use. Incubus as a whole isn't all progressive rock but they have some progressive rock.

It takes groove-based rock and funk, funk guitarists used to use in the 70's, and it kind of takes that and it pushes it in a very post 2000 rock kind of psychedelic sound.

The reason why I reference Incubus is because there are lots of discrete sections and everything is very much calculated. And sometimes live, we'll throw down sections where we have nice jams going on. We'll have guests solo; we keep it free flowing and jazzy in that sense. But everything is very structured and hard-hitting in Incubus' songs.

Is there a sense of spontaneity or improvisation to your live performances?

Alana: We really focus a lot on our live shows. It's kind of like a very structured chaos almost. We plan on improvising basically.

We work on all of our sections while still leaving it very open to moving around within the sections and letting things happen as the energy moves us at the time.

What do you have to say about the local scene?

Michelangelo: It's under supported. It's a different perspective for everybody. Sure, there's a lot of people working together but at the same time, there's still a lot of segregation going on between genres and between different groups.

That's why I think festivals like Grassroots and festivals like the one we put on, Fish Out of Water Music Festival, brings together different genres and different people that come from different backgrounds and different disciplines that normally wouldn't be brought together under any other circumstances.

I think the Miami music scene is growing a lot more because of festivals like Grassroots and because of different events that are being put on nowadays where more and more different subdivisions of the Miami music scene are coming together under the same roof.

The Cornerstoners will be performing this Saturday, Feb. 22 at the Virginia Key Grassroots Festival of Music and Dance.

-life@fiusm.com

Costa Rica is a coast rich in life

VIDA, PAGE 4

which is an hour and a half from the tropical beach, yet the city is encompassed by mountains, allowing it to drop to a cool sixty degrees in December.

Costa Rica's biggest industry is tourism. So as far as activities go, you can count on zip lining, water rafting and bungee jumping.

However, mountains, rainforests, volcanoes and beaches allow diverse exploring to anyone up for an adventure.

Food is usually strong on carbs. Casado is a dish that consists of rice, beans, salad, your choice of meat (eggs, chicken, steak, pork, and fish), plantains, and a dessert.

A popular type of candy is cajetas, which is a round candy that comes in different flavors, and is either hard or soft.

Costa Rica is one of the leading exports on coffee. Locals drink it (hot!) in the morning, in the afternoon, and at night.

"The school schedule was designed around the coffee harvesting," said Arguedas. "That shows the importance of coffee for the country."

The coffee is harvested in December and January. As a result, public schools are in session from February to November.

A unique characteristic of Costa Ricans is the fact that they look on the bright side of things. Anyone can speak their mind without being judged, making Costa Ricans among the happiest people in the world, according to Arguedas.

"Even though things may not be economically stable, people are still happy," said Arguedas.

Arguedas continues on to reflect on the differences between Miami and Costa Rica.

"I think the main difference between Miami and Costa Rica is the lifestyle," said Arguedas. "People [in Costa Rica] are not so desperate to make money. Family is really important."

Miami is a world-famous city where people tend to focus more on work and school.

In Costa Rica, work and school are important, but a balance of that and seeing your family and friends is more important.

"I think that Miami is way too accelerated," said Arguedas. "Personal well-

being comes secondhand in Miami."

A cimarrona is a band that usually consists of a bass drum, snare drum, trumpets, trombones, tubas, saxophones, and clarinets. The band usually plays traditional music.

"Lately, there has been a growth of groups that have implemented like their own type of music, like ska or funk, that is really happy, but it's in Spanish," said Arguedas.

Arguedas shares a couple of fun facts about his homeland. Most of the bananas that are eaten in the US are from Costa Rica.

One of the candidates for the president of Costa Rica, Luis Guillermo Solis, is an associate researcher for the Latin American and Caribbean Center here at the University. Costa Rica will also be participating in the World Cup this year. Soccer is a way of life in the country, so this is a big deal to all the local fans.

With beauty in all forms of geography, friendly and family-oriented people, and enjoyable music, it might be a good idea to hop over to Costa Rica and experience the pura vida.

-holly.mccoach@fiusm.com

SGA APPLICATIONS

ARE NOW OPEN



SGA APPLICATIONS

ARE NOW OPEN

Visit

SGA.FIU.EDU or SGABBC.FIU.EDU

ONLINE APPLICATION & QUALIFICATION FORM
DUE FEB. 28TH AT 5PM

TRACK AND FIELD

A look into the C-USA Indoor Championship

JAHREL FRANCIS
Contributing Writer

The FIU track and field team, coming from the 2014 Tar Heel Opener at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill on Jan. 25, has had a due revision of its goals and its correlation to their performance. With the 2014 Conference USA Indoor Track & Field Championships in the near future, the team looks to break records, give their best and score for the team.

"So far everyone has been doing well," said junior shotputter and weight thrower Chelsea Gobourne. "Everyone has been progressing."

With a recent coaching change, the team focus has been on a new page and no change other than for the positive. Interim Head Coach Ryan Heberling sees improvement in the team and within individuals.

The new phases of programs Heberling looks to improve and implement is scoring, academics, and recruiting. Inside of these plans he personally coaches the throwing events and monitors the progress made by the runners and jumpers.

Heberling spoke on the upcoming Conference-USA Indoor Championships.

"If we can get 110 to 120 points we think we can potentially come home with a trophy," Heberling said. "That's always been the goal since day one."

With key athletes coming back from injuries, redshirts and freshmen springing from high school, everyone is working to score points for the team. Heberling, having a lot of control in throwing, has confidence they will go out and give positive results.

"The whole sprint squad adores [sprint] Coach [Wylleshia] Myrick and [mid-distance] Coach [Jermaine] Felix's efforts in their practices and the environment they create and we're expecting some huge times."

With scoring accounted for the next revision for the track program from Heberling is academics.

"We're trying to challenge them now, to push that barrier for higher academics," Heberling said.

A significant aspect of track is to see results. consistent practices should have improved times and distances. This aspect is being taken and also applied to academics. He stresses academics and its results. another new idea is to have weekly meetings. This brings them to reenvision their goals for both track and scholarship. Not just talk, he grants access and convenience to resources the athletes need to succeed.

"We're starting to travel with an academic advisor from the SAC, so we're actually getting study hall on the trips," said Heberling, "cause we know that if we can have a winning program on the track and a winning one in the classroom then this is going to be a prime destination for

some of those top recruits."

Heberling believes the recruiting will take care of itself on the side of the recruits wanting to come to the University. The great program will attract them here and they will handle the rest of the work that goes into recruiting.

This mindset and improvement is not only whole hearted by Heberling. The athletes are right behind them to meet their goals and exceed them.

Gobourne said, "as a whole, i'm just worried about my team. My girls and boys, I feel like we're going to do well, we're going to get there and compete and hopefully we'll end up on top."

Speaking on the new conference championships the team has plausible confidence. Making noise at the conference and being seen, as a secondary objective, aspirations aren't too far from reach.

"Jumping wise, with the new conference, you have a lot more triple jumpers so basically you have a lot more competition but I'm excited for it," jumper Marcus Ghent said. "I feel I'm around the right people to put me in the place I need to be."

Everything seeming to fall in the right place has the team looking forward to the upcoming years and the 2014 C-USA Indoor Track & Field Championships. Both Gobourne and Ghent have set goals for their placings that they have not yet reached yet. This is respectable as they consistently come right before their goal but don't want to stop there and plan to improve for the championships.

"53 feet in triple jump and 25.5 feet in the long jump," Ghent said. "Also, he (Heberling) put me on the four by 400 meter team so hopefully we can place on that as well."

While Gobourne works on a new two turn technique, throwing farther consistently, she knows there is avid competition.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM LEWIS PHOTOGRAPHY

Sophomore Marcus Ghent will be counted on heavily for the C-USA Indoor Championships.

"18 plus meters, that's where my goal is at," Gobourne said. "The main thing, honestly is just to score, get points for my team."

"Land some of those great recruit, get the great grades and make some noise at the conference level," Heberling said.

With the entire team on the same page, they hope their goals will be met. The championships will be held from Feb. 28 to March 1 in Birmingham, Ala. Focused on the meet, practices are going well and all wishes are for prevailing.

-jahrel.francis@fiusm.com

Interim coach leads with personal style

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Both the men's and women's track and field programs at FIU share a coaching staff. This staff is currently headed by Interim Head Coach Ryan Heberling, as early on in the season Former Head Coach Eric Campbell left his position.

Heberling has been at FIU for a quite some time. Not only has he coached at FIU for four full seasons but, was also a student-athlete here. This includes the fact that he owns three of the top 10 furthest javelin throws in university history. He graduated from the University in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Physiology. Along with that, he is a USA Track and Field Level I certified coach.

In his fourth season here he is working with talent and that is what he is used to. In 2011, he worked with multiple All-Sun Belt Conference athletes including Benia Gregoire, who was ranked within the top-35 in the country for the weight throw with a distance of 19.27 meters (63.22 feet) at the Clemson Invitational.

In 2012 Heberling coached multiple record breakers. Gregoire broke her 19.27 meter record with a weight throw of 20.77 meters (68.14 feet). Then freshman Raqurra Ishmar got three all-conference honors between indoor and outdoor. This helped her to become both indoor and outdoor SBC freshman of the year. Also, then first semester freshman Mike Montero broke records in the discus with a throw that beat a 10-year record.

In 2013, Heberling's throwers scored 26 of FIU's 51 points in the outdoor conference championships. During the indoor season however, the women placed third which came by help of three freshmen weight throwers in Miriam Pierre, Chelsea Gobourne, and Anesha Gordon, which was a program best.

"In the past we would always have our beginning of the season meeting and that was 'Hey guys, here is the goal for the year, here

is what we're going to do' and we wouldn't meet again until conference," Heberling said. "The one thing that we are trying to introduce to the athletes now is that consistent goal for the team. We want good grades and we want to score a lot of points."

Another goal besides consistency for Heberling is accountability.

"We want to have that well rounded program. We are trying to build a sense of accountability and so far just trying to make sure

everything done so this feels like a legitimate experience that these kids signed up for," Heberling said. "We have implemented weekly team meetings and occasionally have guest speakers to motivate the kids. Lizz Perrell, who has the record in the 800 meter race on the women's side at the University and a lot of the kids didn't know and could put the face to the time until they met her."

One of the easy things for the coach is bringing in fellow alumni.

"We are trying to let them see how involved some of our alumni are. I have reached out to quite a few alumni to just come back, speak to the athletes, and make them feel like there is something bigger than what happens within these walls," Heberling said.

Heberling does want to keep some of the aspects of the start of the season, when

“ I may be young, but I have had my success.

Ryan Heberling,
Interim Head Coach
FIU Track and Field

Campbell was the head coach, in tact.

"Finalizing the outdoor [season] schedule, signing some of those top recruits that we can," Heberling said. "We really want the kids to not feel a burden at all. If we need to travel two trainers, small things like that which people wouldn't really look into but not waiting to get

treatment on a trip is big to me. The small things really matter. If the kids find out the itinerary for a trip that we are going on a few days earlier than they did before, it is small things like that. Hopefully next year we can implement that stuff from day one."

The coach admits that the program has always been good but he is just trying to make it even better.

Heberling admits that it can be difficult to recruit as there is not a track on either campus.

"It can be difficult, and I always talk to our administration and I tell them that not having a track is not the worst thing in the world," Heberling said. "Sometimes the athletes may really want it but we get to go to Miramar, which is one of the best facilities in the country. We have vans for that so the athletes don't really feel any burden from that. I don't feel like it is that hard but one of the things I try and sell here is an experience unlike any other university. You [the athletes] have a young, vibrant coaching staff who have experienced success either through their athletic endeavors, such as Coach [Wylleshia] Myrick who was one of the fastest women in the world when she ran. I've had a good group of athletes including Gregoire, who was an all-american for me."

The coach is currently listed as the interim head coach and he stated his intentions for the future.

"Yes that [becoming head coach] is a goal and I am just trying to show through my actions and I can just hope that our academics come through, that we can have a good showing at the conference level, but at the end of the day I have been at FIU for almost 10 years now as both a student and a coach, and I am an alumni so I am very deeply invested in this but I just want to see the success of the program so whomever is the best person for that job it'll happen as it may but we want to win right now and get great grades so let's work hard. That is it," Heberling said.

Heberling tied it up to what he thinks of himself.

"I may be young, but I have had my success," Heberling said.

-rhys.williams@fiusm.com

SERVIN' IT UP



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Savannah Davis and the rest of the FIU Sand Volleyball team will begin their season on Feb. 27 in Miami against at 8:00 a.m. They had 48 wins and 48 losses in 2014.

INTRAMURALS

A look at spring intramurals

VERONIKA QUISPE
Staff Writer

The spring term intramurals are host to several different sports. These include soccer, tennis, basketball, racquetball, badminton, flag football and dodge ball.

First on the line are kickball, 7-on-7 soccer, flag football and basketball. Their seasons started in the beginning of February and will continue until March. As for the rest of teams, their season is coming up in March.

In women's basketball Undeclared has been undefeated for the past four championships and they are currently living up to their name as they hold a winning record of 2-0-1. They defeated Got Game in the season opener 58-49. TBD matched up to their potential in a 28-28 tie. Yet, Undeclared came back and swept We Cant Decide in a 53-17 game.

Got Game (1-2), a women's basketball team of several different class alumni from La Salle High School. They have all come together now and are excited to continue playing like old times.

"This season we have

more teams with better talent, last year we only had a few.

My outlook always is to have everyone play and everyone to have fun and get that W," Captain Kaley MacNamara, a physics major said.

"We have a chance to come closer and beat the teams we have left. We are also very short so you have a lot of shooters not so much of rebounds," MacNamara said.

Team Steve (3-0) leads their division in men's flag football team as they defeated the Naaman's Ballers 33-6 and the Dreamkillers 18-6 and The Flappy Birds 25-12. Rob Ford defeated Alpha Kappa Psi 31-0, Big Test Iicles 36-6 and Cherry Poppers 10-6, which left them currently undefeated in their division. What up, Beach? are also undefeated after winning against Balls Deep, Mad Gatos, Scrubs and DOC.

The Ball Snatchers (4-0) remain undefeated in women's flag football, after leaving Football is Fun scoreless twice and dominating Ballsy B*tches 48-6.

Seven-on-seven soccer hosts many different divisions. Such as greek life, coed, men,

women, and residence hall. Cure and FCMD lead their divisions after winning their men's team season openers last Monday.

Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Chi and Phi Sigma Kappa remain undefeated in fraternities and Sigma Kappa and Alpha Xi Delta lead the sororities.

Everglades, Lakeview North and Panther Hall lead the residence halls with undefeated seasons each.

FIU intramurals has proven to be a great way for old friends to reconnect while playing their favourite sport. That is the case for Liane Acosta, a University of Miami student who chooses to play at FIU for a more home-like feeling.

"It's better when I can play with girls that I already know and have played with before. It's really competitive here and there's a lot of people that know how to play very well, so I've had a good experience at FIU," Acosta said.

The spring term season looks promising for all teams, and the championship shirt is always at stake.

-veronika.quispe@fiusm.com

BASEBALL

Garcia looks to build off strong sophomore campaign

REINALDO LLERENA
Contributing Writer

While freshman Edwin Rios highlighted the 2013 baseball season for the Panthers, sophomore catcher Aramis Garcia had an equally impressive season, matching or bettering Rios' statistics offensively.

Garcia hit an impressive .321 average with 11 home runs and 51 RBIs in 57 games for the Panthers.

Garcia gave his thoughts on his impressive 2013 season. "I am just focused on trying to help this team win," Garcia said. "When you play for the name on the front of the jersey, the name on the back does not matter. I am trying to build off last year and do whatever I can to make this team go to a regional and continue to the NCAA tournament."

Where Garcia really shines, however, is with his throwing ability from home to second base, clocked in just under two seconds.

This means that Garcia has a quicker release than most Major League catchers.

This led to Garcia throwing out 28 potential base runners last season, tied for the second most in the NCAA.

Only Alabama Catcher Brett Booth threw out more baserunners than Garcia with 37 in 2013.

"I just let the ball get deep and just put a good throw

on it and rest will work out for themselves," Garcia said.

The Panthers face an uphill battle in its first season in Conference USA.

The likes of Stony Brook and Rice University await the Panthers this season, both of whom are perennial NCAA tournament participants.

Besides the number of challenges ahead for the Panthers, Garcia believes that even with more competition this year, that this is going to be a good year for the Panthers.

"I think that we've added a couple key pieces to our pitching staff, our position players, and even our coaching staff," Garcia said. "I believe with the addition of those pieces, this could be a really good year for us."

As for future plans, it is no secret that Garcia's draft stock has risen with the season he enjoyed last year.

His raw power and athleticism makes him a lucrative target for MLB teams in search of depth at the Catcher position.

"We will see how everything pans out in June [MLB First-Year Player Draft], but right now I am only focused on this season," Garcia said. "That is the only thing that matters right now. I am not worried about what happens after the season. I am focused on opening day and moving on from there."

-sports@fiusm.com



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Catcher Aramis Garcia is staying grounded in what could be his final season with the Panthers baseball program.

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 7.

Students react to retail information

SOFIA GALIANO
Staff Writer

A recent poll by The Associated Press and GfK Public Affairs & Corporate Communications found shoppers were most concerned for a retailer's ability to protect their information when making a purchase online, versus in store or by phone.

However, some University students said they were only slightly concerned of having their credit or debit card hacked.

"I shop online all the time," said Ellie Mercado, junior public relations major. "I'm not that worried about it."

The poll also found 41 percent of shoppers reviewed their credit reports in reaction to retail store data breaches, like the one at Target last holiday season, while

fraudulent charges on her credit card after making a purchase at Publix and realizing her card was declined.

She said she suspects her mother's information was stolen online and she is now more vigilant when surfing the Web.

"I only use websites that use https://," she said. "If it doesn't have that then it's not secure."

Similar to Mercado, Lovely Merdelus, a senior biology major, said her mother's information was stolen at a hospital where she spent three months in a coma, and she now deals with the consequences of damaged credit.

Since then, Merdelus said she began using LifeLock, an identity theft protection service, and opts for PayPal to track her online purchases.

But she said her caution extends beyond retail stores.

BOOK BARGAINING



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Ana Coronel (left), international relations major, searches through the plethora of donated books for sale by Paul Christiansen (right), assistant editor for Gulf Stream Magazine and grad student in creative writing. The purpose of the sale was to raise money so that they could attend the annual Association of Writers and Writing Programs conference in Seattle this year.

“I trust a person more than a machine.”

Claudio Zelaya,
Freshman
Communications Major

only 18 percent enrolled for a credit card monitoring service.

Some students said retail store information hacks made them more cautious while shopping, while others became wary after one of their own family member's fell victim to credit card fraud.

Mercado said her mother discovered \$3,000 worth of

"Even at the gas station I don't use the pump anymore," she said, explaining that she only pays for gas inside the gas station.

Claudio Zelaya, freshman communication major, said after his sister's debit card information was stolen from swiping it at the pump, he too started swiping his card at the register to get gas.

"I trust a person more than a machine," he said.

Students who said they did not know anyone that fell victim of credit card fraud still took precautions to protect themselves.

Ernest Metelus, freshman Biology major, said he changed some of his passwords, including the one for his bank account; similar to the 31 percent of pollers who changed their passwords on retail websites.

Menaka Jones, senior chemistry major, is like the 37 percent of pollers who made an effort to use cash instead of a card, although she said she continues to use plastic at the register.

"I still feel comfortable using my card," she said.

Despite hearing cases of credit card fraud, some students said they did not take measures to protect their information since they mainly pay in cash.

Bryan Collot, junior hospitality and tourism management major, said several months ago skimmers, devices used to collect card holder's information, were placed at Publix Presto! ATM's, allowing hackers to withdraw funds from people's bank accounts – but Collot said he was not worried.

"I'm not a big credit card user to begin with," he said.

Although Jones said paying in cash is an obvious way a person can protect their information, most students said they preferred their cards over dollar bills.

Mercado said she dislikes cash because she spends it quickly, and Zelaya said he does not use cash for the same reason.

But as Merdelus mentioned, putting yourself at risk is unavoidable when a textbook you need for a class cannot be bought anywhere else but online.

"Sometimes having the cash is helpful, but you need the card," she said.

-sofia.galiano@fiusm.com

Wolfsonian hosts dinner with Anthony Bourdain

ALEX BLENCOWE
Staff Writer

The Wolfsonian will partner up with Anthony Bourdain to host an exclusive dinner inspired by steamships.

The 13th annual Food Network South Beach Wine and Food Festival along with the Azamara Club Cruises will be hosting an "Ocean Liner Dinner" on Friday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m.

Azamara Journey Captain Johannes

Tysse along with author, chef, CNN host and commander, Anthony Bourdain, will be hosting the sold-out event.

The event brings together such acclaimed chefs as Daniel Boulud, Andrew Carmellini, David McMillan and Frederic Morin, Francois Payard and Eric Ripert.

It will showcase "an extraordinary five-course culinary feast" inspired by ocean liner menus from the Wolfsonian Collection, according to a press release from Leila Pedro, the Communications Manager for

The Wolfsonian.

With a ticket price of \$1,500, a select number of guests will experience exquisite meals and dishes accompanied by a glorious view of the ocean that only the Wolfsonian's collection can deliver.

In a press release posted by Azamara Club Cruises, Larry Pimentel, the president and CEO of ACC said "It is an honor to represent modern day ocean voyages along with such esteemed chefs."

All proceeds from the event will benefit

The Wolfsonian-FIU Endowment Fund and FIU's own Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

"Azamara Club Cruises is delighted to participate in this special evening which was inspired by Anthony Bourdain's wish to curate a meal based on the Wolfsonian-FIU Museum's fantastic collection of ocean liner menus," Pimentel said.

-alex.blencowe@fiusm.com

Lecture celebrates Shakespeare and the ocean in Key Largo

MARIA BRITOS
Staff Writer

As almost every lecture takes place within the borders of the University, one school at the Biscayne Bay Campus is set to redefine that trend.

The School of Environment, Art and Societies is hosting their fifth lecture on Shakespearean literature and its connection to the ocean.

The venue is part of the

Ocean Life series, a series of lectures put together by the school which brings celebrated researchers and academics to the island of Key Largo. The lecture is part of a series of seven lectures of the spring semester.

Elaine Pritzker, the coordinator of the event at the school says the series began as an "effort to share with the residents of the Keys the research FIU has been doing in the area for years."

"Shakespeare is often thought of as one of the foundations of western culture and his writings have influenced us in ways that we often take for granted," said Pritzker.

James Sutton, associate professor and chair from the department of English is set to host the lecture on Friday, Feb. 21. He is said to be a Renaissance and Shakespearean scholar, and will discuss the relationship

that playwright Shakespeare created with his literature and the seas.

Sutton was no available to comment by press time.

Shakespeare's works has the recurring theme of the sea as a "motif, mechanism and metaphor," according to the event description on the SEAS website.

Some of Shakespeare's works that use the sea as a theme are The Tempest, Hamlet, Othello, and Antony

and Cleopatra.

"As a society, our relationship with the ocean has been a fundamental part of our culture since the beginning of time," said Pritzker.

The school is also partnering with Friends of the Key Largo Cultural Center, who will provide the venue, named Murray E. Nelson Government Center, where the event will take place.

As part of the Ocean Life series, the Friends of the

Key Largo Cultural Center is helping the school spread the word about the lecture in hopes for a larger audience in the island and "to educate, entertain, and inspire audiences of all ages," said Pritzker.

The event includes a meet and greet with Sutton followed by the lecture. The event is free of charge to anyone attending.

-bbc@fiusm.com