

WE ARE YOUR VOICE



PATRICIA SEGOVIA/THE BEACON

Jessica Rodriguez, sophomore in journalism, shows her support to her country by posting photos on Facebook, Twitter and other social networks.

Latin American Caribbean Center talks Venezuela

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

Andreina Fernandez, a doctoral student, said she calls her family in Venezuela to let them know that arms are being raised five blocks from their home.

“They don’t know,” said Fernandez. “The national means of communication have been taken by the state.”

Fernandez was one of about 140 students who attended the Latin American and Caribbean Center’s Feb. 25th panel on Venezuela that included professors with areas of expertise in mass communications, social media, human rights, political motives, international relations and security.

Astrid Arraras, a political science professor, led the discussion and spoke on how the opposition has taken the option to protest in the streets rather than wasting time and waiting for an opportunity through its constitution.

Leaders of the opposition have gained support from University students who have been carrying out protests and marches since Feb. 12.

“Students have died in these events and President Nicolas Maduro claims that ‘this is all an attempt to overthrow me. Miami, the United States; they all want to get rid of me,’” Arraras said.

Fernandez said Maduro does not have the “capacity to control the country and manipulate it the way Chavez did.”

“I don’t think that getting rid of Maduro is the solution for the problem,” she said. “We need to get rid of the entire government and that needs a transition toward becoming a democratic country. This government is neither communist nor socialist.”

Frank Mora, LACC director, noted that political change in transition to democracy occurs when members of the elite, the coalition or institutions

that are associated with the regime begin to defect. He said when they begin to withdraw their support, the country will start to see change.

“These sustained, important student protests are necessary, but not a sufficient element for change,” Mora said. “A perfect example of that is Ukraine.”

“I imagine that we’re starting to see fissures and cracks within the



I imagine that we’re starting to see fissures and cracks within the regime.

Frank Mora
Director

Latin American Caribbean Center



regime,” Mora said. “They’re making small calculations. Should I make a deal with Capriles? Because I’m willing to dump this guy Maduro.”

Mora said Cubans may be willing to dump Maduro for Henrique Capriles, State of Miranda governor and former presidential candidate against Chavez, if Capriles is willing to make a deal for continued support of oil to the island.

“I don’t know if Capriles is prepared,” Fernandez said. “I don’t know if Capriles is the person. The people were left very disappointed last year when we went to elections, which were robbed, and Capriles didn’t ask for protests.”

She said such protests should have occurred last year when there

SEE SOS, PAGE 2

Senate debates office hours to increase its production

MADISON FANTOZZI
News Director

The Student Government Council Senate discussed internal changes at its meeting on Feb. 24, but a bill to create office hours for the senators received great opposition and is being redrafted.

Senators James D’Cruz and Adriana McLamb proposed the bill to “provide greater accessibility to administration and the student body” in the form of five office hours a week.

The bill read that all senators would be required to hold office hours in

which they “allow members of the student body and which students are given the opportunity to meet



With more hours in the office, you may write more bills and get more work done.

Nicholas Aquart
Senate Speaker
Student Government Association

administration to voice their concerns and opinions” anywhere on campus.

“Office hours” were defined as regular events held by senators in a previously stated location in

with the senator.

The bill was not voted on after senators questioned if there is a student demand and what exactly constitutes an office hour.

“I’m not sitting in the

office for five hours,” said Senator David Dugard. “No one from my school would come to see me.”

But Senate Speaker Nicholas Aquart said office hours go beyond meeting with constituents.

“This is about SGA work, not just meeting with constituents,” he said. “There are a lot of things wrong in our legislation and on our campus that we can hit, but we’re not being as productive as we can be.”

Aquart said committee meetings and SGA events would also count toward a senator’s weekly hours.

SEE SENATE, PAGE 2

University hosts talk on biological technologies, cloning

MADISON FANTOZZI AND
RAUL HERRERA
FIUSM Staff

John Loike, director of special programs at Columbia University’s center for bioethics, calls cloning technologies a “slippery slope” of ethical dilemmas.

Loike will speak on March 3 in a lecture coordinated by the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and the Program for the Study of Spirituality titled “Bioethical Dilemmas Emerging from Human Cloning Technologies.”

“The goal is to make students and faculty aware of the changing landscape of biotechnology,” he said. “A lot of these technologies raise very serious concerns and there’s a need to learn how to address these.”

Loike proposed: “How do we deal with social pressures to liberate technology in society

while at the same time being aware of some of the risks and benefits?”

The event has been advertised: “to clone or not to clone?”

“Some kind of people respond to a tech and say ‘this is yucky; this doesn’t rest comfortably with me,’” Loike said.

But Loike said it goes beyond duplicating a human being — the technologies can be used for different procedures; for example, generating embryonic stem cells.

“University of Oregon published a very, very milestone paper in cells showing how they could apply the technology not to cloning human beings but to generate an embryonic stem cell,” he said. “There are a lot of different possibilities using this technology.”

He explained one procedure that involves women who have a mitochondrial genome to cure muscular diseases.

This can be used in other women by taking the nucleus from their egg and transferring it to a donor egg that has been removed. When this nucleus and mitochondria is ready for fertilization, and is implanted, these women can have healthy children.

According to Loike, 10 women in Europe and Chile have been treated this way. He said this could soon be a procedure in the United States.

But Loike proposed the ethical concern of generating embryo from three parents — the nuclear donor, mitochondrial donor and the sperm donor.

“This raises onslaught of legal and ethical questions,” Loike said. “Who is the child’s mother?”

He said while the goals are ethical, the means can seem questionable. But Loike thinks the means are ethical, despite legal obstacles.

But he said he cannot determine whether

biological technologies will lead to future abuse.

“People may go for designer babies instead of just medically approved ones,” Loike said. “There are unregulated situations that need to be addressed.”

Loike said all institutions — social, cultural, religious and scientific — need to be integrated.

“Leaving the government might be a good viable option,” Loike said. “Should the Food and Drug Administration be involved?”

“There are no clear solutions on how to proceed with this and that’s why I speak about it,” he said.

“One has to articulate and formulate what are the ethical challenges and once one understands that you can approach some sort of strategy to resolve it,” Loike said.

-news@fiusm.com

WORLD NEWS

Ukraine protesters nominate legislator for new prime minister

Leaders of Ukraine's protest movement on Wednesday proposed a top legislator as the country's next prime minister, while Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered major military exercises just across the border in a show of force and apparent displeasure over the country's new direction.

The new government, which is expected to be formally approved by parliament Thursday, will face the hugely complicated task of restoring stability in a country that is deeply divided politically and on the verge of financial collapse. The country's pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovich, fled the capital over the weekend.

Man guilty of slaying UK soldier sentenced to life

An al-Qaida-inspired extremist was sentenced to life without parole Wednesday for hacking an off-duty British soldier to death on a London street in front of horrified passers-by.

Images of Michael Adebolajo, 29, holding a butcher knife and cleaver with bloodied hands in the moments after the May 22 killing of Fusilier Lee Rigby shocked people around the world and sparked fears of Islamism terrorism in Britain.

The self-described "soldier of Allah" was sentenced at Central Criminal Court along with his accomplice, 22-year-old Michael Adebowale, who was sentenced to life with a minimum of 45 years in jail because of his age and lesser role in the murder.

Syrian state media say army killed 175 rebels

Syrian army troops on Wednesday killed 175 rebels, many of them al-Qaida-linked fighters, in an ambush described as one of the deadliest attacks by government forces against fighters near Damascus, according to state media.

An opposition group said the dawn ambush - part of a government effort to secure the capital - was carried out by the Lebanese Hezbollah group, which has been instrumental in helping President Bashar Assad's regime push back rebels entrenched in the suburbs of the capital city.

Architect to discuss unique, colorful landscape design

EZITA RODRIGUEZ
Contributing Writer

The Sky Lounge project, which added color, shape and life to Deuxieme Maison's courtyard, is an example of unconventional landscape architecture.

Professor Roberto Rovira, chair of the Landscape Architecture Department and lead designer in the Sky Lounge project, has invited Marc Halle to speak at the University.

Halle, a landscape architect and engineer, will host two lectures on March 4 at the Paul L. Cejas School of Architecture from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Rovira met Halle at the American Society of Land-

scape Architects national conference on November

"The work they do is never bland; it is interesting, bold and cutting edge."

Roberto Rovira
Professor
Landscape Architecture
Department

2013. The two shared ideas and Rovira loved the work of the firm.

To Rovira, the firm combines culture, art and design in landscapes while also working with natural sources.

Rovira noted the firm's unique use of color and varied materials.

"The work they do is never bland; it is interesting, bold and cutting edge," he said.

He wants students to attend and said, "I want them to see the potential of what the field is all about."

Andrea Sandoval, a landscape architecture graduate student, plans to listen in on Halle's lectures.

"The designs and principles they have use a lot of colors and [are] a bit different from the common conception of landscape architecture," Sandoval said. "I hope to learn how they work, how they are unique and what makes the

firm successful."

Rovira encourages students of all majors to attend, not just those studying architecture. Landscape architecture projects take the work of many different majors for a project to go through.

"It takes architects, engineers, local government, politicians and planners to work on a project," he said.

Surveyors, town planners, public representatives and water companies all contribute to landscape architectural projects.

"Nobody builds on their own," Rovira said.

-news@fiusm.com

Senate works to become more accessible to student body

SENATE, PAGE 1

He pointed to a lack of legislative writing and ongoing budget deliberations.

"I don't want deliberations to cut senators' pay," he said. "It's hard to justify how much we pay you without office hours. There's no documentation of work."

Aquart asked how many senators have written a bill this semester. Only seven senators in attendance raised their hands.

"With more hours in the office, you may write more bills and get more work done," he said. "Fight for your paychecks."

Vice President

Diwaldo Rabre also supported the bill's premise.

"We're making it something you have to do because if its something you should or ought to do, senators aren't going to do it," Rabre said.

This difference in the written bill and its explanation created confusion among the senators — some who said the bill itself did not reflect spoken intentions. This caused the bill to be tabled indefinitely.

Aquart said he is expecting a redrafted bill with necessary specifications on March 3.

Another bill that raised debate but was ultimately passed

was one updating the Senate's dress code to require business casual attire in the chamber.

"Business casual attire" is defined in the bill as khaki pants, jeans without holes or tears, slacks, skirts, short-sleeved polo shirts and long-sleeved shirts. It excludes tennis shoes, tight or short skirts, and sweatshirts.

Questions were raised about discretion. Some senators said they do not consider jeans business casual, while others asked if a nursing student would be allowed to wear their scrubs from class.

"We're all college students and should know what business

casual is," SGC-MMC President Liane Sippin said. "It's silly to get crazy over the details."

"Here as student representatives, we should be dressing for the job we want — not the job we have," said Senator Kevin Maestre. "We should dress as professionals or it doesn't seem like we're serious."

If a senator is not dressed to code, they will be asked to leave the chamber and marked absent.

The Senate also passed a bill requiring its members to provide proof of attending at least five SGA sponsored events during each semester of

their term. This is to "provide greater association between senators and their constituents," according to the legislation.

The Senate also allocated some of the finance committee's final dollars to the American Medical Student Association.

It appropriated \$1,800 for four students' airfare and ticket to attend the AMSA 64th Annual Convention and Exposition.

According to Aquart, this leaves the finance committee with about \$500 left for appropriation this semester.

-madison.fantozzi@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.

LACC hosted professors in panel on Venezuela conflict

SOS, PAGE 1

were claims that votes were stolen by the government for Maduro's gain.

"You can't negotiate with this state," Fernandez said. "This is not a dialogue. This is a monologue. The government talks and does whatever it wants to. There does not exist any agreement."

Arraras noted that Maduro tried to have dialogue with the opposition, but the opposition declined.

"Of course, he chooses the place and what will be done," she said. "The opposition cannot accept this invitation under the circumstances that are placed."

Venezuela is not only fighting internal conflict, but it is struggling to find external help.

According to Felix Martin, inter-

"You can't negotiate with this state. This is not a dialogue, this is a monologue. The government talks and does whatever it wants to."

Andreina Fernandez
Doctoral Student
History

national relations professor, countries including Cuba, Bolivia, Argentina, Ecuador and Nicaragua have benefited from Venezuela's past economy, leaving them "defenseless" to demand change against the country.

"No one wants to come out clearly and openly and criticize the abuse against the

students and workers," Martin said. "It is not politically correct and therefore they would be suffering from economic help from Venezuela."

And despite increased involvement of mass communications, Manuel Gomez, a law professor, said there is a lot of censorship in Venezuela prohibiting coverage of the conflict.

Fernandez agreed with Gomez.

"Nationally, there does not exist 'news,'" said Fernandez, who has to communicate what is going on to her family in Venezuela.

"Eventually, I imagine that they'll even cut that," she said, referring to her communication with family.

-camila.fernandez@fiusm.com

From Bull to Panther: a transfer student's guide to school pride

KESHA DORISMA
Staff Writer

A year ago when I came to FIU as a transfer student from The University of South Florida, I was quite disappointed to see the lack of school pride compared to the proud and pompous bulls of USF. As I met students and asked them what they thought about FIU I found that there were a lot of students who thought of FIU as merely an "OK" university or even worse, "Really boring". I quickly became worried that I would soon regret my decision to transfer to FIU.

A year later, I realize that yes FIU can be boring but so can UF, UCF, or any other university. The fact is, whatever school you decide to go to, it is what you make it. You can decide to love your school or you can decide to hate your school, it is all up to you.

There are a number of ways that you can make the most of your college experience. Among these things I would say is living on campus. It can be expensive but if you can afford it then go for it because living on campus gives you a more authentic college

A year ago when I came to FIU as a transfer student from The University of South Florida, I was quite disappointed to see the lack of school pride compared to the proud and pompous bulls of USF.

experience than commuting. As someone who made the mistake of not living on campus when I first got here, I can say that living on campus is better not only in terms of meeting tons of new people, but also for getting the sense of community here at FIU, not to mention the convenience of having everything a hop and a skip away.

Joining different clubs is also a good way to make sure that you are making the most of college. Join a club that fits your major and join a club just for the heck of it, weather it is SPEAK for the poetry lovers or Taekwondo for the thrill seekers. It does not matter what it is, Just do it. You

will meet new people and it's a way to trade in boredom for something way more appetizing. Don't just stop at joining either, run for an E-board position. Being on an e-board can teach you valuable leadership and organizational skills.

Going to on campus events such as sporting events, is also a big part in enjoying FIU. Okay, I get it, the football team sucks but the games are free and I'm sure if they had more support from the classmates then they might perform better. Apart from football, there is a number of other sports that you can attend... for free, including tennis, rugby, volleyball, baseball. Not into sports? Check out a play or a free movie. There is always something going on on campus.

Whatever it is you decide to do, don't be a student that goes to class and goes home, without ever making an attempt to get involved in the community somehow or somehow because you will find that it gets boring. College is what you make it so be sure that you are making the most of it in every way.

-opinion@fiusm.com

BEACON | Editorial

2014 state election affects students more than they think

The right to vote is a bit overlooked by young adults these days. The huge push in the 2008 Presidential election has since declined and most students around FIU didn't even know that this year is an election year for Florida, according to a mock gubernatorial conducted by the University's American Political Science Association.

The results were not endearing of the election set to take place in November as Lucas Miranda, president of Pi Sigma Alpha said that a lot of students were asking who the candidates were.

What these results really tell is how little college students are paying attention to what is going on in their own backyard.

The current media cycle that we are presented wants us to care more about the Presidential elections and the cycle it follows. However, the more important elections for each state are right around the corner.

Many of the proposed bills and amendments that directly affect students will either be passed or killed depending on the results of this upcoming election.

One in particular, the 50-point system recently put into place by Gov. Rick Scott, which is set to give FIU \$7.2 million in new funding, could be for not depending on who is elected Governor.

This is money which FIU needs after three consecutive years of budgets cuts.

Scott is continuing to make a big push for education reform, which could affect how many scholarship and grant dollars each student receives at the beginning of the semester.

While Crist may be the front-runner for the Democratic Party at this point, it is unclear if he will be the candidate for the party.

In times like these, we feel that it is a must for each member of the university, especially the student body, to know exactly what the issues are that these politicians are going to be debating for the next six to seven months.

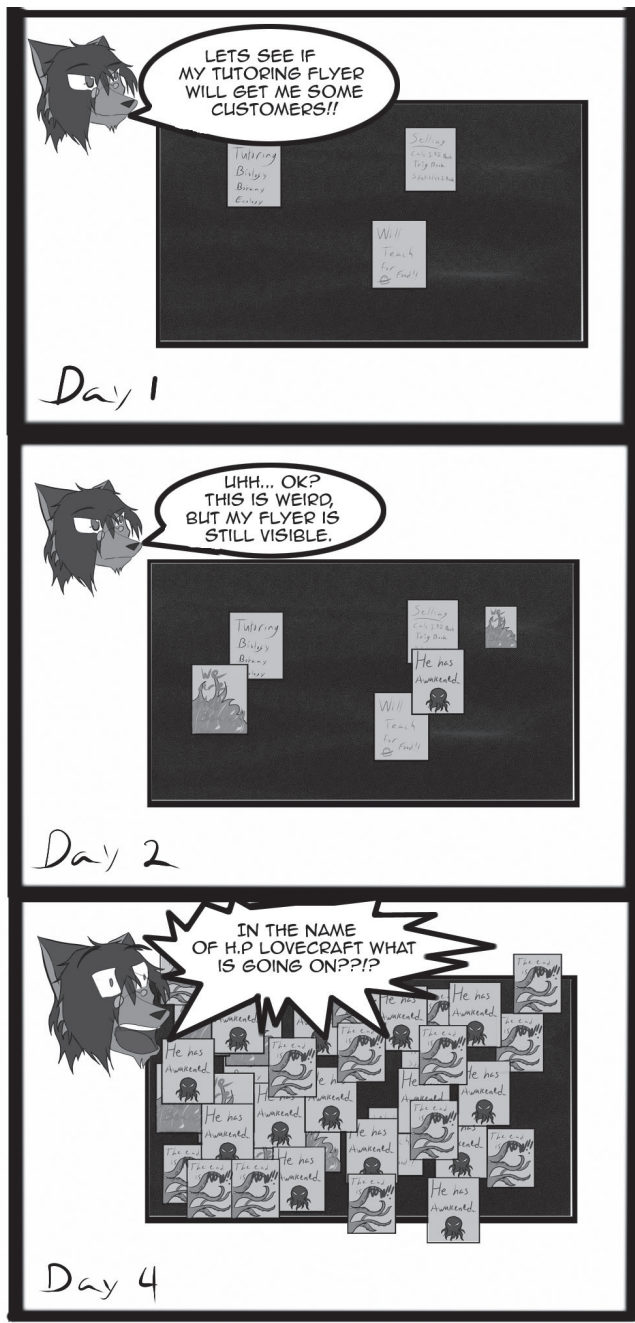
We tend to fake enthusiasm for elections around this time of year, but we need to make sure we don't just vote based on what political party our parents or friends are a part of. We need to know the issues, read up on the topics and engage in debates to see how each side views the arguments.

At this point in the election cycle, we aren't asking you to vote either way. We want everyone to realize, however, that these elections are just as, if not more, important than the Presidential elections that we get so excited about every four years.

Think you can make The Beacon better?

PROVE IT

To apply, visit GC 210, WUC 214 or visit FIUSM.com.



GIOVANNI GARCIA/THE BEACON

Latest on bulletin board: we are all condemned to hell

GIOVANNI GARCIA
Staff Writer

There have been times where you walk by the bulletins boards at school to either get news about apartments for rent, tutoring, even students having book sales. But each semester they are swarmed with religious messages and booklets.

Now for one thing, I don't mind anyone using it as a form of freedom of speech, because the bulletins are used for that reason. But the thing that makes it bad is that these religious pamphlets cover the entire board. Sometimes the same one over and over again.

For those who are gaining profit from selling old books or renting things out, the religious pamphlets will block all other papers and flyers from the customer. They will not be able to dig through all those papers just for a book that's only \$10 less than from the store. Even tutors get affected by this!

Some of the messages are good, and try to bring joy or hope to whoever reads it. But most preach

about us being in turmoil or that we're hellbound. A large group of people aren't oblivious to the fact.

I don't mind anyone using it as a form of freedom of speech, because the bulletins are used for that reason. But the thing that makes it bad is that these religious pamphlets cover the entire board.

Some really don't care at all.

If any student needs to advertise something; whether books being sold, help with tutoring, or even forming a knitting group, be patient. If you are lucky a few people will see it, but if your offer gets covered up just remember: you can do the same and spam your offer all over the board, or just organize the spam in one location of the board.

-giovanni.garcia@fiusm.com

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.

Club members collect for Operation Smile

ARIEL WEINSTEIN
Staff Writer

Whether it's joining a sorority, working a part-time job, helping to tutor students or just getting involved on campus, people usually do at least one extracurricular activity in college.

One of the clubs at the University is called Operation Smile, a nonprofit medical service organization started in 1982 based in Virginia.

Eight students who were aware of the organization and wanted the University to participate in the fundraising started the FIU chapter in 2012. They worked hard to recruit its 70 members.

The Operation Smile Club at the University uses tactics such as canning on the street, promoting the case and also accepting donations.

At its Monday night meetings, the club invites guest speakers to explain more about the organization, often calling other schools and outreach programs to ask for donations.

In addition, the club hosts a fundraiser event every semester that is open to all University staff and students. Their last event was on Feb. 24.

The money raised is sent to the Operation Smile headquarters in Norfolk, Va. so that surgeons, dentist, hygienist, nurses and other

teers that can provide the surgical needs they require, and hundreds of people wait in line for this chance.

This club at the University alone has raised over \$5,000 in a year. One surgery costs only \$240. This means that the University has provided 20 operations to people, allowing

“This is very beneficial because it is a continuous organization that you can continue to be a part of for the rest of your life, and has no restrictions on what profession you are

Michael Somma
Marketing Director
Operation Smile

health professionals can visit countries where people need help in fixing cleft lips and palates.

The people in these countries who suffer from these conditions are so excited and eager to have the opportunity to meet the volun-

teers to feel confident and beautiful.

“Members who participate in this organization will definitely feel the gratitude in doing something that is greater than anything they have done,” said Michael Somma, marketing director

LOCAL BLUES



DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

The Virginia Key Grassroots Festival of Music and Dance took place over a four-day span from Thursday, Feb. 20 to Sunday, Feb. 23. The festival had a lineup of over 50 bands, some of which were local acts. JUke was one among many local acts that performed at the Virginia Key Grassroots Festival on Saturday night.

for Operation Smile at the University. “They will be raising awareness for something that most people do not even know what it is.”

Somma says that this fact in itself is one of the major goals of the club, because it means that people are gaining more awareness and knowledge of the club.

“By being behind this organization when someone receives a surgery they are receiving a smile they can be proud of and that gives them the confidence to do most things they have been restricted to do before,” Somma stated.

“This is very beneficial because it is a contin-

uous organization that you can continue to be a part of for the rest of your life, and has no restrictions on what profession you are,” Somma said.

-ariel.weinstein@fiusm.com

Seminar on near death experience in Nassau

ARIEL WEINSTEIN
Staff Writer

When it comes to death, there are so many ways to go about thinking of such a concept. It is a phenomenon that no one can truly explain.

On March 9-14, at Sivananda Yoga Ashram Retreat on Paradise Island, Nassau, Bahamas, FIU's Program in the Study of Spirituality will be working with Sivananda Yoga Ashram Bahamas to host an event called Near Death Experiences and Life After Death.

This event is open to University staff,

students and the public as well, with several hundred people expected to show up. Attendees will need to provide their own transportation and accommodations in addition to the tickets to the event.

The event consists of five speakers discussing near-death experiences and what life is like after death along with various activities such as yoga, music, tai chi, massages, and more.

This particular event is the first of its kind, however this is the third time FIU's Program in the Study of Spirituality will be working with Sivananda Yoga Ashram Bahamas to host an event.

Nathan Katz, professor from the School

“One cannot fully live until one confronts death and overcomes innate fears.

Nathan Katz
Professor

School of International and Public Affairs

of International and Public Affairs, is coordinating this event and will also be making a speech during the event.

These events include bringing in

world-renowned scholars and teachers. Raymond Moody, Eben Alexander, Arthur Seltzer, Ven Samani Unnata Pragma and Katz will be this year's scholars and teachers. They will be speaking about near-death experiences and life after death, and Katz feels there is a lot to gain from listening to these speakers.

Katz hopes, “they will walk away fearing death less and discover who we really are. One cannot fully live until one confronts death and overcomes innate fears.”

-ariel.weinstein@fiusm.com

Symphonic performance invites audience to participate

ARIEL WEINSTEIN
Staff Writer

Everyone has a passion for something, Whether it's art, sports, music, history, or anything else, people are passionate about some aspect of life.

At the University, there are students who have a love of music and a desire to share their music with others. Some pursue a degree in music, others engage in other ways.

This is why on March 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center, approximately 40 people will show up to the Symphonic Band Concert, hosted by the University School of Music.

The band performs two concerts per semester and has always

“It is a representation of the work of our students in this portion of the Band Program at FIU.

Barry Bernhardt,
Interim Director
Bands

been successful.

Although they love to perform, the band is dedicated to providing performances to the University alone, however anyone can attend.

Tickets can be bought online by students for \$5 and by adults and alumni for \$10. All of the money made from this event goes

to The School of Music.

The band is open to anyone who has the desire to continue playing in a Concert Band, with a balanced number of girls and guys participating.

Professor Barry Bernhardt, interim director of bands and director of the marching band, will be directing the event. He feels this event is important.

Bernhardt says “it is a representation of the work of our students in this portion of the Band Program at FIU. This band is mainly comprised of non-music majors.”

Bernhardt also welcomes anyone to join this particular band. Symphonic Band rehearses on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and all are welcomed to sign up.

-ariel.weinstein@fiusm.com

The Black Angels discuss hometown and idol



JUNETTE REYES/THE BEACON

The Black Angels is comprised of drummer Stephanie Bailey, guitarist Christian Bland, vocalist Alex Maas, keyboardist Kyle Hunt and bassist Jake Garcia. The Black Angels performed at Grand Central on Tuesday, Feb. 24 alongside Roky Erickson.

KYLE PINEDA

Staff Writer

Psychedelic music has often been associated with flower power, white rabbits, and walruses. While the focus has always been on the psychedelic music scenes in 1960's London and San Francisco, Texas was brewing its own brand of droning, dirty psych rock, courtesy of bands such as the 13th Floor Elevators, Bubble Puppy and Shiva's Headband.

Fast forward almost 50 years, contemporary Austin act, The Black Angels, and touring partner, Roky Erickson of the pioneering 13th Floor

Elevators, were in town last Feb. 18 to showcase their brand of Texan psychedelia at Grand Central.

Alex Maas, bassist and vocalist for The Black Angels, joined us by phone over the weekend to discuss the city of Austin, touring with their hero Roky Erickson, and the troubles of putting together a music festival.

To start things off, I do have to ask... what makes Austin so "weird?"

Alex Maas: You know, I think there is a liberal arts school there, a

lot of creative types, there always has been. That has something to do with it. It's just a fun, free thinking town.

You recorded "Indigo Meadow" last year and a lot of fans are curious about the recording gear. What sort of equipment was used in the recording of the album?

AM: On "Indigo Meadow," we had tons of opportunities to use all of our vintage keyboards and organs, old transistor organs, basically everything from Vox Continental to old Gibson organs; a Vox Jaguar, Celeste, Mellotrons and stuff like that.

Do you take these on tour with you?

AM: No. We take a couple of our pieces on the road and a Vox Jaguar kit incase anything breaks, so we have spares... Those things are so delicate sometimes, you need to have a backup.

Did you approach the recording of "Indigo Meadow" differently from your previous album?

AM: I mean not really. Generally we just get into the studio together and write songs. I guess one thing that was different was that we didn't have these songs sit here and marinate for several

years before we recorded them.

Some of our other albums we did that. We'll tour around, create a song and then we'll play it live. It'll marinate and have time to change over time. This one we just went in there into the studio for a month. We did pre-production on the record, which we kind of always do.

What is the most challenging aspect of putting together a music festival, especially one that is continually growing like Austin Psych Fest?

AM: I think the financial thing is probably the hardest.

Another challenge is trying to keep a fresh lineup, we have a lot of competition in Austin, there's a lot of other music festivals. We're competing with other offers from bigger promoters all the time. If we want to get The Jesus and Mary Chain, or David Bowie or Donovan, they're getting offers from much bigger people, so money is a concern.

In 2008, your band connected with Roky Erickson of the 13th Floor Elevators and you served as his backing band for a west coast tour. Is it intimidating playing with someone you look up to like that and how did you get over that?

AM: Of course, definitely. It's one of those things where everyone was messing up. That's a part of music, screwing up, and you have to be okay with that. It never got in the way really. If anything, it was just difficult to learn some of the material we weren't familiar with, like some of his back catalogue stuff.

That's a pretty hefty back catalogue to work with too.

AM: Yeah, when you mix the monster music movie kind of stuff with the Black Angels, it ended up sounding like later Velvet Underground.

What's next for the Black Angels after this tour?

AM: We have a release coming out on April 16. It's a seven song release, almost a full length record. We're looking to expand the Austin Psych Fest into other countries. We also are looking forward to releasing some more Roky Erickson material that we worked on. We plan on recording a new record in the summer.

Kyle Pineda is the general manager at Radiate FM.

For the full interview, visit fiusm.com.

Escape the Fate tired of pirates

CLAUDIO ZELAYA

Contributing Writer

On Jan. 25 Las Vegas band Escape the Fate stopped by Revolution Live while on their Bury The Hatchet Tour. In this sit down, I spoke with bassist, Max Green. We discussed the feeling of being out on tour with former singer, Ronnie Radke, how he enjoyed the Florida scene, plans on a new album, and whether he thought the cape crusader would beat the man of iron. However, the main issue for today was illegal downloading and how it affects the music industry and the artists directly. Escape the Fate is touring in support of their latest album, "Ungrateful" which came out spring of 2013.

Under the law, it says if you're caught, for every song you downloaded illegally it's a \$750 fine. A lot of kids would have million dollar debts if they're caught. Do you think this is too harsh or appropriate for what they're doing?

Max Green: I'll make another reference. I watch a lot of documentaries and I watched this documentary called "Sound City" by Dave Grohl and he had a lot of people come in like Trent Reznor. He actually said,

"Isn't it funny how some kid, or some fan, whoever, can steal one of your songs and that's something you dedicated a year or more of your life to creating, this piece of art, this emotion that, you know, that you drew from inside. You sat in a room with pen to paper, you know, pouring out your emotions and getting the music to back that and collaborate and to take this person on a ride, to make them inspired to feel a certain emotion. When they hear a song, it brings them back to a moment of their life that a kid can either steal for free or buy for less than a cup of coffee."

That's crazy and how much money it takes to put into making an album. Also, we are in the age of the home studio, but that stuff isn't cheap either. How could you put a price on someone's time and dedication to learning a craft?

Do I think \$750 dollars is too much? Absolutely not. There's no way in hell that every kid who's going to download a song or steal a song or file share a song - they're going to get caught. I mean, it is what it is, but either way the music is here for you. It's a piece of us. It's why we do what we do. It's what separates us from normal 9-5 human beings

because we can't survive in that world. We survive in this world.

In 2012, the Annual Music Study said that illegal downloading decreased 26 percent because of apps like Spotify and SoundCloud. Do you think these streaming apps are a good alternative? Do you support streaming apps like Spotify that only charge \$10 a month?

Max Green: I think any alternative at this point is a good alternative. Just to see the amount of money that can be made and split. Bands really don't make as much money as you think they do. That's when it comes down to really putting your time. Illegal downloading just makes your favorite band work three times as hard to be able to be there for you. I think apps like Spotify are cool because the artist does see a little of that. It's a nice a way because, like you said, illegal downloading went down 26 percent because of that. I mean, I use Spotify, so it's cool.

If you had it your way, would you have people only buy CD's? Would that be your end all be all to how music is distributed?

Max Green: I mean, it really helps with bands, especially, like any band in its first five years of touring if people bought CD's and stuff like that. I mean, nowadays, like you can buy singles and stuff like that and a lot of bands I know like All American Rejects, when we were on Interscope and they were on Interscope at the same time, one of the big things about that band was they weren't selling albums, they were selling singles, but they were doing well enough selling their singles that it didn't affect them as much as it would by someone just not buying an album and just like downloading stuff.

They've been around for a while and some people are buying their singles. They're still buying something. Yeah, in a perfect world I would like Napster to have never existed. That would be great. I mean, forever people have been dubbing tapes and stuff like that. But, yeah, I would love if, in a perfect world, if Napster was never created or it was banned because of everything it has started. It'll never be stopped, but hopefully it can be slowed down or there could be a leveled playing field at some point. Some kind of meeting ground.

For the full interview, go to fiusm.com.

Growing up looks better on camera

COLUMNIST



ALEXANDRE NUNEZ

Coming of age, the strange transition from childhood to adulthood, is never easy. It's that moment when the party is over and it's time to get a job to support yourself. It's the time when you need to learn how to write a check properly.

The following films I listed demonstrate the silly things that sometimes happen when someone tells us it's time to grow up. Sometimes we listen, sometimes we don't. It's hard. What does it even mean? Until you find out, watch these films in the meantime.

"Frances Ha"

The creative world is an unforgivable one, especially when it's in New York City. A young woman in early adulthood is down on her luck is kicked around from apartment to apartment. Awkwardly ironic, never-predictable and unable to hold a steady profession, the passionate dancer is presented to the viewer in this black and white portrait which feels like a mixture between a Woody Allen and François Truffaut film. Frances Halladay, played by Greta Gerwig, is very lively and awkward. She struggles with adulthood, but it's never too late to come of age in this movie.

The film almost feels like an extended hour of a "Girls" episode, but without the nudity or the assertive frankness in "Girls."

"Submarine"

The most quirky, awkward and one of the most loveable characters you'll ever come to appreciate is Oliver Tate in Richard Ayoade's "Submarine." This coming of age film is everything you can ask for in the genre and more. Very funny, very stylish and it doesn't try to be clever because it already is. The two leads played by Craig Roberts and Yasmin Paige are so likeable in their roles, you can't help but to just fall in love with them. It's not your average teen sex comedy, it's coming of age at its best: genuine, honest and plain out funny.

"Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amélie Poulain"

Another film with a young woman in her late twenties coming to terms with the world surrounding her and how she views it. That last part is really important. It's all about how you view your surroundings and how you perceive it and how you decide to live in it. That is what drives this film. That's what makes it worth watching. We see the world according to Amélie, but from our own experiences we understand that something's missing from her life. That something needs to change in her. That cute shyness that she carries and that daydreamer aspect of her that we, as the viewer, just love to see has to in the end vanish for her to live the life that she truly wants.

For the full story, go to fiusm.com.

FEATURE

Softball: the words behind the numbers

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

In individual action sports, such as golf, track and field, or swimming, a person is most of the time competing for their own score, or time that may eventually be part of a team score, if it is at the collegiate level.

Those athletes are known by their names.

In team sports, a single person is recognized by the number on their jersey and they are playing for the name on the front of the jersey, not the name on the back.

Every action they take while they have their school colors on after having dawned that jersey is more reflective on the team in general than the individual.

That is even the case when you were a high school all-american in your respective sport, as is the case for FIU softball's very own freshman infielder Stephanie Teixeira.

The four-year letterman, Teixeira, put on the same number, 13, while at Gulliver Preparatory School in Miami, as she has since she was a child, and as she will for her career with the Panthers.

"When I was little I came late to an all-star game and 13 and a random number were the only ones available," Teixeira said. "Everyone on my team was telling me not to get number 13 because it is bad luck and I was scared at first but after I was like, 'you know what, how cool would it be to prove people wrong

that 13 really isn't a bad number."

Teixeira has worn the number for a decent amount of her playing career.

"I've worn 13 since I was 11 or 12 years old," Teixeira said.

The high school all-american, who was also recruited by such universities as West Virginia University, George Washington University (D.C.), and Florida Gulf Coast University is already doing big things as a Panther.

She is averaging .444 at the plate and is tied for the team lead in home runs with three along with junior infielder Krystal Garcia.

She also has 13 RBI's and 20 hits.

Another member of the softball team, senior infielder Bre Kaye, who leads the team with six stolen bases, as of Feb. 26, has a little bit of a different story as to why she wears No. 9.

"It was kind of pre chosen for me," Kaye said. "When [head] coach [Jake Schumann] called me when I was in Arizona and he was recruiting me he was like 'Hey, how does number nine sound?' and I said perfect. I don't care about my number as long as I get a jersey."

Jersey number consistency isn't a top priority to Kaye, however.

"It doesn't matter at this point. I have always had number two or number four and I love those numbers," Kaye said. "Those are always chosen so I was like, you know what,

whatever."

This is not the first collegiate level program for Kaye. She spent her freshman and sophomore campaigns as a member of the Arizona State University Sun Devils squad where she appeared in a total of 30 games.

The Glendale, Ariz. native started 44 games of the 46 that she made appearances in for the Panthers in 2013 and has already eclipsed the number of steals that she has the entirety of last season, which was five. While only hitting .238 (30-for-126) Kaye had seven RBI's. Kaye had nine multi-hit games including a single three-hit outing against Troy University in Sun Belt Conference Play.

The Panthers kick off part of the Louisville Slugger tournament in Kaye's home state, as it takes place in Tempe, Ariz, tonight, Feb. 28 against Ball State University.

The other opponents for FIU include Kaye's former school in ASU for two matchups, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Detroit Mercy as the final game before heading back to Miami to play Michigan State University on Thursday, March 6.

The game against the Spartans of MSU will be the last game before entering Conference USA play against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in a three game series beginning March 8.

-rhys.williams@fiusm.com



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Senior infielder Bre Kaye had her No. 9 jersey predetermined for her by Head Coach Jake Schumann during recruiting.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

One final go-round for Jerica Coley

STEVEN ROWELL
Staff Writer

Senior Day is tomorrow for the women's basketball team and it marks the last time senior guard Jerica Coley will take the court at the U.S. Century Bank Arena as a Panther.

When FIU takes the court against Old Dominion University, the home crowd at the Lime Court will get a chance to bid farewell to arguably the greatest player in the history of the women's basketball program.

It will be a bittersweet moment for Coley to say the least.

"It will be exciting because hopefully we win the game and for me and [Arielle Durant] and Tynia [McKinzie] for us to be there for the last home game," Coley said. "I think it will be more exciting than anything and maybe it will be a little sad since it will be the last time playing on that court but at least we will still be playing basketball together for a few more games at least."

Coley will have her share of relatives attending her final home game as her parents will make the trip from St. Petersburg along with many other family members.

As the senior gets ready to take the court at the University for one last time, she took a little time to reflect on what, so far,



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Senior guard Jerica Coley (right) will play the final home game of her senior season against the Monarchs of Old Dominion University on Saturday, March 1. ODU is the alma mater of Head Coach Cindy Russo.

has been an astounding career.

Coley enjoyed her teammates, more so than all the statistical and record breaking accomplishments.

"All the goals and records and stuff most people might not set out and go to do that because you never really know but like all my teammates, all my coaches, my professors and all the new people I met, all of those people are going to be the best thing I get from my experience here," Coley said.

As said about Coley's accomplishments as a Panthers, the list can go on and on.

Last season, Coley led the nation in scoring averaging 26.3 points a game and so far is doing the same thing but competing in Conference USA averaging 29.6 points per game.

Coley also two times this year registered 40 points, including her career high of 47 points, against Wake Forest back on Dec. 29 and again on Feb. 19 against Southern Mississippi.

The senior has six double-doubles this year including the game last Saturday against Marshall scoring 35 points and grabbing a career high 15 rebounds.

Coley holds the record for most career points for FIU and is nearing 3,000 points which is a feat not many players have reached.

Coley set the record for points in a single season last year when she scored 840 points.

Coley currently ranks third all-time in career blocked shots

in the history of women's basketball at FIU and also fifth in steals.

Two-time Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year and possibly being primed to win C-USA Player of the Year and coming off being awarded C-USA player of the Week honors for last week, Coley's top priority after this season is in the books is to finish school and graduate.

Basketball after college has not escaped the mind of Coley or others.

"I definitely thought about it, it's a good opportunity out there, so after I finish my school I will try and see what I can do with it," Coley said. "Random people and my coaches say I have a good opportunity and I listen and take their advice and I just listen but later on I will make my decision."

Coley plans on preparing for these possibilities after school is said and done.

"I will be in school and doing my internship but if I go that way I will definitely have to keep working out somehow and somehow," Coley said.

If indeed Coley pursues a career professionally the senior leaves behind her stamp on the program of records broken and award after award and award nomination after nomination.

-steven.rowell@fiusm.com

SOFTBALL

Texeira looks to put “Team 17” on the map

GISELLE CANCIO
Staff Writer

Freshman infielder Stephanie Texeira's first week as a Panther resulted in the honor of Conference USA's player of the week.

“When the media relations assistant told me, I couldn't believe it, I was like wait, ‘the conference player of FIU?’ And she's like ‘no of Conference USA,’” Texeira said. “As soon as I walked out of the office, I called my parents to give them the news.”

Texeira has been playing softball since the age of 9. Her journey started at Tamiami Park and by the age of 11, she was already playing on a travel ball league. She was an all-star at her high school, Gulliver Preparatory, and made the All-Dade first team for three consecutive seasons.

Being just a freshman at FIU, her favorite memory comes from her last at bat as a high school senior. It was the state championship game and her last time in the batters box resulted in what would eventually be the game winning home run.

That same home run also tied the record for most homeruns in a season, across the United States.

We can thank her brother for instilling the love of softball into Texeira.

“He's played baseball since he was small and I used to watch his games because Tamiami didn't have a girls softball league yet,” Texeira said. “I would ask the coach to put me in, but he always



JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Freshman infielder Stephanie Texeira is already one of the leaders of the softball team. She is tied for the team lead in home runs with three and has 20 hits, as of Feb. 26.

said no. As soon as the women's softball league opened, my mom signed me up and I guess the rest is history.”

Although many of her former colleagues and friends pushed her to leave the state because “good players should go far,” she chose to try and break that stereotype and sign with FIU.

“Miami has talent. I think FIU could be the next school to look at and I want to help make that happen,” Texeira said.

Texeira is helping.

FIU is off to arguably the best start in its 17 year history, as the team is 11-3 with every game played at home in the brand new stadium.

“I really like the stadium because it's a lot bigger than before and it's contained,” Texeira said. “It makes it easier to concentrate”

No matter what field Texeira is playing on, she has certain habits before each bat and just recently added a new one thanks to her teammate, Becca.

While she's in the on deck circle, she watches the pitcher and swings at every other pitch. She tells herself each and every time “have confidence and have faith in your abilities.”

During the Felsberg Memorial Tournament, she had her hair done in a side braid by Becca for every game except the last. The last game was the only time she failed to get a hit, so now for every game Becca has hair duty.

“Good thing she's my roommate, because now I always have to wear a side braid,” Texeira said.

Aside from her hairdo, each game gives her a new opportunity to focus on becoming a better player and living up to the high expectations set of her.

Texeira hopes one day to make it to the United States Pro team; she's been dreaming this since she was a little girl.

Ironically, her coach is a former player, and she's seen firsthand how much time and dedication being a part of the team is. She knows those players are the best of the best and she's willing to work hard to get there.

Between then and now, she hopes to make “Team 17” the strongest team FIU has seen. The coach gave them that name due to it being season number 17 for FIU Softball.

“It's Team 17's year,” Texeira said. “The mentality we have is now or never. We are going to prove everyone wrong and put FIU on the map.”

-giselle.cancio@fiusm.com

PANTHER OF THE WEEK



JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Sophomore pitcher Corinne Jenkins has started her season with a side of perfection, through six games she is 6-0 while recording an ERA of 1.35.

GOLF

Golf has good late season competition

REINALDO LLERENA
Staff Writer

After coming off the worst finish of the season at the UCF Challenge, the golf team turned its season around last week at the Amelia Island Collegiate, winning the event with a team score of 859 (-5). The team also set a new school record during the first day of the three-day event, shooting a combined score of 277 (-11).

Led by freshman Camila Serrano and sophomore Sophie Godley, who both shot a 5-under-par 67, the golf team were able to take a commanding 13 stroke lead after the first day of the event.

“I was not thinking about my score at all during the round,” Serrano said. “I was only focused on having fun and talking with my friend from back home who I had not seen in six months. I knew that I was playing well, but I did not realize until the end of the round that I shot five-under for the round and 11-under as a group. My teammates and I were really impressed with ourselves.”

Serrano, a native of Colombia, was named Conference USA Golfer of the Week for her performance and subsequent individual win at the Amelia Island Collegiate. She was rather surprised when she first heard that she was named Golfer of the Week.

“It feels weird because I did not play during the fall semester because of a confusion with my transcripts,” Serrano said. “Once the confusion was cleared, the NCAA allowed me to play this semester. At first, I was not playing

as well as I could. However, my play soon improved and it is sort of unexpected.”

With two tournaments left until the Conference USA Women's Golf Championship, the Notre Dame Clover Cup in Arizona and the Web.com Intercollegiate in Jacksonville, the golf team knows it needs be consistent heading into the championship.

However, senior Shelby Coyle has expressed interest in the final tournament of the year. “I am looking forward to the Web.com Intercollegiate in Jacksonville,” Coyle said. “I played very well in that tournament last year and I always get excited whenever we stay in Florida. I think its mainly because I grew up here in Miami and I am used to how all of the courses play around here.”

After the season, the women's golf team expects to have all of its starters back for next season with the exception of Coyle, who will graduate later this year. She does have a plan for after the season, however.

“I would like to go pro after this season by participating in Stage One of the Q [Qualifying] School tournament in August,” Coyle said.

She notes that there are three total stages in the Q School tournament. If she passes all three, she earns her tour card for the LPGA tour.

“Hopefully I make it, but we will see how it goes,” Coyle said.

Head Coach Joseph Vogel was unable to comment.

-sports@fiusm.com

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.

More dining options at Biscayne Bay: new Starbucks and Subway by fall 2014

SOFIA GALIANO
Staff Writer

Two new restaurants are coming to the Biscayne Bay Campus by fall 2014 to meet University students' request for more dining options, extending hours of operation and to accommodate the growing partnerships on campus.

A Subway will replace Bistro Subs and the Bay Café, while Starbucks joins the Glenn Hubert Library to meet the increased demand brought by Maritime and Science Technology Academy, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. and the Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science.

"The students have been demanding this for years," said Richard Azimov, vice president of the Student Government Association at BBC.

During the recent SGA-BBC town hall meeting, it was discussed that the expansion of dining options was an effort to serve the growing

population on campus, and was made possible by these partnerships.

But, the renovations will also meet students' request for a wider variety of meals, and for restaurants to remain open past 7 p.m. and to open on weekends.

Azimov said SGA and the Office of Business Services conducted separate University-wide surveys to see how dining could be improved at BBC.

He said the results showed a great demand for a larger selection of food items, extended dining hours, affordable meals and brand name restaurants.

While Jeff Krablin, assistant vice president of business services, said there was also a demand for the return of a preexisting restaurant once located in the Wolfe University Center; removed when the cafeteria underwent its latest renovations in 2008.

"People kept saying they want Subway back," he said.

Azimov said many students also wanted Chinese food and pizza.

However, Krablin said the University decided to add a Subway because it will offer pizza, soups and breakfast items, in addition to sandwiches.

"I think the Subway allowed us to meet a couple different options," he said.

Krablin said replacing Bistro Subs and Bay Café with a Subway is an efficient way to utilize the space.

Similarly, he said a Starbucks kiosk will replace the vending machines in the library to save time and money for installation, and since the library is a non-traditional environment for a coffee shop.

Although it is a kiosk, the Starbucks will offer a full menu of food items and beverages.

Krablin said Starbucks will have extended hours and will open on weekends, but the hours of operation will be determined in the summer.

Azimov said by restaurants remaining open later, students taking evening classes can grab a bite in the café or library instead of leaving campus.

"It will help entice students to become more affiliated with our campus," he said.

Samantha Merenfeld, an undeclared sophomore, said because she does not like the current eating options on campus, she goes home during her three hour break to make a sandwich.

She said she does not eat out because she is wary of how fresh the food is, but if she does, she only grabs an espresso from Starbucks.

"I question the freshness of everything," she said.

She also said she is surprised by the lack of kosher options available since there is a large Jewish community on campus.

Krablin did not mention kosher options being available in the upcoming renovations, but he said Subway



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEFF KRABLIN

The office of business services is looking forward to adding a Starbucks at Glenn Hubert Library, a Subway that will replace Bistro Subs and Bay Cafe by fall 2014. Additionally, the bookstore will have an outside cafe area.

will provide healthier eating options and alternatives for vegetarians.

Merenfeld said what dining changes would motivate her to eat on campus: "more food made to order, not just a croissant in a window."

-sofia.galiano@fiusm.com

LGBTQA addresses the issue of masculinity

CHRISTIAN PORTILLA
Contributing Writer

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning Ally Initiatives, a resource center and division of student affairs will host a discussion on March 6 about how masculinity affects them and how the personification of masculinity is different for everyone in the gay community.

Members of the community are free to attend the event titled, "Macho, Butch, Masc Only.. How does masculinity affect the LGBTQA Community?" at the Wolfe University Center, room 155 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

"Machismo" is how 'macho' or manly men behave and the roles or behaviors society expects men to conform to.

But what exactly does masculinity look or behave like?

Masculinity is a blanket term when used in the LGBTQA

community. A lesbian or a bisexual person may define their masculinity differently than a gay man or a transgender person. For a community that is known for its acceptance of individuality, its traditional masculine ideals affect how people in the LGBTQA community feel about themselves.

By hosting these discussions the LGBTQA Initiatives resource center hopes to educate everyone in the community, LGBTQA or not.

The LGBTQA Initiatives student resource center focuses on providing students, faculty and staff support and services that address the different needs of the community.

Providing resources such as community education, counseling, tutoring, health services and mentors for the LGBTQA community, this resource center focuses on enriching and providing its members a sense of security and

“

A lot of these students don't have people to go up to, talk to, relate to, and they don't have support at home. We want to provide that here.

Edwin Serrano,
Graduate Assistant
LGBTQA

trust.

The purpose of hosting educational discussions is to inform the LGBTQA community and others around it.

Edwin Serrano, the graduate assistant and coordinator of these events, says that he wants students, faculty and staff to feel like FIU is their "second home."

"A lot of these students don't have people to go up to, talk to, relate to, and they don't have support at home. We want to

provide that here," Serrano said.

The LGBTQA Initiatives resource center has also created "safe zone areas" on campus.

The areas are identified with a sticker and anyone who sees that sticker will know that a member or supporter of the LGBTQA community works there.

They can go in and speak to them and know that they can feel safe, free of judgment and trustworthy of that individual.

"Being LGBTQA is not the

same for every individual, we want students to know that not everyone has the same experience. Being LGBTQA is not the same in America, Colombia or Russia," Serrano said.

-bbc@fiusm.com

Who:
LGBTQA Initiatives

What:
Masculinity and the
LGBTQA community
events

Where:
WUC 155

When:
March 6, Noon - 2 p.m.



JOIN OUR STAFF!

The **BEACON** is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don't be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.