

Faculty Senate weighs in on MOOC credit

RAUL HERRERA
Asst. News Director

Florida law is now requiring universities to accredit massively open online courses, which are currently free and not for credit.

Their purpose, according to the University, is to provide an “open learning experience” along with what FIU Online Dean Joyce Elam calls “a taste of some of the leading academic programs at FIU.”

The University is now weighing options on how to make for-credit MOOCs.

“If FIU doesn’t come up with a process to award course credit for learning done through MOOCs or in

other ways, someone else will come up with it, and we’ll just be told to implement it,” said Laurie Shrage, a professor of philosophy who proposed a method for MOOCs accreditation to the Faculty Senate.

Florida law wants to stimulate the state’s K-12 and higher education system’s interest in MOOCs.

Because of this development, the Faculty Senate has been discussing methods to create an effective method of ensuring that students who take MOOCs earn credit.

The Senate tabled a proposal presented by Laurie Shrage, professor

SEE SENATE, PAGE 2

AIMING TO REMEMBER



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Tyler Stanish, junior in hospitality, takes his best shot at popping the balloons set up as part of a game made by Sigma Alpha Mu during their “A Week to Remember” events dedicated to fundraising for Alzheimer’s disease.

Study: Racial slurs saturate social media

IRECH COLON
Staff Writer

Curtis Antoine has grown accustomed to using racial slurs in his social media posts.

“Yess n*ggg* yess! Haahaa my boi jojo. That’s how you handle sh*t my n*gg*,” the freshman in engineering recently tweeted.

A recent study determined the daily number of racial and ethnic slurs written on Twitter in a nine-day period after overuse of the “report abuse” button: 10,000 tweets-per-day involving racial slurs in the English language alone.

Slurs are defined in the study

as “a set of words, terms or nicknames used to refer to groups in a society in a derogatory, pejorative or insulting manner.”

Although Antoine was referring his comment to a close friend, other users on Twitter may disagree with this type of language and take offense to it.

The problem in regards to this report, however, is that it has become common and normal to see, to the point where it has generally been accepted.

“The last thing I would have thought is it would offend somebody, it’s just slang amongst friends,” he said.

Raul Reis, dean of the School of Journalism and Communica-

tion, says social media has lost its primitive touch.

“Something is getting lost,” he said. “Words are being used

students of the powerfulness of social media just as traditional media has been, regardless of freedom of speech.

“You cannot really justify using words that obviously have a racial history of attacking and offending people for no reason at all.”

Raul Reis
Dean

School of Journalism and Communication

casually without noticing the impact it may have on others.”

Reis said as a professor, however, it is essential to inform

“There is no disagreement with freedom of speech, we try to teach the ethics and the social responsibility that should come

together in speech,” Reis said.

When introducing the study to other students, Idelis Martinez, freshmen and public relations major, strongly disagreed with the use of racial slurs on social networks. Although not an avid tweeter, Martinez’s thoughts concurred together with those included in the study.

According to Demos, racial and ethnic slurs can be placed on a blurred line towards hate speech, but a key finding was the significant amount of tweets that were not derogatory or meant to be offensive. Instead, it has supplied a critical preface of what

SEE RACE, PAGE 2

Shalom FIU gains support from Hillel in this year’s Israel Peace Week event

RAUL ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

The Israeli student group Shalom FIU and the Jewish student group Hillel YAD are hosting Israeli Peace Week, a celebration of Israeli culture on campus that will expose students to “all the awesome things Israel does,” said Fay Goldstein, president of Shalom FIU.

Each day of the week will highlight a different Israeli theme.

Today is Israel and the arts.

“The theme is Tel Aviv, a very liberal city in Israel that is huge on the arts,” Goldstein said. “Israel has an insane amount of artists and an insane amount of awesome films and theater productions.”

The groups will also build a large wall on campus for students and campus-goers to

graffiti.

March 25 will highlight Israeli life.

An ex-Israeli Defence Force pilot will be teaching tai chi.

“It has nothing to do with Israel, but the point is to show that Israel is a regular place that does regular things,” Goldstein said.

In the afternoon, the Graham Center Pit will transform into an Israeli fair with pop music and cultural performances.

“We will highlight why Israel really is an awesome place beyond what everyone hears daily about the negative things thrown by the media,” Goldstein said.

This is not the first time Israel Peace Week has been held on campus, but it is the first time it has had the support of many students and the help of Hillel.

“Aside from spreading awareness that there

is a group like us on campus, the goal is to spread general awareness,” Goldstein said. “We are an international school but a lot of people are not studying international studies. If you are an English major or engineering major, you are not really thinking about Israel or any particular country at all.”

Shalom FIU is not a Jewish organization. It is an Israeli organization started by a Christian student and a Jewish student about seven years ago, who shared a love and interest in Israel and wanted to do something about it.

Of the event, Goldstein wanted to make sure students are in the proper mindset.

“Come out and be willing to learn,” she said. “Drop your preconceptions and preconceived notions. Open your eyes and be willing to talk to people because everyone is willing to talk. We welcome all kinds of discussion and

dialogue and questions because set notions will not get us anywhere.”

-news@fiusm.com

EVENT INFO

Monday 3/24

Israel and the Arts
GC Lawns, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Tuesday 3/25

Israeli Life: T'ai chi
GC Lawns, 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Israeli Life: Fair
GC Pit, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

For the rest of the events, visit fiusm.com.

WORLD NEWS

Taliban kill 9 in Afghan hotel, shoot kids in head

The luxury hotel was considered one of the safest spots in the Afghan capital Kabul. Yet, four gunmen walked in, made their way to the restaurant, pulled out hidden pistols and started shooting diners, officials said Friday. They killed nine people, including shooting an AFP journalist, his wife and two children in the head.

The shooting spree Thursday evening at the Serena Hotel was the latest in a series of high-profile attacks by the Taliban and allied militants as they step up a campaign of violence, vowing to disrupt the April 5 national elections.

Claiming responsibility for the attack, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said it shows that “our people, if they decide to attack any place, they can do it.”

Turkish attempt to ban Twitter backfires

Turkey’s attempt to block access to Twitter appeared to backfire on Friday with many tech-savvy users circumventing the ban and suspicions growing that the prime minister was using court orders to suppress corruption allegations against him and his government.

Turkey’s telecommunications authority confirmed early Friday that it had blocked access to the social media network hours after Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatened to “rip out the roots” of the website. Tweets have proliferated with links to recordings that appear to incriminate him and other top officials in corruption.

Israel: biggest yet Gaza militant tunnel found

The Israeli military announced Friday it has uncovered another tunnel - the biggest so far - dug from the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, stretching into Israel and intended for militant attacks or abducting soldiers and civilians.

According to military spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, the opening of the “terror tunnel” was hundreds of meters (yards) inside Israel.

Israel has found several such tunnels in recent years but this was the biggest found to date, Lerner said. He said parts of the tunnel were still uncovered and that there are concerns it could be booby-trapped. He said it was near several Israeli border communities but did not give a more exact location.

Florida bill calls for MOOC credits, FIU weighs options

SENATE, PAGE 1

of philosophy, for revisions. The Senate will discuss the revised proposal in its April 9 meeting.

Shrage said the motion was meant to “get the ball rolling” on what the university should do.

“We’re trying to develop a prototype,” she said in an interview with Student Media.

When explaining some of the reasoning behind the Florida law, she mentioned the climbing cost of higher education and how MOOCs often incur an additional cost to the university, with almost no cost to the student.

One of the ideas being floated around is testing students for their knowledge so that MOOCs can function as a CLEP-type program.

“The trick of this is the following: If you’re not getting credit for seat time and the whole set of ways we do it in class, such as exercises, papers, tests and activities, instead of assessments and experiences, we’re going to have to reduce our learning goals to what people call a set of competencies,” Shrage said.

She later clarified that the competency, or acquisition of skills and knowledge of particular content areas, can be demonstrated through testing.

But Shrage believes there are some complications with

implementing this idea.

As a professor in the realm of the humanities, she said that “there isn’t a lot of agreement about what areas of content should be covered and how we would define the skills that students would have to have to demonstrate the mastery of a course’s learning objectives.”

“It’s also hard to test for general skills that we might all agree to, such as critical thinking,” Shrage said. “So, designing tests that allow students to earn college credit for a course will mean that we need to make similar courses across institutions more uniform.”

A one-size-fits-all approach to MOOC accreditation would also have implications for the state university system, according to Shrage.

“If one campus has an online psychology degree, does another university in the same state system have to have an online psychology degree?”

Shrage also mentioned concerns about the quality of online courses.

Tom Auxter, the president of United Faculty of Florida, warned the Inside Higher Ed of a “cheap and dirty” online education.

“Online education can be done well or poorly, like anything else,” Shrage said.

“Like Auxter, I worry that educators will not be given

“If FIU doesn’t come up with a process to award course credit for learning done through MOOCs or in other ways, someone else will come up with it, and we’ll just be told to implement it.”

Laurie Shrage
Professor
Philosophy

the resources to produce high quality online courses, where students are able to interact with subject experts and their peers, and where students get a reasonable amount of individual attention.”

While these and other concerns exist, Shrage is of the conviction that a solution to the problem must be presented.

“Regardless of whether or not we agree with the current state mandate, we need to be aware what future mandates are likely to look like and what kinds of discussion are going on the state level,” Shrage said. “I’m not against the idea that we should find a way to award students college credit for what they’ve learned outside the traditional classroom.”

Other universities in the United States have made an effort to introduce MOOC accreditation.

The Chronicle of Higher Education reported that Colo-

rado State University-Global Campus was the first in the nation. The University of Maryland University College is also implementing an accreditation program, and is planning on using these for research efforts, according to MSN News.

Shrage commented on a need for FIU to come up with a method for the state university system.

Shrage recommended that Student Media reach out to Kathleen Wilson, chair of the committee in charge of drafting a proposal. When reached out to, Wilson mentioned that a finalized bill would be presented to the Faculty Senate on April 9.

“It’s good that we’re thinking about this now,” Shrage said.

-raul.herrera@fiusm.com

10K tweets a day have racial slurs

RACE, PAGE 1

a community of certain people are like based on their way of response and language in an online space.

“I do not use any slurs on twitter, my friends do not use these terms often, if at all,” Martinez said.

Antoine’s personal community has different social norms that reflect on their use of language and post differently than other tweeters like Martinez, however.

Race has also been a factor in this

genre of linguistics. African Americans have allocated the term n*gg*r as a way to joke or express closeness with a friend.

Nevertheless, it has been utilized to present offense between races as well.

“When these words have been used so much, I don’t believe it has the same impact offensively,” Antoine said, “It is now just a way of talk, evolution.”

“The aggregate impact, 10,000 tweets potentially is when they are

repeated over and over,” Reis said. “You cannot really justify using words that obviously have a racial history of attacking and offending people for no reason at all.”

Users become publishers and communicators when posting on Facebook or Twitter.

“People go on the internet to enjoy themselves, not to be offended or emotionally abused,” Martinez said.

-irech.colon.fiusm.com

Texting and walking is dangerous

TEXTING, PAGE 8

For other students, having access to text messaging and video chats at the palm of their hands is not an excuse for texting and walking or being in tune with the rest of the world all the time.

“People don’t really care about the consequences of their actions, they’re more concerned with what they have to get done in the moment,” said Alejandro Escobedo, broadcast senior. “You have people that are texting and walking and can cause accident, but they don’t think about

it that way, they only worry about what their next assignment is and whom they then can contact to help them.”

Escobedo said he doesn’t text and walk. In fact, he thinks texting and walking can most of the times lead to texting and driving.

“If you’re texting and walking on the way to your car you could be persuaded to continue that conversation as you drive,” Escobedo said.

“We move in a fast world, everyone has a job and some people go to school. It seems like it never ends, but honestly, some things... they can just

wait.” A new study conducted by the University of Maryland concluded that most college students are not only unwilling to be disconnected, but are functionally unable to seclude themselves from their media links.

The study reported that students are mainly affiliated to the media in order to stay continuously connected with their friends and family.

“I just log on when I get the chance. I open Instagram, then it’s Twitter, than Facebook. It becomes a cycle,” said Amanda Montesino, a junior psychology major.

“It’s very hard to ‘blame’ social media or technology for death, injury, or even distraction from parts of our lives – including driving, texting, or even addiction,” said Robert Gutsche, a journalism and broadcasting professor.

“There’s no computer monster making people use these things. Instead, just as always, people seem to put themselves -- and their Facebook profiles -- above the interests and needs of larger society.”

-news@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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
RE: RACIST FLAG FLIES
IN BOCA RATON

When I was in highschool, my computer class teacher had an interesting way of teaching the importance of checking the credibility of our internet sources. When Martin Luther King day comes around, he told us to look at a website called martinlutherking.org. What seems like a normal website is actually an attempt to sully the man's name and discredit many other non-white historical figures.

We were then told to look up the URL of a domain search website, whois.com, to see who registered the website. The organization? StormFront, the largest White-Nationalist website.

It's owner? Don Black, former KKK Imperial Wizard who apparently now lives right at West Palm Beach according to the registering information. This and the recent editorial on the Boca Raton flag are sobering reminders that racism is not only still around, but so close to home as well.

The most interesting part of these stories, which was questioned in the relevant article, was why do these people say they're not racists? Simple: they often believe racism doesn't exist in the first place. It allows them to reverse the situation: a belief that they are the ones being prosecuted with the term being used to justify it.

Which brings me to my point: this fact makes me worried about those who are actually not racist, but also believe it doesn't exist. We have made a lot of progress in regards to civil rights in recent times that it's probably not prevalent anymore, at least compared to the past. But racism, like any idea, can never truly end once someone creates it. The apathy created when people think otherwise allows such ideas to regain power and reverse this progress.

It's where I have to disagree with the article: these ideas are usually created under a sense of identity which is usually high impossible to break family or nation. It's better instead to continue exposing these groups of hate when they sloppily allow themselves to be seen to prevent us from being apathetic to their existence.

Antonio Arrieta
Junior
Computer Science

**HAVE AN
OPINION?**



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

Venezuelan government's response not hopeless

MARIANA NAVA
Contributing Writer

I know that a bunch of articles and opinion pieces about the current situation Venezuela is going through have been written lately. However, I want to focus more on the human side of it than the reasons why the protests are taking place.

A few days ago, I got to know the most terrifying threat that the Venezuelan government has come up with. The government told all the protesters to stop making a mess on the streets and to get rid of the so-called "barricadas" or blockades that have been built there otherwise they would go to their houses and kill everyone since they have all of them identified. Even though I didn't get to know this from any news source but from a family member, it sounded like a message this government would definitely deliver.

The first thing I thought was: "Seriously? Killing everyone? Is that the best thing they can come up with when more than the half of the nation has turned against them?"

First of all, it is an act of

cowardice not to fight the battle with the same amount and type of resources, and just kill whoever comes their way.

On the other hand, it is completely proven that as long as restrictions exist, there are always going to be people that will jump over them. Therefore, there is nothing they can do to stop the strength and conviction of protesters but by killing a great part of the nation, which just will make the impunity the Venezuelan government has been

of the dictatorial regime Hugo Chavez implemented and left in the hands of unprepared people who don't even know the current status of the country, which is, in fact, extremely worrying.

The fact that Venezuela doesn't have the president it truly deserves, but a clown named Nicolas Maduro, is not only frustrating but also insulting. Moreover, I found out that the opposition party is neither afraid nor concerned about threats made by the government.

attempting to take the country out of the government's hands. However, today, Venezuela has exploded, and it seems that the idea of freedom won't be easily erased from the protesters' minds.

The Venezuelans who are fighting to save their country give a very sad but not hopeless response to these threats: "We prefer to die than living under dictatorship for the rest of our lives."

I am one of those Venezuelans that hope to see our beautiful country walking towards freedom and a better political system. So now the question is: "Is it worth fighting for freedom and a better future for Venezuela?" and the answer is: "Yes."

It might take a long time to get our country back, but each day counts. Despite all the lives that have been taken away since Feb. 12, the students and the brave people that have joined them, including people from other countries, are invincible now, and that is the reason why we are getting as close as we have never been before to the end of this disguised dictatorship.

-opinion@fiusm.com

“The government told all the protesters to stop making a mess on the streets and to get rid of the so-called “barricadas” or blockades that have been built there otherwise they would go to their houses and kill everyone since they have all of them identified.”

carrying out for more than ten years now even more obvious.

Now, the truth in all this is that Venezuelans are tired

They had been stopped before because they felt they were going to be fired from their jobs, lose their families, or be killed in

The only beauty ideal that matters

JODI-ANN RICHARDS
Contributing Writer

Many of us have heard the saying, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. I agree with this statement because I have come to realize that physical beauty is actually a subjective concept. Some people think that there is one ideal physical beauty throughout the world. However, that is not the case. Ideas of what makes people attractive and beautiful can vary among individuals in America. It also varies around the world based on culture and region. I will prove it.

Since we all live in America, let's start from there. As women and men in this country, we encounter countless images of the beauty ideal here. These images leave a subconscious imprint on who is considered attractive. According to the article "America Today: The Standard of Beauty" by Vanessa Martinez, the beauty standard in America and most western societies refers to a slim, Caucasian woman with long, straight hair and light eyes. Even though there is a new beauty trend emerging in praise of "ethnic" and "exotic" women, these ladies have had

nose and Botox surgeries to live up to the actual standard of beauty in America.

Examples of women who have had these surgeries include Kim Kardashian, Nicki Minaj, Beyonce and Lil Kim. I think celebrities just like other people feel the pressure to look a certain way because they are expected to live up to the traditional standard.

In the Marie Claire article "Beauty Redefined" by Mume Yoshiwara, the writer explains that she felt comfortable growing up in America but felt uneasy travelling in Asia. This uneasiness came from the fact that she did not have the ideal Asian look: thin figure, thick black or dark-brown hair and pale skin. The beauty culture is so ingrained, for example, that in South Korea, teenagers are promised plastic surgery as high school graduation presents.

In the Arab world, thick eyebrows, long hair and dark eyes are considered attractive. Fairness/bleaching creams have become present in the Arab world, Asia and the Caribbean. These creams support the light skin ideal.

In Latin America, having the ideal look refers to a woman's face structure,

features and body figure. For example, Venezuela has been known to give free cosmetic surgeries to beauty pageant contestants.

Finally, in West Africa, there is a clash between their beauty standards and western standards. The region of West Africa favors plus-size women, a dark complexion and braided hair.

The beauty standards of a region are not fully embraced by every person there. So, while society dictates what is attractive, you can let society know that you are beautiful, even if you don't look like what is expected. The only ideal beauty that matters is inner beauty.

True beauty starts with loving yourself and being comfortable in your own skin. Be good to yourself and other people around. We are all unique, and each of us have our own preferences. You cannot please everyone, so be content with how you look. It doesn't matter what your gender, skin color or weight is. As long as you love and accept what you see in the mirror, that's what matters.

-opinion@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.

Speaker gives female students tips on growth

GISELLE CANCIO
Staff Writer

The modern ideal girl in college does not pretend to be ditzy or bad at math; she's high achieving, well spoken, sporty and takes on leadership roles.

This is according to Liz Funk, the author of *Supergirls Speak Out* (Simon and Schuster 2009), who came to speak to the FIU Community this past week.

"The women on the Panhellenic Council's Executive board are all involved with extracurricular activities so we noticed as a whole that many sorority women are involved on campus as well," said Deyenira Gonzalez, Vice President of Programming. "Liz Funk offered to do a seminar on how to be involved without burning yourself out and we saw this as a great opportunity and seized it."

Funk is a sorority woman herself, who attended university in New York City and currently resides there. She travels around the United States giving inspiring talks about her recently published book, which focuses on women's personal growth.

She feels that many young women feel there is pressure to make it look as though they are effortlessly perfect and everything they attempt is excelled out.

In the book and at the lecture, she argued that young women need to develop a sense of intrinsic worth. Intrinsic defined as coming from within. They need to feel they have value outside of the accomplishments, looks and what others think.

"Young women need to have a positive relationship with their ambition and more importantly, themselves," Funk said.

Planning for this event, Gonzalez expected the seminar to be educational and the chance to give women tips on how to support each other and themselves when becoming overworked and/or stressed.

"Members in the Greek community are constantly getting over-involved on campus and sometimes they feel a burn out,"

“Young women need to have a positive relationship with their ambition and more importantly, themselves.”

Liz Funk

Gonzalez said, "We hope those who went truly benefit from Funk's tips."

A TASTE OF TRAFFICKING



JAHREL FRANCIS/THE BEACON

Ari Sandler, (right) freshman in international relations, views statistics inside a mock living area for a human trafficking created by FIU Freedom 4 Life on Tuesday, March 18 outside of GC.

Funk's lecture was named: "Overscheduled, Overcommitted College Women." She spoke about how many women have a work hard play hard mentality in too many areas.

they take on leadership roles in student organizations, and the latest, may have a little bit of FOMO ("fear of missing out") whether that means never turning down an invitation or double booking on weeknights," Funk Said.

She stressed how being active, social and intellectually curious are important, but according to a survey, women were being "pulled in all directions" even on their free time.

During question and answer, an anonymous student asked, "When is it the right time to turn off your cell phone; with all my involvements I feel as if I'm always on call."

To which Funk replied, "If we don't expect our electronics to

work when they are not charged, how can you expect that of your body? After all, after hours and weekends are for you and your personal time."

When Funk asked who feels they are overscheduled, all but three women put their hands up. She continued the talk to encourage women to feel comfortable with saying no when they are already overscheduled.

"We try to compare our productivity to those of others, and it's important to relax, even if you schedule that too," Funk said. "If college women adopt stress-reducing habits and make personal time, they are more likely to be a balanced woman."

-giselle.cancio@fiusm.com

Florida Student Justice Alliance promises a night of art, poetry and social justice

JUNETTE REYES
Entertainment Director

The Florida Student Justice Alliance is an organization on campus that is focused on raising awareness on various issues related to social justice. Currently, FSJA is working on a campaign called "Concerned Students for a Better Nissan" regarding the unionization of Nissan plants.

"Nissan plants all over the world are unionized except for Mississippi so we're trying to help their cause and get them unionized," said Mariana Morell, a senior majoring in psychology and the president of FSJA.

According to the website on the movement, choosejustice.com, workers in the Mississippi plant are threatened and intimidated to the point of fearing they would lose their jobs if they were to speak up about the need of representation and the importance of health, safety and job security.

In order to bring awareness to the social justice issue and the denial of the workers' basic human and democratic rights, FSJA has visited Nissan dealerships holding up signs regarding their cause and would hand out flyers, as well as, have people sign a petition if they managed to gain their interest.

FSJA will additionally be holding an event this Wednesday, March 26 to further the cause and the fight for the workers of the Mississippi Nissan plant.

"They wanted us to do something different this year because they weren't sure that was having any effect. So headquarters

decided to do a Nissan Truth Tour," said Morell.

The Nissan Truth Tour will be going all throughout the nation in association with other Student Justice Alliance organizations, with events planned to take place in Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia and Tennessee.

The Miami event will be a spoken word type of night, with performances of spoken word, poetry, rap, and comedy all on the topic of social justice issues. The performances themselves will be part of a competition in which the performer who receives the loudest shouts will win the promised prizes. In order to find these artists, FSJA previously held two rounds of auditions to determine which artists will perform at the night of the event.

After the performances, two workers from the Mississippi Nissan plant will share their stories to further educate attendees of the movement.

Additionally, a band is slated to perform towards the end of the event while attendees mingle.

"The ideal audience would be anyone who actually cares about it. Maybe that would ignite a type of fire in you to do something in social justice," said Morell.

For the Nissan Truth Tour, a guest celebrity is expected to make an appearance. For the Mississippi event, for instance, artist Common will be attending. For the Miami event, actor and humanitarian Danny Glover, best known for the "Lethal Weapon" series, will be making an appearance.

Besides raising awareness to the social injustice done to the Mississippi workers, FSJA will also be raising money with

cosponsors GlobeMed through a percentage of the drink costs for the creation of a school in Guatemala.

Additional cosponsors include Speakfridays, the Beta Gamma Chapter of Phi Iota Alpha, Amnesty International, SPEAK FIU, Alpha Kappa Delta at FIU, FIU's Center for Labor and Studies Center, FIU's Women's Center, the Research Institute on Social and Economic Policy at FIU, the Global and Sociocultural Studies club, the South Florida Progressive Jewish Action and Progressive Rags.

"I expect it to be successful, that it turns out smoothly. But honestly, that it raises awareness. That is the main goal. That people leave there signing petitions. That it raises enough heat against Nissan that they decide that they need to do something about the issue," said Morell.

"The 'Art, Poetry, and Justice' event will be an entertainment event themed for a night of social awareness that will hopefully work as a catalyst for community involvement. Events like this inspire and change people's mentality towards taking action and this is what I'm most looking forward to," said Esteban Wulff, a junior economics major and a member of FSJA.

The Nissan Truth Tour in Miami will be taking place on Wednesday, March 26 at 7p.m. in Gramps, a bar located in Wynwood. The event is free and available for audience members 18+ to attend.

-junette.reyes@fiusm.com

Jazz in the Gardens offered plenty of star power

CLAYTON GUTZMORE
Contributing Writer

The ninth annual Jazz in the Gardens is one of the few music festivals that makes people travel to South Florida to enjoy it. City of Miami Gardens has put together a festival composed of many R&B and Jazz acts that is so entertaining that locals and out-of-towners will come for another show, “This brand was built by people coming one year and bringing someone with them the next year and then the next year bringing someone else with them. People are now planning their vacation around this time of year” said Oliver Gilbert, Mayor of Miami Gardens.

Throughout the years, they have brought talent like Robin Thicke, The Isley Brothers, Mary J Blige and more. This year’s show had performances by Kelly Rowland, Jamie Foxx, LL Cool J, Frankie Beverly featuring Maze and more artists who fit these categories. The

master of ceremonies being comedian D.L. Hughley. Jazz in the Gardens took place March 15 and 16 at the Sun Life Stadium. The annual music festival started in 2005 and expanded to a two day festival in 2007. According to the official site, last year’s festival had over 63,000 attendees.

Saturday’s show started with local acts until Boney James, a national Jazz recording artist, performed with his saxophone. Following him was the Minnesota R&B band Mint Condition. They had the crowd moving with their hits “U Send Me Swingin”, “Breaking My Heart”, and “Sometimes”. “The live performance of “Sometimes” truly incorporated elements of R&B Rock and Jazz” said communication arts major, Brandon Wright. Kelly Rowland was next on the Roster. She performed hits from the days of Destiny Child to her recent solo work. The attendees were also treated to songs like “Soldier”, “Survivor”, and “Motivation.” On Rowland’s performance of “Dilemma”, Nelly surprised the audience and came out

to complete the duet. Trey Songz was the next performer on Saturday’s schedule. He performed hits like “Love Faces”, “The Neighbors Know my Name” and closed out his set with “Bottoms Up”. Jamie Foxx was the final act for Saturday. His performance was a treat for fans as he brought out Tank to perform his singles and improvised with Doug E Fresh. At the end, the trio band together and did a collaborated version of “Blame It” that didn’t end till 1 am.

Sunday’s show featured local acts until R&B vocalist Rachele Ferrell took the stage. After her performance, Grammy award winning bass player Stanley Clarke played many melodies with the band. During Clark’s performance, Doug E. Fresh entered and beatboxed to Clark’s song until the band stopped playing and allowed Fresh to do an uninterrupted beatboxing solo. Anthony Hamilton performed next and was then followed by LL Cool J. “These guys are legends” said Psychology major Josh Carrasco. “LL Cool J and

Jamie Foxx are one of the reasons why the music industry has risen to the international level,” said Carrasco. Finally, the Sunday show concluded with Maze featuring Frankie Beverly.

This year’s festival showed significant growth from previous years. First, was the collaboration of the City of Miami Gardens and MSNBC. The partnership led to the coverage of the festival on MSNBC platforms and a promotion of MSNBC’s Growing Hope initiative at the show. Growing Hope is MSNBC’s invitation for Americans to share their thoughts about issues that matter to them. Attendees were able to meet MSNBC TV host Toure, Joy Ann Reid, and Ed Schultz at a booth during the show.

This year’s Jazz in the Gardens had a lot to offer. Plenty of star power was present and the team behind it all is promising something bigger for the 10th anniversary next year.

-life@fiusm.com

Real Estate’s “Atlas” reflects spectrum of human emotions

COLUMNIST



MARIA
ADAYEFA-MANINO

New Jersey natives, Real Estate, recently released “Atlas,” their third album since the release of their self-titled album in 2009.

Although the already known and established sound by the band itself hasn’t changed, this album provides the listener with a relaxing, mellow and mind numbing instrumen-

tals interlaced with melancholic lyrics.

The simplicity in this album allows for the despondent written lines to be reflected rather fully and wholly by the listener.

The band’s appeal as a suburban almost lo-fi band allows the album’s topics of life and issues encountered in life to be reflected rather well.

From the discussion of being home, to the loneliness encountered when missing someone, the compilation is a perfectly encapsulated work of art.

I loved this album dearly, it speaks to the passing events in daily life and the occurrences that make you question yourself.

Overall, it reflects many of the spectrums of the human emotions with an easygoing tempo.

Notable tracks include “Hard to hear,” “Talking backwards,” “April’s song,” “Primitive,” “How might I live” and “Navigator.”

-life@fiusm.com

Beck fuses joviality and melancholy into his new album

COLUMNIST



LUIS SANTANA

If you’d have told me that in 2014 Beck would put out a psych-folk album that I would immediately fall in love with, I would have laughed in your face.

Beck seemed to me the quirky black sheep of the early 2000’s. I remember having one of his songs pre-loaded into my HP desktop when I was about eight years old. To top it off, I had heard “Loser” and “E-Pro” so many times that those songs and his voice were the bane of my existence.

Beck’s newest album “Morning Phase” is what emotion, if it were tangible, would feel like. Sometimes lighthearted, other times brooding; Sometimes loose and other times thick but always feeling fluid and never leaving you unsatisfied. There’s a feeling of fullness to the songs as well. Each one fills your ears and mind and never do you think that something is missing from any of the songs.

The album starts off with “Cycle” a track that is composed entirely of strings accompanied and synths. The song paints the picture of the world waking up for the first time and as smoothly as a river melds into the next track, “Morning”

If “Cycle” is the music to the suns ascent into the sky, then “Morning” is you and I waking up. The orchestral instrumentation in the background is similar to the score of (500) Days of Summer with its chiming bells and accordion creating a celestial feeling. Though jovial in nature, the lyrics are melancholic. Beck croons, “Can we start it all over again this morning? I lost all my defenses this morning Won’t you show me the way it used to be?” You begin to realize as I said earlier, that while the songs sound light-hearted, there is a brooding darkness behind them.

The single “Blue Moon” is where this album shines and resembles psych-folk groups like Renaissance. Beck starts the song with “I’m so tired of being alone, these penitent walls are all I’ve known,”

bringing another melancholic arrow into this song. The jangling banjos and drumming on this song keep it from being bogged down in sadness. Another song on the album, “Say Goodbye” also deals with breaking up, and Beck seems to be harping on this breaking up most of the album.

The album seems to slow down in “Wave” when it just becomes a dark over-driven synth song but it isn’t totally distasteful.

Ultimately, “Waking Light” brings the album back to where it came as Beck sings, “When the morning comes to meet you, Open your eyes with waking light.” “Morning Phase” seems to me to be an album that you will like at first, and will continue to grow as the lessons that Beck tries to show become more relevant in our lives. We wake up again, we regret what we did, but we go on living hoping to grow out of the penitent walls that we’ve known and into the waking light of finding love.

-luis.santana@fiusm.com

Aloe Blacc changes style for “Lift Your Spirit”

COLUMNIST



JUAN NEIRA

How many underappreciated albums does it take for an artist before he goes bad? After listening to the new Aloe Blacc album “Lift your spirit,” the answer is clearly two of them.

Aloe Blacc, once recognized for his amazing soul style and R&B feeling, has now gone pop. The last time we heard of his work was in the amazing album of 2010 “Good things” that had songs such as “I need a dollar” and “Green light.”

It reached enough success to get sampled by mainstream media disc jockeys, such as Avicii. So from being an uprising talent, he became a recognized voice without a name in the pop world. When was the last time you heard someone say “Wow, that Avicii sample is beautiful. I wonder who sings it?” I even wonder if around the pop culture there is an understanding of sampling.

The decision seemed to be clear for Aloe Blacc. Instead of aiming to his loyal fan base, he decided to please the group

that once heard him co-produce a song with Avicii but have no idea who he is. So let’s state the obvious: there is no way you will be able to aim an album to be pleasant for both old Aloe Blacc fans and pop fans. It will be messy and unstable. I wish someone would have told him this before he released “Lift your spirit.”

The album doesn’t flow; it seems like an album of different genres. His once impressive voice is not taken to its maximum capability. And what is Aloe Blacc without his signature flow and tones? The answer is just another pop artist. Even the album cover gives me shivers. What are you trying to be, another Justin Timberlake?

If we see this as another pop album, it is not so bad. It is quite “new” for the pop industry, so I will give it a 7/10 in the pop world. But this is not a fantasy land in which you can get a passing score for being average. In the music world, this doesn’t deserve more than a 3/10.

-life@fiusm.com

START-UP CITY: MIAMI

PRESENTED BY **Atlantic CITIES** IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **Knight Foundation**

Join Y Combinator President, Google Earth Co-Founder, 500 StartUps Co-Founder, and 8tracks Founder as they light up the stage with their disruptive ideas at this year's Start-Up City: Miami. We want YOU to join the urban tech dream team changing the face of Miami on March 31st!

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2014
 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

New World Center
 500 17th Street, Miami Beach, Florida 33139

To RSVP please email Jessica at startupcity@theatlantic.com

Follow @Atlantic_LIVE for programming updates and join the conversation online using #StartupMiami

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO

FEATURE

Paneda now a top NBA broadcaster

GIANCARLO NAVAS
Staff Writer

People don't often think of who is behind the microphone, as people narrate and bring life to the already infinitely exciting world of sports.

Men like Jose Paneda, the Spanish play-by-play radio broadcaster for the Miami Heat, have stories of heartbreak and triumph, just like the athletes he narrates for.

Born in Miami Beach, Jose Paneda is the son of two Cuban parents who defected from the island on their honeymoon.

"They went to Mexico on their honeymoon and never went back. They didn't even open their gifts," Paneda said.

Paneda's parents lived in a home with four other fami-

lies, but they made it work.

Almost half a decade later they got their own home.

"My parents worked very hard, I never felt that I missing anything. We all made it work," Paneda said. "There were some very difficult economical moments, but we got together and got through it."

“

He has made himself one of the best, most knowledgeable, most prepared NBA broadcasters around.

Eric Reid,
Television play-by-play broadcaster
Miami Heat

Paneda has become the Spanish broadcaster for the three-time champion Miami Heat for 25 years, he would go on to never miss a day

of work, would call several NBA all-star games, NBA finals.

Also be the Spanish broadcaster for the 1992 dream team's first ever game in Portland.

"It was bone chilling. Hair raising. Every adjective you could think of," Paneda said.

Paneda has gone on to work with Pat Riley and Doctor J, play golf with his childhood hero Don Shula, meet two Presidents of the

United States and go to a mass done by Pope Jean Paul in the Vatican. All from a boy who came little Havana.

"He is one of the great stories I have seen unfold," Eric Reid, television play-by-play broadcaster for the Miami Heat, said.

Paneda's rise to success wasn't just difficult through childhood.

After he graduated from FIU with a bachelors in business administration he was struggling trying to find what he wanted to do from there.

"I had to work odd jobs. I've sold shoes at dadeland and cut cows' eyes for the museum of science to explain the retina of the eye and what the lens was," Paneda said.

Before Jose Paneda was one of the premiere Spanish broadcasters in this country, he was packaging cow eyes for a museum.

"I had to work, it was tough out there," Paneda said.

SEE VOICE, PAGE 7

MOST VALUABLE PANTHER



BRIAN KANOF/CONFERENCE USA

Senior Jerica Coley capped off her illustrious FIU career last week. Coley topped the D-I scoring charts and ended her tenure as a Panther with 3,107 points, good for fifth all time. For the final time, Coley is honored as Panther of the Week.

WOMEN'S RUGBY

Team begins to scout and prepare for competition

JAHREL FRANCIS
Staff Writer

In his fifth year of coaching, Head Coach Trevor Alfred looks to finish the season off well.

The Women's Rugby Club at FIU has an outstanding team and they show it every time they get onto the field. Within the Florida Rugby Union, they seem to continue their indomitable streak having a 7-0 record.

"The Finals are in Stanford, California, May 9 through May 11," Alfred said. "But right now we're preparing for the South Championships, which is in Atlanta, and that's April 25 through April 27."

With Alfred having his whole life in rugby along with most of his family he knows what needs to be done. Constantly working hard at the intramural fields and using the Panther Garage as their personal stairs workout, the team is readying themselves for the national competition.

On the field and off the field, the club sets to excel and develop a standing where they can focus on the game. Lilian Penczac serves as the club's fundraising chair as a former player. With this, the team goes out for car washing, canning busy streets and searching for sponsorships. Everyone takes part with the fundraising and they basically



JAHREL FRANCIS/THE BEACON

Women's rugby Head Coach Trevor Alfred and Leandria Ates practice the correct way of tackling during a team practice.

have to support themselves with all the expenses. Most, if not all, of the money goes toward travel expenses and hotel stays for the final competitions.

"These young ladies have been doing this for almost five years now out of pocket basically. We get some fundraising from the school but most of it we fundraise and that's part of the ladies drive and determination. They work hard for it so they really have a vested interest in this team," Alfred said.

Having the money fall into place the team has a love within itself and for the sport. Leandria

"Lele" Ates and Kimberly Semiglia serve as the team's co-captains. Known as Lele by the team, thinking they can win it all, Ates studies biomedical and mechanical engineering as a junior in her second season with the team. Junior Semiglia, majoring in social work, is also the club's president.

With the participation of the entire team, every player advances. This team is dependent on one another and there is no clear star player as one can't advance individually without everyone else.

"We're as strong as our

weakest link," Ates said.

Being one strong unit for so long the game becomes more than just a running with a ball on the field. Bonds are formed and goals are achieved. Many have seen this same team on the flag football in when the intramural was in season. Showing out in flag football one can clearly see there is chemistry and work performed as an unit

"I love the girls. They're family. There's nothing that can break us," Ates said. "We've been through up and downs, but as you can tell it's ride or die."

Having the team go to new heights and being so successful, there is a new frontier to conquer. Everyone seems to be on the same page to get where they want to be. That desired position is in the NCAA.

"I would love to stay here, and i would love to see the program go fully collegiate, fully NCAA, with the proper funding and support from the academic community as well," Alfred said.

With these ambitions, everything isn't so simple to earn.

"First we have to prove ourselves to be thought about," Semiglia said.

The South Championships brings competition from a great region. The first round of the tournament seems to be achievable but not underestimated by

the team and it explains why they are out at practice all the time. From there the competition gets more difficult.

Following the South Championships the finals will be located on the West Coast. In Stanford there are potentially the best competition the team has ever seen but simultaneously the team is preparing to be the best that they have ever been. In turn the team will have to raise the bar and perform.

"It's going to be definitely difficult but I want to see how the girls persevere as a whole," Ates said.

The team has their head high and feet pointed toward success.

"I feel awesome. We have such a chance of winning and the dedication we need; i'm just excited," Semiglia said.

South Championships, the Finals and NCAA. Three great targets to shoot for with experienced and inexperienced individuals on the team. Every goal is thought to be attainable but none is overlooked. Working harder than ever practices are more rigorous with purpose to get each of them to the best shape and ability to work even better as a team with players skill sets varied but natural physical talent clearly recognized.

-jahrel.francis@fiusm.com

EVENTS

Communications Week offered sports panel to provide resources for students

MARIANA NAVA
Staff Writer

The 23rd Annual Communications Week at Biscayne Bay Campus featured a “Sports Media Panel,” this past week.

“The Sports Media Panel” took place this past Tuesday, March 18. “The Sports Communications Panel” took over the WUC Ballrooms at BBC on Wednesday, March 19, and featured Jose Sotolongo, executive director of Miami-Dade Sports Commission; Bradley Gerber, senior associate at Burson Marsteller; Chris Yandle, assistant AD/Communications of University of Miami (UM); Jon Erik Alvarez, media relations coordinator at Miami Marlins; and Ancel Pratt, who formerly worked with the Miami Heat and now is an author and project manager at Wade’s World Foundation.

“Coming up in the industry, I didn’t really have this kind of resources, so I want to give back to college students and give them an avenue to learn about the industry,”



MARIANA NAVA/THE BEACON

A panel of sports media members participated at the 23rd Annual Communications Week at the Biscayne Bay Campus last week.

Yandle said in regards to his purpose and commitment with students.

Different aspects of how to get in the sports communications industry and how to be successful in it were discussed.

The panelists started the discussion by talking about the differences between this industry and others, which major difference, according to Hunter Franki, a senior advertising major at FIU who

happened to be the host of this panel, is the fact that everything happens quickly, and that makes it a result-based business.

Moreover, they talked about the importance of doing as many internships as possible, being careful with the information that everyone puts on social media, which can be an impediment to get an important job in the future, how resumes should be presented, and how good

writing skills are fundamental in this business.

“Companies hire because they got a problem, and they need a solution. The question is: Can you be the solution to the problem? Or are you the best solution to the problem?” Ancel Pratt said.

The event had an amazing outcome.

A lot of students were present, raised their hands to point out a question when they had the chance, and also stayed after it was finished to interact with the panelists personally.

Also, the panelists gave the students their business cards so they can contact them in case they have any questions or need advice.

“It was a great experience. I learned that working in the sports industry is very challenging and demanding. As the panelists said: ‘It is a lifestyle, but a very rewarding lifestyle.’” Karen Ramirez, a junior Public Relations major at FIU and also a sports lover said.

-mariana.nava@fiusm.com

FIU SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
Mar. 29	East Carolina Univ.
Mar. 29	East Carolina Univ.
Mar. 30	East Carolina Univ.
Apr. 2	Florida Gulf Coast Univ.
Apr. 2	Florida Gulf Coast Univ.
Apr. 5	Florida Atlantic Univ.
Apr. 5	Florida Atlantic Univ.
Apr. 6	Florida Atlantic Univ.
Apr. 12	UTSA
Apr. 12	UTSA
Apr. 13	UTSA
Apr. 18	Marshall Univ.
Apr. 18	Marshall Univ.
Apr. 19	Marshall Univ.
Apr. 26	North Texas Univ.
Apr. 26	North Texas Univ.
Apr. 27	North Texas Univ.
May 3	Univ. of Southern Miss.
May 3	Univ. of Southern Miss.
May 4	Univ. of Southern Miss.
May 8	C-USA Tournament
May 9	C-USA Tournament
May 10	C-USA Tournament

*Away games noted as **BOLD***

FIU BASEBALL

- **March 25 - Univ. of South Florida**
- **March 28 - UAB**
- **March 29 - UAB**
- **March 30 - UAB**
- April 1 - Bethune-Cookman Univ.
- April 4 - Old Dominion Univ.
- April 5 - Old Dominion Univ.
- April 6 - Old Dominion Univ.

*Away games noted as **BOLD***

FIU grad relishes in role as Spanish voice of Heat

VOICE, PAGE 6

When Jose finally landed a job with the Miami Heat it wasn’t even in broadcasting.

Jose was selling season tickets for the team.

After the first year of the franchise, the Miami Heat were looking for a new Spanish radio broadcaster and Jose was interested.

“I said that I wanted to do it and my boss told me I had no chance, but Billy Cunningham told him to let me try,” Paneda said. “So I went to radio shack and bought a tape recorder and I recorded a preseason game.”

Soon after, Jose Paneda was the official Spanish radio voice of the Heat and has been for the last 25 years.

“He’s a risk taker. And he gave it a shot. He’s earned

himself a very very nice niche,” Michael Baiamonte, college classmate and the Miami Heat in stadium announcer, said. “Its not a surprise to me how good he has gotten.”

Imagine growing in a city with no professional basketball team or relevant collegiate basketball team all your life and then suddenly becoming the flagship play-play broadcaster for a brand new professional team.

“He has made himself one of the best, most knowledgeable, most prepared NBA broadcasters around,” Reid said. “The only thing he loves more than the team is his family.”

Jose is a devoted husband and father to two boys.

“It’s been difficult with all the travel that I do. I’ve

been away from home four years with all the travel that I do,” Paneda said.

All that travel and his 25

“

He has lived a storybook life and I know he made his parents proud.

Michael Baiamonte,
Stadium Announcer
Miami Heat

year marriage with his wife Ana is still going strong.

“All that she’s done and the sacrifices she has made for our family has been

tremendous,” Paneda said.

His wife Ana, who is a FIU alumna as well as her husband Jose isn’t the only

“

one who has sacrificed in the name of family.

“For a guy with such a demanding travel schedule, the sacrifices he has made for

his family have been incredible. He’s always a part of what was going on with his sons lives,” Baiamonte said. “He’s been an instrumental part of their lives, even though he has a job that takes him away from them.”

Through all the struggles and through all the hardship, Jose Paneda has come out on top.

From the financial difficulties when he was growing up, to the uncertainty of his career to even the doubt of his bosses, Jose has succeeded brilliantly.

Paneda and Baiamonte once were classmates in a marketing class at FIU, two young men having no idea where they would be.

“I would have told you that you were crazy if you told me where Jose and I

would be today back then,” Baiamonte said.

Crazy might be an adequate word.

Narrating the battles with Alonzo Mourning and Tim Hardaway, being a part of history as he announced the dream teams first game, the conquest of Dwyane Wade and Shaquille O’Neal and the coronation of the king LeBron James.

“He has lived a storybook life and I know he made his parents proud,” Reid said.

Out of little Havana, born from Cuban defectors and doubted before his career started, Jose Paneda has made more than just family or FIU proud.

He has made Miami proud.

-sports@fiusm.com

Club diver lived under water for five days

SCUBA, PAGE 8

While others enjoy the beaches off the coast or the fishing off the bridge, his favorite site is 500 feet under the ocean.

“I live for the recurring experiences that seem to slow down time and very often I find myself in the thought of just taking a breath and trying to take it all in.” Lopez said.

He can also say something most people can’t, which is that he lived underwater for five consecutive days on a reef.

Lopez was given the opportunity to develop research questions at the AQUARIUS underwater laboratory this past November.

“Waking up to fish staring at you, walking over to your dive gear, and swimming onto the reef for a 4 hour dive at 110

feet 3 times a day was fascinating,” Lopez said. “We encountered an unimaginable array of creatures including a school of barracuda 300 strong, a Caribbean reef shark and 400 pound goliath grouper.”

With intake in summer, spring and the fall semesters, the Facebook page FIU Scuba Cats alongside fiuscubacats.wordpress.com keeps all members and prospective members updated on the clubs status.

Being a member since his freshman year and aspiring to eventually open a dive shop, Lopez is grateful for the experience.

“We have members from basic open water divers to instructors, but our common ground is that we love the underwater life and we are here to have fun,” Lopez said.

-giselle.cancio@fiusm.com

The Scuba Cats allow students to explore ocean

GISELLE CANCIO
Staff Writer

A group that started out as friends diving on the weekend turned into an official FIU club in 2010 and has been submerging in the water ever since.

The only cats not afraid of water, also known as the Scuba Cats at FIU, currently has 91 members and 10 active divers every semester.

“We often dive with other clubs from UM, FAU and UF,” Christian Lopez, a current officer, said. “You must be at least open water certified to join, but we have members that are both students and alumni so all you really have to do is enjoy diving.”

Meetings are held bi-weekly after dives, and different things are discussed including scuba gear to diving new potential diving excursions.

“Attendance requires mask fins, a snorkel and a stellar attitude,” Lopez said.

Dives are more often in the

spring due to the weather and they are normally on the weekends or nights due to conflicting schedules. They can be at any time from 8 p.m. to midnight, it just depends on the divers and their schedules.

“I live for the recurring experiences that seem to slow down time and very often I find myself in the thought of just taking a breath and trying to take it all in.”

Christian Lopez,
Current Officer
Scuba Cats

Scuba Cats dives anywhere from Key West to Pompano Beach and even in North Florida for the cave systems.

“To attempt a dive we make sure that every participant has the level of skill and confidence to complete the dive very often, so we dive five to 10 times together before we go on

PANDA PRINT



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Monique Mitchell, freshman in marine biology, gets a panda tattoo airbrushed on her arm during a student councils field day.

for a big dive to get acquainted with each others diving skills,” Lopez said. Before the dive we do what is called a pre briefing: we talk about expected situations, gas management, buddies, diving profiles and check out each others gear.”

Scuba cats dive for fun and have specific competitions throughout the season in order to spice things up.

During Halloween, they host the best underwater pumpkin carver

which is some of the divers favorite.

Other competitions include epic trash collector where they visit a beach and host a clean up in attempt to keep the community beach sands and waters trash free, and lion fish and lobster derbies where they hunt for them underwater.

“This semester we have also added the ELITE Team competition,” Lopez said. “It is a competition of club records, including

deepest dive, longest dive, coolest picture, best video, most dives in the year and most consecutive dives.”

Lopez currently holds five out of the six records, but is excited for the team since they are currently setting up an Elite Team dive for the beginning of summer.

His inspiration to dive comes from his love of water.

SEE SCUBA, PAGE 7

Study shows danger of texting and walking

**CAMILA FERNANDEZ AND
PAOLA MOLINI**
FIUSM Staff

Gadgeteers wobble their way across campus hallways, trusting their peripheral vision to take them to class, the food court and even their car safely.

According to a recent study by the journal Accident Analysis and Prevention, over 1,500 pedestrians across the country have found themselves in an emergency room from simultaneously walking and using their cellphones.

A study by Ohio State University reported that those between the ages of 16 and 25 have the highest risk of being injured.

As students walk throughout the campus, they are often distracted by

a Facebook update, or a new “tweet” from their Twitter. Some experience the embarrassing mishap of hitting themselves against objects ahead of them.

“Yea, I was texting and I didn’t notice where I was walking. Thank God it didn’t go to my face, but I did hit my shoulder with a poster, or whatever it was,” said Priscila Omlion, a junior public relations major. “But I’ve never eaten the floor.”

Some have tried triple-tasking.

Denia Abreu, a freshman psychology major, said she was texting while walking to her car from the mall while also holding a drink when learned to look where she walks.

“I didn’t look up and I bumped into a walking sign, and I hit my head really hard,” Abreu said. “And I dropped the drink.”

Students at Biscayne Bay Campus walk around school facilities underestimating the risks of distorted movements, off-balance walking and irregular posture derived from texting and walking.

Research by Plos ONE concluded that texting significantly distorts people’s gait and walking form, whether they intended to contort themselves or not.

The study also shows that texting and walking can cause or worsen neck and shoulder pain. It also shows that normally, the body prioritizes maintaining balance above all other demands, but in this research study bodies and brains appear to be “prioritizing texting.”

Daniel Lipson, a hospitality senior said he has a “horrible habit” of texting while he is on his skate-

board and although he consider his behavior rude and dangerous, he attributes texting and walking to the social awkwardness of people.

Lipson says people do not know how to communicate personally and they have a need to hide behind their phones.

“We are losing focus on personal values and the appreciation of nature,” Lipson said.

According to a recent study published by the Journal of Behavioral Addictions, 90 percent of U.S. college students check their cell phones at an average of 60 times per day, making its constant use a rising epidemic.

This idea of being “attached” to our phones has created a new idea called “Nomophobia”, by a UK-based research organization. It’s the abbreviation for “no-mobile-phone phobia,”

it’s the fear of being separated from mobile contact.

“You ask an addict if they’re addicted to it, they’ll tell you no,” said Jorge Lorente, a junior information technology major.

“It’s like opening a refrigerator at your house. You know it’s not going to change, but you keep on opening it,” he said, referring to the ongoing usage of cell phones for new information.

Jaqueline Rios, a biology senior said she doesn’t have a specific reason to text and walk but she thinks the trend has a lot to do with the influence of technology in students.

“I think people are just so used to having their phones,” Rios said. “We are so involved with technology it’s hard to be without it all of the sudden.”

SEE TEXTING, PAGE 2

CNN chief correspondent lectures at BBC

MARIANA NAVA
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association at Biscayne Bay Campus joined forces with the School of Journalism and Mass Communication to bring in Candy Crowley, a CNN’s award-winning chief political correspondent and anchor of “State of the Union” to offer her insight to students.

She will be lecturing in the event titled, “Reporting from All 50 States and from around the World,” on

Wednesday, March 26, in the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms at BBC from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Although SJMC is involved in this event, Crowley is coming as part of SGA’s lecture series, which brought W. Kamau Bell to BBC this past February and will bring Big Bang Theory’s Mayim Bialik in April.

“Each speaker twists his or her lecture on different things,” Kaytien Franco said, marketing and public relations assistant in the Campus Life Office at BBC.

“Candy, specifically, is going to discuss her career as a CNN’s political chief correspondent, and her topic is based not only on her career but how she got to it and her experiences, especially since she has worked a lot with presidential candidates,” Franco said.

As a chief political correspondent, Crowley has had the opportunity to meet and interview United States’ top political figures and cover political events of great importance as well, such as the presidential debate

between President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney in 2012 as well as America’s Choice, elections of the same year.

Moreover, she has her own space on television that airs on Sundays at 9 a.m.

Franco strongly emphasized the fact that they are trying to target different audiences since FIU’s student body is very broad in regards of what they are studying. The wide range of topics discussed in these lectures will give students the oppor-

tunity to choose the one that interests them the most and get easily involved.

“We want the students to be involved in our events,” said Larissa Adames, office assistant of Student Government Association Office at BBC. “We want them to get ideas for their future careers, and with this event, we want them to have a different view on what journalism is.”

-mariana.nava@fiusm.com