Car catches fire near Ziff Education building

ERICA SANTIAGO
News Director
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Thursday night, Jan. 21, a car caught fire near the Sanford L. Ziff Family Education Building.

Officer David Navas, who was not on the scene at the time, told FIUSM the fire may have occurred in Lot 9.

Steve Montoya, a senior psychology major, was on his way to class when he saw black smoke rising from the education building around 6:10 p.m.

He states he saw the incident as he was walking from Panther Garage over to the law building.

“I saw black smoke going up and so I knew something was burning,” says Montoya.

As Montoya kept walking he began to see a glimpse of the fire.

He could also hear sirens and see flashing police lights in the distance.

At around 8:20 p.m. last night, Montoya walked by the area again after class and says the incident seemed to be resolved.

He saw no fire or car in the scene.

He also didn’t hear any sirens or see flashing police lights.

FIUSM was able to take photos of the burned car being towed away after the incident.

A red Chevy Silverado with burn damages after a fire in Lot 9 took place on Modesto Maidique Campus, Thursday, Jan. 21.

Campus-carry legislation hindered again

ERICA SANTIAGO
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The effort to permit concealed guns on the campuses of Florida’s 40 public colleges and universities has once again been stalled.

According to the Miami Herald, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Miguel Diaz de la Portilla confirmed Thursday that he won’t schedule a hearing on the controversial legislation (SB 68), which he also wouldn’t take up last session.

Without being vetted in Diaz de la Portilla’s committee, the bill goes no further in the Florida Senate, even as an identical measure is moving swiftly through the Florida House.

The bills, sponsored by Sen. Greg Evers, R-Baker, and Rep. Jim Boyd, are a priority for the National Rifle Association, Florida Carry and student groups that support allowing the more than 1.4 million people with concealed weapons permits in Florida to carry their weapons on public university and college campuses.

But Diaz de la Portilla said, “I don’t think this is a Second Amendment issue,” according to the Herald.

“I think what we’re talking about here is campus safety, and the best way to address that issue, and whether the proposed cure is worse than the disease,” he said.

Alexandria Casas, FIU’s chief police, addressed the possibility of allowing concealed guns on campus this past Sept. 2015.

In an interview with FIUSM, Casas said “I would rather that statute didn’t pass.”

Casas expressed concern that more guns would only make dangerous situations even more risky by causing more difficulties for first responders.

“In a fraction of a second, they have to make a decision. That’s a big ask.”

Casas added that he would be more comfortable with the bill if there were a requirement that someone with a concealed weapons permit had to have a certain level of training or demonstrate a certain level of proficiency with a firearm.

“You don’t even have to shoot a round,” Casas said of how easy it is to receive a concealed weapons permit. “Go to a gun show, take a class and you can walk out with a gun.”

Greg Evers, the Senate sponsor, told reporters Diaz de la Portilla didn’t talk to him about his decision, although the two had previously discussed the proposal.

It would make a statement to the residents of Florida to bring it up and actually have a vote on it,” Evers said.

Greg Steube, who’s shepherding the House companion, HB 4001, which is ready for a floor vote, suggested lawmakers could use a procedural maneuver to keep the proposal moving, albeit in a different form.

“One person basically deciding what the public policy of the state is going to be isn’t really how this process should work,” Steube said, suggesting the campus-carry plan could be added as an amendment to other gun or education-related proposals under consideration.

Though that seems within the realm of possibility, there is still a high likelihood of retaliation by Senate leadership.

“Anything’s possible ... but the chairman (Diaz de la Portilla) would probably not take too kindly to that,” Senate President Andy Gardiner, R-Orlando, said.

“We were hearing from members on all sides that there was a little discomfort with [campus carry].”

In a coincidence of timing -- and before Diaz de la Portilla’s decision was widely known -- U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Weston, appeared at a Capitol news conference to add her voice to the Democrats’ opposition to pro-gun bills moving through the Florida Legislature.

“I’m here to sound the alarm to make sure that they wake up and understand that they should be listening to people,’’ she said. As a mother of twins who are juniors in high school, she said, “it’s really troubling and disturbing to me to think they could be on a college campus where another student may decide to solve a problem with a gun.”

Allowing concealed weapons on campuses has widespread opposition.

See Guns, Page 2
When gay sex is taboo, apps open a door

Within the quietly thriving gay scene in India’s entertainment and financial capital, one thing appears to be common. “Everybody from the gay community is using Grindr,” Inder Vhatvar, a Mumbai fashion entrepreneur, said of the dating app geared toward gay men.

Despite a national law banning same-sex intercourse, tens of thousands of gay Indians use Grindr for social networking, dating and, yes, sex. As in many other Asian countries where homosexuality is outlawed or taboo, Grindr and similar apps have opened up a new digital frontier for gays but also raised concerns about privacy, safety and government clampsdown.

Grindr’s international appeal is in the spotlight following the announcement Monday of a Chinese gaming company had purchased a majority stake the Hollywood startup for $93 million. The deal with Beijing Kunlun World Wide Technology Co. values Grindr, founded in 2009, at $155 million.

Rep. Diaz-Balart pushes Cuba to free dissident journalist on hunger strike

Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart called Tuesday for the Cuban government to release an independent journalist who stopped eating four weeks ago to protest his Dec. 17 arrest.

Diaz-Balart said Misael Canet Velazquez is being held “in abhorrent conditions in Camaguey’s notorious Kilò 8 prison without clothes or a suitable place to sleep, and has been provided limited access to water.”

Morena has waged his own hunger strike while in prison.

Canet is a leader of the National Front of Civic Resistance Orlando Zapata Tablada, a protest group based in southern Cuba.

Along with other dissidents, Canet was arrested Dec. 17 during a demonstration in which they demanded the release of a human rights activist.

Canet had been one of 20 signatories to a Jan. 17, 2014, proclamation in which leaders of resistance organizations declared “the group is ‘cautiously optimistic’ that, Brigham said, saying his job is to pursue the agenda that have high public safety issue.”

Supporters of the bill expressed frustration and disappointment but said they’ll keep fighting. They argued, like Evers, that Diaz de la Portilla should have given the proposal a fair hearing, even if it failed. He should vote ‘no’ to the bill if he truly does not support it, but his job is to pursue the stakeholders who really have been so strongly opposed to campus carry and he’s listened, and we’re appreciative of that,” Brigham said, saying the group is “cautiously optimistic” the legislation is dead for the 2016 session.

In a previous statement made in September, Brigham, chairwoman of the League of Women Voters, said he does plan to hold a hearing on legislation to give concealed-weapons permit-holding the ability to openly carry their weapons.

“To me, the debate is better about open carry because you still keep all the controls in place,” Gardiner said. “I don’t think there was ever consensus on how to get campus carry done.”

Amendments to the open-carry legislation (SB 308 / HB 163) have been suggested by both Florida sheriffs and police chiefs, and it’s likely some of those could be folded in to make the plan more palatable to critics. The father-son duo, Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville and Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fort Walton Beach is sponsoring those bills.

Evers, although disappointed about his own bill, said the open-carry proposal is “even more important to me than campus carry.”

“Standing up for the Second Amendment and supporting the Second Amendment is never a bad thing,” he said.

Additional Reporting by TNS Staff

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Additional Reporting by TNS Staff
THE SIGHT OF RIGHTS
Photographs tell the South’s Civil Rights story

AMANDA RABINES
Staff Writer
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Jordan Pomeroy, director of the Frost Art Museum, grew emotional when introducing the museum’s latest exhibit featuring the work of Danny Lyon, a photographer who documented the Civil Rights Movement in America during the 1960s. She spoke softly, but with conviction when highlighting the importance and risk-factor of Lyon’s work at the time.

“He spent time behind bars for his actions and was present with his camera everywhere where civil rights protests were erupting,” said Pomeroy to the crowd at the Frost Art Museum’s opening reception.

Lyon’s documentation of the American Civil Rights movement covers the protests of the Atlanta-based Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and will run through March 20, at the Frost Art Museum.

His raw-natured photographs marked a new style of reporting called “New Journalism,” in which journalists become part of the story they wish to document, through photographs and film.

The black and white photos presented in the exhibition show pivotal moments of the American Civil Rights Movement as well as monumental names in African American history, such as Ella Baker, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Willie Ricks, who is known as the first to have cried out the phrase “black power.”

“They are snapshots of a time when an organization thought it can [sic] change an entire culture and offer a trajectory of the future through nonviolent protest and through the lens of a camera,” said Pomeroy.

A snapshot capturing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Reverend Ralph Abernathy being escorted to jail in Albany, Georgia is one example of his work.

Photos of African American men being carried away by cops and segregated water fountains all depict the harsh reality of racism in America’s history.

Brian Schriner, FIU’s dean of the College of Architecture and The Arts, was at the reception and said it is not by accident that the university’s annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration kicks off at the Frost Art Museum.

“In 1964 Dr. King, during [his] Nobel prize acceptance speech, spoke about importance of art and humanities,” Schriner said at the opening reception. “I ask that you listen carefully to what he said because the words that he spoke 52 years ago could describe the world we live in today.”

Within Lyon’s collection, museum goers can see the SNCC having their famous sit-in protests at racially organized lunch counters in Greensboro, North Carolina. Bryan Salazar, a freshman taking Modern American Civilization at FIU, was told by his professor to visit the exhibit. As he slowly took his time to examine the photos, he said he was struck by the relevance the photos share with today’s current race wars.

“Things like civil infringements still happen today,” said Salazar, “I feel we should be doing more as a society, because everyone in these photos were so driven to do more themselves, and because of them laws changed.”

This exhibition is sponsored by FIU’s Multicultural Program & Services, Division of Student Affairs, College of Architecture & The Arts, College of Business, College of Law, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, University Graduate School and the African and African Diaspora Studies.

To become a member of the Frost Art Museum visit thefrost.fiu.edu

Alumni offer virtual networking, share insights

LESIE OVALLE
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Panther Alumni Week is an annual event in which alumni to return to their alma mater and share career advice and insights with current students.

Besides panther pride, the centerpiece of PAW is networking and for the second year in a row the alumni association is taking this to the virtual sphere with their Virtual Meet Up event on Feb. 3 from noon to 1 p.m.

The FIU Alumni Association is the first department to offer a virtual networking event in the university, according to Maria Tomaino, associate director of alumni career development.

This virtual networking event will pair current students with alumni in an online speed-networking forum that will consist of one on eight-minute, text-based chats. The transcripts of these conversations will be saved and emailed to students, who will then be able to follow-up with the alumni they networked with.

“Virtual meet up is something that many universities are doing,” said Tomaino “the great thing about it is that we can host as many students as we want, distance is no longer a shortcoming.”

And according to Tomaino, FIU being such an international university there have been instances where distance gets in the way. Alumni from places like New York, Los Angeles, India and Jamaica have participated in PAW Virtual Meet Up.

The registration process is online and it consists of a questionnaire to facilitate matches and an attached resume and/or LinkedIn profile.

More information on PAW Virtual Meet Up can be found on paw.fiu.edu from there students/ alumni who are interested in participating will be directed to a brazenconnect.com page where they can continue registration. There is no cut-off time for registration; however, it is mandatory in order to participate in the event.

“We want to build that bridge and foster that connection, one person can mean millions of doors,” said Tomaino.

For more information or details on the event contact Maria Tomaino at 305-348-3334 or mtomaino@fiu.edu

TV Land’s ‘Younger’ a unique twist on familiar storyline

GABBY BUSH
TV Talk

Over winter break, I was desperately searching for a show to watch. I’d temporarily paused my Netflix subscription to get my life together and not procrastinate, but still had enough downtime to watch a show or two.

So, when TV Land’s incessant ads for it show — “Younger” started to air, I caved in and decided to watch an episode on demand. What was supposed to be a 30-minute distraction turned into a six-hour, marathon “catch-up” session.

“Younger” follows a 40-something divorcee as she tries to rebuild her life and reclaim the job she had before “life got in the way”. A plot that’s been tackled numerous times, “Younger” separates itself by taking on a unique angle - Lizaa Miller, the show’s protagonist, is mistakenly assumed to be half her age, and decides to go with it.

Honestly, I was really only interested in the show because of Hilary Duff. I’ve been a fan of Duff’s since she played Lizzie McGuire back in Disney Channel’s heyday. I figured if she was on the show, it couldn’t be horrible.

Surprisingly, it wasn’t Duff’s performance as Kelsey Peters that enthralled me; Sutton Foster’s performance as Liza was the one I found most captivating and honest. Throughout the first season, she’s just trying to figure out how to maneuver through a world run by millennials.

Whether she’s learning to use Twitter to promote the books that are published by the company she works for, or trying to navigate dating again, Liza manages to be authentic and relatable; an oxymoron considering she’s lying about who she is the entire time.

When Josh, Liza’s twenty-something, tattoo artist boyfriend portrayed by Nicolo Tortorella, tells his friends that he and Liza are “just hanging out,” she reacts as any young person would
**Orlando guitar pop band SALES releases self-titled EP**

**NATASHEE BORIOQUEZ**

**Contributing Writer**

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SALES is definitely not a new band in Florida but recently their fan base has been exploding. They originally hail from Orlando but everyone across the globe seems to have caught the SALES bug.

The band recently had a fall tour in Europe and a summer tour in the West Coast. Their self-titled Extended Play finally collected together most of their songs and even include a remix of one of their songs “Into” done by another Orlando artist, XXXYXX.

Lead singer, Lauren Morgan’s voice is like this child-like innocence, even as she sings about a relationship falling apart in “Wow.” It feels as though it takes place right before a relationship falls apart, where one of the parties is tired or may want to give up, but your mind is what is going push it to keep it going. In the last few reps of any workout, you will have to push yourself. That is what your mind takes over and pushes your physical abilities. If you want something to be good for you, you will have to be able to take care of anything or anyone else. Consistency is the second rule that will help you maintain the things you have achieved, in this case a fit lifestyle. Imagine you are training for a race, you’ve been training for months now and you are at the starting line. The gun fires, sound on your marks, set. Go. Then halfway through the race you quit. That is inconsistency, it will lead to you never crossing the finish line, never reaching your goals.

Now, consistency doesn’t happen overnight, just like one healthy meal will never make you healthy and one rigorous workout will never make you fit. It is consistency that will get you to every result you desire. It is the day in and day out hard work that helps you obtain your objectives. When I lost 61 pounds of fat, it was 6 months of consistent workout and healthy nutrition. Now imagine if after those 6 months, I stopped eating healthy or stopped working out. I would have been unhealthy again and went back to square one. Instead I decided to get certified as a Fitness Trainer. Where I am in my life today is because of consistency and determination. In life when you set any goal, always be consistent. You cannot give up!

**Motivation Monday**

NIHAT STRIDER

When starting the path of fitness the two rules of fitness are determination and consistency. These rules are key to maintaining the lifestyle, if this is your goal then they should be engrained in you.

The mental state of being determined is vital for your physical strength and attribute. Remember, “Meditation is the key to success”. Your body might be too tired or may want to relax or not do anything. Then what should you do? You must understand that relaxation can only happen when you’re at peace with yourself.

Therefore you must keep in mind: "Mind over matter". When you have plenty of time to yourself, you should start focusing on your mental health. To do this, you can start meditating or even just sit quietly and think about all the things you could be doing to improve your life.

**International employment workshop offered**

GUETHSHINA ALTENA

Asst. Entertainment Director

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In order for international students to remain in the U.S. after graduation, an employer must sponsor them with an H-1B visa for skilled foreign workers, according to fortune.com. For the 2,500 international students at FIU, the College of Business Management Services is offering an Employment workshop.

The process can be long and complicated for foreign undergraduate students. According to Prentzler’s website, those on F-1 student visa, you have a 60 day grace period after your date of graduation or last day as a registered student. International students can also apply for the optional practical training (OPT) status both during and after completion of their degree. According to internationalstudent.com, the OPT allows international students to stay in the US for a year after graduation to work in their field of study. Students may apply for OPT after being enrolled for at least 9 months, but they cannot begin working until they receive their Employment Authorization Document (EAD). In this workshop, students can acquire to learn about the opportunities available to find a job in the U.S.A and how the process works for international students after their graduation. The event will take place on Jan 29 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Students are required to RSVP in Business Career Link at business-fiu-csm.fiu.edu to register and attend. For more information on the event contact the College of Business at 305-348-2751.

**Strider shares his secret to maintaining a fit lifestyle**

NIHAT STRIDER

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The sociology of losing games

By the numbers: C-USA Women’s Basketball

C-USA SCORING OFFENSE

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C-USA FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGES

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*All records up to date as of Jan. 22

Panthers can’t come up with header

LOUIS AGUDELO
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Winter break was a long one for the Swimming and Diving program at FIU. The Panthers were handed their second loss of the season by the Seminoles of Florida State University to kick off the break at Indian River State College. Of course they followed it up by defeating the former community college of Indian River. Towards the end, the Panthers were beaten badly by N.C. State, although by a much smaller margin. So far, the Swimming and Diving team have dropped three contests over the duration of this 2015-2016 season. This can be the fact that this season’s schedule have featured meets against no less than five ranked opponents, with every loss coming against a ranked program. FIU is a novice by no means, to taking on legitimate competition, and competing at a high level, but this season’s schedule reflects their performance and finish from last season. Bigger and better major colleges are paying a lot more attention to the other Division-I school in Miami now.

Head coach Randy Horner seems to have an open door policy to any school daring enough to make the trip, or to welcome the Panthers into their facility for a meet. He trusts his team’s ability to not only win, but to prepare themselves in just the right span of time and at just the perfect pace to reach peak condition and form by Conference USA Championships in late February. The difficulty in this season’s schedule not only lies in the talent faced, but also in the number of meets, with three more this season than last. The length of the regular season last year 2015-2016 regular season will last at least another week more than it did in 2014-2015, as well.

Guard/Forward Janka Hegedus fights to get the ball from UTSA Roadrunner Alexus Dukes at the game held Thursday, Jan. 21, where FIU lost with a score of 52-63.
Future Panthers represent in National Signing Day

Estefaníe Bethancourt steps up for upcoming season

Stefano Rivera Contributing Writer
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The 2016 FIU Women’s Beach Volleyball season has yet to begin; however, the practices are in full swing and the team is preparing for another successful year on the sand.

One of the players that will be looking to compete and help the team is sophomore, Estefaníe Bethancourt. Bethancourt is a native of Guatemala and attended Colegio Interamericanos.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

Panthers prepare for Conference USA

CONFERENCE, PAGE 6

Any skeptics of this season’s squad compared to last, should be cognizant of the fact that most of last season’s top talent returned, not to mention that FIU has swept Conference USA, Swimming and Diver of the Week honors four times this season.

Understand also that Horner falling asleep at the wheel of this superior vehicle that he has turned into a true-ten spot in the team now that she is a more experienced player. The Panthers had six players who graduated a year ago, making it difficult to compete with the experience and talent those upperclassmen had.

Bethancourt also explained, “It was certainly an exciting experience,” as Florida State University, Natalia Giron, Bethancourt was able to win gold in a first place finish. The duo Gotham then lost to Iowa in the finals and did not lose a single match.

Aside from competing in the WCABV Championship, also competed in the Junior Olympics, representing her country.

The duo of Bethancourt and Giron is currently Guatemala’s No. 1 team and is ranked eighth in the North, Central American and Caribbean Volleyball Confederation, which consists of 40 countries. I think we’ve grown together as a team now, since we get to play with a lot of different people here. Like in Guatemala where there are a lot of beach volleyball players, but here we get to the point of playing with different people and that has made us grow as a national team too”, Bethancourt explained.

Bethancourt hopes to help lead her team to another stellar season. Last year, the Panthers finished 20-3, defeating numerous elite teams such as Florida State University, Stetson University, and Pepperdine University.

The team fell short in the quarterfinals of the AVCA National Championships in a rematch against Pepperdine.

Players are aware it will be difficult to match the season the six seniors left behind but know they are capable of accomplishing such a feat.

Bethancourt said, “I think we want to get to Nationals first, then do our best to get the title.”

The team will start the season off in the FIU Fort Lauderdale Beach Invitational on Friday, March 4 against the University of New Orleans.

No matter what, Turner and his staff are looking for a top-ten road. Jordan Budwig went down with an injury, and the team is thinking more about the Super Bowl the day after that meet, as opposed to the CollegeSwimming.com Mid-Major rankings, as of their last meet against N.C. State. This is lower than they’ve been ranked in quite some time, and will likely be a motivator for this team to work harder than ever, exactly a month away from Championships, “Holding things together” according to Horner, is a lot of what they’ve really been focusing throughout this season, which is really all that needs to be done with such a well-oiled machine as is this Swimming and Diving program.

As far as when he believes they’ll be ready, and this was said long before the season had even started “The day before conference Championships,” that is.

For now, though they have a meet Saturday, Jan. 30 to face the University of Miami for a second time this season, and attempt a season sweep on the. They’ll finish their season against a much improved Florida Atlantic squad on Tuesday Feb. 8, although the Panthers’ mind will likely be thinking more about the Super Bowl the day after that meet, as the Owls pose no real threat to the Panthers.

FOOTBALL

Nothing is more intense than a high school athlete making a big decision in what university they want to play and get their education for the next four years. That’s what National Signing Day is all about. Wednesday, Feb. 3 will be National Signing Day. It is an all-day event for talented high school athletes signing their letter of intent to play for a college of their choosing. Nothing is more exciting than a football player of intent to play for a college of their choosing.

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Philanthropist donates millions for a chair of transgender studies

ADRIAN SALGADO
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Jennifer Pritzker, a Chicago billionaire and philanthropist, donated $2 million to a university in Canada in order to create a chair of transgender studies.

The funding for the University of Victoria in British Columbia comes from Pritzker’s Tawani Foundation. Half of the money will support the chair position for five years, and the other half is pledged to match other donations to the program.

Aaron Devor, a sociology professor who has studied transgender issues for three decades, was named inaugural chair.

It’s important that we don’t conform or adhere to just one stereotype of gender or one sense of self.


As the inaugural chair, I will act as a resource locally and internationally for those needing information for their own research or for policy development, as well as building linkages between community-based and academic scholars working in transgender studies.

Devor also is the founder of the university’s Transgender Archives, launched in 2012, which houses publications and memorabilia detailing the history and work of notable transgender and gender-nonconforming activists.

In November, the FIU community facilitated a conversation concerning trans issues.

Campbell Alexander, member of the Board of Directors for the AQUA Women’s Foundation and partner of FIU’s Explained, said, “It’s great to actually have a conversation with someone and have them see that we’re just regular people.”

“Unfortunately, there is a lot of stigma against the letter ‘T’ in LGBT,” said Alexander.

The Tawani Foundation, a supporter of military personnel and history, is led by Pritzker, who is transgender and a retired Army lieutenant colonel.

At FIU’s BBC event “Understanding the ‘T’ in LGBT,” a student shared her experiences with transgender issues.

It’s important that we don’t conform or adhere to just one stereotype of gender or one sense of self.

“This is what you do and how you are more sensitive to the needs of others.”

Much transgender research throughout North America has been supported through philanthropy. Some of the first pushes for exploring transgender issues came through funding and support from the Erickson Educational Foundation, according to Devor.

Reed Erickson, a transgender man, started the foundation in the early 1960s. Among other things, the organization sponsored academic positions studying transgender issues that have been established but are no longer active, according to university officials. Both were in the Netherlands.

An endocrinologist was chair of transsexology at The Free University of Amsterdam for 20 years, and a psychologist was chair of gender development and psychopathology at the University of Utrecht Medical Centre for 10 years.

“The chair in transgender studies sets (University of Victoria) apart,” university President Jamie Cassels said in a statement.

“I am proud of our campus’ community’s commitment to diversity, as well as grateful to Dr. Devor, Lt. Col. Pritzker, the Tawani Foundation and all those who help us continually learn and grow in a welcoming environment that promotes the rights and affirms the dignity of all persons.”

Additional Reporting by TNS Staff.