FIU professor meets with holocaust survivor

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Ada Monserrat, a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, has made it a personal ritual to visit a piece of history every single school break. Monserrat has visited a myriad of historical landmarks, and interviewed historical figures such as Stephen Hawking.

This winter break she continued her historical ventures to interview a lady by the name of Hannah Goslar. Goslar was Anne Frank’s childhood best-friend, and is her last surviving friend. According to Monserrat the interview was an absolutely inspiring.

Anne Frank was one of the 6 million Jewish victims of the Holocaust at age 16. In her short time she chronicled her experiences in a diary which has become the most famous memoir of all time.

Professor Monserrat got a chance to interview and converse with a living breathing character of the story, who lived an inspiring journey of her own.

"When I read the story of Anne Frank it really moved me,” Monserrat said. “That’s when I later started researching who was Anne Frank’s childhood best-friend, and is her last surviving friend. According to Monserrat the interview was an absolutely inspiring.

Monserrat explained, “I was basically writing research it.”

For example, her meeting with Hannah. “I read a lot of history and about important events, I want to learn about them and then travel over there.”

"They were in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp where Anne Frank would pass away at 16, just a few days later. Monserrat retold Gosler’s account of the event, mentioning, “You weren’t allowed near the fence or you would be shot and she risked this.”

Hannah Goslar repeatedly risked her life to help her fellow victims in need.

Professor Monserrat recommends for students who are interested in these type of experiences to read up on history.

"I hope to bring international and local artists together as well as students to have a high quality but entertaining music festival."

Dr. Mesut Özgen
Coordinator of Classical Guitar Studies
FIU School of Music

The passion and love for guitar is taking over the FIU School of Music with the Miami International Guitar Festival starting Wednesday, February 24th until Sunday February 28th.

Dr. Mesut Özgen, Coordinator of Classical Guitar Studies at the FIU School of Music and Founder of the MGIF is organizing the five-day festival with various activities.

“Throughout the festival, there will be eleven concerts performed by modern 20th century artists and composers from around the world. The Miami Guitar Trio, The Miami Guitar Orchestra & Student Showcase and a closing performance of the festival from FIU student majoring in Music Composition, Felipe Carvajal.

School of Music hosts international festival

MELISSA BURGESS
Staff Writer
melissa.burgess@fiusm.com

The Miami Guitar Orchestra & Student Showcase and a closing performance of the festival from FIU student majoring in Music Composition, Felipe Carvajal.

Three concerts will be performed at the festival. Two concerts will feature the Miami Guitar Orchestra & Students. The first concert will be titled ‘Music of the Americas’ and will feature music from South America, Latin America and South America. The second concert will be titled ‘Music of the Americas’ and will feature music from South America, Latin America and South America. The third concert will be titled ‘Music of the Americas’ and will feature music from South America, Latin America and South America.

The Miami Guitar Orchestra & Students will also perform during the closing performance of the festival. The closing performance will feature a world premiere of a new piece composed by Dr. Mesut Özgen, Coordinator of Classical Guitar Studies.

Dr. Mesut Özgen
Coordinator of Classical Guitar Studies
FIU School of Music

‘I will be closing the festival with a Flamenco concert. I will be playing ten of my original compositions’

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Microsoft selects 10 startups for accelerator

Microsoft is lending a hand to a set of startups working in the highly technical realm of machine learning.

The company on Thursday said it had selected 10 startups out of 720 applicants to participate in a four-month accelerator in and around Seattle.

Tech accelerators are designed to help new companies get off to a running start, offering guidance, networking and funding.

During the four-month program, companies will have access to Microsoft’s own machine-learning engineers, among other experts. Also included are grants that give companies, if they choose, access to Microsoft’s cloud-computing platform.

“When we started, what we had in mind is, ‘What can we do to help’ great startups that will eventually put Microsoft in the center of the ecosystem?” Larry said.

Before you’re able to get Apple’s Siri or Microsoft’s Cortana to reliably reply to a request for a list of nearby coffee shops, for example, companies need to collect and analyze a mountain of data, Braga said.

“There’s contextual information, accents, background noise, then you need to detect intent,” said Braga. “There’s many different ways of asking. ‘Find me the nearest Starbucks.’”

French researcher says Zika link to Guillain-Barre syndrome is ‘almost certain’

The Zika virus’s health effects generally are described as mild—like symptoms at all or not yet certain, with references to Guillain-Barre syndrome, which causes paralysis, or microcephaly, an often devastating birth defect.

Over the course of the French Polynesia Zika outbreak, the incidence of Guillain-Barre increased twentyfold, the researchers noted.

But they did warn that Zika merited “rigorous clinical monitoring,” despite its reputation for inducing only mild symptoms in most of its sufferers.

“The observation that severe clinical complications may occur highlights the need to strengthen surveillance for this emerging virus,” the authors said.

In an interview this week with the French magazine Le Point, Musso said he believes the Guillain-Barre link is “almost certain” and that the link between Zika and microcephaly in infants is also a near certainty.

School of Music hosts GuitART Festival

compositions with a full ensemble. My music is modern flamenco with some parts of jazz influence,” says Carvajal.

The Masterclasses and concerts will take place in both the WPAC Recital Hall and Concert Hall.

The Miami Guitar Orchestra and Student Showcase Concert on Saturday February 27th and the Miami Guitar Trio Concert on Sunday, February 28th are both free for FIU Students.

Dr. Ogren is not only arranging the festival, but he hopes to make the festival more known.

“There are people that have attended the concerts and are so impressed with them, and don’t know anything about the Guitar Orchestra! They are always so surprised and always tell me they wish they knew more about them,” he says.

“I hope to bring international and local artists together as well as students to have a high quality but entertaining music festival.”

Carvajal says that he thinks it’s important to hold music festivals, especially this one.

“Every concert and workshop is going to be different and all the musicians attending are great. The concerts and masterclasses help the guitar community grow and improve and it’s a great opportunity,” he says.

Tickets to this festival range from free admission to $35.

Ogren thinks that the Miami International GuitART Festival is important and one of the biggest guitar events especially for the FIU School of Music.

“If you look at all the other events going on in the world like wars, global warming and hunger, this has zero importance in terms of solving those problems. However, this is human nature and you can’t ignore these problems. But, we can’t live without music and it’s impossible to live without art.”

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New Barbie pushes for realistic beauty

ON THE SCENE

GABRIELLE GARCIA

Since her debut in March 1959, Barbie has experienced some significant changes to her blonde hair, blue eyes and petite physique. After a series of changes which included broader face, available eye colors, skin tones and hairstyles, Mattel Inc. has announced a new line of Barbie dolls that will now include four different body types.

Mattel has long been criticized for Barbie’s dramatically unrealistic bodily proportions, which have projected false perceptions and standards of beauty to the young children who play with them. In addition to the doll itself, Barbie’s advertisements bombarded impressionable youth with unrealistic depictions of the female body, which not only affects the esteem levels of the young female viewers but also narrows children’s worldviews.

Prior to the dramatic changes Barbie has experienced these past two years, it could be inferred that Barbie didn’t represent the average child that played with her. With Barbie’s three new body types (the fourth being the original dimensions), seven new skin tones, 22 new eye colors and 24 new hairstyles, Barbie finally represents and appeals to a more realistic standard of beauty.

In a company statement, Evelyn Mazzocco, the senior vice-president and global general manager of Barbie said, “We believe we have a responsibility to girls and parents to reflect a broader view of beauty.”

According to a study by MarkerCast, binge-watching isn’t even a social activity as over half of bingers prefer to watch their shows alone. You know what they say, the family that binges together, stays as far as humanly possible from each other while doing it.

Binge-watching online ruins how we view shows

THOUGHTS ON A PAGE

DAMIAN GORDON

The feeling of despair hits like a family member recently dying; but if they did, you wouldn’t know because you’ve been watching all the seasons of the “X-Files” and can’t even remember what human contact is like. This feeling isn’t because of aliens, just another downside to binge-watching.

This is a new age where a viewer doesn’t have to tune in at eight to consume it. Compared to hair not another person in the room sharing that experience. Compared to watching something with a group like “NFL,” “American Idol” or even “LOST” in its heyday, binging can be isolating.

Shows have room for improvement since a series with longer seasons usually take a mid-season break and the writers can get feedback. They then get a chance to fix any mistakes from the first half of the season. Shows “On Demand” are just another factor causing this generation to have a shorter attention span. I’m surprised when relationships even last more than a week these days because of this lack of attention.

Binge-watching can turn a masterpiece like “Breaking Bad,” which slow cooked its story up through the seasons to its boiling point, into mere fast food where you consume, enjoy and forget about it later.

There’s not really a moment to sit down and digest what just happened as the opening theme is already playing for the next episode.

I enjoyed “Daredevil” last year, but a lot of sequences just blend together in a blur when thinking back on them. This problem isn’t due to the quality, but rather a quantity of how many episodes were watched so closely to each other.

This is where self-restraint comes into play, except those who have that probably already wait week-to-week for a new episode. As for me, I’ll have a pile of books and homework from school to keep me restrained from doing anything.

Thoughts on a page is a commentary on the topics everyone thinks about, but doesn’t discuss. For further commentary, contact Damian Gordon at damian.gordon@fiusm.com
A few months ago, Stephanie Almeida approached me to become her personal trainer as she signed up for the Miss FIU 2016 pageant. This was something new for me, to fitness-train someone for a pageant but I accepted the challenge.

Almeida possesses two major strengths, promising potential and dedicated determination. When these two are combined, it is possible to achieve any goal. The pageant has a lifestyle and fitness portion and our goal was to get the highest score there.

While we were set on astounding the judges with our lifestyle and fitness presentation, we had a bigger goal—taking the crown.

With responsibilities such as school, work and other commitments, Almeida and I still made it a priority to meet and train on regular basis. The lifestyle and fitness portion requires contestants to wear a swimsuit and judges base their score on the contestants’ aesthetic appearances of their body. Therefore, it was essential for us to target every muscle of the body in our regular workouts.

We dedicated each day of the week to a different set of muscles, alternating for a more lively routine. Building muscle was key to getting pageant-ready abs was a priority of ours. I have three key rules for chiseled abs: eat clean, sweat hard and train smart.

For this we focused on high weights, as opposed to low weights, which require more cardio and will burn fat. High weights build muscle mass.

Once we worked out the logistics we got started. The first few weeks the focus was on pull-ups, push-ups, sit ups and squats—all using your own body weight. Once her muscles were trained in the basics we began weight lifting for bodybuilding.

Building pageant-ready abs was also a priority of ours. I have three rules for chiseled abs: eat clean, sweat hard and train smart.

Motivation Monday is a weekly column covering fitness and health from a personal trainer's point of view. To offer Nihat comments or suggestions email life@fiusm.com.

Alumni inspires students

ERIC DURAN
Contributing Writer
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FIU's third annual Panther Alumni Week continued this Thursday, Feb. 4. Aimed at connecting students with FIU’s over 200,000 graduates, PAW hosted a variety of guest speakers including Sigma Tau Delta. He won the Shakespeare Slam Competition.

The keynote speaker featured class of 1993 alum Dwayne Bryant, a finance and international business major. Now founder and CEO of Inner Vision International, Bryant has conventional one-way setup. It was a reflection of his values and his work in Inner Vision International, explaining how far character development goes in the development of a leader.

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**Zombies camp up a Jane Austen classic**

**JOSEPH CARDENAS**  
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Seth Grahame-Smith struck gold upon the release of a quirk book classic. The campy, yet fancy, “Pride and Prejudice and Zombies,” has been more than well received as a novel that pays homage to Jane Austen, the author of “Pride and Prejudice.”

In April 2009, the book about a zombie apocalypse during the Victorian age, took the world by storm for its use and manipulation of Jane Austen’s own original writing to preserve its story and integrity while still adding in everything we expect from a story about brain-eating zombies.

A film adaptation graced the silver screen in what most would assume would be the worst zombie film of the century. It’s true: seldom do we have a zombie movie that isn’t so campy it makes everyone cringe. However, this film, directed by Burr Steers, who also directed “Charlie St. Cloud” and “17 Again,” does everything right.

It could’ve been a pure romantic tragedy we’ve all seen before. It could’ve been the grossest cliche since “Nightmare on Elm Street” when Freddy Krueger slaughtered Johnny Depp in an explosion of blood.

Surprisingly, it was both, but it accomplished all of this with style that not most camp films have. The movie was fun to watch—an unregrettable adventure from start to finish. Knowing nothing of great literature won’t change how you experience this film either.

“I like zombies, and I love ‘Pride & Prejudice,’” Jordan Cline, a freshman at FIU, said at a screening of the film, “so putting them together was a good mix.”

“The fact that you’ve got zombies in your world blows the whole thing open,” Douglas Booth, who plays Charles Bingley, said in a roundtable interview with other college and high school newspapers at the Ritz Carlton Hotel, “anything is really possible.”

The roundtable, included Lily James, actress from “Downton Abbey” and “Cinderella” who plays Elizabeth, and Matt Smith actor from “Doctor Who,” who plays Mr. Collins. The screening precluded it.

Both film and novel follow the story of Elizabeth Bennett, the second of five sisters. They are trained in martial arts and muskets by their father, who wants them to defend themselves in a world raved by the “dreadfuls” as the undead are referred to often. While their mother wants them to marry suitable gentlemen, Elizabeth, is like most independent women in an otherwise apocalyptic. She is content with slicing zombies when they come calling.

“I wanted to be a really honest interpretation of Liz Bennett,” James said. “But then as soon as you put it in the setting of a zombie apocalypse it changes. Everything became heightened and much more about life and death. She became much fiercer and angrier because of that.”

As the events of Austen’s classic plays out - she is acquainted with the arrogant Colonel Fitzwilliam Darcy, who cares about defending the country from the threat of humanity’s destruction. His pride clouds him from seeing how he treats others; her prejudice misguides where she places her trust. But they reconcile and begin falling in love.

However, there’s still the ever-looming threat of the four horsemen of the apocalypse and a literal army of zombies to worry about. Who’s on what side and are the undead capable to live? After all, it wouldn’t be a fun Jane Austen story without blood and an existential global doomsday in it.

“There is a central love story, and it’s important that we believe in that,” Matt Smith said, “but also it doesn’t take itself too seriously, which I think is important.”

That really was the most wonderful thing about the movie, that high-class society is somehow not lost amid a zombie apocalypse. It’s what makes it hilarious and earnest. The movie successfully takes Austen’s classic and turns it into a ridiculous camp horror without compromising the integrity of the original novel. It was “Pride & Prejudice... with zombies.”

The film also stars Sam Riley from “Maleficent” and “On The Road,” and Lena Headey, from “Game of Thrones,” and is now playing in theaters. Valentine’s Day around the corner, maybe a compromise for some old fashioned romance with blood and guts thrown in the mix, would make the perfect date night.

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**Shoegaze band releases sophomore album ‘Hypatia’**

**MUSIC NOTES**

**CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUEZ**

The shoegaze revival lives on. At least, it would certainly appear that way after listening to “Hypatia,” the sophomore effort from Wray, a trio surprisingly based in Birmingham, Alabama.

The latest release establishes them as the most recent buzzworthy band to carry the banner of an increasingly crowded and self-aware scene. It’s easy to predict that Wray will get lost in the shuffle of numerous shoegaze revival groups currently making their own mark on the indie soundscape.

Much like their contemporaries Title Fight, Wray had early roots in punk rock before switching up for a dreamier aesthetic. However, while their mother wants them to marry suitable gentlemen, Elizabeth, is like most independent women in an otherwise apocalyptic. She is content with slicing zombies when they come calling.

While the songs don’t fuss or fight for your attention, they do exist to please. Wray knows the value of a well-crafted hook and uses it to great effect. For reference, check the title track, built around an infectious guitar riff that is immediate and inviting. On “Jennifer,” the melody sounds closer to 80s pop act Tommy Tutone, rather than obvious influences such as Catherine Wheel or My Bloody Valentine.

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“Regular,” for instance, is a demonstration on the shoegaze revivalists adhere to their obvious influences, recalling early 90s bands such as Lush. Yet the catchy moments are abound.

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**REMEmBERING WOLFE**

Gregory Baker Wolfe

University community and staff celebrate and remember the life of Gregory Baker Wolfe, former FIU president. Tuesday, February 2. Under Wolfe’s direction FIU expanded to a four-year university.

**PHOTO - COURTESY OF MIKAEL BLAUSUS**
Down by two and heading into halftime, the FIU women’s basketball team had to be feeling pretty good about their chances to snap a 14 game losing streak. Then they got outscored by 33 points in the second half. And as the final buzzer rang on a 84-54 defeat by Old Dominion last Saturday, there is a sense that this may never end.

Going back to last season, FIU was 2-36 in 2015. They are winless in 2016 (0-9) and it is a rebuilding year. The struggle goes beyond the court for FIU women’s basketball heading into halftime, the Panthers don’t put up a lot of point, but they sure do allow them. At least in part indicating that teams get many field goal attempts.

Imagine, if FIU uses 24 seconds of clock each possession the opponent will have limited field goal attempts and opportunities to score. If FIU uses 15 seconds of clock, then their opponent can get the ball back quicker and allow for more possessions.

Typically when a team is good offensively their goal is to play as fast as they can without compromising efficiency, the more possessions for a good offense the better, because it eliminates the randomness of fewer possession basketball. And if you are good at offense you want more chances to score.

Because C-USA doesn’t track stats as pace or offensive and defensive efficiency it is difficult to truly evaluate what is wrong with this team. Why are they losing so much.

It is rough for first year FIU head coach Marlin Chin, but it is a rebuilding year. These aren’t his players and hasn’t had a chance to really recruit for his vision of the team. After winning game one of the season against Florida A&M, coach Chin said he wanted to play fast up-tempo basketball. This vision differs a bit from the players he had in place. Despite not scoring well FIU has played a fast pace, what Chin wants. Pace is a two way street, if a team, say FIU, uses a lot of clock during their possessions and plays slow the overall pace of the game will slow down.

While conference-USA doesn’t have advanced statistics like pace factor, judging from opponents point totals FIU would appear to be playing fast pace basketball. The Panthers don’t put up a lot of point, but they sure do allow them. At least in part indicating that teams get many field goal attempts.

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Because C-USA doesn’t track stats as pace or offensive and defensive efficiency it is difficult to truly evaluate what is wrong with this team. Why are they losing so much and what needs to get fixed.

I am a firm believer that our eyes can lie to us, especially when watching sports. Confirmation bias is a thing that plagues us all and it is important to quantify as many things as we can with accurate numbers.

The numbers that C-USA is providing on their website would have been helpful in Bill Russell’s era of basketball. Not in 2016. The fans and journalists are more informed than ever, they understand that counting stats aren’t helpful.

C-USA providing stats on “scoring offense” doesn’t tell anyone anything other than that team scores a lot. That number has no context. It can be affected by many things, pace most notably. If a team is leading the conference in scoring offense but shoots a low field goal percentage is that team good at offense? They score a lot inefficiently so you can safely say no correct?

Well, that field goal % doesn’t take into account that three pointers are worth more than two pointers and a three is a harder shot. So if a team takes a lot of 3’s and scores a lot, they will need fewer shots because of the value of the three, despite shooting a lower percentage.

All that and I still haven’t discussed how a higher possession game can skew numbers because the more possessions in a game, the more counting stats available. Those numbers are no good. They don’t give you a complete picture the way advanced metrics do. Where offensive efficiency takes all those factors into account and provides a contextualized number used to evaluate a team.

Conference-USA however, refuses to include such numbers on their website. Instead they provide those useless counting stats, which don’t help in the evaluating of a team. I feel bad for Bill Russell; he doesn’t know what he was missing.

T-Time is a biweekly column about women’s basketball in FIU. To contact Giancarlo email him at giancarlo.navas@fiusm.com
Turnovers hold back Panthers in 74-69 loss to UAB

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The FIU men’s basketball team (11-12, 5-5 in Conference USA) dropped their third straight game in a row on Thursday, Feb. 4 as they fell to the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers. The Panthers constructed impressive scoring runs in both the first and second halves, but the Blazers were able to ward off their charges and take the contest 74-69.

For the first time in weeks, Head Coach Anthony Evans mixed it up how he used his players. While senior forward Davion Draper and senior center Adrian Diaz still led the way for FIU (16 and 14 points respectively), Evans utilized his bench players much more than in past contests. A struggling version of junior Donte McGill was once with an 8-1 record. UAB entered the game winners of 15 of their last 16 contests. The Panthers had just dropped both games of their two-game home stand.

UAB lacked energy coming out of the gate. The Blazers had already gotten out to a 20-8 lead with 14:15 minutes left in the first half. The Panthers recovered, however, and used a 12-0 run to get the game up at 20-20. UAB took the lead before the half and went into the break up 41-36.

FIU senior center Adrian Diaz found a worthy challenge in UAB center Tosin Mehinti in a matchup of 6-foot-9 against 6-foot-11. The two players made each other work for their production all night. Diaz ended the contest with 14 points, six rebounds, and five blocked shots. Mehinti notched a season-high 13 points and seven rebounds.

“We feel really good about this class,” head coach Ron Turner said. “Our coaches did a tremendous job of [not only] evaluating their talent and athleticism, but also the character of these individuals... We feel like we’ve got a very good group coming in.”

There are few days in all of sports that have as much importance and excitement surrounding them than National Signing Day. The futures of both young men and college football programs around the country are shaped on the first Wednesday of every February.

This Signing Day was a critical one for the FIU Panthers, as their football program is at a point where slight improvements can propel them to regular bowl appearances, while making a couple wrong moves could send the Panthers to the bottom of Conference USA.

While it’s much too early to tell how any of these players will turn out once they’re playing at the college level, early indications show that the Panthers came away with a very solid recruiting class that addressed a lot of holes and added some much-needed size to the roster.

Turner mentioned that the team got just about all of the players they were targeting to sign, and is optimistic that there are a few players in the newly signed class of Panthers that can make an immediate impact on the field.

One of those players in particular is junior college transfer cornerback Khari Reaser. After spending the first two seasons at San Jose City College, Reaser will look to capitalize on potential openings to get bigger and stronger,” Turner said. “We liked [Reaser] a lot on film, brought him in and liked him as a person, and we think he is a guy that hopefully can come in and contribute early.”

It’s rare that Turner brings in a player from junior college, so it’s a safe bet that he and the FIU coaching staff saw a lot in Reaser.

The aforementioned physical size of this recruiting class is 6-foot-2 wide receiver Stanley Thomas. A three-sport athlete in high school (football, basketball and track & field), Thomas comes into an FIU program that has drastically needed a standout wide receiver for years now. If Thomas comes into his own this offseason and can use his height to his advantage, he could line up very nicely on the opposite side of Thomas Owens. Overall the 2016 recruiting class has 24 new signees, with 20 coming from the state of Florida and one coming from each Illinois, Oklahoma, California and Georgia. FIU always recruits heavily in Florida, but the growing number of out-of-state players is an indication that the Panthers are looking everywhere for the best possible players to take the field in blue and gold.

There is still a lot of time and practice to go for the Panthers, but after a successful start to the offseason the Panthers are eagerly awaiting their season opener against Indiana University Thursday, Sept. 1.
Java Jam exposes various cultures to BBC students

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The Biscayne Bay Campus will be hosting an opportunity for coffee, conversation and immersion in the culture of the Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean New Year today, Feb. 8, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the AC-2 Bus Stop. Java Jam, dubbed for its resemblance to the conversationalist atmosphere of a coffee lounge, is an event that will be periodically occurring throughout the spring semester. Students, faculty and staff will be offered coffee and snacks while experiencing different cultures and languages. Java Jam will occur several times within the spring semester, each time featuring different cultures to celebrate like those of India on March 14 and Venezuela and Colombia on April 14. This is a great way to expose oneself to the diverse perspective of each culture and to ignite a greater understanding of the world we exist in. We all come from different cultural backgrounds which combine to create a greater collective human circumstance. Understanding begins with mere exposure and coffee, conversation and snacks is a great place to start. The ecosystem of a well-rounded mind requires exposure to new experiences as it cannot grow without them. Java Jam is not only an opportunity to grow mentally, it also offers a communal aspect that is incredibly special. Students, faculty and staff should take this opportunity to engage with others in a setting of a culture that may or may not be familiar to them. Those who are familiar with the featured culture can help inform those who are still learning of it. This setting for the exchange of information helps build social bonds and immersion between attendants—except better, thanks to the cup of coffee warming their palms.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Brandy Owen, a freshman business administration major, mirrors the dance moves of instructor Juliana Demard in the weekly Dancing at the Wolf class. The next class is Tuesday, Feb. 9 at noon.