Stonewall Pride Alliance has met with John Cal, associate vice president in facilities management, and with Catherine Alman, associate vice president of students.

According to the e-mail, Daniel Capote, president of Stonewall Pride Alliance, said that the proposal has been accepted and is being pushed forward. Capote wrote that they have contacted Ken Jesel, vice president of financial affairs, and is currently waiting on their response.

Gender neutral bathrooms at FIU are being proposed as single-service spaces by the organization. The concept would be to allow students to have privacy in a comfortable setting that would allow them to have the ability to lock the door behind them. They are also proposing to change those existing bathrooms that read “family restrooms” to “restrooms” in order to include transgender and gender nonconforming people.

“What we encountered was an issue with the signs that appeared on [family] restrooms,” said Capote. “When the bathroom in GC had opened it had a ‘Family Restroom’ sign on the front, which was eventually changed to read simply ‘Restroom’ because the original signage excluded the importance that this space could serve to transgender students. The proposal entails 26 new single-service restrooms that would also include those already existing family style restrooms that would be renamed. The organization hopes that the initiative will be considered for MMC.

“One population that we have identified as especially vulnerable has been transgender students. These are students that, in one way or another, feel that their gender identity does not match with the gender they were assigned at birth,” wrote Capote. “Because of this, many transgender people experience anxiety around visiting public restrooms.”

The organization, with the help of additional volunteers, have sought out new spaces on MMC that would be suitable for single-service restrooms. It would also possibly be considered on a resource list for transgender students. According to the organization, this would help students identify where they could use the restroom, and be certain of their safety.

“Because of the numerous ways that gender expression manifests for the transgender community...”

The University currently has eight buildings with gender neutral restrooms, marked in green, while Stonewall seeks to expand this to four additional buildings, marked in yellow.
Congressman calls for cell phone hacking investigation after ‘60 Minutes’ segment

U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu (D-California) is asking for a congressional investigation after an episode of “60 Minutes” in which his phone was hacked to show how easy it is. In a segment that aired Sunday night, “60 Minutes” purchased an iPhone in New York and sent it to Lieu in California. Lieu, who has a computer science degree from Stanford, agreed to use the phone as his personal device for a week. “60 Minutes” then gave the phone number to a German company that looks for security flaws in technology, and two German hackers were able to easily listen to Lieu’s phone calls. Lieu said that when he showed up to tape the segment in Washington, the hackers had told producers which hotel he’d stayed at the night before. “It was really creepy that they knew where I was even though the GPS was turned off,” he said by phone Monday.

Judge rules against China’s first same-sex marriage case

A judge in central China ruled against a gay couple in China’s first-ever same-sex marriage case Wednesday, effectively hobbling the right to marry his 37-year-old boyfriend, Hu Mingliang, last June. The Changsha Furong District People’s Court agreed to hear the case earlier this year, sparking a flurry of sympathetic coverage in China’s staid state-run media and galvanizing the country’s nascent gay rights movement. “If we win the case, it would be an unprecedented achievement for China’s LGBT community,” Sun said in a phone interview before the hearing.

Austin Tice supports to Obama: Don’t leave missing journalist behind

With an urgency driven by President Barack Obama’s dwindling number of days left in office, supporters of the missing U.S. journalist Austin Tice gathered Monday outside the White House calling for the administration to make his release a priority before the president’s term expires. Tice, now 34, a U.S. Marine-turned-journalist who reported for outlets including McClatchy and The Washington Post, vanished in Syria in August 2012. Apart from a video clip showing him in the custody of unknown gunmen shortly after his disappearance, there’s been no confirmed sighting of Tice since. With his whereabouts still a mystery, Tice joins hundreds of Syrians who have simply disappeared in the midst of the country’s bloody, 5-year-old civil war.

Conference discusses neutral restrooms

The Stonewall Pride Alliance has also discovered restrooms that appear in what they call “gendered pairs.” Capote said to student media that “Gendered pair restrooms are sets of two single service restrooms which have one sign for men and the other has a sign for women.”

“At first glance this might not seem like too much of an issue, but we found a clear example of the masculinity of this practice with the restrooms we found in AHC5,” said Capote. “AHC5 contains two gender neutral bathrooms on the fifth floor by the conference room. However, because of similar floorplans on the fourth and third floors, there are four more single service restrooms which leads to a total of six for the building.”

“However, these four other restrooms have gendered signage, with two being designated for women and two being designated for men. Considering that all these restrooms are identical, it is an issue if one is at a time, it is unnecessary to gender these spaces,” said Capote. “It is also a bit confusing since completely identical restrooms have different signage, which seems to be decided upon arbitrarily.”

Capote said, “There is nothing about the ‘Family Restrooms’ that is different from the single service gendered restrooms, and both of these are also identical to the gender neutral restrooms. We believe that changing all these inconsistent signs, actually, it is the buildings on campus, to simply call ‘Restroom’ is the best and most inclusive way to solve this issue.”

The organization is currently waiting for a response from Jesel to see whether or not the proposal will be accepted.

Tribute News Service

Alliance discusses neutral restrooms

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For others, however, the authorization of DAPA and the DACA extensions would set a dangerous precedent for the powers of the commander in chief.

“At its core, it’s not about whether you are anti- or pro-immigration, it’s about whether the Supreme Court will allow the executive branch to skirt the rule of law,” U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho, R-Fla., said in a statement after the argument.

Supreme court interprets two executive orders

DAPA, PAGE 1

“For others, however, the authorization of DAPA and the DACA extensions would set a dangerous precedent for the powers of the commander in chief. At its core, it’s not about whether you are anti- or pro-immigration, it’s about whether the Supreme Court will allow the executive branch to skirt the rule of law,” U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho, R-Fla., said in a statement after the argument.

“It’s ironic that people would come into this country illegally, and the reason they’re coming illegally is because this country provides more opportunity than the places they came from,” said U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas. “And yet, once here, they want us to be like the country they came from, where we don’t enforce the law across the board.”

There are more than 11 million immigrants in the U.S. who are here illegally, with 3.6 million of them possibly eligible for DAPA benefits, according to a 2016 report from the Migration Policy Institute, a Washington-based nonpartisan research center.

“If you really dig deep down into this case and try to understand this, this is not (about) amnesty or some kind of blanket forgiveness,” said Wendy Feliz, communications director for the American Immigration Council, an organization that advocates for immigration policy and education. “This is temporary protected status for people.”

Congress discusses encryption on cell phones

IPHONE, PAGE 1

From last October through March, the New York Police Department was “locked out of 67 Apple devices” seized during investigations of 44 violent crimes, the NYPD’s intelligence chief, Thomas P. Galati, testified.

“A top Indiana State Police official likewise reported that more than 40 percent of the cellphone evidence found in investigations of violent crimes against children have encryption that blocks forensic examination. "We absolutely know that we could stop pedophiles today if we had access to data on the encrypted phones sitting in our evidence rooms,” Indiana State Police Capt. Charles Cohen said. Executives with Facebook and its instant-messaging subsidiary WhatsApp, which encrypts all messages sent through it, declined to participate in the hearing, lawmakers said.

“We have no control over what people do on their devices,” acknowledged Rep. Tim Murphy, R-Pa., chair of the House subcommittee, adding that “it requires a very thoughtful approach.”

Under the uncertainties and complexities, both Murphy and his panel’s senior Democrat, Rep. Diana DeGette of Colorado, avoided staking positions in their questioning Tuesday.

Ron Hickman, the sheriff of Harris County, Texas, urged Congress to take action, saying federal regulations rather than strong deterrents were needed in order to “keep a consistency across states for all manufacturers and ... create a more secure and competitive environment.”

At the same time, Hickman warned against the federal government mandating that U.S. companies create “backdoors” access to encrypted information, stressing the key question of what Congress might do other than, perhaps, add technical or budgetary resources.

The bill compels companies to “provide said methods and processes to law enforcement to obtain encrypted information.”

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NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

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THE BEACON
APPROPRIATE APPROPRIATION

‘Cultural appropriation is not inherently negative’

The number zero, for example, from what is now Iraq or the U.S. governmental structure that nearly mirrors British parliament with its roots in Roman influence.

Every cultural staple can be traced back centuries, thus finding its place in areas around the world.

On the point of progress made by the contributor to Urban Dictionary, we would be nowhere today without the concept of zero, which the British turned into Earl Grey and English Breakfast.

If you're African with a new hairstyle - not to spite beautiful and I wanted a partaking in their culture, or Hispanic and I must retort: I styled their cultural hairstyles being of a different culture or race means you are not allowed to colonising Mars; we would have never figured out the math to fly beyond the atmosphere.

Please, take the Christmas-like pattern of my family’s Kerr tartan and cover your pillows in drink black tea with Eccles cakes at three in the afternoon, like my mother prepared. Tell the stories my ancestors told. I would be ecstatic to know you were as in love with my culture as I am with yours.

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Send Us Your Letters

Editorial

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Honors professor earns national recognition after 10 years of service

John Bailly, Honors College professor and founder of Aesthetics & Values, recently celebrated the 10 year anniversary of the interdisciplinary curatorial program that has earned national recognition.

An artist in his own right, Bailly wanted to engage the profound nature of art as it related the society by getting students involved.

“There were all kinds of exercises that would have students draw or make art, but I thought that although that has value it was also limited... my idea was to get students involved in the contemporary art world,” said Bailly to Student Media.

A program that is solely about merging academia and the world of contemporary art, A&V has allowed students from a range of disciplines to become curators as part of a year-long course that culminates in a showcase of artists.

Bailly hopes the contemporary art that the students have come to know throughout their year-long project impacts them in ways that will last well past the last day of class.

“I do have students who have changed their majors and go into the arts, and that’s really satisfying but for me the most satisfying is a students who took the class eight or five years ago, tags me in a social media post and says, “hey I saw this show and I thought of our class and thought of you and want you to see it,” Bailly said.

When art still has a central role in the life of his students and is compelling in them and ignites something within the students is most rewarding for Bailly.

Though there have been other venues and mediums that have challenged the values of society, art has presented an easy way to absorb new aesthetics to challenge traditional values. Within the class, Bailly uses personal identity to challenge traditional values.

“I’m interested in trying to create art that reflects these different influences coming together to make things that at first don’t seem like they belong together but they somehow do,” said Bailly.

The setup of the A&V exhibition is all up to the students. The students get a list of names of artists generated by the Frost Art Museum. From that list they have to choose an artist to contact and get them to sign a contract to agree to be in the exhibition at the Frost Art Museum and then the students plan the layout of the exhibition.

“It’s just [students] screaming and changing their minds and advocating for their artist and it is chaos and it works, it comes together,” Bailly said.

The first A&V took place in the Green Library in 2006. The show went from being a small student project into a big enough show that it became a museum exhibition.

“The class ate pizza at the first opening,” Bailly said.

In its 10th year A&V will feature nine artists based locally in Miami: Randy Burman, Weston Charles, Clifton Childree, Brookhart Jonquil, Barron Sherer, Magnus Sodamin, Alex Trimino, Michael Vasquez, and Agustina Woodgate.

Through the years, A&V has cultivated relationships with art institutions throughout Miami and the class has been invited to read poems at the O Miami Poetry Festival as well as going to other venues such as the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens and Deering Estate.

From pizza to a full buffet of hors d’oeuvres and Bacardi drinks, A&V has grown into a swanky party and ambitious art exhibition. Make sure to visit the A&V exhibition this month before the final day, May 1.
‘Love Streams’ makes Tim Hecker go inspirational

Hecker's “Love Stream” speaks to the themes of being a Boo in the “Super Mario” world. The high hats and claps complement the sound of the organ well, but always retain an element of Halloween as opposed to slasher flick. “Love Streams” also shows Hecker’s prowess at making beautiful, enveloping compositions. “Up Red Bull Creek” is such a track, and it would fit well within an orchestra setting.

What I’m most fascinated with on “Love Streams” is how Hecker brings in old influences, like computer glitch and makes them fit the album seamlessly. “Voice Crack,” my favorite track on the album, makes a case for the organic sound of electronics as time has elapsed in music history. The glitchiness combined with the sound of the choir makes for one of his most powerful songs.

“Impulse Sonata” comes through and softens the load of the album, a sensitive track really.

Hecker’s “Love Streams” speaks for a kind of electronic music that is in tune with the organic production of emotions. It speaks to a higher order that expects more of the electronic musician behind the album in the first place.

Selected Analyzed Works is a column that discusses selected works from the RPM genre. For suggestions or comments email life@fiusm.com
Panthers avoid second straight conference sweep

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FIU’s softball team was on the brink of being swept for the third time in their last four series, but Stephanie Texeira and A.J. Belans had other plans. Texeira and Belans avoided being swept by University of Alabama at Birmingham Sunday, April 17, as they both provided home runs for the Panthers in the 11-3 win.

The duo has now hit home runs in the same game four times this season.

It wasn’t all happy tales for the Panthers over the weekend, as they got off to a rough start in the first two games.

The series started Saturday, April 16 with a double header. The first game of the night went down to the wire, but it was UAB who came out on top in extra innings.

It was a defensive battle up until the fifth inning, when FIU was up 2-0. Rachel Dywer was able to tame the Blazers for a while. Dywer allowed just two hits in 2.2 innings, but the game came to an end in the fifth inning by the run rule, with UAB coming out on top 9-1.

Jenkins dropped to 5-8 with the loss, totaling six runs on six hits.

The loss was the Panthers sixth in seven games, and fifth straight against Conference USA opponents.

The series came to a close on Sunday, and FIU woke up at the right time.

The Panthers managed to get 14 hits in an 11-3 win on the road.

Belans was able to knock her eighth homerun of the season, and Texeira hit her team-leading 12th homerun of the season, which is also her career high for most homeruns in a season.

Texeira keeps climbing the FIU record books. She has 31 homeruns in her collegiate career, currently the second most in FIU history. She is also currently fifth for most homeruns in a season, and second for most RBIs in FIU history with 131.

The Panthers are now 23-23 overall for the season and 8-10 in C-USA.

The Panthers have a small break from conference play, now traveling to play Florida Gulf Coast University on April 23-24.

Their next C-USA game will be Saturday, April 30, against Marshall University, who is currently last on the East division of the C-USA standings.

With six games left against conference opponents, the Panthers have no room for error left if they want to make the post-season tournament.

2016 season capped off with 10- game win streak

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The No. 43-ranked FIU women’s tennis team put up historic numbers and broke school records on the way to the team’s best season in recent history.

The Panthers’ 15-2 record is the best since 2009, when the team finished with a 20-9 overall record.

The team’s .885 winning percentage is the second-best in school history, only trailing the 2000-2001 team’s .885 winning season.

During the season, the women also broke the school record with a 10-game winning streak.

The historic streak began after a 7-0 win over Stetson University February 6, and was snapped when the team fell to then-No. 48 Columbia on March 15.

The Panthers were undefeated this season when the team clinched the doubles point.

In comparison, the team’s only losses of the season came when they lost the initial point. The team’s record when they lost the doubles point was 3-2.

Freshman Maryna Veksler, the team’s number one starter, put up standout numbers in her first season at FIU. She won 25 singles matches on the year and went 10-4 in dual matches this season.

Junior Nina Nagode and Alenka Lazaro posted a 9-3 doubles record in dual matches, the second-best on the team.

Senior Kaetlin Brzozovich played a huge role for the tennis team as she provided consistency and leadership to a young squad as they had one of their best seasons in recent years.

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Senior Kaetlin Brzozovich played a huge role for the tennis team as she provided consistency and leadership to a young squad as they had one of their best seasons in recent years.

The Slovenian posted an 11-3 record in dual matches and had 21 wins on the season. Nagode and Veksler posted a 9-3 doubles record in dual matches, the second-best on the team.

Brzozovich recorded an equally successful season as the team’s number starter.

The Spaniard went undefeated during the regular season, posting a 15-0 record in dual matches. Lazaro’s performance saw her rise from the number five starter to the number three starter on the team.

Lazaro paired up with senior Carlotta Orlando in dual matches to post the best doubles record on the team. The duo went 12-3 during the season.

Seniors Kaetlin Brzozovich and Orlando put up respectable numbers in their final season at FIU. Despite dropping from the number three to the number four starter, Orlando posted a 20-9 overall record with 12 of her wins coming in dual matches.

Brzozovich finished with a respectable 14-11 overall record and had nine wins in dual matches.

Sophomore Nerma Cukic led the team with 26 singles wins on the season. The sophomore was 12-1 as the team’s number five starter and was 14-2 overall in dual matches.

The Panthers will enter the Conference USA Women’s Tennis Championships as the No. 1 seed.

Last year, the team entered the C-USA tournament as the No. 5 seed and advanced to the semifinals before losing to No. 1 seeded Rice, 4-1.

FIU will play Friday, April 22, against the winner of the No. 8 Middle Tennessee State University and the No. 9 Western Kentucky University match. First serve from Murfreesboro, Tennessee is set for 11 a.m.
Panthers finish in top three in California road trip

PETER HOLLAND JR.
Staff Writer

The track and field team traveled to Norwalk, California, last weekend to compete in three different meets. The Panthers took part in the Mt. SAC Relays, the Cal State LA Twilight Open in Los Angeles and the Beach Invitational in Long Beach. During their trip, the Panthers finished in the top three while recording two school records.

One of the school records came from redshirt junior Alton Jackson in the 400-meter with a time of 49.70 seconds. During the Beach Invitational, Jackson recorded a personal record in the 400-meter with a time of 48.80 seconds. During the Cal State LA Twilight Open, Jackson finished second in the 400-meter walk with a time of 1:44.45 seconds.

Marcus Ghent came in second with a result of 6.88 meters. Following him was Eric Knot who finished third with the result of 6.71.

Sophomore Todd Jackson finished with a time of 10.33 seconds. With that time, it ranked him No. 20 in the country.

Freeman Clarissa Catiff tied school record in high jump with the result of 1.80 meters during the Mt. SAC Relays. With that score, it ranks the Orlando native No. 1 in the country in high jumps.

During the Beach Invitational, Jackson recorded a personal record in the 400-meter with a time of 10.75 seconds.

Sophomore Todd Jackson finished third in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.33 seconds. With that time, it ranked him No. 20 in the country.

The sprinter set a school record in the 200-meter dash with the result of 22.15 seconds, placing him first in the event.

Jackson also finished in second place in the 400-meter with a time of 49.70 seconds. The Riverview, Florida native placed second in the country in the 400-meter with a time of 49.70 seconds.

During the Beach Invitational, Jackson recorded a personal record in the 400-meter with a time of 48.80 seconds. During the Cal State LA Twilight Open; Jackson finished successful in the long jump led by Christopher Prophete, who placed first with the result of 7.06 meters.

Marcus Ghent came in second with a result of 6.88 meters. Following him was Eric Knot who finished third with the result of 6.71.

The vital moment for Fernandez came with one out, facing Marcell Ozuna with runners on the corners. Harper had home runs in four consecutive games and is arguably the toughest out at the moment in the majors.

Fernandez kept Harper at bay, though he could only watch as Harper had home runs in four consecutive games and is arguably the toughest out at the moment in the majors.

If the Panthers can somehow sweep Miami, it appears as though they have what it takes to reach thecreatedAt 2016-04-21 07:53:36.000000

The Beacon – Thursday, April 21, 2016
BBC’s lack of non-binary bathrooms ‘transphobic’

CARRA BUSH
COLUMNIST

BBC is centuries old, figuratively speaking. It’s no wonder, then, that gender neutral bathrooms have yet to come to the campus.

Students who do not define themselves using genders or who do not identify as the gender they were assigned at birth are essentially told that they don’t exist at BBC.

Gender neutral bathrooms are available at MMC, in either the form of family restrooms or restrooms that are simply unlabeled. The transition to this system was not one that took extreme amount of effort. In fact, all it took for some of the locations was a small signage change.

Why, then, has BBC neglected to designate a gender neutral safe space for students? It cannot be for lack of need... I find it hard to believe that the campus has no students who would benefit from the space.

The answer, it seems, is simple: BBC isn’t being pressured to add gender neutral restrooms, and therefore they have not begun allocating these gender neutral spaces.

It’s ridiculous that administration would need a rallying cry to provide gender neutral bathrooms, rather than being understanding of the need and proactive. It’s almost as if they’re saying “we don’t care about the issues that face students until we are pressured to do so.”

FIU prides itself on being an all-inclusive, safe and diverse campus. If the University is so proud of its diversity, then why doesn’t the school show unwavering support for its students who are trans or non-binary?

A common argument against gender neutral bathrooms is that these bathrooms would make it easier for women and children to be sexually assaulted by men who “claim” to be trans in order to access their victims. However, this argument is problematic and deeply rooted in transphobia.

First, women have been sexually assaulted in public, in their own homes and of course in public bathrooms by men who were perfectly comfortable doing so without pretending to be trans.

Second, there are no recorded statistics of a trans person sexually assaulting someone in a public bathroom. However, according to The Advocate, about 70 percent of trans people experience being assaulted while using a public restroom.

Finally, trans people are not confused nor are they pretending to be something they are not. The idea that they are pretending to be the opposite gender in order to harm someone, perpetuates the stereotype that they are “deciders” trying to scam cisgender people. Trans people aren’t out in the world to deceive anyone - they’re out here trying to live their lives.

At FIU, they are here for an education and an equal opportunity to pursue their careers.

Gender identity is complex and we may not always understand it. However, the University community must understand that a person’s identity is not meant for us to understand, it is meant for us to respect. We respect these identities by creating facilities that are inclusive and safe for all members of the community.

Being Worlds Ahead means more than actively seeking international students, more than seeking international research opportunities. It means understanding the changing world, and how students view their place in it.

It means changing to reflect the world and being proactive.

It’s disheartening to know that the University isn’t proactive in protecting their students, and ensuring spaces free of fear of oppression. BBC should take notice of the way the world, and designated gender neutral bathrooms for its students.

Social Tea Party to raise transgender awareness

KATHERINA DEL RIO
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Thursday, April 28, Campus Life and the Multicultural Programs and Services offices will host the only Release Week event geared specifically towards bringing transgender awareness to students.

The Pride Social Tea Party will be held at Biscayne Bay Campus in the Wolfe University Center Room 155, from 11 a.m. to noon.

Students can expect to learn and have their questions about the transgender community answered in a relaxed setting, while sipping tea. There will be no guest speakers or panel discussions.

“We will be passing out pronoun cards and answering any questions students have about the community,” said Mario Lara, a graduate assistant and staff member of the MPAS Office.

“I’m looking forward to the free massage and being able to learn about the transgender community more,” said Ruby Falcon, a senior studying psychology. “I think this is a good way to learn more.”

Staff members are hoping for a large turn out and hopes to make the Pride Social Tea Party an annual event.

For any further questions on the Pride Social Tea Party contact the Biscayne Bay Campus MPAS Office or Campus Life.