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BEACON MAGAZINE

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INVOLVED TODAY, INVESTED IN TOMORROW



NICOLE STONE/THE BEACON

Carolina de Almagro, SGC-MMC press secretary, and Victoria Patel, SGC-MMC student support coordinator, pose in front of SGC-MMC's final Roar to the Poll event Tuesday, Sept. 27. The event was part of an ongoing series to register students to vote.

Campus organizations seek student participation in voting

**CEYLIN ARIAS AND
STEPHANIE ESPAILLAT**
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Trayvon Martin's mother, Sybrina Fulton, believes that initiating change in society can start here within our campus community as long as students take the initiative to be involved.

"We have to encourage our young people to get involved, to do something. There is something for everyone of you to do," Fulton said. "That is something really important. It is not only to register to vote, but you have to get out and vote."

Fulton, along with Gwen Carr, Eric Garner's mother, and Geneva Reed-Veal, Sandra Bland's mother, spoke to students Tuesday, Sept. 27, at a panel discussion on women

in politics hosted by the Center for Women and Gender Studies.

The panel discussed the importance of participating in this year's election cycle, which coincided with several other campus involvement efforts for students to start their civic engagement here on campus, including SGC-MMC's Roar to the Poll.

"I want to tell you, the student, to continue what you are doing," Fulton said. "Continue to make a difference, continue to be the change that we all want to see."

Fulton told students that Trayvon Martin was 17 years old, he was racially profiled and was followed, chased and pursued because of the color of his skin.

"I want to let you know because a lot of people think it was because he had on a hoodie," said Fulton. "It was not."

Fulton suggested that

involvement shouldn't just happen during the the presidential election and that students should always be active active members of society.

"My son was shot down before I got involved. So he was down, and I stood up," said Fulton. "I stood up as a mother. I wanted to make a difference, I wanted to make a change that we so desperately needed in this country. So it was important to me to do my part to make that change," Fulton said.

During the panel discussion, SGC-MMC's initiative to engage young student voters, Roar to the Poll, hosted its final event in the GC Pit.

Sabrina Rosell, SGC-MMC lobbying coordinator and a freshman majoring in international relations, expressed the need for Panthers to vote in the upcoming election.

SEE VOTING, PAGE 3



STEPHANIE ESPAILLAT/THE BEACON

Geneva Reed-Veal, Gwen Carr and Sybrina Fulton pose after a Women in Politics discussion geared towards getting students to vote.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Getting involved a necessity

CAYLA BUSH



EDITOR IN CHIEF

What you're currently holding in your hands is the product of students who balance class and being involved on campus. While our involvement is co-curricular, there are various avenues for getting involved that are afforded to students just for fun.

From going to discussions and Pit events that call for students to register to vote as it says on the first page, to trying to balance commuting and involvements; from going to career fairs to joining organizations or playing sports, there is flexibility to get involved on campus.

Our columnists would like you to know that getting involved will allow you to find yourself, by using Roarsync to see what's out there.

Getting involved on campus is essential for students because it helps build a resume and shows employers that you know how to work with others.

Commuter students share concerns about involvements

MICHAEL ANALCO
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With over 75 percent of first year students commuting to campus, getting involved can prove challenging for some students.

"Often times, I kind of felt like a ghost when it came to my family," said Roger Capote, a senior majoring in biology. "I would show up at home late at night from FIU. And I wouldn't have any interactions with my family. Whenever I would make phone calls to them, they would probably already be asleep."

Capote is involved in the Center for Leadership and Service's LEAD Team and Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity. He also commutes from Miami Springs, which sits right on the county line between Dade and Broward county.

But for Elio Gonzalez, a sophomore finance major who is involved with Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity and

Relay for Life, the key is to not fall behind in school.

"Juggling school, involvements and commuting is really not that bad," says Gonzalez. "As long as you keep track of your school work, which should be the priority. In the end that's what you're here for."

However Miami traffic and FIU parking can be pretty unpredictable for him, just as for many other students.

"Sometimes punctuality can be tough because of traffic. I have to leave much earlier just so I can find a parking spot and make it to class on time. I live about 20 minutes away in Doral with clear traffic on the highway so it can get stressful at times," Gonzalez said.

Angie Aguirre, a junior pre-med biology major, disagrees and thinks involvement is more dependent on each person's situation.

"Not every person's background is the same. Some have the free time to be able to get involved in Greek

Life or leadership-developing positions on campus while others have to work multiple

"I would love to be involved and get the full college experience but I'm in college to make my way into med school."

Angie Aguirre
Junior
Pre-med Biology

jobs while being full-time students in order to help provide for their families," Aguirre said.

"I would love to be involved and get the full college experience but I'm in college to make my way into med school." Aguirre told FIUSM. "I'm positive that having attended a few meetings won't better my chance of getting into a good

school. Unfortunately I can't get involved and my drive from Cutler Bay makes it hard as well, but I'll be fine."

Capote would argue, however, that involvements can better a person's outlook for future endeavors.

"Through my involvement on LEAD Team, I've been able to meet other pre-med students and I've been able to meet other people who have been able to tell me proper MCAT tips and what classes I should be taking as opposed to what classes and professors I should avoid," said Capote.

Meanwhile Gonzalez thinks there's a time for everything in college.

"I'm not as home as often as my mom would like. It's mainly because of the fact that I prefer doing homework at night. I would try to get involved in more things later on but for now I'm doing fine," said Gonzalez. "If I'm taking difficult courses then I may just hold back from involvements for the semester and then look for different opportunities next term."



LAW ADMISSIONS WORKSHOP
Friday, September 30, 2016

See how a real law application is reviewed and dissected. Learn what works and what doesn't for law admissions.

University of Miami School of Law
Room E352
1311 Miller Drive, Coral Gables 33146
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

MIAMI LSAC FORUM
Saturday, October 1, 2016

Meet our entire admissions team and learn about our unparalleled programs.

Hyatt Regency Miami, Downtown
400 SE 2nd Ave, Miami, FL 33131
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

OPEN HOUSE
Tuesday, November 22, 2016

Discover Miami Law's offerings, hear from the Dean, watch a mock class, and interact with current law students.

University of Miami School of Law
Student Lounge
1311 Miller Drive, Coral Gables 33146
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

CAREER CALLING

Career and Talent Development hosts MMC Career Fair



STEPHANIE ESPAILLAT/THE BEACON

Michael Suarez (left) and Sergio Hernandez (right), both seniors studying mechanical engineering, attend the MMC Career Fair on Monday, Sept. 26.

STEPHANIE ESPAILLAT
Entertainment Director
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For students who are looking for an opportunity to build their careers without having to leave campus, FIU's MMC Career Fair takes place each semester in the hopes that employers who visit the University will #HireFIU.

The Career and Talent Development put together the event on both Monday, Sept. 26 and Tuesday, Sept. 27 in order to help them further develop their careers after college.

"I think the main misconception is that [the Career Fair] is all we do. What we try to get [students] ready for is obviously their career path once they graduate, but also to think of their time in school as a pathway to their career," said Ivette Duarte the director for Career and Talent Development. "Sometimes it comes through community involvement, campus involvement and leadership roles because we know that employers are going to be looking at [these things]."

Duarte said that even though employers will be looking at students' resumes, GPAs and majors, it is also important to show what each individual student has done through their college experience that can demonstrate their potential.

"As often times we will find is that students will

graduate, literally walk across the stage, and then seek out our services," said Duarte. "If only you would have come to us before. We can help you with the resume. We can help you with the interview and techniques. We can help you with your elevator pitch. We can help you network with the right type of employers... Really thinking about your career plan, and about what you need to be doing next are both academically hand in hand [with students] careers."

Students showed involvement by attending the

“ I think the main misconception is that [the Career Fair] is all we do. ”

Ivette Duarte
 Director
 Career and Talent Development

event on both days and shared why they believe it was important to be involved on campus with Student Media.

"We can get a lot of experience overall [with] networking skills, communication skills, how to properly address yourself to a company that you are trying to work for, [and] how to properly address what you are

looking for," said Michael Suarez a senior mechanical engineering student. "A lot of [students] come. They are trying to get a job, but what job? When do you want to work? How much do you want to get paid? All of these things that you kind of want to take into account, and have proper ways of addressing it so you don't come off highly unprofessional."

Other students use this opportunity to practice and to gain experience being interviewed by professional companies that could be potential employers one day. Suarez believes that even though students may or may not want to work for the employers who visited the Career Fair, it is a great opportunity to practice.

"Come, without any hesitation," said Suarez. "I came last year. I was not as calm or collected last year. I was nervous but I took that experience and used a whole year of preparation I really honed in on all my skills and prepare myself properly."

Sergio Hernandez, senior studying mechanical engineering also agrees with the idea that the Career Fair can be used to expand skills and to see what kinds of opportunities there are on and off campus.

"Use this as practice," said Hernandez. "You might think you are going to know what you are going to say. You might know what you are going to get asked, and they don't ask you that, you don't answer that. In front of a mirror you can say it, In front of your family you can say it, but when the opportunity is in your hand it is different."

Campus initiatives encourage students to be civically engaged

VOTING, PAGE 1

"It is a very crucial year and as students, we should be engaged especially now since these are things that can affect our future," said Rosell. "When we vote for who we want to represent us, we have to keep in mind that they'll be impacting our daily lives, such as impacting us directly in whichever career we decide upon."

Students were encouraged to register to vote or to update their voter address information with Engage Miami.

Attendees that signed up with SGA were offered a slice of pizza and had the opportunity to take pictures with an Uncle Sam and the

Lady Liberty cardboard. Panthers also received a button from Engage Miami where they could fill in the blank as to why they were going to vote.

"This past event was a huge success as we had the opportunity to host an open event where we engaged so many students about the heart of our event and our vision. Engage Miami was registering students to vote as well as updating voter information," said Rosell.

Victoria Patel, SGC-MMC student support coordinator and sophomore a major in criminal justice, echoed the same sentiment as Rosell about registering to vote.

"Only about 20 percent of college students voted in the last election. At the Roar to the Poll events, we saw a great turnout of students

who were registered to vote and expressed why voting was important to them. We also had many students approach Engage Miami and register to vote," said Patel.

According to Carolina de Almagro, SGC-MMC press secretary and sophomore majoring in nursing, the majority of students wrote that the reason they will vote is because "it is their future."

According to Rosell, the Roar to the Poll series is part of a larger picture of state universities competing with one another with intentions of achieving the highest voter registration within their campus in the state of Florida.

"Our goal is set pretty high but with the partnerships that we have established with

organizations on campus, I think we'll have no problem of achieving our goal," said Rosell.

During the event, the FIU community had the opportunity to celebrate National Registration Day, as well as express voter appreciation by doing so alongside SGC-MMC.

The day was centered on celebrating the efforts of Roar to the Poll series by registering as many Panthers as possible while getting ready to vote for the general election on Nov. 8.

Students were allowed to take photos at the photo booth station and to create their own buttons.

"It's important for the FIU community to comprehend that what they're voting for is not a person, but their future," said De Almagro.

Rehearsal Rigors

FROM PAGE TO STAGE



STEFEN SUTTLES

One of the many aspects of theatre that is often misconstrued or misunderstood by the general public is that of rehearsal. People expect the most difficult facet of the rehearsal process to be the learning of one's lines. But that is the farthest from the truth. In fact, many actors would agree that learning lines is the easiest part of the job.

So then what makes it so hard? Surely an art form built on collaboration connecting to even the most minute caveats of each artists' personalities and constructing a world fabricated on the literary ideas of a completely different person, often removed by distance, time or death is an easy thing to accomplish.

"Every director comes at the process a different way," FIU Theatre associate professor Phillip Church said. "It kind of depends on the project. It's determined by the nature of the material."

Church has directed many productions in South Florida and tends to focus on the actors' movement early on, but still cites the moment when actors fully memorize their lines as the "trickiest part."

Of course, the director isn't the only person involved in the rehearsal process. In fact one of the vastly underappreciated positions on the production staff is the stage manager. The stage manager is responsible for the show

running smoothly from the first meeting to the final show.

Despite this stressful obligation, junior stage manager Chelsea Cosio said "all the things are hard."

After a brief chuckle, Cosio touched on a very valid point about the rehearsal process.

"The most difficult part is that there's no break," she said. "In this school, we go straight from class to rehearsal without time to process our day."

“Every director comes at the process a different way. It kind of depends on the project.”

Phillip Church
Associate professor
Theatre

Cosio raises the poignant argument that university theatre majors have an incredible workload which combines a decent amount of time spent in classes and another large chunk dedicated to rehearsals and performances. On top of that, design and management students have to work on their designs for shows and attending various production meeting to hash out design details with the director and other designers.

Junior lighting designer Lyliette Borrajero comments that the major difficulty in these earlier stages of designing a play is "making sure that everyone is on the same page."

"We're all different minds," she said. "We all have to come together to decide on something we all agree on wholeheartedly."

Borrajero then went in depth about the specific difficulties that are dealt with.

"The most difficult part is all the changes that go on throughout," she said. "The scenery, and the blocking. Everything changes at some point."

This is something that is almost an inevitability. In an art form so reliant on cooperation, ideas are bound to be fluid in some way; it's just another obstacle that theatre artists overcome on a daily basis.

Then, of course, there's the actor's perspective. What is the rehearsal process like for an actor? With so many other people to look out for them, what could be so difficult?

"The most difficult part is trying to give the director what he wants while still satisfying myself and staying true to the character's wants and needs," sophomore JC Gutierrez said. "Acting is a great balancing act."

Theatre is an art all about coming together as a group to make on holistic piece of art and that provides its own issues and challenges, which each artist does their best to overcome each and every day. Acting is simple, but it's not easy.

Stefen Suttles is a contributing writer for the Entertainment section, who covers topics pertaining to theatre students and their interests. To contact Stefen, email him at life@fiusm.com.

Dean of Students Office encourages campus involvement

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE



SONIA KHAT-KHATE

During my time in college, I was involved with different organizations.

The skills I learned in these organizations have helped me to succeed in my current role in the Dean of Students

office.

For me, these organizations were a mixture of fun, keeping myself busy, and something that I would add on my resume to give me that extra edge. I did not realize that all that time I was learning skills that would be carried over to graduate school and eventually into a full time job.

In my position in the Dean of Students office, I create programs about sexual assault awareness and education. I learned the importance of relaying my passion about an issue to others during my undergraduate career while I was involved with an organization working to fight local hunger.

Not everyone will have the same passions but it is important to help people become aware of relevant issues on campus and in the community.

In addition to awareness, I learned life skills within my organizations. Depending on your professional goal, you may not learn everything that you need in your academic courses.

Being involved with organizations will fill in the gaps with information that you don't always get in class. Being on an executive board for my Greek organization gave me the ability to make decisions, delegate work, organize programs and workshops, collaborate with other organizations, etc. These are skills

that I would not have learned in my major.

Having those experiences gave me the confidence to do all those skills on a professional level.

Being involved with various organizations will definitely help you stand out above your peers during an interview but the skills that you learned in those organizations will allow you to also remain on top in the workplace.

If you are not involved, I highly suggest you look into an organization that meets your needs. There are organizations at FIU that will help your social and

“Not everyone will have the same passions but it is important to help people become aware of relevant issues on campus and in the community”

Sonia Khatkhate
Administrative Coordinator
Dean of Student Offices

professional growth as a student. Visit RoarSync (cso.fiu.edu) to learn more about organizations on campus.

The Dean of Students Office, in the Division of Student Affairs, creates a culture of care for students, their families, faculty and staff by providing proactive education consultation, resources and response to distressed students or students in crisis. The Dean of Students will provide a regular column in the Beacon to acquaint students with some of the important campus resources in place to support student success.

EVENTS ARE HARD



CSO president gains new perspective through involvement

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Before starting college at FIU, Stanley Evans II was a shy student that didn't get involved in extracurricular activities throughout his high school years. Feeling deprived of that experience, he made it one of his goals to be 100 percent involved on campus when he came to FIU.

Coming into FIU as a freshmen, Evans didn't know much about what the school had to offer. However, he began to discover and explore the school on his own.

demographic on campus. Some events don't benefit a large amount of people but they are necessary to touch every type of student.

To combat this issue, Evans has made an effort to diversify the organization's E-Board by encouraging E-Board members to be a part of other clubs and organizations on campus.

"One of my E-Board members are a part of the Asian Student Union and another one of my E-Board members are a part of the Caribbean Student Association," Evans said. "It's two different organizations that hit two different demographics,

brothers, who sent him an email with different opportunities to get involved. Evans was hired as the secretary of CSO for the fall term of 2015, after he applied for the role and completed the interview process.

During his time as the secretary of CSO, Evans encountered opportunities for him to learn more about the organization. After gaining hands-on experience with the club by contacting various organizations via email, Evans acquired a better understanding of the club causing him to become more passionate about it.

"[We want to] let people know that being involved on campus is actually cool," Evans said. "You don't have to be in a box and just go to school and go home. You can actually get involved on campus and try to enjoy college life."

Although it's fun, balancing campus activities, school work, and his personal life, is a handful. With school as his first priority, Evans plans meetings and events around his classes at the beginning of the semester. Keeping updates on his phone with reminders of upcoming tasks ensures that he stays on top of everything. He emphasizes time managements, staying organized, and planning ahead as key aspects to maintaining a balance between his busy lifestyle.

Balancing all campus involvements and classes. School comes first. Base meetings around classes, fraternity around schedule. Time management and planning ahead. Updates on the phone with reminders, staying organized.

Along with being the president of CSO, Evans is also a part of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and SGC-MMC as a senator at large. Outside of campus he is a part of 100 Black Men, where he mentors young men in middle and high school, who have limited resources or absent fathers.

As a hospitality management major, Evans is pursuing a master's degree to start his own hotel and resort management company. With his company he would like to open numerous hotels from scratch, and remodel existing hotels exterior and interior, including their business operations.

"I would love everyone on campus to be involved to let the world know about their interest, let the world know that they are special in their own specific way and that there is a club or organization that touches that category."

so getting their viewpoints on different things, we can combine them and try to make a medium of how we can hit both sides of the party... we try to have an open relationship with everyone."

Sharing experiences and relating to other people has helped him create friendships that will last a lifetime and be beneficial inside and outside of school. It is these friendships with like-minded individuals with a mutual objective at hand that has motivated Evans to make an impact on campus.

"Two heads are better than one so having a whole organization with the same mindset, the same mission, the same purpose, can make so many amazing moves on campus," Evans said.

Born and raised in West Palm Beach, coming to FIU and getting involved on campus has helped him learn self-awareness. By being the President of CSO and interacting with a lot of different people, Evans has become educated on other cultures he wasn't previously aware of.

"[I learned] that everyone's culture is very genuine and specific to their well being, it's really a lifestyle, because at first I wasn't really that exposed to different cultures," Evans said. "I learned more about people in general, and that everyone grows up differently and everybody has their different way of doing stuff. But, it's not just one way of doing something great, there's multiple ways."

Evans initially got introduced to CSO by one of his frat

Students speak about involvements

GUETHSHINA ALTENA
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With over 200 organizations and clubs, FIU offers a wide range of extracurricular activities for students to get involved in.

Gabrielle Barlatier, a Sophomore majoring in Social work is one of the many students that have to balance extracurricular and classes in their daily lives.

Barlatier is the former president of Enactus, the current president of the Haitian Student Organization and a member of the Black Student Union, the Caribbean Student Organization and the Black Female Development Circle.

"I am the type of person who likes to be around people who are working toward a specific goal and all these organizations that I am in symbolize a certain team effort and most of them have a voice in the black community," Barlatier said.

In order to stay on track with her academics, Barlatier said that she set reminders about her assignments and takes notes of the things she needs to do in order of priority and ask for help when she needs regardless if it is school work or extracurricular projects.

"When you are involved on campus, you just have a different experience. You make different friends that you might need in the future and it also opens doors to many opportunities," Barlatier said. "Whether you are interested in art, culture or religion, there is a club for everyone. You just have to look for it in the right places"

One of the opportunities that she got as the president of HSO was meeting with an ambassador from the Haitian Consulate General. Barlatier said that it was one of the many networking opportunities that she had over the year she's been involved on campus.

Anjali Thota, a sophomore civil engineering major described a similarly pleasant experience since she has been involved on campus a year ago.

Thota is an international student from India is a former e-board member of the Photography Club. She got involved in the International club and became a Peer Mentor this semester for the Global First

Year program at FIU Undergraduate Education.

"Participating in extracurricular activities allowed me to discover my interests and I was able to do other creative things that I enjoy beside school work" She said

Thota believes that it takes a lot of planning to be involved in clubs and maintain a good academic standing and that is why she thinks it's beneficial to challenge oneself to get involved and learn valuable skills that can help one succeed in the future.

"When you are involve on campus, it prepares you for the world after college by forcing you to be independent and make difficult choices when it comes to your priority." Thota said "I have learned to manage my time efficiently, plan tasks ahead of time and use weekends to study and get my things done"

According to Thota, the easiest way to find out about clubs is to go to club fairs, stop by tables in the Graham Center ask about Orgs you are interested in or visit the FIU Org Sync website.

Jimmy Pluviose is a senior, Information Technology major who is graduating this Fall. Throughout his year at FIU, he has been involved in the Haitian Student Organization and an International, Historically black fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma.

"I joined a fraternity because of the endless networking opportunities they provide as an international organization and because I wanted to belong to a community of people who have similar interests yet are still from diverse cultures." Pluviose said

As a senior, Pluviose feels that balancing your academics with club involvement is all about time management. He thinks that it smart to have a planner and always prioritize your academics and make sure to get your tasks done on time.

"Getting involved is a great experience and the perfect way to develop leadership skills, network with people in your field, do community service projects while making friends along the way." He said.

Pluviose encourages students to go out of their way and get involved on campus because he believes that at the end of the day, the connections you make now in college will be a gateway to success in the real world.

“

I would love everyone on campus to be involved to let the world know about their interest, let the world know that they are special in their own specific way and that there is a club or organization that touches that category.

Stanley Evans II
President
Council for Student Organizations

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"I was just trying to test the waters, trying to see what was on campus, what wasn't on campus, just trying to get the vibe of everything," the 20 year old said. "So basically trying to see what fits best for me personally. Just trying to grow into a leader on campus, make sure I get involved more, try to make sure my voice gets heard, trying to make my impact on campus."

Since the spring of 2016, Evans has served as the president of the Council for Student Organizations, the governing council at MMC that oversees the registration, promotion, and allocation and distribution of funds for clubs and organizations at FIU.

CSO manages over 250 organizations on campus and mediates communication between the Student Government Association and clubs. CSO operates under specific laws and bylaws given to them by SGA, functioning as an extension of the association.

As the president, Evans delegates tasks to make sure everything is handled properly and on time. That process begins by having an E-Board meeting at the beginning of the year to outline numerous goals for the semester. He serves as the face of the organization, representing CSO by supporting other clubs events and attending meetings with SGA and advisors.

Due to FIU's vast body of multicultural students, Evans has faced challenges curating different events on the behalf of CSO to accommodate every

THE BEACON | Editorial

Don't be afraid to get involved on campus

FIU offers a plethora of clubs, organizations, honor societies and Greek life to its students. It's the opinion of the FIUSM editorial board that students must take responsibility to get involved on campus in order to reap the benefits of personal and professional development that campus involvement has to offer.

Joining a group on campus allows students to explore different worldviews, avenues of thought and is an opportunity for students to gain practical life skills. Getting involved on campus is central to an enriched college experience.

Students may find themselves intimidated to join an organization in which they have no previous experience, but many student leaders at FIUSM began their involvement without much

prior knowledge. It was through hard work and practice they were able to develop their abilities.

Clubs welcome new members with open arms, no matter how familiar the student may be with the material or procedures and it's unfortunate that students may not take advantage of that.

Intramural sports are a gateway to trying a new activity or sport you've never played, and there is no language requirement to sign up for the French or German club. In fact, some of the current writers and directors for FIUSM joined without ever having written in a news setting before.

There are ways for students to transfer their experiences from club involvement into the post-university world. It promotes responsibility by granting students

the chance to take up leadership positions.

Leadership experience, the ability to work in teams and communicate successfully with those around you and more club-cultivated skills such as networking and event-planning are all things students can add on a resume.

Having networking connections as a result of campus involvement is important to stand out as a potential employee, considering the current job market and the predictions for its future. The more qualifications and connections, the easier it is to beat the competition.

Spreading yourself too thin by joining too many clubs will be counterproductive, so it's important to be pragmatic about what kinds of organizations can benefit you long-term. A focused,

interconnected resume will impress interviewers far more than one with haphazardly added points in an attempt to make it look fuller.

As internationally focused as FIU is, commuter culture plays an overwhelming role in FIU's reputation. According to U.S. News, 92 percent of FIU students are commuters, leaving a mere 8 percent as residents in student housing.

By default, these are the students who will be most likely to be involved on campus because of the flexibility that comes with living on campus. Commuting students fall into a pattern of arriving, going to class and then leaving.

The idea of campus involvement to a commuter student diverges from the ideas an on-campus student, which is the

minority, may hold. For a commuter student, campus involvement looks like tables lining the walls of the Graham Center and flyers on their way to class.

Commuting to school makes it harder to make friends and can lead to a more lonely college experience. In high-school, students just needed to show up to make friends. But college, especially a commuter college, is a completely different ball game.

This is why campus involvement is so critical to the commuting student, even more so than the on-campus student.

Whether you drive from your apartment or parents' house every morning to classes, or roll out of bed already on campus, the editorial board at FIUSM urges you to get involved on campus.

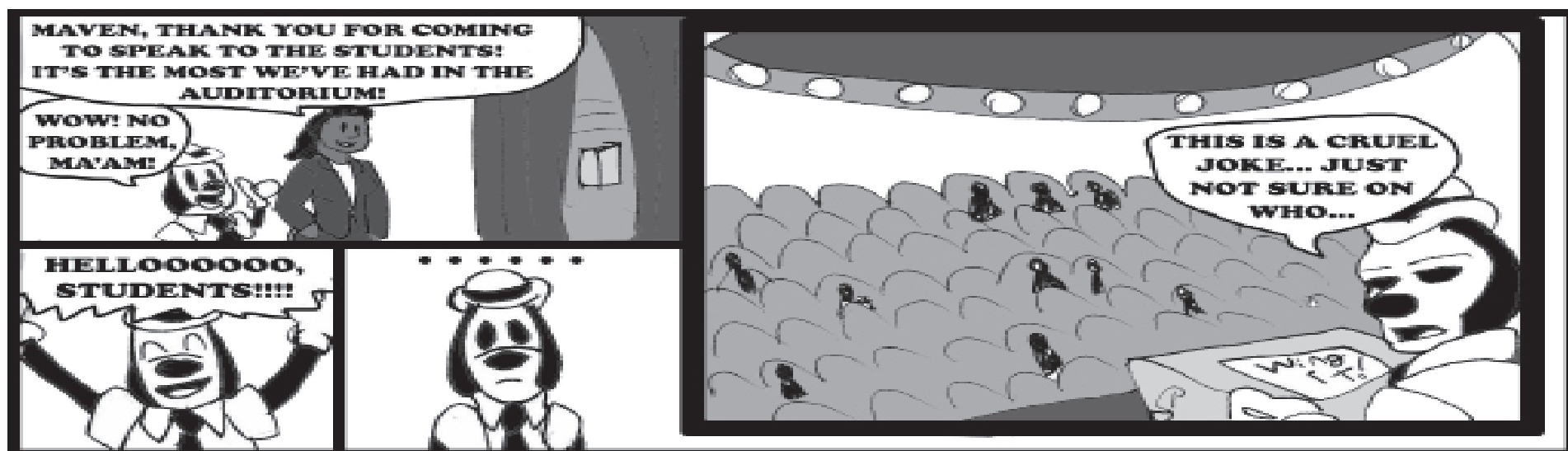
Go see the new movies

the Council for Student Organizations regularly shows with friends from class or roommates. Attend a lecture on a subject close to you and you'll find like-minded students and potential job positions or internships.

Try out a new sport or language. Support a particular philanthropy through a sorority or fraternity. Seek out an organization with corresponding traits to your major and climb the ranks so that your resume flows nicely and stands out.

Don't let your college experience consist solely of your transcripts; there is too much to do on campus, too many people to meet and too much to learn outside of a classroom.

JOKES ON...WAIT



SAM PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

Students: Join a club that challenges you to find yourself

THE LEVELER



AUBREY CARR

The college experience is divided in two parts that operate off of one another: finding yourself and leaving your comfort zone.

Clubs and organizations assist in both of these, so if time allows, pick one of each: students should choose one club where they identify with its language or history, where they feel comfortable; and another where they're completely out of their element but just as drawn to the community.

It will be weird. They will meet people who live just differently enough to make them feel out of place, but they will learn so much. And if a break is needed to go back to the club that's more like home, then that familiarity is always there

waiting.

It's important to be in touch with who you are and where you come from, but explore other peoples and customs as well. Explore different academic areas and new sports. Challenge yourself without the fear of hurting your GPA.

It isn't enough to simply attend the events hosted by clubs, either. Hold a leadership position in one or more of these organizations, not only because your CV benefits from it, but because of the people you will meet, the friendships you will form. There are networking opportunities in addition to those of friendship, and being a bigger part of a group in such a way assists in cultivating responsibility and time management skills.

FIU works to hear everyone's voices through student-led organizations. Being heavily involved in at least one of these can provide a platform for expression and change you may wish to see, at the

university level and perhaps even beyond. There are so many ways to get involved on campus and make a difference; one only has to look, talk and participate.

FIU doesn't always feel like it has an overwhelming supply of school spirit, but by getting more involved on campus, it may feel more like home.

The classroom isn't the only learning environment and no university will attempt to make this argument. Classrooms are academically flourishing and mentally challenging, and we as university students love that or else we wouldn't be here. However, belonging to an organization is a small way to put this into practice.

Joining your major's honor's society can offer a platform to discuss academic passions in an informal environment. A language club can allow students to practice informally what they've been taught during the week. These are just

some of the many benefits available to students who join clubs and organizations.

Graduating from FIU with both a degree and extra-curricular experience not only makes students better candidates for employment, but will also make them understand better who they are and what they want.

Think of every day as a learning experience and make every effort to learn as much as possible. Some you'll pursue and others will find you, but it will undoubtedly lead to bigger and better things beyond the halls of FIU.

Aubrey Carr is a staff writer for FIU Student Media. Her column, The Leveler, covers global social justice and political commentary. For suggestions or comments, please contact Aubrey at aubrey.carr@fiusm.com.

Japanese Club offers learning experience

PANTHERS HEALTH



MAYTINEE KRAMER

What comes to mind when you think of Japan? Perhaps it's anime, sushi, manga, geishas, ninjas or even game shows. These are just a few of the millions of things that make Japan unique, but what truly makes Japan special is its language.

FIU is home to the Japan club, a place where students can gather to expand their knowledge base of almost all things related to Japan. Throughout the semester, the club holds meetings where members engage in discussions about Japanese food, technology, music, fashion, literature, history, Japanese language, and much more.

Japanese is definitely one of the more popular languages to learn, for both personal enrichment and career advancement. Japanese itself is an East-Asian language spoken by about 130 million speakers, primarily in Japan, and is approximately the ninth most spoken language in the world.

The Modern Language Association reported that among American students, interest in Japanese language continues to increase. In 2009, 73,434 American college students were enrolled in Japanese language classes,

up 29 percent from 2002, and a 60 percent increase from 1990.

Japanese also represents eight percent of all non-Spanish enrollments and is the fourth most popular non-Spanish foreign language. Japanese language has gained so much popularity that American students took Japanese classes at 708 institutions in 48 states, while, according to the College Board, 102 colleges and universities offer Japanese as a major.

FIU is one of the many colleges that offers Japanese as a major. The Asian Studies Department offers a Japanese area studies major where Japanese language and culture, as well as other courses in area studies, are emphasized.

Due to Japan's strong business presence in the U.S., along with long running and well-established trade and communication networks, students of the Japanese language have many opportunities to expand their horizons and have access to many opportunities in international relations.

Most people would agree that to even begin to understand a culture, one has to understand the language. And since many people have a love of Japanese culture, learning the language helps to understand it more deeply.

According to the president of the Japan club, Miguel Rischmaui, a computer science and Japanese major,

the Japan club was established years ago by students who loved Japan.

"By forming a club, they were able to find other students who had a similar interest relating to the Japanese culture and language," Rischmaui said. "Throughout the time I started college, I joined the Japan club and I was able to find students who were as excited about Japan as me. This was one of the stepping stones for me."

According to Rischmaui, pop culture is what initially brings people to the club.

"With the multitude of pop culture from Japan, there is something for everyone. As far as FIU, most people first get interested in Japan through anime and manga. It is usually the first thing they mention whenever we talk to others about Japan," Rischmaui said. "It tends to be the gateway into everything else."

Despite pop culture being one of Japan's biggest exports and being known throughout the world, the Japan club does try to emphasize other areas of interest such as culture and scenery.

There is always something that helps shape a person, and for Rischmaui, Japanese was it. "It has become a part of who I am and it is something I want to continue." As current president of the Japan club, he hopes to "ignite something in everyone so that they can expose

themselves to a new language or a new culture."

Dario Encalada, an active member of the Japan club stated that the club's goal is "to enrich our members' lives through study and appreciation of Japanese culture and language, as well as help share this opportunity to anyone willing to participate."

Alongside the Japan club, Encalada is currently helping to create an intensive Japanese study group where the goal is to bring together students of all Japanese language levels through the use and practice of Japanese language.

"[The Japan club] can help them decide if Japanese is something they want or if it's something they do to meet new people," said Rischmaui. "To some, being part of the club means being able to have fun with others. To others, it may be a step into the Japanese life. There is just so much to learn, which is why I think that there is always something there for everyone."

Japanese class also brings together students and teachers. Friendships and relationships are formed due to the bond of personal interests, passion and cultural exploration. It has helped bring about confidence, courage, and most importantly, helped shape the identity of many.

Stephanie Sosa, a junior majoring in chemistry is currently in level four

Japanese and has greatly benefited from joining the club.

"It has opened me up as a person and has made me look outside the box for my future."

In addition to the many new friends she has made and new experiences, Sosa said she would be able to use these experiences from Japanese to build a career with her major.

This goes to show that no one is restricted to one thing. There are many opportunities out there so long as a person knows where to look.

While the Japan club does not require students to speak Japanese or to know about the culture, members do participate in Japanese-related activities that promote the learning of both the language and the culture itself. The club was established to show people what Japan is and what it can do for them.

"If I can describe Japan club, it's to influence others to find something that they can enjoy. The club helps students to be exposed to a culture that they may not know too much about," said Rischmaui.

Maytinee Kramer is a staff writer for FIU Student Media. Her column, Panther Health, is a commentary on maintaining one's health during college. For suggestions or comments, please contact Maytinee at maytinee.kramer@com.

There is a club for you at FIU, use RoarSync to find it

CONSERVATIVE CORNER



CHRISTIAN GONZALEZ

I experienced an exceptionally dreadful sophomore year in high school. Even now, three and a half years later, the memories of those days are still with me —gaining weight, watching grades drop precipitously, seeing friends drift away.

I share this not to bore you with the details of my often unexciting personal life; people with the surname "Kardashian" already fulfill that role far better than I ever could.

A major factor in that year's unpleasantness was my complete inability to escape the monotony of going to school without engaging in a single extracurricular activity.

Living without the feeling that you're a part of something larger and more important than yourself can be saddening and

even devastating, but participating in such an activity can be incredibly rewarding. For this reason, I strongly encourage every student at FIU to get involved in some club, activity, or sport.

Given the enormity of FIU's student population, there likely exists a club to match any interest. For the politically inclined, organizations such as Model United Nations and the International Affairs Society are fantastic options.

For those interested in the sciences, a plethora of clubs focusing on such topics as STEM and medicine are available. Students who want to connect with members of their ethnic groups have the possibility of joining groups like Black Student Union or the Venezuelan Student Alliance.

The RoarSync website is a great tool to match clubs to personal curiosities.

Including yourself in an extracurricular shouldn't merely be about adding another line to your resume, although that possibility

makes involvement all the more attractive. Being engaged in campus life also gives students the chance to learn, to experience, to experiment.

You never know what awaits behind the doors of that club meeting —your future best friend, the potential love of your life, the professor who will help you get your dream job. To attend school with the sole purpose of going in and out of classes is to deprive oneself of the unimaginable opportunities given to us here at FIU.

Christian Gonzalez is a contributing writer for FIU Student Media. His column, Conservative Corner, is a commentary on foreign affairs, culture, and social sciences. For suggestions or comments, please contact Christian at opinion@fiusm.com.

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Linebacker plays chess on and off field

PETER HOLLAND JR.
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Chess is a well-known brain teaser that provides concentration, strategy and intelligence to have victory over opponents. Combine that with an inside linebacker's physicality on a football field and checkmate.

That's the description of junior linebacker Anthony Wint.

When the Homestead native isn't participating in football activities and competing with his teammates, he's competing in chess matches on the FIU campus on Thursday nights.

The Panthers' leading tackler had a knack for playing chess at a young age. At the age of nine, when football season was over, he and a neighborhood friend would discover the game, and he would immediately fall in love.

"I've been playing chess

since I was in the fifth grade," Wint said. "It was a hobby of mine. It's not a physical game that I'm used to playing, but I really enjoy it."

As a middle schooler, he developed his hobby by joining the chess club at his school. Now at 21 years old, because of his duties as a starting linebacker and team captain, Wint is focused mainly on football, but keeps the mindset of playing chess.

"In a lot of ways, chess is just like playing football. If he [the opponent] makes a move, you want to match that move," Wint said. "Kind of like an offensive lineman sliding in the front over there. It's a numbers game and a mental game. You have to remember the moves he made in the past matches, things he likes to do. It's the same as football, you have to have an open mind and formal thinking."

As the Panthers are 0-4, Wint has 43 total tackles for the season. The Panthers are seeking their victory as they will face Florida Atlantic University on Saturday, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. at the FIU Stadium.

Sports clubs a perfect way to gain experience

KRISTEN'S KORNER



KRISTEN KING

Entering college can seem like a scary experience because students have the idea that the sole focus should be on classes and grades. We all want to graduate and find good jobs in the future.

But that doesn't have to be all that we think about. Nowadays, a lot of jobs are looking for people to show how involved they can be within their campus.

One way to show involvement and the ability to work with others is by joining a sports club.

By joining a sports club, students can finally balance their studies with something they enjoy doing. Students can take off all of the pressure of grades and classes and introduce some sort of entertainment in their daily lives.

John Marrero, president of the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu club, fully believes in this idea of class and club balance.

"Sports clubs offer a great balance to a collegiate student's life," said Marrero. "While your academics should be a priority, most of your time on a college campus is outside of the classroom. It's what you do with that time that truly develops you."

This development offers more than an outlet to be involved on

campus; it also allows students to be a part of the FIU community.

From my own experience, I was the freshmen who wanted to come to school to study, do my work and go home. I never wanted to spend more time than was necessary at school because I didn't feel I needed to.

It wasn't until my junior year at FIU that my prerogative changed and I decided to join various clubs.

From this moment, I no longer felt like a fish in a big pond. I was making waves of my own around campus and it's due to my involvement.

"It's important to join a club on campus, not only because you get to meet and befriend people with the same interests as you but also because it makes you feel a part of the FIU community," said FIU sophomore Jamie Adelson. "In order to have a great college experience, you should join a club or sport to feel a part of the community, gain school spirit and make lasting memories."

For some, joining a club isn't only about being involved. In some cases, joining these clubs means adding a new aspect to their life, which can lead to future growth both physically and mentally.

President and captain of the powerlifting club, Roman Fronzaglia, spoke on the idea of creating a new way of life with powerlifting.

"Powerlifting is a lifestyle; a way of being. It is not for the weak of mind, heart or soul. When someone joins our team, they're a completely different person with an entirely new lifestyle based on the severely addictive micro culture within the powerlifting world," Fronzaglia said. "It's not just a club sport you look back on after college; it's a completely new life based on the pursuit of strength."

Joining a sports club can do more than some would expect. Students can learn a ton about themselves and others, making their college experience that much more grand.

FIU has encouraged students to join these clubs and even provided financial support for students to do what they love on campus.

"FIU's constant support of allowing us to practice on campus provides a convenient location for students," Marrero said. "Their responsiveness to feedback also allows for us to provide a better experience to students as the semesters go on."

For more information, visit studentaffairs.fiu.edu to find all sports clubs listed in the directory.

Kristen's Korner is a column focusing on issues that affect students interested in sports. For questions, commentary or suggestions, email Kristen at Kristen.king@fiusm.com.

Baseball club finds unique ways to attract participants and get involved on campus

JASMINE CASIMIR
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Clubs on campus usually use recruiting or events to get students to interact and get involved in the club.

The baseball club has another approach that they use to reach

out to the student body: selling baked goods and custom-made shirts with 'FIU Baseball Club' on them.

The baseball club was started four years ago by a group of friends who loved the game of baseball, so getting involved is important for the exposure of their club, according to the team's vice president.

"We are trying to become more involved on campus not only to spread awareness of

our team but also to create a stronger bond for our team," said Armani Medina.

Unlike the baseball team, the baseball club has to hold practices at the convenience of the members' class and work schedules and have to fund themselves when it comes to uniforms and equipment.

"On a normal basis our practices are where we meet up to talk about

everything," Alexander Pousa, president of the baseball club, told Student Media. "I'm hoping that by the end of this year we will have come up with ways to be more involved than we currently are."

Aside from recruiting with their donuts, cookies and shirts, people who are interested in joining the baseball club can also email Pousa at Apousa004@fiu.edu to sign up.

Panthers look to start strong against UM

REINALDO LLERENA
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The FIU Swimming and Diving team begins its season on Friday, Sept. 30, versus the University of Miami Hurricanes at the Miami campus in Coral Gables.

The Panthers will begin yet another title defense run versus the Hurricanes. However, the team is dealing with some soreness

"The team won't be heading into the meet at full strength," Head Coach Randy Horner said. "We're dealing with some soreness in some swimmers. We're taking it one day at a time and we'll see prior to the meet

who is too sore to swim versus Miami."

FIU faces Miami for the third consecutive year. The Panthers are 1-1 all-time versus the Hurricanes. In the first meeting, the Panthers won in the final event to sneak past the Hurricanes 150-149. However, the Hurricanes avenged their one-point loss from the year prior and defeated the Panthers 205-95. The loss versus the Hurricanes was the biggest loss of the season for the Panthers.

Last season, the Panthers repeated as Conference USA champions. The Panthers successfully defended their title in Atlanta, where they bested second-place Rice University by 318 points. The Panthers' margin of victory over Rice is the largest in C-USA tournament history.

"Most of our sprint swimmers are returning from last

season," Horner said. "We now have redshirt freshman and freshman competing in the middle distance events. Seeing how those players develop throughout the season is one of the things to watch from us this season."

The Panthers will debut two new divers to the team versus Miami. Freshman Brooke Bouchard from Winnipeg, Manitoba and redshirt freshman Brittany Haskell from London, Ontario, are the Panther's newest divers.

"Look for a stronger diving effort from the team this season," Horner said. "The two new divers bring our count to six and that is an improvement over last year, when we only had four divers."

The first event between the Panthers and the Hurricanes is scheduled for 6 p.m.