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MOOC: Final exam required for credit

RAUL HERRERA
Asst. News Director

The University's Massive Open Online Course program is finally adapting to the State's demands, requiring students to take a final exam to receive credits for any MOOC.

The finalized proposal on how the University would meet Florida's MOOC accreditation requirement was presented to the Faculty Senate on April 8. Susan Clemmons, associate dean of University College and adjunct in the Department of Decision Sciences and Information Systems, and Kristen Nichols-Lopez, associate chair of the Department of Psychology presented the initiative.

Laurie Shrage, faculty senator and professor of philosophy, said in a previous interview with Student Media that the MOOC tests would function

much like the College Level Examination Program, which allows students to eliminate core credits by taking an exam.

FIU Online Dean Joyce Elam said that it will be an entirely self-driven initiative, as students will access the material by themselves with no professorial help.

Clemmons said that one of the aims of the University's venture was to "capture the magic of FIU."

"We want to translate [what makes FIU courses unique] into the MOOC, and we want to translate that into the exam," added Nichols-Lopez.

Elam said the exams would largely be under the "Adaptive Coursework" program, which will be tooled so that if a student gets a question wrong, the test becomes easier. If the student guesses correctly, the assignment becomes more difficult.

Elam clarified that such a structure would help students learn the basics and recap what they know, and connect it to whatever concept they may have missed before the exam.

According to Clemmons, Adaptive Coursework will also replace the function of textbooks.

The MOOC proposal was presented on the heels of incumbent Chairman Delano Gray's comments on how class-

'FINAL' TOUCHES



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Meredith Woods, grad student in architecture, prepares for finals not by burying herself in books at the library, but by spray painting some finishing touches on the model she constructed for her final thesis.

“Do you think students will enroll?”
Joyce Elam
Dean
FIU Online

rooms "in this day and age require leaders, not followers."

"I am totally in favor of MOOCs," said Gray, who also alluded to an anecdote about people calling the automobile a fad long ago, saying that the "same thing is going to happen with electronic media."

Student Media previously reported on MOOC accreditation and some of the concerns surrounding it back when the proposal was still

being drafted by the Online Review Committee.

Shrage, who was a member of the committee, commented on some of these issues.

"The trick of this is the following: If you're not getting credit for seat time and the whole set of ways we do it in class, such as exercises, papers, tests and activities, instead of assessments and experiences, we're going to have to reduce our learning goals

to what people call a set of competencies," Shrage said.

Shrage also commented on her concerns as a professor in the realm of the humanities.

"[There] isn't a lot of agreement about what areas of content should be covered and how we would define the skills that students would have to have to demonstrate the mastery of a

SEE MOOC, PAGE 2

Director closes Graham Center doors for last time

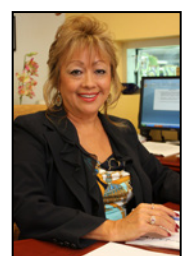
CAMILA FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

After 35 years at the University, the woman who is credited with making the Graham Center what it is today is retiring.

GC Director Ruth Hamilton not only led the center in a different direction than it was going in 1989, but she also led many students and colleagues along the way.

"She has led me in a direction that I didn't know I wanted to go," said Adriana Trespalacios, assistant director of GC building operations.

Trespalacios started as a freshman architecture major at the University in 2006 and



RUTH HAMILTON

graduated with a master's in interior design two years ago. She said Ruth has influenced her to change her direction in life.

Instead of being "stuck in a cubi" doing architectural plans, she has had the opportunity to interact with students and administrators, constantly learning something new.

"I realized that, yes, I can do pretty rooms and pretty architecture," Trespalacios said. "But really what's important is in this context — students."

According to Hamilton, generating opportunities is how the University can continue making a difference.

"I would like to see — how can I work with people in the community to sell the point that we have talented students at FIU. How can we generate those funds so that those students that want to go somewhere [abroad], we create the opportunity," Hamilton said.

“She's the glue that stuck everything together for a lot of people.”
Anthony Rionda
Chief of Staff
College of Law

Anthony Rionda, College of Law's chief of staff, said Hamilton is like a ball of energy — "she's always everywhere."

"You have advisors, you have people that help you, but Ruth really did take it to the next level," said Rionda, who served as

SEE GC, PAGE 2

Model UN focuses on global security, poverty

ANDREA VIZCAINO
Contributing Writer

The University's Model United Nations Conference is holding its 27th annual event with a focus on global security and eliminating poverty.

Maylin Hernandez, secretary general, said the conference is to "facilitate the advancement of diplomatic skills and the spirit of cooperation by placing some of the best young minds head on to a few of the most pressing problems we are facing around the world today."

She said she expects FIU's team "to take a new understanding of diplomacy and leadership from this experience that

will aid them in their future endeavors."

The conference is from April 25 to 27.

Model UN teams, comprised of undergraduate and high school students from both private and public schools not only from FIU, but from different places through the world such as Chicago and Colombia, come together to discuss possible solutions for the global issues while following the policies of the country, organizations or individual they are representing.

The conference serves the high school students by allowing them to observe the college teams, develop an understanding of debate and global issues and how to come together to solve the major problems going on in today's world.

There are eight committees and each focus on a specific global issue.

The Disarmament and International Security Committee, for example, focused on disarmament and related global security issues.

This year's conference has also added three crisis committees: the Ad-Hoc Committee on the UN Charter, OEPDR Emergency and Response Committee 2020 and the Joint-Dispute Resolution Committee.

The Ad-Hoc committee name is Latin for "for this" meaning "that its purpose constantly changes in accordance to what the current UN Secretary General deems as an international issue that must be tackled

but which no specific committee exists to oversee its execution. For this conference, the topic is decided by FIMUN staff and the students are not made aware the specifics of what they will be doing until their arrival," Hernandez said.

"[Students will take away] a feeling of global civic responsibility in addition to life-long friendships with their fellow delegates," Hernandez said.

Registration for the FIMUN 2014 Conference is open at fimun.fiu.edu.

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WORLD NEWS

UN seeks \$274 million for Central African Republic

The United Nations and aid groups launched an appeal for \$274 million Wednesday to help people who have fled the Central African Republic because of the sectarian conflict there, warning that the dire needs of hundreds of thousands of refugees can't be met with existing funds. The appeal is separate from the \$547 million that the global body asked donors for earlier this year to help some 600,000 people displaced inside the Central African Republic. The U.N. refugee agency said that since December nearly 200,000 people have sought refuge in neighboring countries, and that figure is expected to rise to over 360,000 by the end of the year.

Venezuelan crisis talks show signs of progress

Negotiators from Venezuela's government and the opposition agreed to broaden membership in a truth commission tasked with investigating who's to blame for 41 deaths tied to weeks of political unrest. The compromise was announced following hours of negotiations that took place Tuesday night behind closed doors in what both sides described as a much-needed if torturous attempt at dialogue in a nation polarized by 15 years of socialist rule. Heading into Tuesday's talks the government had insisted that any probing of the protests be led by Congress, which it dominates. But it partially met the opposition's demands for an independent commission by agreeing to include national figures trusted by both sides.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 25, Issue 85 in World News, "Syria death toll from rebel infighting rises to 68" and "Pope asks for pardon for sex abuse by priests" headlines are on the wrong stories.

In Vol. 25, Issue 86, the article "Sunghosts speak with student media on Miami" was actually written by Junette Reyes and Diego Saldana-Rojas. The photo accompanying the article was also taken by Reyes.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Faculty Senate adopts final exam, tuition for MOOC credit

MOOC, PAGE 1

course's learning objectives," Shrage said.

Elam said that this potential issue would be ameliorated through faculty members meeting to discuss what to include in the Adaptive Coursework program.

"They will sit down and say 'Okay, what do we want to be included?'" Elam said.

Elam emphasized on her belief that MOOCs will allow students to take full charge of their own learning experience. She also said that the program is not semester based.

"If a student wants to get the credit in November, they'll say 'Okay!' and take [the MOOC] in November," Elam said.

But unlike the University's other MOOC courses, these will come at a cost.

"It's not free," said Clemmons, mentioning that the cost is

about \$150.

Elam clarified that the price would be half of what students pay for regular credits. She also differentiated from the previous MOOCs, saying that they were based more on general knowledge, rather than specific academic topics.

FIU Online currently offers MOOCs such as "Applied Real Estate" and "Entrepreneurship and New Ventures." According to Clemmons and Nichols-Lopez, one of the first courses to be implemented under the new Adaptive Coursework and accreditation program will be "Intro to Psychology."

The Faculty Senate passed the proposal.

Elam wondered in her interview how students will react to the new initiative on MOOCs.

"Do you think students will enroll?" Elam asked.

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GC director retires after 35 years

GC, PAGE 1

Student Government Council president in 2009-2010.

"She helped students transition from just joining student government to understanding how important it is to be responsible for students," Rionda said. "She lets students know they have someone they can trust."

Hamilton began as the assistant director of student activities in 1980, only eight years after FIU opened its doors. She was appointed executive director of GC in 1989.

"The Graham Center's motto is 'You're home away from home,' and I think Ruth really does act like a mother to a lot of people," Rionda said. "She's always thinking what can be done next. She's the glue that stuck everything together for a lot of people."

Larry Lunsford, vice president of Student Affairs, agrees that Hamilton has created a "home away from home" for students at GC.

According to Lunsford, Hamilton's first major renovation was the commencement of GC's transformation to what it is today.

"When I came here in

1989, it was opened, it wasn't enclosed," Lunsford said, "And the pit — you could look up and see the sky. There

“
To me, students love Graham Center, and she created Graham Center.

Larry Lunsford
Vice President
Student Affairs

“
were ducks everywhere and it wasn't air-conditioned.”

"Now you can walk anywhere and there are students in the hallways studying, sleeping or on their cell phones. To me, students love Graham Center, and she created Graham Center."

As the center began to grow extensively, Lunsford was recruited as full director of student activities. He said that he could not have succeeded without her knowledge of how events like homecoming and lecture series are done, as well as how to work with SGA and their budget process.

"She laid the foundation, laid the groundwork," Lunsford said. "I picked up in the activity part, but she continued to build Graham Center after that. She bleeds blue and gold."

According to Ruth, there were many naysayers during FIU's first years who didn't believe in all the opportunities that a new public university presented.

"A lot of people would say, 'Oh that's never gonna work; that will never happen.' Now it's so rewarding to say, 'Listen, we did it.' We're moving forward and upward to be a 'best university,'" she said.

In the past, Ruth has been involved with taking buses of students to Tallahassee to approve programs the University has today. According to her, the College of Law

was the most difficult to get approval for.

"My last 10 years has been so exciting because the University has accomplished so many things that 20 to 30 years ago I thought we would never accomplish," Ruth said.

"I'll never forget when [Modesto] Maidique was elected president [of FIU]. He met with us and he said, 'We're going to be a major urban research university.' And I would say, 'How's he going to do that?'" Hamilton said. "Now, I can't believe we did it."

Lunsford and President Mark B. Rosenberg are hosting a tribute event for Hamilton: "A Million Thanks" for her years of service on May 9 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the GC ballrooms.

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A MILLION THANKS: A TRIBUTE TO RUTH HAMILTON

May 9
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Graham Center Ballrooms

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Stressors prompt student counseling

CAPS, PAGE 8

child relational problems, said Stevens. The general advice for any relationship problem is group therapy, according to Stevens, who thinks this method is effective in helping students find ways to relate to others.

"They are able to meet with others in a group that has similar issues or similar concerns and they receive certainly very valuable feedback from their peers," Stevens said.

The third issue most students seek counseling for is major life changes.

"Let's say you have an individual who's getting married for the first time or taking on a responsibility or having a child for the first time or going to college," said

Stevens. She recommends finding support through friends, family or even therapy.

The fourth issue FIU students seek counseling for is adjustment disorder.

"The person has an identified 'stressor' and is connected to a clinically significant emotional behavioral problem so the person may have depressed mood, anxious mood or some type of conduct issue," said Stevens, who says effective option is therapy to help remedy both the stressor and symptoms of the stressor, such as a "depressed mood, anxious mood or conduct issues."

Finally, the last issue students visit CAPS for is generalizing anxiety disorder. "It includes chronic worry about multiple areas of a person's life," said Stevens. "Generalizing anxiety disorder is a lot

more severe than [regular] anxiety disorder because there is a specific criteria and the level of imperilment is greater."

Stevens recommends conjoint individual therapy using cognitive behavioral therapy and then medication management. In the case of chronic anxiety, psychiatric evaluation may be the most helpful.

Students that feel overwhelmed by factors that are academic and non-academic can seek counseling at the Counseling & Psychological Services Department at either campus in the Wolfe University Center, room 320 or in the University Health Services Complex, Room 270.

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Miami: more than good vibrations

ARIEL WEINSTEIN
Staff Writer

When moving from any location, there are always things one must leave behind, including ideas and aspects because there are new ones to learn.

Miami is one of the most diverse cities in the country and is considered a melting pot.

Coming to the University from Massachusetts, there were a lot of ideas and new things I had to learn if I was going to fit in here.

One idea I had to pick up was the way people say hello. Up north, we shake hands and introduce ourselves. Here, it is more of an embrace with a kiss on the cheek. I was unaware of the intimacy people had with each other when first meeting them, and although this came as a shock, I quickly picked up on it and became accustomed to the

introductions.

Ever since then, I always found people in Miami and at the University to be so nice to each other, even when they did not feel like it.

Although this was my experience with learning change however, it is not the same as the changes Emelyn Van Uden felt and learned. Van Uden is from Columbia and attends the University as a current freshman majoring in biology.

Her experiences with Americans and American culture were not as positive as mine were with Hispanic culture.

“It’s not about culture, it is about learning how to manage people from different cultures, because they have different tones and sometimes you might think they are rude, but they are not, that’s just the way they were raised,” Van Uden explained. “In Columbia, we are very nice

“Miami is one of the most diverse cities in the country and is considered a melting pot. Coming to the University from Massachusetts, there were a lot of ideas and new things I had to learn if I was going to fit in here.”

to people even if we don’t know you. But here, it is less personal, and people don’t care as much about being nice to others.”

Not only does she find the American tone and attitude to be less caring, but Van Uden also feels that Americans and Colombians have different ideas of what

fun means.

Van Uden in no way feels American are “less” than Americans, but she sees the differences in culture to be very significant, and ones she must work to adjust to.

“What Americans find fun, it’s not necessarily fun for me. ‘Lets go to a huge party and drink...’ then it is just a small get together. In Columbia we are very loud, when you say party, we party,” Van Uden said.

Whether it is a move from town to town, state to state or country to country, there will always be new things to learn and new experiences to gain. Some are positive where others are negative, but either way, I feel having these experiences is such an important part of life and learning how other cultures other than our own live life.

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THE BEACON | Editorial

With great education, comes great tuition prices

We all know the story: the economy sucks and its affecting universities and students more than ever. People are having to make the difficult choice of school once they leave high school, and parents are crunching the numbers to get the “most bang for their buck.”

But according to TuitionTracker.org, FIU’s prices are rising and it is hurting low-income students more than anyone else.

Federal figures show the net price for the University’s poorest students at \$1,866, while Luisa Havens, vice president of enrollment, said it was really \$5,822.

According to the tracker, FIU’s sticker price was \$15,870 in 2008-2009. In 2011-2012, this price was \$17,565. While aid increased from 2008 to 2009 in most cases, it has since been on the decline. Thus, while all students are paying more, those who need financial help the most have been impacted at a more significant rate.

According to the Miami Herald, wealthier students have been hit with tuition hikes and, on average, still pay more for college educations. But the rate of their “net price” hikes has risen slower than for poorer kids.

This is an incredibly difficult situation to put these students in. A lot of them, who are forced to work second and even third jobs, may be forced to make a decision on whether or not to continue their education at a rising cost, which may never equate in value to the money they put in to get it.

It is already difficult enough for students to get through college as is. Add in the additional responsibilities of providing for the household these students live in makes these students walking stress bombs.

While many of us are worried about our next test or paper that is due, a lot of these kids are worried about how many shifts they will have at work to feed their families.

We believe that increasing tuition as well as higher competition with online classes will drive more people to these online degrees and education that has become available through programs like Massive Open Online Courses.

While the value of the education being received may not be that of major college or university, these people will still see value in learning from these classes and figuring out a way to utilize it instead of paying thousands upon thousands of dollars.

NICOLE GRADY/THE BEACON

Miami to homeless: Drop dead

ERIC HUNTER
Contributing Writer

A few months ago, Judge Federico Moreno approved of a plan that would strip away some of the basic rights the homeless population of Miami were once given. This new plan prevents the homeless population from life sustaining activities within the city, such as making tents or campfires, sleeping on sidewalks or being able to clean themselves within the city limits. While this may seem like a logical decision, it’s founded in a bigoted viewpoint towards the poor and homeless and the policy will not be able to address the homeless problem.

Here in the US, we have this cultural belief in the rugged individual — a humble hard working person who earns their way into positions of power through their own effort. The flip side of this belief is that if you are poor

or homelessness, you just aren’t working hard enough and thus bring troubles upon yourself.

With this focused emphasis on the individual, we may not question how a system functions and we lose a vital insight into how to empower ourselves and those less fortunate than us.

The stigma associated with being homeless is that they bring it upon themselves because they were poor and unambitious, that they are mentally ill or have drug addictions and therefore are irresponsible in leading their lives and thus deserve no sympathy. However these are merely popular stereotypes not reflective of the reality of the homeless population, nor the reasons they are homeless.

The biggest contributing factor to homelessness is the stagnation of low and minimum wages across the board. We can no longer fool ourselves into thinking that the current minimum wage can adequately shelter a

person or provide for a family of four.

If a family cannot provide themselves with adequate housing through minimum wage, how are they supposed to afford the medical care they need to address physical and mental health issues? How are they supposed to save up money and keep their home if they’re constantly in debt by just being alive?

While Judge Federico Moreno was doing his best to be a neutral party and act in the best interests of the city of Miami, as citizens of Miami, we do have a say in how our neighbors are treated and we can’t sit idly by while the City decides to punish the homeless for merely existing.

If you would like to get involved and learn more about how to help the homeless, please visit www.miamidade.gov/homeless/homeless-assistance.asp.

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STUDY HARD



SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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Nick Ghanbarian from New York's Bayside talks about lessons, successes

CLAUDIO ZELAYA
Contributing Writer

Bayside from New York City recently graced us with their presence at Revolution Live in Ft. Lauderdale on March 28 while on their American Cult Tour. This tour was created to support their latest album, *Cult*.

While they were touring the states with *Four Year Strong*, *Daylight* and *Mixtapes*, FIUSM was able to talk to Nick Ghanbarian, bassist, about the new album and their experience these past 14 years as a band.

Your latest album, Cult, came out this past February. Tell us a little bit about it.

Nick: Well, it's our sixth album and first on Hopeless Records. We feel truly lucky and that all of our hard work has paid off because some bands don't even get to have a second album let alone six. It was our highest album debut. People generally loved the whole thing.

I think our fans are unique in the fact that they listen to the entire album. When we did a poll on what songs we should play and it was so even.

That kind of legitimized the album for us and our fans have our back more than ever.

It's such a good feeling to know that after 14 years and six albums that we're more successful than ever.

What was the writing process for this album and going into the studio with Shep Goodman again?

Nick: Our process has always been pretty similar, but if anything we've used a digital format of

demoing a lot more. Other than that, it's Anthony just sending acoustic versions with some vocal melodies and we all kind of work our parts into it to make it sound like a Bayside song.

It just used to be more analog on cassette tapes ten years ago where we'd sit in rooms a lot longer playing the song over and over until it felt right.

The digital aspect means Anthony can email us a song idea as opposed to spending eight or ten hours in our practice space. We want to write the best songs we can that sound like our band.

What would you define as the evolution of Bayside over all these years with this album?

Nick: I think lyrically it's a bit different. It's a more about coming to terms about being an adult and having adult problems and dealing with them in a positive way. There's a lot less songs about failing relationships.

Going into it I was a little worried that it was a shift in lyrics content, that people wouldn't relate to it that much.

The thing about being a band for so long is that our fans are adults dealing with the same thing.

Last August you guys signed to Hopeless Records. Is there any significant change?

Nick: We would never be on a label that wouldn't let us be us. They knew what they were getting. The only change is that they're super supportive.

We've had some bad luck with that in the past with record labels

FEEL THE VIBE



DIEGO SALDAÑA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

Local garage rock band Plastic Pinks performed at Churchill's Pub on Saturday, April 12 alongside other local acts such as Deaf Poets, Whorish Boorish, Sweet Bronco, and Palette Town.

where some support wasn't there, but Hopeless has done everything they said they were going to do.

They're part of the reason our album has debuted harder than any other album has. It's a real sense of family just like *Victory* was back in the day.

You've said in the past you haven't had the best luck with labels. Is that shown in your album?

Nick: What people don't ever see is the actual business side of the music industry and the decisions we've had to make to keep touring and doing albums.

The most important thing for us is to write music and get on tour and business decisions are what get us there but sometimes they're not favorable to us.

We've made a career for ourselves and it all has to do with the songs we write and the shows we play.

We bend over backwards to make sure there isn't any interruption as far as songwriting, new albums, and touring.

The video for "Time Has Come" just came out. What was the idea for the video or the song itself?

Nick: The video we just wanted it to be nuts. We wanted it to be unique and kind of frantic and just visually kind of crazy. Sometimes the idea is too big for the budget but this time we were just like, "Just make it crazy and make it look visually appealing."

The idea was gif oriented where there are a lot of repeated circles in the video. The song itself has good energy and it's a positive song about taking life into your own hands.

What are some of the most valuable lessons you've learned or wish you knew?

Nick: Definitely the business side of it is just terrible. There are just a lot of people that profit off of our hard work. That's definitely the harsh reality of it all. Early on, we would go on tour as the first band and sometimes didn't get treated like a band but now that we're a more established headlining act we treat

the bands we take on tour really well.

It's a cool time for us to be a headlining act because there's a lot of up and coming bands that need support. Ten years ago, we didn't have that.

We were taking tours on scream tours that had nothing to do with us but we just wanted to go on tour. You got to do things for the right reason. It's hard when money is involved but if you're good your finances will be fine. The bands that are trendy and not nice people go away after a couple years. That's why we've been a band for 14 years because we've done things the right way.

What's the future for Bayside?

Nick: We're heading out to Europe after this tour with Alkaline Trio and we'll be on Warped Tour all of summer.

There's some talk about doing an album sooner than later. Our last two albums have come out in a span of five and a half years so we might pump one out.

Watch the full interview on fiusm.com.

"Fargo" shows promise, leaves room for improvement

EVAN BURR
Contributing Writer

Rarely does a TV series adapted from a successful film fill viewers with a sense of satisfaction. In rare cases, you get something like "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" or "Stargate" or "Friday Night Lights," but more often than not, you get "Highlander: The Series," which I highly recommend, you forget ever existed.

So when FX announced that they were making a series based on the 1996 Coen Brothers' black comedy "Fargo" nearly a decade after the film's release, I think it's safe to say I wasn't alone in my skepticism.

One of the reasons the film worked so well was the setting:

a small town in Minnesota where things rarely went wrong. In such a setting a singular event, such as a used car salesman hiring a couple of criminals to kidnap his wife in a quick attempt to get some

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It's not the kind of setting that would often work in a drawn out or episodic fashion, not to mention the chances of anyone matching the quality you would come to expect from the Coen Brothers is slim.

money, works for both comedic and dramatic purposes because it is completely unexpected.

It's not the kind of setting that

would often work in a drawn out or episodic fashion, not to mention the chances of anyone matching the quality you would come to expect from the Coen Brothers is slim.

However, not being one to judge something before giving it a chance, I reserved judgment on the show. As time went on, of

”

course, they began to reveal more information about the series that, to be honest, did a lot to sooth my worries.

The series was being helmed by Noah Hawley, the man behind the criminally underrated series "The Unusuals" starring Jeremy Renner and Amber Tamblyn.

"Fargo" will star a frequent Coen Brothers collaborator, Billy Bob Thornton ("Bad Santa," "The Man Who Wasn't There"), and the cast quickly filled with other notable names such as Martin Freeman ("The Hobbit," "The World's End"), Colin Hanks ("King Kong"), Bob Odenkirk ("Breaking Bad"), and Adam Goldberg ("The Unusuals").

All things considered, things were looking up for the series,

although it did give the vibe that it would be more like "Twin Peaks" than the film it's based on.

The series premiered on April 15th at 10 p.m. on FX with an extended hour and a half long episode.

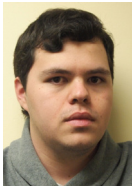
If I had to say only one thing about it, it's that the show did not disappoint. It had the bleak, dark humor and escalation-style conflicts one might expect from the work of the Coen Brothers, yet Hawley managed to make the series his own.

The score, composed by Jeff Russo, set the tone in a wonderful way, with music comparable in quality (although definitely

SEE FARGO, PAGE 5

TV series *Mad Men* continues to captivate

COLUMNIST



RAFAEL ABREU

Mad Men returned this week for the first half of its final season (call it Season 7a). Being introduced by the Spencer Davis Group's "I'm A Man", Don and Megan Draper showed up looking as dashing as ever, albeit with a more broken relationship than ever before.

Things between the two are not at all how this scene would imply things are, with Don's adultery and drinking having taken a toll on his life at this point.

It was already a noticeable problem for Don before, but as Freddy Rumsen reminds him, no one wants to be "damaged goods."

The premiere episode, "Time Zones," has Don mainly in Los Angeles visiting Megan as she progresses her career as a television actress.

He also visits the prepped up Pete Campbell, who seems to have easily gotten comfortable in LA.

Between meeting Pete's new girlfriend and being reduced to living under Megan's house rules, Don seems less powerful and more vulnerable, showing us a man who has truly fallen, though it's just as likely that this doesn't even scrape the surface of his in-progress downfall.

Many a fan has come up with potential ending for Donald Draper, and this first episode gives us a glimpse at the beginning of something big, something which

likely involves Don falling even harder than he already has.

Back in New York, we have Peggy butting heads with almost everyone in her department, especially the new boss (Lou) that replaced Don after his suspension.

She seems to be trying to assert herself more than she needs to and more than she needed before prior to Lou's arrival.

It could be a combination of personal stress and problems that are making Peggy's life more troubling than it needs to be.

She feels underappreciated by the new staff and is incredibly furious at Ted for having promised to be with her, only to leave to California.

The scene where Peggy arrives early to the office and faces Ted in the coffee room was as tense as it

was hilarious.

Joan wasn't having it easy either, being reprimanded by Ken Cosgrove for using his office and having a client selling her short in a last-minute meeting change.

Depending on who she comes across, Joan might still be treated as nothing more as an incredibly efficient secretary, but as any good "Mad Men" fan and SC&P employee knows, Joan is so much more than good looks.

Then there's Roger Sterling: living in a free-love relationship and seeming to do even less than usual.

This episode featured a good amount of screen time for many of the characters, and even though Roger didn't seem to get too much less than warranted, he seemed to be only lazing around

in the premiere. This is to more than likely show us what Roger's current situation is (not so good, from what we can see); hopefully Roger hasn't lost it all, especially since two heart attacks still haven't put him down.

It should be interesting to see how this season turns out, especially since we have little information on what will happen (as per usual).

"Mad Men" has only gotten better as the seasons have gone on, and as the beginning of the end dawns, it's only getting more exciting. The only negative is that we have to go through an extra year for the entire Season 7 to come to close. All in good time, I presume.

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"*Fargo*" premiere leaves questions for longevity

FARGO, PAGE 4

not style) to the scores of "Breaking Bad" or "Game of Thrones."

The characters in the two formats have a bit of a cross-over feel to them. Freeman's Lester Nygaard filled the role of William H. Macy's Jerry Lundegaard, Thorton's Lorne Malvo was a mixture of Steve Buscemi and Peter Stormare's murdering duo, and Shawn Doyle's Vern Thurman was the show's answer to Frances McDormand's Academy Award winning Marge Gunderson.

Yet with all the similarities between the characters, beyond the professions and roles in the story, they were different enough to keep me interested.

The series, for all its humor, has a darker tone than the film, something drawn, for the most part,

from the characters, who all seem to have a more innocent quality to them.

Rather than an escalation of mishaps and murders set in motion by the actions of a scumbag and the murderers he hired, we get calamity and destruction brought about by what I considered to be the true standout of the show: Lorne Malvo, played brilliantly by Billy Bob Thornton.

The character was less a criminal and more a force of nature, a ball of chaos with a bad haircut, rolling into town to sow the seeds of malcontent and violence to everyone he meets for no more reason than a cat has to bat around a paper ball. He seems like a bored man who can only interest himself by releasing the inner darkness of those around him.

In what had to have been my favorite scene, he goes to a motel for the night and begins to argue with the

owner about having to pay extra for a pet because, as he pointed out, what constitutes a pet? A cat, dog, or fish? Maybe even bacteria.

Of course, none of this mattered in the end, as Malvo had no pet with him,

“All things considered, the series has more going for it than against it, and it's very possible that any negative aspects I found in this episode will be corrected in the next.”

he just wanted to challenge the motel's rules.

That is not to say that everything in the show was good. It definitely had its faults, as every piece of entertainment does.

A few characters left me less than impressed, namely

Allison Tolman's Molly Solverson and the entirety of the Hess family. While it seems unlikely that the Hess' are going to be a large part of the show, Solverson seems like she's not going away anytime soon.

the town does not have the same personality that it did in the film.

In the film, the town of Fargo feels almost like a character in the series; in the show, the town (It's not Fargo, but somewhere in Minnesota) is more of a backdrop, existing only so they can call the show "Fargo."

Rarely is this a problem in a show, but the name of the series does give the implication that the location matters. Probably the biggest problem the show may face is staying power.

While a strong opening, it leaves me wondering if the series will be able to keep the story going for a full 10 episodes. If they can manage that, they're in the clear, as the series is meant to be an anthology series, similar to "American Horror Story," which changes the plot every season, but the episode ended without

really saying what the story would be from here on.

It came across as if most of the problems were wrapped up fairly neat, with only a few problems for the characters to face, enough for one or two more episodes.

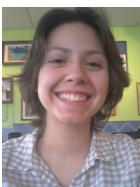
All things considered, the series has more going for it than against it, and it's very possible that any negative aspects I found in this episode will be corrected in the next.

I know that I'll be tuning in every week for sure, and it seems like just the kind of series I would recommend to any fan of television or film, comedy or drama. It's got enough of everything to satisfy just about anyone, although I would suggest seeing the film first to see if it fits with your kind of style.

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Doldrums captivates audience with emotional themes

COLUMNIST



NATALIE BOJORQUEZ

With his outstanding lyricism and his ability to perfectly blend in new jack and folk, Andrew St. James has made quite the impression with his first album *Doldrums*.

St. James at the ripe old age of 18, has seemed to achieve the perfect balance of being able to capture an audience with a universally pleasing sound and lyrics that immerse the listener in a world of hardships and love lost.

Not only does St. James use universally accepted songwriting techniques but he also uses characters referred to as "hip street folk" in his song to fully express his metaphors and analogies.

Most songwriters twice the age of St. James have not even come close to achieving the passionate wordplay this young and up and coming artist uses as a staple in his work.

St. James is seemingly open about expressing events that have happened over his own life. Most of his songs carry an air of personal reflection in them that isn't typically seen anymore. The careful planning of each syllable uttered holds a sense of preciseness that is palpable.

His songs mostly talk about hardships found in everyday life, such as finding oneself and a love lost. His romantic lyrics also seem to hold a breezy quality to them, perhaps a side effect of living in San Francisco.

Even if one does not over analyze the lyrics that St. James uses, the music that accompanies the words is equally as enjoyable.

St. James describes his style of music as alternative folk and that might be the closest way of describing his musical prowess.

While the undertones of his songs are obviously folk, St. James highlights these with synthesizers and up tempo drums and

saxophones. The incorporation of all these different instruments make for a warm inviting sound that one can't help but let it pull them in.

A must listen on *Doldrums* is *Visions*. This song has it all. Strong lyrics that make

“Most of his songs carry an air of personal reflection in them that isn't typically seen anymore.”

you want to roll your windows down and scream them and the perfect rise and fall of the song.

It almost feels and though St. James has transported the listener on to a boat in

a raging storm of emotions. The chorus of this song in particular is so powerful and just perfect in matching the entire tone of the song.

"A Prayer for East Oakland" is also another great song on *Doldrums*. While *Visions* is basically screaming PASSION at the listener "A Prayer for East Oakland" takes a more melancholy tone but conveys the same passion throughout the piece.

While the song, overall, is an exposition on the daily lives of those in Oakland, St. James makes it more personal by involving characters.

After the release of *Doldrums*, Andrew St. James has come out into the music world and has shown everyone what he is capable of. One can only hope he keeps it up and comes out with a new album soon.

Great things are expected from this young man who has a great career ahead of him.

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CLUB FEATURES

Rugby makes championship, but gets disqualified

VERONIKA QUISPE
Staff Writer

The FIU men's rugby team faced the spring season with one phrase in mind, "we control our own destiny," however at the very end of their season, fate was against them.

The team was forced to reschedule their qualifying game against the University of Central Florida due to weather conditions. Four starters and other key players were not able to attend the game, therefore FIU didn't score the four tries they desperately needed for a bonus point. UCF advanced with 23 points, Florida State University with 16 and FIU fell to third place with 15. They were unable to qualify for the South Independent Rugby Conference's (SIRC) championship.

Then fate shined some light on FIU as captain, Kyle Gilbert, received a call from a SIRC commissioner Gordon Campbell at noon, Thursday. The commissioner explained that FSU had been forced to forfeit some games as punishment for having illegal players on their team. Some players did not meet the requirements to play; some were part time students and others did not have the minimum GPA to play.

This automatically put FIU in second place to qualify for the SIRC championship, and the race against time began.

The game would take place in Georgia on Saturday, and all paperwork had to be submitted to the conference by noon, Friday. The team had to go through several departments at FIU in order to get signatures for their paperwork and find a way to get to Georgia, but came up short with such a sudden deadline.

"It was very disappointing," Gilbert said. "We tried so hard looking for vans to drive all the way there. It was such short notice, so we couldn't get everyone's paperwork in time. Which is a process that is usually done in a week. Plus we didn't want to travel with half our team just like our last game."

Many seniors were robbed of their last chance to make it into the championship.

The SIRC was very apologetic since this situation has never happened before, and promised to try to have a closer look at and kept FIU at the No. 2 spot in the state, the best ranking the program has ever seen. The new standings ended as UCF with 23, and FIU with 15 points.

"This has been the best season we've had in many years," Gilbert said.

FIU went 3-3 this season, and improved in their set pieces, such as scrums and line outs. Which were crucial in top contender games with players that have more experience under their belt.

This was also the last season for third-

year Captain Jorge Evora, and he will always remember the friendships made and post-game socials shared.

"Some guy randomly came up to me one day at the gym and talked to me about rugby, I went to one practice that Thursday to try out and I was hooked," Evora said. "I guess I had a good practice because they started me on the A side that Saturday even if it was my first game."

Evora has been playing since sophomore year and has proven to be a reliable asset each season in every position required.

"He understands all different aspects of rugby, his knowledge on rugby is so intense that makes him excel in all areas," Gilbert said.

"Once I step on the field I see my teammates and whatever they do I back them up and I'm responsible for them. I guide them, but that helps me do better for them," Evora said.

Commitment played a key role in this season's turn out. The team was ready to leave their best on and off the field to make a name for themselves.

"Everyone had the mindset to bring it further than just a club team," Gilbert said.

Rookies have definitely made themselves be seen throughout the season, not only because they outnumber, but because of their evident talent.

"You usually have the most experienced

players controlling plays and telling others what to do, but this season rookies were commanding on the field," Evora said.

After starting fresh off the fall season, Barrington McNutt has proven himself and others that he's a crucial player.

"There's not a moment when he doesn't go 100 percent all game," Gilbert said.

Even though the Panthers did not get to play at the conference championship, they feel more than satisfied with their progress.

"I'm very proud of all our work, especially to overcome such rough seasons we've had in the past," Evora said.

Both Gilbert and Evora played their last SIRC season as captains, but they leave the team confident that this is just the beginning.

"If you want this team to run on all cylinders then everyone on the team needs to be close as a family. You're all going to moving towards one goal," Gilbert said.

Evora leaves one final message to the team as he waves goodbye to what became more than just a pastime.

"Stick together, don't turn on each other on the field," Gilbert said. "If someone makes a mistake forget it and try to do better. If you stick together you'll achieve something better."

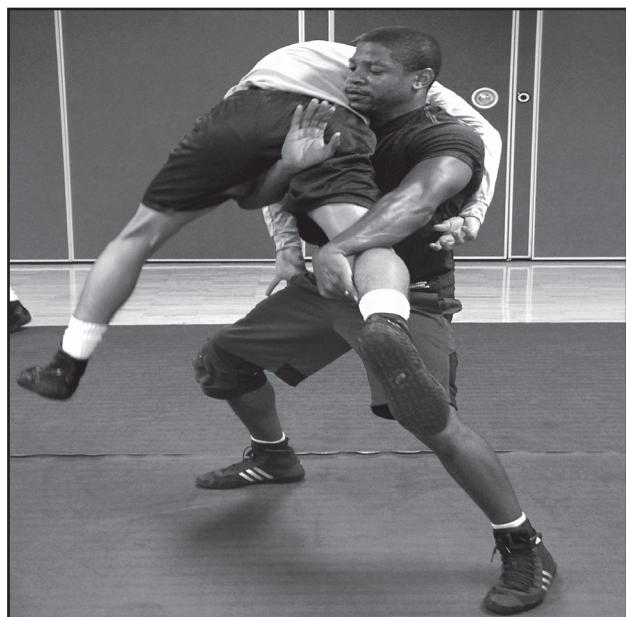
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Wrestling club looks to initiate full-fledged team

KIERON WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

In the Gold Room of the FIU Recreation Center, Alex Perez unrolled two large blue mats on to the wooden floor. Once they've covered a sizable area, he puts on his shoes—thin and blue with a strap of rubber around the toes for extra grip—and starts stretching. He's the assistant coach of the FIU Wrestling Club, a new group on campus with less than a handful of members. Even with the small turnout, Perez is still excited to help students get back on the blue mats.

"A lot of kids come out of schools like Miami-Dade, and for the ones who have just wrestled locally it's harder for them to leave everything and go up north to college for wrestling," Perez said. "So for the kids that do want to continue it and stay at home for college, our club is



VICTORIA GARCIAS/THE BEACON

Coach Oraefo "Kuma" Brown demonstrates a finish from the high crotch Monday night. Practice at the Recreation Center are on Monday and Wednesdays from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

a good way for them to travel with a national championship while still staying home." Of the four members

warming up together, two of them were coaches: Alex Perez and head coach Oraefo "Kuma" Brown. The other two members are brothers Justin and Julian Valhuerdi, who have been wrestling since high school.

"We started our sophomore year in high school and just never stopped," Julian said. "By senior year we were both ranked at state level."

Justin loves the effort it takes to succeed at wrestling.

"I've never been pushed so hard in my life, past my breaking point. I just want to keep pushing myself to the limit," Justin said. "If people look at us from the outside, they'll see us sweating, killing ourselves, and people would wonder why do you come back to that? And it's just because we love it."

"I like it because it's way different from football or base-

ball," Julian said. "There's very little team elements to wrestling. When you're out there on the mat, you're on your own. But when you win that match, they raise your hand up, and you hear the audience cheer for you? It's indescribable. You know you beat that guy because of your own effort."

Alex Perez, who has been wrestling since grade five, says that wrestling is more than a sport. "Wrestling's a lifestyle. It's something you take with you," Perez said. "It's the hardest work you can do because you're facing a guy one-on-one. I've seen football players who have trained the whole season, but when you put them on a wrestling mat they can't last 2 minutes. The reason is because wrestling's not just a sport. You have to work every day to be good at this."

In his freshman year in

high school, Julian was nearly expelled due to academic probation.

"When I started wrestling sophomore, it disciplined me," Julian said. "I had to work harder so that I could stay and wrestle. And now I can even take that discipline off the mat and put it into jobs and to school. Studying super hard for a big test is the same as preparing for a big match."

Looking into the future, the Valhuerdi brothers hope that more students will be drawn to the club so that they can take the club to the next level.

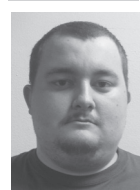
"One of the reasons I'm in the club is because of how great our coaches are," Justin said. "I know there are a lot of wrestlers in this school that don't know about the club and it would be awesome if we could make a team."

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COLUMN

Rhys' piece: baseball taking strides towards Omaha

COLUMNIST



RHYS WILLIAMS

The baseball team was 26-10 as of Wednesday, April 16. This includes a 10-8 record in Conference USA play.

This team, which has had so much hype, has lost 10 games and multiple series that they shouldn't have.

These include series like those against the University of Alabama

at Birmingham and Louisiana Tech University.

There is also the complete series loss, in which they did not win a single game, against C-USA - and national - powerhouse program in Rice University.

They will, if they want to get to Omaha for the College World Series, have to face off again with Rice, and more than likely that will be the C-USA championships.

There are 21 regular season

games left, with 11 at home in Miami. I truly think that they need to win at minimum 14 wins in the remainder of the season.

This maybe allows a loss to teams like Florida Atlantic University, who they play four times in the remainder of the season - including a weekend series which begins tonight, Friday, April 18 - and one or two to East Carolina University.

That amount of wins can happen, as we saw at the beginning of the

season but, they don't need to get cocky if they get a lot of wins.

In my mind there are some definite wins that need to happen.

The final game against the University of South Florida needs to be a win, as well as all four of the games against St. Peter's University in Miami.

I would be ok with the Panthers dropping a single game to the Pirates of ECU since they are also one of the powerhouse programs in C-USA.

However, when May 21 comes around and the C-USA tournament starts, the Panthers need to be in primetime form and not lose anything because I doubt that Head Coach Turtle Thomas and the rest of the program will be getting an invite to a regional, none-the-less Omaha if they lose in the C-USA tournament.

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CLUB FEATURES

Globemed advances to build medical clinic in Guatemala

JAHREL FRANCIS
Staff Writer

Globemed is an organization that matches university Globemed chapters to unique countries that are less fortunate. Along with this match, each chapter forms a multi-year partnership with a grassroots organization in order to aid each other toward the goal of improving the unique country's community health.

In order to improve the country's community health, the chapter and partnership develop a project to work and build for the country.

For instance, this Universi-

ty's chapter was founded Sep. 16, 2013. This year's project is to build a medical clinic in Guatemala.

"The project will provide support to equip the clinic and supply the equipment essential to function effectively. These services will benefit local children and community members who lack health care access," Asais Camila Uzcatogui, biophysics and anthropology major said via e-mail.

Uzcatogui is the president of the University's Globemed chapter and is working hard with the entire partnership to raise funds and get the project completed. The chapter's particular partnership is with

Escuela de la Calle (EDELAC), a Guatemalan organization with a mission to improve the lives of destitute children in the region. The area they are looking to influence and give benefit to is Las Rosas.

"The community of Las Rosas currently has no form of public health institution or community health clinic," Uzcatogui said. "We are hoping to execute our ideas through different phases of growth and education with our partner organization. In order to do so, we need the support of individuals in our own communities."

The current issue now is to raise money in order to fund building

supplies and travel expenses to get the team of builder's over to Guatemala. Globemed's grow team, which is a group of Globemed members that are also University students, include Andrea Mirabal, Morgan Mendis, Camila Monsalve, Uzcatogui and Cody Taffet and will make the trip to work with EDELAC.

Globemed held a 5k run, Run the Streets, held at the nature preserve trail outside of Parkview to raise the funds needed. The event took place Sunday April 13 starting one wave at 8 a.m. and the second wave at 10 a.m.

Funds need to reach approxi-

mately \$4,000 dollars. They are working off the donations of the 5k run and a few other events to fundraise.

The incentive was knowing you were helping fellow students build for the Guatemalan children. Moreover, the first group to finish the run received a prize along with the first registered individuals, a male and a female, to finish the race.

Luis Arango, freshman biomedical major was the first to finish the second wave as Gratsy was the first female individual to finish.

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**STUDENT MEDIA SAYS GOOD LUCK IN FINALS,
ENJOY YOUR BREAK AND**

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2014**

Some helpful hints for getting your news over the Summer Terms...

The Beacon will resume publication on Wednesday, June 25 where printed copies will be available at all campuses...

FIUSM.com will be updating in Summer A before printed versions of the paper are available in Summer B

WRGP Radiate FM will still be functioning with shows, such as Panther Sports Talk Live on Mondays and Fridays at 10 a.m.

88.1 FM
South Miami-Dade

95.3 FM
MMC

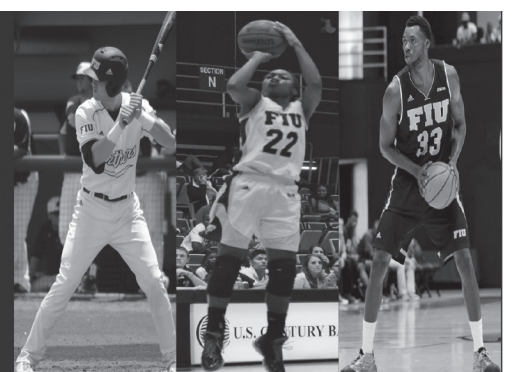
96.9 FM
BBC



fiusm.com



Panther Sports Talk Live
WRGP Radiate FM 88.1, 95.3, and 96.9 FM
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10-11AM



Privatized housing introduced at BBC with Servitas



Some of the ideas Servitas is working on for the construction of the new BBC housing may include a resort-style pool, a game room, study rooms, and a computer lab, among other things. The new building will also be tall enough to offer some units a view of the bay. These images are for illustration purposes only, final design may vary.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SERVITAS

ALYSSA ELSO
Staff Writer

Construction of the new residence halls at Biscayne Bay campus is quickly underway after the housing committee approved construction group.

Prior to selecting a construction company that would build the new residence halls, the committee was considering two construction groups, Servitas and Balfour Beatty. After meeting over a period of two to three months and rating each company on the categories of “Team, Construction and Design, Financials and Company Experience” the housing committee chose Servitas to construct the new campus housing.

“The reason we chose Servitas was because they produced a product that was conducive to FIU’s culture, while providing students with great amenities at an affordable rental rate,” said Emerald Nesbitt, Student Government Association Housing Senator.

According to Jim Wassenaar, Servitas will “build, finance, and operate” housing at BBC. In other words, privatized housing.

Construction of the new housing complex is expected to be completed by fall 2015 and is currently set to be constructed in two phases, between the Marine Science Building and the Roz & Cal Kovens Conference Center.

The eight-story structure will have over 600 beds as phase one will include 430 beds with phase two adding an additional 182 beds.

“Students currently residing in housing will have to leave Bay Vista Housing by May 1,” said Nesbitt. “However, if all goes as planned and there are no set backs they will have a new residence hall to move into within the next academic school year.”

While the construction of the new residence hall is a necessary addition to BBC, the construction process will force students wishing to reside near

BBC to look for off-campus housing.

In order to construct a residential hall that best suits student needs, the Servitas company set up a student survey

“The reason we chose Servitas was because they produced a product that was conducive to FIU’s culture, while providing students with great amenities at an affordable rental rate.”

Emerald Nesbitt
Housing Senator
Student Government Association

in order to gain student input on various aspects of the project.

In addition to asking students housing related questions, the survey includes pictures of what the residence halls and rooms will look like.

According to Servitas survey, the new apartment community will offer fully furnished units with single bedrooms, a common living room, full kitchen, and a choice of private or shared bathrooms. The community could feature study rooms, a computer lab, classrooms, game room, clubhouse, and a resort style pool with grilling stations and hammocks.

The housing could have laundry facilities and a vending area, and could be landscaped and have several special outdoor study/social/recreational areas. The building will be state of the art with a fitness center and Wi-Fi for residents with elevators offering access to

every floor.

The community could offer also a reserved parking area for only residents. Finally, the placement and height of the building will offer some units ocean/bay views.

In order to accommodate the new housing complex, the BBC campus will also construct 212 new parking spaces by Academic Center Two.

According to Servitas, The goal is to create an apartment community where students can live, learn and socialize at BBC and in the local community.

“I believe the company chosen will produce a product that students will enjoy for years to come,” said Nesbitt.

Students can fill out the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BBC-Housing>.

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Top five reasons why students feel stress, visit CAPS

ELI VERA
Staff Writer

Students often struggle with the balance of class, work, applications, family and sometimes it can all be too much during the semester.

Many students reach out to the University office of Counseling and Psychological Services when they feel overwhelmed with any type of a variety of issues.

According to the CAPS annual report of 2012 - 2013, students seek counseling due to five main reasons, the most prevalent of which is anxiety.

“This is an emotional disorder that include individuals who have difficulty with worry, apprehension or fear,” said Xuan Stevens, a psychologist at the CAPS office.

For students with severe anxiety, Stevens recommends relaxation exercises, both mental and physical.

Stevens said that it is helpful to think about the present and to “be in the moment” to relieve anxiety about

upcoming responsibilities or tasks.

“This can help in not thinking so much in the future because the thought

“Since I’m graduating later than I should, I have been really stressed and just trying to do what I have to do no matter what.”

Diana Deonanan
Senior
Psychology

of constantly not knowing what is to come can snowball all over again,” said Stevens.

Some students said they tend to grow anxious just waiting to hear back from opportunities they have applied for.

Kyle Wicomb, who has a bachelor’s degree in anthropology and sociology, is currently in the process of applying to medical schools, and the pressure is

getting to him.

“I’m stressed out,” said Wicomb. “Your future is on the line and you are waiting for months to make a decision about your future.”

Wicomb thinks that the waiting time for these applications is so long, that it leaves students with fewer options.

“It would be better if the wait time were not as long, because then you can explore other options for your future,” said Wicomb.

Other times students get anxious about not reaching a goal the way they had planned and having to adjust to a different path towards the same goal.

For Diana Deonanan, senior psychology major, she grows more and more anxious about her classes.

“Since I’m graduating later than I should, I have been really stressed and just trying to do what I have to do no matter what,” Deonanan said.

Another concern for students are relationships.

According to CAPS, about 12.5 percent of individuals that come in complain

of relational problems not otherwise specified.

“This might be difficulties with roommates, perhaps difficulties with friends, so these interpersonal relationships for a number of different reasons people have difficulty relating to others,” said Stevens.

Aside from problems with peers, students that have problems with their professors can also “cause distress” and fall under this category, said Stevens.

Following this category, 8.5 percent of individuals come in with issues that are partner relational problems.

“This includes any type of emotionally or physically intimate relationship between two individuals and it doesn’t matter the sexual orientation or gender,” said Stevens.

The last category University counselors have seen students for under the umbrella of relationship issues, which makes up about seven percent, is parent-

SEE CAPS, PAGE 2