

6-25-2014

The Beacon, June 25, 2014

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Florida International University, "The Beacon, June 25, 2014" (2014). *The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon)*. 6.
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TOUGH LUCK

Marty's Cube leaves University after 16 years



DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

Marty's Cube has stood outside Duxieme Maison since 1998. On May 22, 2014, it was loaded onto a flatbed and taken away for good.

REBECA PICCARDO
News Director

Students may have to find another ritual to help them pass their exams now that the University's lucky charm has been removed for good.

On May 22, Marty's Cube, as it was titled by sculptor Tony Rosenthal, was lifted from its spot for the past 16 years, outside Duxieme Maison, and hauled away.

The University cited safety concerns for removing the cube.

It had been damaged and could have presented a danger to members of the University community passing by it, according to a statement from the University Media Relations office.

These safety concerns prompted the University to return the piece back to its original donor, Martin Margulies.

The Margulies Collection Curator Katherine Hinds said that, over a period of time, outdoor sculptures tend to have maintenance needs.

"Universities make budgetary decisions," said Hinds, who was glad that the University gave her the opportunity to take back the sculpture to renovate it and bring it back to top-notch conditions.

However, once it's fixed, the cube will not be coming home to FIU.

"We will then decide where to re-donate the work," said Hinds.

The cube will be donated to another educational institution in Florida—one that will have the funds to maintain the sculpture, she added.

Marty's Cube had been donated to the University a few years back, under President Emeritus Modesto A. Maidique.

The SGC-MMC president at the time, Arthur "AJ" Meyer, told Student Media back in 2009 that he had written a letter to Margulies, asking to keep the cube permanently at the University.

"I wanted to secure that we keep Marty's Cube at this University, a university without many traditions at all, and so I sent a letter through President Maidique," Meyer said. "Mr. Margulies just responded to us and told us that it was ours."

Meyer could not be reached for further comment by press time.

The cube was first brought to the University in 1998. Since then, it had become a part of the University spirit, with the popular student tradition of spinning the cube for good luck before an exam.

According to the Student Alumni Association traditions page online, this tradition was started by a group of chemistry students who first spun the cube just for fun while they studied.

They all received perfect scores on their exam.

After testing out the cube's luck and acing their exam the following semester, they decided not to spin it again and see what would happen. That semester that the students chose not to spin the cube, they all failed the exam and had to repeat the class.

Spinning the 15-foot sculpture has since become a part of the freshmen orientation tour, midterms week, finals week and the Student Government Association's Cram Jam events.

With the cube gone, FIU Meme Generators created a virtual

SEE CUBE, PAGE 2

Board of Trustees approves new partnerships ventures

REBECA PICCARDO
AND CAMILA FERNANDEZ
FIUSM Staff

Over the course of two weeks, the Board of Trustees Committees and the full Board approved several new projects for the University.

During a full board meeting on June 12, the University's Board of Trustees approved the tenure of 29 faculty members, a new PhD program in International Crime and Justice, along with three partnership ventures.

The committee approved a partnership with the National Tropical Botanical Garden, a non-profit that offered the University plots of land adjacent to the Kampong garden in Coconut Grove.

Two separate grant donations give a total of

\$5 million in funding for this project.

According to the Board's agenda, the partnership's mission is to study tropical plants and develop sustainable solutions to preserve tropical plant diversity.

FIU students and faculty will have access to the Kampong garden and four other gardens located in Hawaii.

The Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science is also partnering with the University to build a joint-use facility at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

This project received a \$5 million grant to build the facility.

The Board's agenda states that FIU students will gain hands-on experience with exotic, large marine animals and birds. Also, classroom spaces will be provided for four new Professional Science Masters.

The committee also approved a 15-year agreement with Shorelight Education in the hopes of attracting more international students, along with their out-of-state tuition.

By partnering with Shorelight, the University would establish a 12-month undergraduate program for international students to help provide specialized English-language instruction along with their academic coursework.

According to the Board's agenda, FIU has one of the largest criminal justice departments in the state.

The approved PhD program in International Crime and Justice has made FIU the first minority-serving institution to offer a PhD in criminal justice.

The program will be available at FIU's Modesto Maidique Campus and online.

While most of the Board of Trustees

committee meetings that met on June 3 discussed new projects and recent accomplishments, the Health Affairs Task Force Committee discussed looming changes in college health care.

As federal health reform begins to affect college health plans FIU still offers the cheapest University health fee in the state and does not require students to buy health insurance.

All students pay a health fee of \$187.60 for two semesters, but data shows that the Student Health Services resources are underused, which concerned chair Jose J. Armas.

"We're in an urban environment where there are lots of other options for health care other than just right on campus," said Provost Douglas Wartzok. "And so only about 20

SEE BOT, PAGE 2

WORLD NEWS

Iraqi insurgents capture more towns; Maliki government downplays rebel successes

Iraqi rebels seized four critical towns in the western province of Anbar overnight Saturday and Sunday, taking control of the last major border crossing to Syria still in government hands and opening a path for the rebels through the Euphrates River valley down to Ramadi, the provincial capital. The four towns in western Iraq fell in close succession, opening the Syrian border and areas in Syria controlled by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria to areas in western Iraq also held by the group. After a lightning offensive that began in the northern city of Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, in which most of central and northern Iraq's Sunni Muslim-populated areas fell in 10 days, the militants refocused their efforts on western Iraq.

Somali journalist killed in Mogadishu car bombing

A 27-year-old Somali journalist was killed Saturday by a car bomb in Mogadishu, witnesses said. Yusuf Ahmed Abukar, an award-winning journalist, was driving through the capital's Hamarweyne district on his way to work, when the bomb went off. "It is a very shocking tragedy. His car was damaged badly by the explosion and his body blown into pieces," journalist Abdifatah Halane told dpa. Abukar worked for privately owned radio station Mustaqbal in Mogadishu as well as Radio Ergo in Nairobi, Kenya. He was well-known for his outspokenness about Islamist militant group al-Shabaab and his criticism of Somalia's government. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the killing.

Ukraine's president declares one-week cease-fire in restive east

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Friday declared a one-week, unilateral cease-fire to try and end the bloody conflict with pro-Russian insurgents in the country's east. The truce will last until June 27 in order to allow the "terrorists" to lay down their arms, Poroshenko said in a statement published on the Interior Ministry's website. "Military action will only be carried out in response, that is when rebels attack our forces," said the president.

FIU to open nutrition store in new parking garage

PATRICK CHALVIRE
Asst. Sports Director

Whether it's Crossfit, gym memberships or your occasional stroll down the street, there seems to be a rise in exercise and making right choices as to what students put in their bodies.

Coming in January, EXN Nutrition will open its first Miami store in the almost-finished Parking Garage 6.

The Broward-based company plans on opening up in one of the biggest universities in the country. "FIU has done so much for the city of Miami and it seemed like a great fit to be part of a community like that," said EXN Nutrition Marketing Director Paul Cobon. "There's a lot of universities down here [South Florida] but FIU was the one that we've had in mind."

Gaining a spot in PG6 was more than simply paying a fee or being the first company to sign their name on the dotted line. The company had to apply and give the University reasons as to why they were fit to be a part of the university.

"It was a process we had to kinda apply for and submit a marketing package...pretty much an entire package why we deserved to be on of the stores on campus," said Cobon.

The transition to Miami was one that Cobon said was a perfect fit for the company.

"We don't have any stores in Miami yet so when the opportunity came to not only open a store in Miami but to open it on campus, we went right for it," said Cobon.

SEE NUTRITION, PAGE 7

Cube returned to collector, student tradition ends

CUBE, PAGE 1

Marty's Cube that students can spin online.

"Don't you fret, and don't you frown, there's now a virtual cube in town," read the Facebook post on the FIU meme page along with the hashtags, "save the cube," "spin the cube" and "love the cube."

The real cube sculpture now sits at the Margulies Collection at its warehouse in Miami, where it will undergo any needed maintenance and renovations.

Marty's Cube is one of five similar sculptures spread throughout the country. The

"Alamo" was the first cube of its kind, finished in 1967, and now stands in New York City.

not come on the market place often," Hinds said.

As a point of compar-

It is difficult to put a value on works such as these because these monumental works do not come on the market place often.

Katherine Hinds
Curator
Margulies Collection

These types of sculptures are so unusual that, according to Hinds, it is hard to evaluate their worth.

"It is difficult to put a value on works such as these because these monumental works do

not come on the market place often," Hinds said. As a point of comparison, the Alamo, which has the same dimensions as Marty's Cube, was appraised by the Fine Art Asset Management firm at the end of 2013 at \$1 million, according to Philip Abramson from the New York

City Department of Parks and Recreation.

Margulies has also loaned other works to the University, like "Argosy," the red towering sculpture on the roundabout at the entrance of 107 Avenue and 16 Street.

According to the statement from Media Relations, the University is grateful to Margulies for his sculptures and how they enhance the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

Rhys Williams and Diego Saldana-Rojas contributed to this report.
-news@fiusm.com

BOT Committee meetings approve new plans, projects

BOT, PAGE 2

percent of students are using our health care services on campus."

For a commuter school like FIU, that percentage should be closer to 50 percent, said Wartzok.

Armas said that one of two things must have gone wrong— either students are not made aware about the services they have, or "the services are so poor, they just don't want them."

Wartzok said that although the University does not want to operate with such poor use of SHS, any increase in utilization might make the health fee increase.

The board also discussed how state universities, like the University of Florida,

are moving towards requiring students to have an insurance plan as well as pay a health fee.

If FIU were to make health insurance mandatory for students, it would result in an immediate 20 percent increase in cost of attendance, Wartzok said.

For the time being, the University is working towards integrating SHS with the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine's FIU Health by sharing a common electronic medical record system and laboratory resources.

FIU Health is also credentialing SHS physicians and nurse practitioners, according to Wartzok.

Armas asked to keep SHS on the agenda for future meetings.

At the External Relations Committee

meeting, Stephen Sauls, vice president of governmental relations, presented the recent University victories from the legislative session.

Among these, the University secured \$18 million in incremental performance funding, \$10 million towards acquiring the fairgrounds and over \$20 million in several other projects and programs.

Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Jessell commended the trustees' efforts in making sure that all University projects received funding.

"We had pretty good intel that one of our very important projects was in jeopardy and many of you made calls," said Jessell. "It really is a group effort."

-news@fiusm.com

SGC-MMC appoints cabinet positions

ADRIAN SUAREZ
AVILA
Staff Writer

On June 2, SGA-MMC's senators met for the first general meeting of the semester to confirm the newly appointed executive cabinet officers. They will

advise the president in making her decisions and forward the mission of the Student Government Association throughout the academic year.

Along with an expression of enthusiasm to assume their positions, the cabinet appointees

each delivered a brief speech to the senators, explaining their qualifications and ideas for their respective positions.

Although some positions require the presence of a single officer, some, such as deputy chief-of-staff, and marketing

and special projects coordinators, require that two students work in conjunction to complete the tasks demanded by their position.

The senators confirmed all of the Executive Cabinet appointees unanimously.

Despite the fact that the majority of the executive cabinet officers were confirmed, six were absent from the meeting and are awaiting confirmation by the senators.

For the full story, check fiusm.com.

THE BEACON

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 348-2709
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
junette.reyes@fiusm.com

Advertising:
(305) 348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.

Harsh environment for the growing artist

JUNETTE REYES
Editor-in-Chief

Miami as a whole is a self-destructive city, particularly when its ever-changing music scene is taken into consideration.

Venues come and go as they please for various reasons. The traditions and history that come with these venues are therefore rarely maintained in this city that is constantly on the move and constantly obsessed with erasing anything that is no longer youthful.

The venues that do remain usually cater to a specific type of sound and audience, more likely the sound and audience that is now considered “hip” or “trendy.”

Speaking of the audience, they are the most fickle, unreliable group of people you will ever come across. An entire culture has been established around what is popularly known as “miami time,” meaning everyone is always late to an

event. This leaves bands and artists who open shows to play to nothing but a handful of people at times.

On another note regarding the crowd, I sometimes get the general vibe that Miami’s audience rarely goes out to these events to truly enjoy a band or artist for its art, but rather more for the sake of going out. We live in a bustling city where there’s always something to do, so you’ll never be bored – if you’re the right age.

Still, in a city where the arts are clearly so important, Miami’s music and its scene often seem to be cast aside by its residents. More often than not, light is usually only shed upon the dance culture within Miami, but Miami is full of so much more than a really good dance beat. All you have to do is go to the few venues out there that hold a place for talented bands like Plastic Pinks, Deaf Poets, Jacuzzi Boys, Sunghosts and

many, many more.

And this is all coming from someone who has only just begun to dip their toes into the water. I’m speaking as an observer who has not only gone out to experience the scene, but also as someone who has come to know a lot of these artists through my involvement as co-host of Local Radiation, a radio program that celebrates local music. These are artists that want to make something out of this city and I’m with them because I really feel this city is worth fighting for.

It might have the ultimate formula to self-destruct, but Miami’s music scene is only just beginning to grow and the city needs to realize that. People need to start supporting the individuals that make this place all the more bearable.

-junette.reyes@fiusm.com

Feminism is directly responsible for all men’s rights groups

KRISTOPHER SAAD
Contributing Writer

The recent rise of men’s rights activist groups is due to two primary reasons: men responding to some double standards and biases introduced in some feminist philosophy; and men realizing the need to increase advocacy and awareness of issues primarily affecting the male gender – just as feminism has done for the female gender.

Unfortunately, the rise of men’s advocacy groups has been met with an onslaught of bashing, shaming and name-calling from feminist groups. Men’s rights organizations are accused of being anti-equality, sexist and misogynist organizations that seek to devalue and discredit the feminist movement in order to maintain the patriarchy. This couldn’t be further from the actual goals of men’s rights groups.

On both sides, knee-jerk reactionaries and radicals have taken combative stances that have devolved most conversations between men’s rights and feminist groups into simple-minded, irrational and illogical debates diluting into name-calling that don’t get any real talking done.

Some segments of feminist groups and feminist philosophy have taken an unfair and one-sided approach against men’s rights groups. This is

completely counterintuitive to the actual conversations that should be taking place because it marginalizes these men’s groups which is inherently hypocritical; it’s ironic that a self-proclaimed feminist would act in such a manner. It only takes a small presence of mind to realize that by marginalizing and sidelining men’s rights groups, one is working against equality rather than for it, and as such, these people are fighting against their own cause. Men must be included as much as women in the conversation for equality.

Men’s rights groups do not seek to discredit or destroy feminism. In fact, I would argue that most members of men’s rights groups could more than likely be considered feminists themselves. They simply felt that mainstream feminist discourse was beginning lose touch with its core philosophy of a truly egalitarian world society.

Feminism has in effect censored some men’s rights discussions through its liberal use of misogyny and sexist shaming of anyone who has anything to say that is against or questioning of feminist ideologies or stances.

Feminism has also shunned and turned away men from entering conversations relating to women’s rights citing reasons such as: “It’s not about men, it’s about women,” “it doesn’t concern men,” “only women

understand and only women can be a part of the discussion” and “they’re purposefully taking away focus from real issues.” This separation and exclusion of men simply furthers an inequality in gender-based equality discourses and is counterproductive to the feminist philosophies of equality for all, regardless of gender.

Recent pieces on “rape culture” and male-feminist apologists have harmed the overall equality conversation by introducing stereotypes against the involuntary act of being a man. Many recent pieces have been skewed to imply mere guilt by association by just being of the male gender. Some pieces going so far as calling all men involuntary enablers of rape culture. I have personally read many of these pieces such as Zaron Burnett’s “The Gentleman’s Guide to Rape Culture.” In this particular piece, this journalist argues that all men are guilty of certain grievances that are supportive of rape culture. Again, presuming that all men are guilty of supporting rape culture when that is not at all the case.

Feminism has refused to acknowledge the legitimacy of men’s rights groups on the basis of tyranny of the majority, citing the male-centric patriarchy as a reason to exclude men from conversations involving their very own rights and abilities to achieve and maintain happi-

ness. Feminist issues and men’s rights issues aren’t black and white. In fact, most of the issues are complicated and interrelated and it’s why men should not be excluded from the conversation.

There are a fair amount of issues concern men nowadays that should not be ignored, including domestic violence, rape and sexual predator stereotypes. The feminist movement’s marginalization and discreditation of men’s rights groups is counterintuitive towards a movement that is supposed to stand for equality, not one-sided advocacy.

One of the only ways to truly have an equal and unbiased conversation on equality is to take gender out of the equation either through the dissolution or joining of forces between feminist and men’s rights groups. They could call themselves the “equalists” and fight for the equality of all people, stand against stereotyping and focus on having productive conversations on issues that are not gender exclusive. Obviously this would be an extremely difficult thing to actually do, but we must take a more proactive approach to mediating and having productive conversations between different advocacy groups. Currently, enough isn’t being done. The real issues aren’t being looked at nor focused on.

-opinion@fiusm.com

THE BEACON | Editorial

Unfortunate turn of events: Marty’s Cube goes back to collector

Any University graduate from the past decade or so probably remembers the tradition of spinning Marty’s Cube during finals, which was believed to assure the spinner of passing all exams, given that those who spun the cube actually studied.

In a turn of events, this long-running tradition is now an empty spot of concrete with only the University to blame for its demise.

The University had the cube on loan since 1998, and received ownership of it about five years ago when the Student Government Council at Modesto A. Maidique Campus asked the collector, Martin Margulies, to let FIU keep the cube due to its popularity among students.

The cube was closed off during spring semester. At the end of May, members of the community saw the cube being lifted onto a flatbed and taken away; no one knew why or for how long.

The University cited safety concerns as the reason for removing the cube. Why was the cube all of a sudden a safety concern? Why weren’t students informed of all this? Was a mysterious disappearance necessary?

Wear and tear is natural for any object left outdoors for an extended period of time. The University maintains its buildings, lawns and networks. Like other outdoor structures, they should also maintain their outdoor sculptures, especially the cube, which hold years of student tradition.

For an institution with very little authentic student traditions, they let this one go a little too easily.

We understand that new construction and expansion is more useful to the University, its staff and students, but maintaining current structures should be a priority too.

Instead of maintaining the cube, the University did what many children do with things they don’t want anymore or find too bothersome to hold onto – threw it away.

Marty’s Cube was returned to the collector, who will renovate the cube and re-donate it to another institution in Florida – one that will fit maintenance into their budget.

If returning the cube was the only option for the University, then steps should have been taken to inform students and help them understand the need for its removal.

Removing the cube, along with its tradition, is an unpopular decision, but if communicated properly, students would have come to understand the need for its removal.

However, the cube’s departure was handled poorly, and for students that may have been gone away over summer, they will come back to find a void that can’t be filled.

Come finals, a tradition now lost will leave incoming freshman clueless about what everyone else is talking about when they start to miss the cube.

Taking it away out of the blue only left students and faculty wondering about what was going on. No one would have assumed that the cube would disappear forever.

The University can’t expect to instill a sense of pride in its students when an honored tradition like the cube is abruptly taken away. Its mysterious removal speaks poorly of the University.

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Artists explore sexual identity at 'Bend'

JUNETTE REYES
Editor-in-Chief

Tyler Wasson, a University psychologist and LGBTQA specialist in the office of Counseling and Psychological Services, made an oath when he first graduated with his degree to support the marginalized and to give a voice to the voiceless.

Wasson specifically assisted in giving a voice to the LGBTQA community within the University in art form by organizing and producing art exhibitions in the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum. The second annual art show titled "Bend," presented by the CAPS and the Multicultural Programs and Services' LGBTQA Initiatives, recently ran from May 22 to June 11 and focused on lived experiences of gender, sexuality, empowerment and equality.

"The artists themselves get to put their voices out there just by creating this work and having it shown in the Frost

Museum, or any museum for that matter. But then the people who come and join us, whether they submitted or not, are also acknowledging those voices— just acknowledging the struggle. Participating in a struggle that might be there, participating in a celebration that might be there. It's not all a struggle. I think that a show like this does that. It gives a voice to people who may not otherwise feel they have a voice," said Wasson.

Curated by Brittini Winkler, a curatorial practice student at the University, the exhibition featured the work of six artists. In the form of paintings, photographs and videos, bodies were shown in motion or expressing something while exploring the concept of gender.

"I don't know about all of them, but when I think about the paintings, that is something that takes time and the work evolves over time. It's something that if your heart is not in it, you're going to lose

interest because it does take some time for that to evolve. So I really think that especially the paintings, their heart and soul is in that and they get to see that piece evolve the more effort they put into it. I think that says a lot about identity as well, like the more effort you put into searching and discovering, exploring your identity, the more you're gonna learn, the more you're able to express," said Wasson.

Natalie Merola, one of the artists and a digital media alumna, chose photography as her outlet with three photographs in the exhibition featuring Palace, the first and only gay restaurant and bar at South Beach known for its drag shows.

"When I got to go behind the scenes with Noel Leon, one of the featured subjects in my photography, she was telling me that the craft goes a little deeper than what most people see. They think that it's just someone that wants to be a woman. They try to label



CONTRIBUTED BY CAMILO LONDONO

Camilo Londono, a journalism and mass communications alumni, displayed his image, "Release," as part of the Bend Exhibit.

them. Some people identify as a queen or that they're gay but sometimes it's just a straight man that wants to dress up. It's different people trying to identify with how they feel on the inside," said Merola.

"I particularly thought it

was important to embrace and show this— how people feel and how they choose to express themselves and that they are no different from other people. These people that are very marginalized deserve that voice and they

deserve to be showcased as human beings, for who they are."

Merola has a unique perspective of the craft as she identifies as an ally, explaining

SEE BEND, PAGE 5

MTV's "Faking It," chronicles high school homosexuality

MADARI PENDAS
Staff Writer

A few weeks ago MTV premiered a program titled "Faking it," that chronicles the lives of two high school girls, Karma Ashcroft and Amy Raudenfeld, played by Katie Stevens and Rita Volk respectively, who decide to pretend to be lesbians in order to raise their popularity and social standing. However, Amy is not pretending. They attend a high school where the typically marginalized groups are the most popular and are the dominant voice of the student populace. Amy and Karma are subsequently nominated as homecoming queens and spend the remainder of the series dealing with the

effects of their charade.

The show has a lot of of endearing qualities and several positive messages. For instance, female homosexuality is rarely explored on television— and when it is, the heteronormative standard, which dominates the majority of television, is applied. Even so, in the past decade programs like "The L Word" and "Orange is the New Black" have explored lesbianism and female sexuality more openly. The aforementioned shows are typically staged at a later period in womens' lives, whereas "Faking it" explores homosexuality at an earlier stage.

It also avoids a lot of the regular plot devices that are common in teen dramas. Instead of having the female protagonist

fawn over men and create new ploys to get male attention, it focuses on a character's real attraction to her best friend, and her attempts at understanding her feelings and herself. A lot of young people who are struggling to find themselves can find a relatable role model in this show.

Having a lesbian protagonist other gay youths a character they can identify with, who shares their struggles, validates their feelings and normalizes their experiences. This is atypical of MTV since some of their most popular programming, such as "The Jersey Shore" and "the Real World," lack positive roles models and that glorify misconduct.

It also poses a good question: am I gay? Although a lot of teen dramas, like "Glee"

and "Teen Wolf," have gay characters, the struggle and methods through which they derive their answers are not explored as extensively. For instance, in "Glee," Kurt Hummel already identifies as gay he is just not openly gay in the beginning of the series; whereas in "Faking it," Amy tries to identify and understand her attraction to Karma.

The show allows viewers to witness Amy's journey into self discovery, from her first kiss with Karma, where her questions first manifest, to dealing with the criticism of her overly conservative family, to learning to accept herself (which hasn't yet occurred in the new series).

SEE MTV, PAGE 5

Touring band Jacuzzi Boys sits down with FIUSM

JUNETTE REYES & DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS
FIUSM Staff

In collaboration with WRGP Radiate FM's program titled Local Radiation, FIUSM has had the chance to interview several up-and-coming as well as established acts in the Miami scene.

This time around, FIUSM got to sit down and interview lead vocalist Gabriel and bassist Danny of the Jacuzzi Boys. Jacuzzi Boys is additionally made up of drummer Diego, who we did not have a chance to meet.

How did each of you gravitate towards your roles and instruments in the band?

Danny: Well, I had no option.

Gabriel: Diego and I started the band and I just wanted to play the guitar. Diego and I got our instruments

the same week, I think. I don't know what drew us to our instruments. I just wanted to play guitar and I think Diego had played drums before and wanted drums. It's just how it all worked out.

How did you meet?

Gabriel: I met Diego in high school, and then Diego and I met Danny through our mutual friend, Rydel, who is our tour manager.

How would you say the band has evolved since your formation?

Danny: I guess we've kind of taken more chances; willing to experiment a little bit more and not feel tied down to some idea of what it should sound like. We've maybe gotten a little better at playing but maybe not too much.

Gabriel: I don't know if you would call it an evolution. I think we just always do what our version of rock and roll is. I don't think songs get anymore

complicated or anything. It's just whatever we're feeling.

How do you translate your songs from a recording to a live performance?

Danny: I personally don't really try to translate it. They're just two different experiences. When I go see a band play, I'm not hoping that it sounds like the record. It's kind of like the record is one thing, you can sit at home or drive your car and listen to it. I'm not too concerned ever to replicate exactly what went on in the studio.

Gabriel: We play the songs actually ten times faster live. I think that's cool. I think we sound [...] pretty different from our records, and I think that's a good thing.

Would you say you're more aggressive live?

Gabriel: Yeah, I think so.

Danny: I think it's safe to say that.



JUNETTE REYES/THE BEACON

Frontman Gabriel (left), drummer Diego (middle) and bassist Danny of the Jacuzzi Boys performing at Gramps bar in Wynwood.

Gabriel: Maybe not in all songs, but I think on most of

SEE MUSIC, PAGE 5

Exhibition gives voice to LGBTQA community

BEND, PAGE 4

that it is necessary to be a voice so that other allies can acknowledge the importance.

“Because I’m an ally, I can see each person’s different personality or the different sociological perspectives and how they choose to express themselves. It’s kind of like an artist can be either a sculptor, a painter, an illustrator or they can be all of the above. It makes me feel happy that no matter what, these people are who they are and they don’t care who knows it. They’re gonna be themselves. That’s the most important thing: to be free inside and outside,” said Merola.

Merola explained that using photography as an outlet helps one see things through a different light when one is an outsider in somebody else’s culture.

“I’m kind of like that fly in the wall. I get to indulge in all the greatness that these people have in their own communities. I think the more people see outside of their own culture, they start to shed away that ethnocentricity. They start to truly become more cultured and understanding and compassionate for another human being. I

think that is very integral for all art shows, to enlighten people and to open up their perspectives,” said Merola.

Sergio Potes, another artist showcased in the exhibition and a senior psychology major, chose paintings as his outlet to convey his message. His work showed a male figure with a curvaceous shape that could be mistaken for a female’s body, touching upon the idea that a male body is not always bulky and can be considered soft and as attractive as a female’s.

“My work doesn’t touch upon so deeply on what they’re trying to shed light upon: transgender. Unfortunately, my work isn’t about that but I think that transgender is very important right now. Even I, as a gay person, am not so informed with what’s going on with transgendered people. I’m still learning about that. It’s weird to me; it’s cool and it’s interesting. It’s something I think more people need to find out more about,” said Potes.

Camilo Londono, a journalism and mass communications alumnus showcased in the exhibition, said that although he felt the community has been pretty well

represented than it used to be, it still is important for people to learn more.

“It’s pretty important just because it lets people like you come out and see that we’re just regular people. It gives people a chance to socialize with someone who is openly gay or out there,” said Londono.

Merola specifically expressed the importance of this at the University.

“The CAPS and the LGBTQA Initiatives at FIU are making great strides here in the University and within the community. Just making sure that those students feel very valued. FIU has been the best experience for me as an ally and going through all sorts of other things. It definitely made me feel like home and I think now making that community feel a part of it is even more important because now it is all encompassing. I hope more students find that this is their home here,” said Merola.

The Bend exhibition additionally featured the work of artists Sean D. Henry Smith, Carlos-Miguel Rivas, and Daniela Montoya

-junette.reyes@fiusm.com

New scripted show offers alternative perspective

MTV, PAGE 4

In one of the episodes Amy is laying in bed fantasizing about kissing Karma again, and feels content and comfortable in their embrace. This scene shows young women how acceptable exploration is, and normalizes female-female interactions and feelings, instead of ostracizing the feelings or using the cliché “it’s just a phase.”

Amy is an excellent role model for adolescents, while Karma is a high school trope. Karma begins a clandestine relationship with Liam, whom she fawns over constantly because he’s the most popular and attractive guy in their school. However, as MTV is not quite ready to break their reliance on teenage stereotypes, most of Karma’s scenes focus on Karma going through extraordinary means to get Liam’s attention. Amy even questions Karma’s motives and criticizes the “trying-to-get-a-boy-to-like-you” as the only female imperative. Amy, on the other hand, confronts her homophobic mother.

The attitudes expressed on the show directly contrast the stereotypes and archaic gender roles a lot of MTV’s programs have demonstrated. For instance a “machismo” standard is evident in a lot of MTV’s most popular programs, like the “Real World” and the “Jersey Shore,” where the men are portrayed as aggressors and sexual conquistadors. “Faking It” shows a different type of masculinity, one in which hyper-masculinity is not the

dominant attitude; instead, two young men of different orientations can feel comfortable dancing together and openly discussing their feelings.

The show, however, has some serious flaws that are hopefully resolved by the end of the series. One of my qualms with the program is the way homosexuality is viewed as a method of popularity, and most gay teenagers are not exalted like Amy and Karma— rather they face serious difficulties and struggles that the show has neglected to present thus far. It treats gay identity as trivial and lighthearted and ignores the anguish many gay people experience.

Not everyone’s coming out experience is the same, and the show explores an alternative while offering positive messages and strong characters that many marginalized youths can identify with. In an interview show creator Carver Covington, he spoke with a person who confessed, “I’m worried that my friends are only my friends because I’m gay.”

“I was shocked,” Covington said. “That idea seemed so foreign to me given the world I grew up in, but this kid explained that he went to a very tolerant high school where being gay was like a badge of honor. That’s when I realized there are schools out there where being gay is no longer a problem, and tolerance is viewed as an asset.”

-life@fiusm.com

Local act on touring

MUSIC, PAGE 4

them. When you’re playing live, you’re kind of more amped than just being in the studio. It’s sort of a different energy.

Tell us about your tour through Europe.

Danny: It’s always fun, man. It’s always kind of weird in the best sense. Europe is pretty much always a positive experience. People over there are really friendly; you get treated well. Shows are always fun. I think we probably played to the biggest crowd we ever played to.

Gabriel: It always feels like a “What are we doing here?” kind of experience.

Have you noted any differences between the European audiences and the ones here?

Gabriel: There is a difference. It’s not like, say a French crowd gets wilder or anything. But in Europe, when we talk to the bands [as Americans], they’re kind of in awe.

Danny: I think the biggest difference is kind of just the way the bands are treated when you go overseas. It’s not like one

crowd gets crazier and does different things. If it’s a good show, it’s a good show. It just feels good regardless. I’d say when you’re over there, you get to sleep in hotel rooms and you get better food and stuff like that. I think that’s the main difference.

What lets you know you’re back home?

Gabriel: The weather. You just get out and that’s it. I remember on the last European tour, as soon as we got back, the sun was out— not a cloud in the sky. We hadn’t had that in like a month. It was pretty gloomy; the sun would go down at 3 p.m.

Danny: We always have connecting flights somewhere but I feel like the second we land in the U.S. somewhere and I see someone with gold teeth, I’m always like “We’re back in the U.S.”

Would you say you take a sense of Miami with you when you travel?

Danny: Yeah, because people always ask where we’re from because of our funny accents, so I guess we bring it.

Gabriel: We always tend to bring banners that say Miami on it or “The Jacuzzi Boys from Miami,” what-

ever. I say it every time we start the show. We definitely love where we’re from.

Does the city influence your music?

Danny: It’s definitely an influence. I think anywhere you’re living will sort of have an effect. All of it, the nice weather, the party atmosphere, the heavy Latin influence. All of it.

Gabriel: It’s in some of the lyrics. It probably does more than we think.

What do you think of the current state of Miami’s music scene?

Danny: I think it’s at a good spot right now. It has had its fair share of ups and downs over the years and stuff but I think it’s in a good spot. It’s kind of a bummer that Churchill’s is kind of changing hands but we’ll see how that pans out. We’re at an important moment right now with that changing, because it singlehandedly kept the scene going over the years. Nothing even comes close to it. It’s a special place for sure.

For the full interview, check fiusm.com.



Trichomoniasis increases your risk for HIV... get tested.

What is Trich?

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Regular testing can help reduce your risk of acquiring or transmitting STIs. You can get tested at a doctor’s office or STI clinic - or your campus health center may offer it.

Get Involved: Go to www.amplifyyourvoice.org/stds to learn more about trich and sign up to get materials so you can raise awareness about sexual health services on your campus!

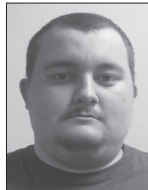
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COLUMN

Several Panthers named to Preseason C-USA teams

COLUMNIST



RHYS WILLIAMS

Early June had the release of Phil Steele's 2014 Preseason All-C-USA football team, from the first team to what would be the fourth string.

This is not something to be stunned by as Steele is one of the most highly respected college football analysts around.

It should come as no surprise that there are a few Panthers among the names, but there are some concerning ones from Head Coach Ron Turner's second year at the helm.

Smith highest ranked Panther

The first Panther sighting on Steele's list is one of the few who had a decent year in 2013, tight end Jonnu Smith.



SMITH

For being in a mostly disregarded position in today's football, Smith was pretty spectacular - given the situa-

tion last season while going 1-11.

Smith had 39 receptions for 388 yards, including a 10 reception game against the Pirates of East Carolina University.

However, with only two touchdowns in the entire season, those numbers lack a certain luster to me, even for a tight end.

I respect the position a lot more than the average fan, but still, I think he needs to have a breakout year to get close to being All-Conference.

This, along with the uncertainty of who will be leading the offense, may not be the best thing for an offensive All-Conference hopeful.

Budwig, Halley, Leonard all share the fourth-team

Offensive guard Jordan Budwig has the measurables of the typical offensive lineman; he's 6-foot-4 and weighs in around 325 lbs.

It is very hard for someone to measure the talent and level of an offensive lineman, especially one in the interior, but I can see why this pick makes sense.

He has the potential to be a pretty good offensive lineman and

possibly follow in the footsteps of former offensive lineman, Caylin Hauptmann, all the way to the NFL.

However, if they can't get the number of sacks, quarterback hurries, and tackles-for-losses down, I doubt that we will be seeing a Panther offensive lineman on anyone's big board for a while.

The next name that pops up on the list is the first on the defensive side of the ball for the Panthers: the 6-foot-3, 200 pound safety Justin Halley.

The Boca Raton native is entering his final year for the Panthers and if he has any hope of continuing to play, he must make this season phenomenal.

Halley had 53 total tackles in the 2013 campaign and never reached double digits in a single contest.

This, along with the three sacks and eight pass breakups that he had, make me a little hesitant to put him on a preseason C-USA team but he may end up surprising everyone.

The second to last Panther mentioned by Steele is cornerback and kick-returner Richard Leonard.

The last statistics for Leonard are from the 2012 season, as he



JASEN DELGADO/BEACON FILE

Safety Justin Halley (tackling) was the only primary defensive player named by Phil Steele. He will be leaned on heavily by Head Coach Ron Turner to lead the defense for the 2014 season.

was academically ineligible for the 2013 campaign.

Turner is on the list as the fourth-team punt returner.

I could see this happening if he can truly get back to form, but I think the reason he is so low on the

list is for missing that season.

One of the least surprising events to me would be Leonard making first or second team All-C-USA.

SEE STEELE, PAGE 7

TRULY INTERNATIONAL



MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Sanjay Dhawan, a senior academic advisor in hospitality, wears the Ghana flag at the World Cup kick off at BBC. His native country's team tied in their second game against Germany on Saturday, June 21. Ghana plays against Portugal on Thursday.

CLUB FEATURE

Scuba cats splash in the Floridian waters

REBECCA CHARUR
Staff Writer

To most people who live in Miami, the ocean is their backyard, so it's no surprise that a variety of underwater activities have become local pastimes. One in particular that has gained popularity among the public and university students alike is scuba diving.

Unlike regular cats, the Panthers in Florida International University SCUBA Cats Club dedicate their time to becoming better acquainted with the underwater world.

According to junior biology major Christian Lopes, the club was founded in 2010 by alumnus Denny Carvajal and continues today under President Sebastian Usquiano, also an alumnus.

It has expanded and now hosts about 500 members with an active roster of 10 people per semester.

"We mainly do dives from Key West up to Pompano Beach," Usquiano said.

Some other diving locations are located between Jupiter, West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Miami Beach and Key Largo.

The SCUBA Cats try to go out to one of these locations at least once a month. The dives may be

morning, afternoon or night dives and can last between one to four hours.

Dives offer SCUBA Cats a chance to explore local reefs, beaches and wrecks. Every Panther has their beach of preference.

"When we have a new diver or someone starting off with limited experience, they tend to enjoy the reef or the beach dives because they are very comfortable for them," Lopes said. "When they start getting more advanced, they like the challenge of going to the wrecks."

Cats belonging to special groups may also organize activities such as spearfishing, catching lobster and underwater photography. Interested Panthers can view some of the photography in the club Facebook page.

To participate in the club activities, you must be a licensed scuba diver with a minimum of an open water certification. Fortunately, the club brings unlicensed people one step closer to the experience by leading them to better education and training.

"A big part of our club is that we are affiliated with a lot of local businesses and we sponsor their efforts to educate people about the ocean," Lopes said.

This affiliation makes the tran-

sition that much simpler for those who are interested in the sport and wish to become certified.

"Four divers can come in and we can give them gear, but anything above that we would have to help you get your own gear," Lopes said.

Some basic equipment that a member should own includes a mask, fins and a snorkel. Other diving basics are available to rent in local diving stores.

Since members may have to rent their own equipment, the club provides special rates to their divers on charter and equipment rentals.

Besides the license and proper scuba diving gear, the SCUBA Cats maintain an open water policy: anyone can participate in the club, including alumni and the general community.

"We have technical divers [and] we have people who just learned how to snorkel and started diving," Lopes said.

There are a variety of members at different levels and an equal variety of dives to accommodate them, such as the recreational reef and wreck dives. Fortunately, Florida is host to several types of reefs so there are numerous diving possibilities.

-sports@fiusm.com

CLUB FEATURE

Lacrosse looks to become nationally known

JORGE CORRALES
Contributing Writer

FIU Lacrosse is quickly moving up the ladder in its quest to become a nationally recognized program.

The team is led by Head Coach Mark Parets. Parets is no stranger to the lacrosse scene in Florida; he played attack at Florida State University from 1989 to 1992.

He's been a coach in the South Florida area since 1997. Parets even earned a ring as a coach at Gulliver Preparatory School.

In 2012, Parets was inducted into the South Florida Chapter National Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

The Panthers' leader on the field is senior attacker Eric Quisenberry. Quisenberry played at Palmer Trinity High School and played one year at Louisiana State University before returning to Miami to play at FIU.

"I came back to play on the FIU squad because a lot of my friends were on the

team," Quisenberry said.

Quisenberry has been a captain each of the last three years and will be president of the team this coming year.

Next season, the team will compete in the Florida Lacrosse League in hopes of gaining recognition and an invitation to play in the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association Division I.

The Panthers would play in the SouthEastern Lacrosse Conference along with schools like the University of Miami, Florida State University and the University of Central Florida.

FIU already got a taste of the competition they would face as a part of the SELC.

In March, the Panthers took on the Golden Knights of the University of Central Florida.

The Golden Knights came in as the number one ranked team in Florida at the time and were heavily favored against the Panthers.

FIU went into halftime up 8-3 and in good position to upset the Knights. At the end of regulation, the score



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIK QUISENBERRY

The FIU Lacrosse club (dark jerseys) have played games against large and respected universities. These teams include NCAA powerhouse Duke University (above).

was 11-11.

The Panthers eventually fell short in double overtime but the game was a major step forward for the program.

It was the first double overtime game in FIU history.

Quisenberry had a huge

game for the Panthers, scoring six goals and having five assists.

"It was a huge step towards the right direction because we were supposed to lose by 20 points," Quisenberry said. "It was also my first game getting 11 points in one game while

at FIU."

Games like this are what fuel great rivalries in sports.

When the Panthers do eventually begin to play in the MCLA, you can bet the Golden Knights will remember their prior meeting with FIU.

The Panthers will have a

few warm up games before starting their season next January.

Later this year, FIU Lacrosse will be taking on the Israeli national lacrosse team, which is made up of professional players for the second time.

The Panthers will also have the honor of playing the first lacrosse game on the Alfonso Field at FIU Stadium.

In January, they will be taking on the University of Miami as an opener for an NCAA Division I game.

Under the leadership of players like Quisenberry, the program will continue to grow and improve.

"We have a great group of guys out there," Quisenberry said. "They are willing to put it all on the line to get this program where it should be."

Head over to fiusm.com to see some more photos associated with this club feature.

-sports@fiusm.com

EXN Nutrition opening branch in Parking Garage 6



RHYS WILLIAMS/THE BEACON

Parking Garage 6 will include many stores and classrooms including the newest branch of EXN Nutrition. It will open in the Spring of 2015.

NUTRITION, PAGE 2

Francisco Bonilla, senior communication arts major, believes FIU should work with bringing in healthier choices to campus, rather than opening up a Taco Bell or something that may not be as healthy.

"Last thing we need is another fast food joint," Bonilla said. "What we do need is good food for the people to try to eat healthier and live better lives."

Students won't only benefit from this physically, but financially. According to Cobon, they are working with FIU to put together scholarships for students, as well as discounts in the form of a rewards program for anyone with a Panther ID card.

The discounts are still being fine-tuned.

Student athletes will also gain a possible advantage to EXN.

Cobon is in the works with Athletics and the NCAA to sponsor athletes with supplements and sportswear.

The company already sponsors athletes that compete in CrossFit events.

According to Cobon, 90 percent of their employees compete in one way or another and take their products, so consumers won't be receiving tips and information from someone who does not know the product firsthand.

Steve Kornbluth, a senior physical therapy major, noticed several other stores with employees who

don't know the products and feels that can make or break a nutrition store.

"A lot of times [people] go into these vitamin and nutrition stores and most of the people that work there don't know what they're talking about or what product people should be using," Kornbluth said. "I would definitely go there if I knew the type of people I was going to talk to are going to give me correct advice on what I should be taking and how to take it."

The University has told EXN and Cobon that they have never passed their deadlines on completing buildings on the FIU campus and he feels confident that they will stick to their word.

-patrick.chalvire@fiusm.com

Senat, Francois snubbed by Steele's list

STEELE, PAGE 6

Confusing pick by Steele

Austin Taylor was possibly the least expected name to make this list from Panthers, but it happened anyway.

He was one of two place-kickers that saw playing time in the 2013 season, along with Sergio Sroka.

For his true freshman season, Taylor had 66 percent in field goals and went 8-12 with a long of 52 yards.

He missed a point-after-touchdown which brought his overall to 11-12, which an All-Conference kicker cannot do.

It's a bit strange that someone who only kicked off 19 times throughout 10 games would get this nod.



TAYLOR

The Panthers did not score too often and most of these would be at the beginning of the game or of the second half.

Out of those 19 kicks, only four were touchbacks, which even at the college level is too few in my opinion.

I think he missed a couple

The team is without its two defensive leaders from last season, defensive tackles Isame Faciane and Greg Hickman, who are both making names for themselves in the NFL.

Faciane is with the Minnesota Vikings and Hickman is a member of the Detroit Lions.

In comes defensive lineman Giovanni Francois to take their place as leader of the front seven for the Panthers on defense.

Although he missed four games, he still put up some pretty decent numbers.

I expect that if he stays healthy, he will have more than the 16 tackles and two sacks that he had in 2013; if he does that and leads this pretty young team on the defensive side of the ball, there is no question in my mind that he would be All-C-USA.

Another notable player is center Donald Senat, who is on the watch list for the Rimington Trophy which goes to the nation's best center.

Senat, is one of 64 on the spring watch list and if the offense gets more production and keeps whoever will be playing quarterback upright, then I think Senat may get both the nod for All-C-USA and the Rimington Trophy.

Head over to fiusm.com to see the video associated with this column.

-rhys.williams@fiusm.com

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Renovations are in progress at the Wolfe University Center

SOFIA GALIANO
Staff Writer

Renovations are underway at the Biscayne Bay Campus' Wolfe University Center this summer.

Changes are coming to Panther Plaza, the storefront and interior of the BBC Barnes & Noble at FIU and the Mary Anne Wolfe Theater as an effort to enhance the student experience at BBC, according to WUC Director Scott Jones.

"Overall, all of [the renovations] are to the benefit of students," said Jones.

He said the approximate months' worth of work is moving quicker than expected.

The Panther Statue, a twin of the original monument mounted in front of the U.S. Century Bank Arena at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, was placed outside of WUC on May 29.

Jones said the 1-ton statue is covered by a tarp to protect it during construction. It may not be unveiled until fall, when WUC construction

is completed and presented in the Panther Plaza ribbon-cutting set for August 29. Renovations in the bookstore began Friday, June 13, marked by a temporary wall during the initial weekend of construction.

A wider storefront entrance, laminate wood floors and new eating options are just some of the changes to come by July.

Juli Savage, BBC bookstore manager, said she is always looking for new food items, like the recently added oatmeal machine or hot soups and chili. Although renovations are underway, the space of the bookstore will remain the same.

"My problem was I was running out of space and electricity," said Savage.

As a result, a countertop will be installed where the ice cream machine is located to provide additional room and power, according to Savage.

The theatre booth is undergoing the first phase of renovations with audio-visual upgrades, also expected to be completed by this

ON YOUR MARK...



MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Swimmers from the Clydesdales, Athena, and relay categories begin the swimming portion of the 2575 Triathlon at Biscayne Bay Campus on May 18.

summer. Meanwhile, the theatre will be closed for events.

Classes and programming will regain access to the theater in fall, and the second phase of renovations offering new floors and seating is

scheduled for completion by fall 2015.

Jones said day use lockers will be also installed in the Wolfe Center.

-sofia.galiano@fiusm.com

SGC-BBC aching to move forward with plans

ALEXI CARDONA & SOFIA GALIANO
FIUSM Staff

The Biscayne Bay Campus' new Student Government Council vowed to continue campaigning for a second road to access the University and work toward better meeting the needs of students at BBC during their first meeting of the summer.

SGC-BBC President, Jazmine Felix, said that while the main campus wants to expand by acquiring fairgrounds owned by the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition, Inc., BBC's struggle is pushing for "Second Road to Success," a campaign advocating for a new access point on campus.

Of the three options available for a second access road to BBC – Northeast 163rd Street, Northeast 143rd Street and Northeast 135th Street.

Over the next two years, BBC will see construction of new dorms, the Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. facility, a building for Math, Arts, Science and Technology Academy students and possibly a wildlife center and science research museum.

Felix, a nursing and nutrition junior, hopes to see construction on a second road start within the next year to help ease the increase of traffic and activity BBC will experience.

Felix also said there is talk of adding a parking garage at BBC within the next five years.

When first elected in April, Felix told Student Media her top priority is making BBC a more student-centered and unified campus.

To do this, SGC-BBC will form the Inter-Council Coalition, a partnership between BBC's major student organizations; among the organizations are the Student Programming Council, the Black Student Union and the Council for Student Organizations to address student needs and concerns.

"The most direct link to students is the organization they join. To better assess their needs, that's where we'll go through," said Felix.

The council also wants to work toward improving the major maps and getting more general advisors for undergraduates. Felix hopes this will help increase the university's graduation rate.

Felix met with current provost Douglas Wartzok and incoming provost Kenneth Furton to discuss increasing the percentage of students who graduate from the University in four to six years.

FIU Integrating Research Engagement Assessing and Learning Commission drafted a plan to "identify ways FIU can leverage its current success as a world-class research university and a commu-

nity engaged solutions center to be more world serving and stay competitive."

Aside from increasing the percentage of graduation rates, the iREAL draft hopes to increase enrollment, expand the university's financial base and help graduates prepare for their careers in a quickly-evolving global marketplace.

An issue SGC-BBC has encountered over summer is poor meeting attendance. Felix stressed the importance of senators upholding their responsibilities and being committed to student government. While in some meetings they have reached quorum, there have been absent senators in every meeting so far.

"We need to call the senators and figure out what is going on," Felix said.

According to Allhan Mejia, a sophomore management major and speaker of the senate, said even when they reach quorum and are allowed to discuss and pass legislation, there needs to be a senator to represent students in each college to be able to update the constitution.

The council's goal is to start updating the constitution by the end of summer.

-bbc@fiusm.com

FIU opens National Association of Black Journalists

SOFIA GALIANO
Staff Writer

Melody Timothee, a senior public relations major, had never been involved in campus clubs or activities, then she found out about the newly-formed University chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists and decided to take part in its launch.

"I now have something I can say I am a part of," Timothee said.

Black reporters at FIU are now represented by the NABJ as the University's chapter concludes its first semester of meetings.

It took several years of discussion with the School of Journalism and Mass Communication faculty, the Society of Professional Journalists and an eager group of students for the association's chapter to begin late last year.

According to Clayton Gutzmore, president of the University's chapter, the club will be accredited by fall 2014. He said the club was created to provide networking opportunities and to pave the way for black communication students on-campus. "It breaks the barrier between 'professional' and 'aspiring,'" said Gutzmore, a

senior communication arts major.

He said although the University is diverse, black students are poorly represented in the school of journalism.

In 2012, black journalism students made up about 15 percent of the total number of SJMC students taking lower division courses, and made up about 11 percent of the total SJMC students enrolled in upper division courses, according to the SJMC's online public accountability.

"Within the school, the black population is very small," said Neil Reisner, SJMC faculty and NABJ advisor.

Although black journalism students are lacking, Reisner said he wants the club's membership to grow in the upcoming semesters, inviting students of all majors and races.

"We are not segregated and anybody who wants to join can join," he said.

This semester, local media professionals from the Sun Sentinel, the Miami Dolphins media Relations and Harris Public Relations came to speak to students on how they can advance in the field.

Timothee, who first found out about the club from Gutzmore, said that interacting with professionals in her field and having

access to additional resources through the club makes her glad that she joined.

Jasmine Richardson, a senior majoring in broadcast journalism and vice president of NABJ, said the success of the club relies on its members. For this reason, she wants to recruit freshmen who can maintain the club once the current board members graduate.

With less than a dozen unregistered members, the club hopes to reach students using social media and events, including hosting guest speakers and a bowling night. They intend to reach these incoming students by presenting themselves during the communication orientation in the fall semester, she said.

Richardson said the organization also plans to collaborate with the Black Student Union and host meetings at the Modesto A. Maidique campus in the future. But, NABJ is currently focused on attracting students at the Biscayne Bay Campus, where the school of journalism is located.

"The club is in its baby stages," said Richardson.

-sofia.galiano@fiusm.com