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TALK TO THE PAWS



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Roary the panther makes an appearance at the Homecoming Council's Homecoming Unleashed event at the pit on Thursday, July 12. Homecoming will feature two new events this year, the 'Panthermonium Village' and the 'LXV Lounge.'

VPSA

Student Affairs under new lead

MELHOR LEONOR
News Director

Upon the retirement of Vice President Rosa Jones, the Division of Student Affairs will now be under the lead of current Associate VPSA and University Ombudsman, Larry Lunsford.

According to a memorandum sent by Douglas Wartzok, University provost and executive vice president, Lunsford will hold the position on an interim basis beginning in August, when Jones will retire.

"We wanted somebody who would step into this very crucial role after [Jones] retires, somebody who didn't have to learn but knew what

was happening," Wartzok said.

In an interview with Student Media, Wartzok said the University wanted someone "who understood all the various components."

However, he also said Lunsford will not be able to play that role permanently.

"I have asked him not to because if you are trying to attract a very strong pool of candidates externally and they know the interim person internally is also a candidate then they tend not to apply," Wartzok said.

This announcement comes four weeks after the search and screen

SEE VPSA, PAGE 2

SGC-MMC senate appoints speakers, chairs

DIANE ARIAS
Asst. News Director

With summer meetings underway, the legislative branch of the Student Government Association at the Modesto Maidique campus confirmed its Speaker of the Senate, Speaker Pro Tempore and the six committee chairs for the 2012-13 academic school year, leaving one position open in the Senate.

Elected Speaker Kristen Robillard is responsible for chairing all Senate meetings and also sits on the University Wide Council, University Wide Budget Committee and MMC Campus Budget

Committee.

The challenges she expects the senate to encounter this year deal with the dual role of being a part of SGA and a university student.

Speaker Pro Tempore, Alex Castro, is responsible for assisting the Speaker in her duties and serving as Speaker in the Speaker's absence. The Speaker Pro Tempore also sits on the Council and both budget committees.

Despite reaching the needed attendance to proceed with business in their earlier meetings, the senate now finds itself dealing with attendance issues as addressed by Castro in their July 9 meeting. The senate's last meeting saw

15 absences out of a total of 30 senators, which failed to meet quorum.

"We have one meeting that quorum was not met. The reason is that it is summer and some senators are out of town," Robillard said. "We had two meetings where we had issues with quorum."

The Finance Committee is among the six committees in the Senate and is responsible for allocating funds to organizations not funded by A&S fees during budget allocations.

"They [request] funds for conferences, everything that's really educational-based," Sippin said.

Over the course of the year, Castro expects the senate to become more involved and accomplish the goals of the Senate.

"The challenge is that everybody got elected on a platform, an idea, something unique that set them apart, and I think, individually, they'll be challenged to get that done because I know for a fact that they're passionate about it," Castro said.

SGC-MMC Senate meetings take place every other Monday during the summer from 4-6 p.m. and every Monday during the fall and spring semesters in GC 140, the Senate Chambers.

diane.arias@fiusm.com

University acquires local Jewish landmark

KATIA CANETE
Contributing Writer

The recent merging of the University and the Jewish Museum of Florida was a decision that came from many conversations about the vision of both the school's and museum's programs.

"Over time, we realized our shared interests gave us the unique opportunity to formalize our collaborations," Kenneth Furton, dean of the college of arts and sciences, said.

The museum opened in 1995 and started off as a traveling exhibit known as MOSAIC: Jewish Life in Florida, before they had their own permanent facility in

Miami Beach.

The museum includes two buildings of a former synagogue — a landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The merger, which resulted from the museum's board of directors decision to gift the museum to the University, will make the museum part of the University and will change its name to the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU.

According to the museum's website, the mission statement of the Jewish Museum of Florida is "to collect, preserve and interpret the material evidence of the Florida Jewish experience from when Jews

SEE MERGER, PAGE 2



PHOTO COURTESY JEWISH MUSEUM OF FLORIDA-FIU

The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU is located in Miami Beach.

COMING UP | At the Bay

Check out our next issue for updated coverage on the EcoAcademy Summer Camp.

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WORLDS AHEAD

Construction, more than just an eye sore

LOURDES GINART
Contributing Writer

Driving through FIU during the summer, students and staff may have noticed a few changes on campus. For starters, parking spaces are abundant (though we can expect them to be scarce come fall).

The biggest change, however, is the increase in construction now taking place all over campus.

As most students have gone home for the summer, or simply decided to take a break, few have noticed that the construction projects begun during the fall 2011

and spring 2012 semesters are now in full swing.

Much of the projects come in a time of need, yet the construction has created some inconveniences and annoyances for students, faculty, and administration.

One of the largest projects is the new Science Classroom Complex, which is being built right across from Parking Garage 5.

The complex will be used as a research facility as well as classrooms and a study area for students. However, the construction has caused quite a few problems for nearby classrooms.

If you were a student

during the spring 2012 semester, and now during the summer, there is a good chance one of your classes was near the construction zone for the Science Classroom Complex.

There's also a chance that you didn't hear anything your professor was saying on account of the drilling, sawing, or jack hammering happening next door. Thankfully, the noise will be over soon as the building is said to be ready for fall 2012.

Aside from the noise, another issue is the restricted sidewalk in front of the new complex. Although the issue may only go on for no more

than 7 to 10 feet, it has been testing our patience. On a good day, the sidewalk is open. On a bad day, sawdust falls over your head as a man in a hard hat poorly directs traffic, causing near-accidents between students and cars.

But as we move on from the Science Classroom Complex to the new residence hall and parking garage, the inconveniences increase.

The new residence hall and parking garage, which are being built across from the FIU stadium, will house over 600 beds and 300 cars, respectively.

Just a glance at the construction site confirms, however, that the buildings will not be ready by the start of the fall semester.

The projected completion is nowhere near this fall semester, but sometime around September 2013. The issues with this construction site may be tolerable now, but as the fall semester starts and a wave of lost newcomers flood the roads of FIU, the traffic will not be so bearable.

For the conclusion to
Lourdes's story visit

www.FIUSM.com

STUDENT LIFE

DirecTV, a model for customer service

JENNA KEFAUVER
Staff Writer

If you were watching "The Colbert Report" or "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" on the nights of July 9 and 10 then you couldn't avoid it.

Even housing students saw the message flashing across their TV screens on Monday and Tuesday – a warning of the impending blackout of Viacom-owned channels on DirecTV and urging those watching to call DirecTV to keep the channels. This was due to a dispute between DirecTV and Viacom over carriage fees and a contract that ended June 30.

Viacom wants to raise the price of its content by more than 30 percent, according to DirecTV. This dispute caused DirecTV customers to lose access

to 26 channels, including but not limited to MTV, VH1, BET, and all of their respective spin-off channels, Nickelodeon, SPIKE TV and Comedy Central.

If you live on campus and watch any of these channels, you've definitely been a victim of the blackout. I know I have. But is it really worth it to get these channels back.

I have DirecTV at my house and it's already ridiculously expensive anyway so, personally, I'm glad that they aren't raising prices by 30 percent.

Thanks, DirecTV.

Thanks for taking away 99 percent of the channels I enjoy, I'm forced to watch FiTV instead of "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia."

I think Viacom could do without the \$1 billion increase the company would have received if

DirecTV agrees to Viacom's contract. But then, it doesn't seem like DirecTV is working very hard to negotiate Viacom's prices, seeing as when you call the number on your screen, the recording says something grumpy along the lines of "We're working on it," and promptly hangs up.

Good customer service, right?

I would suggest the school invest in AT&T or Comcast, but AT&T has the worst customer service I've ever had the misfortune of dealing with and Comcast wasn't much better.

But, for the time being, Viacom, get it together. Obviously, you haven't been a bored college student stuck on campus with nothing to do, and no money to do it with. Put our channels back on the air; we don't want to pay an extra \$1 billion for channels with low ratings.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PANTHER PATROL, AN 'INANE SUGGESTION'

I am a fan of sarcasm, but the July 11 editorial on the enforcement of smoking and skateboarding bans failed to use it effectively because I came away unsure of what action the editorial board was actually endorsing.

The inane suggestion of a Panther Patrol was clearly meant to show that having no enforcement is just as ridiculous as students armed with whistles.

The editorial starts that these regulations "are in desperate need of enforcement," suggesting that administration should enforce them, but goes on to say that "enforcement that will tax the manpower of UPD" is a bad idea as well,

and offers no suggestion of how they would be enforced without taxing UPD, which seems to suggest that the regulations should be done away with rather than enforced.

So while the sarcasm (and particularly the bit about the Worlds Ahead banner) was amusing, I am let down when it comes to knowing the actual position of the editorial board.

-Eric Feldman, University
Alumnus

STUDENT RESPONDS TO ROSENBERG'S EMAIL

I support the increase because FIU remains an accessible quality education, in many ways thanks to your efforts.

I have a small suggestion to improve our school: connect in-house Undergrad Students

to Graduate Programs more than now. FIU is making an investment in undergraduate students, so why not replicate the great effects of this education with a graduate/professional education?

I am a 2011 graduate with a B.A. in political science Cum Laude, Honors College, and Certificate in National Security. I am also completing my masters in Public Administration, was highly recommended by FIU faculty, and I hold a substantial resume, being a full time professional.

Even with those credentials, FIU Law, were I looked to complete my dual MPA/JD degree has not offered me acceptance (this being my 2nd year applying). They couldn't see past my standard LSAT and UGPA scores.... now I

find myself in the predicament of having to leave Miami altogether, as others schools out-of-state have paid attention to the quality education I received at FIU, considered my many other strong academic and nontraditional factors, and even offered me scholarships to attend their schools. My heart is with FIU, but sadly, I am not being given the opportunity to turn the "Impossible to the Inevitable".

How is it possible that all this talent is being washed away? FIU is here to serve the citizens of South Florida. But as it goes at the Graduate level, often this seems not to matter, as if FIU did not value the education of its own students.

-Nikols Mendoza, public
administration graduate
student

THE BEACON | Editorial

Drop interim and make him the full blown VP

The Beacon would like to extend a whole-hearted congratulations to Larry Lunsford on his recent appointment to the University's Interim Vice President of Student Affairs. After 23 years of unyielding service to the University, this is a well deserved honor to an individual who is more than qualified to take the Division of Student Affairs in the direction that University President Mark B. Rosenberg envisions.

However, the University needs to put aside its phobia of commitment and make its relationship with Lunsford Facebook-official.

There's no need to have its profile read: relationship status 'it's complicated.'

The Beacon strongly feels that the 'Interim' tag is an unnecessary one given that, after months of a costly national search for other viable alternatives, Lunsford has been at the top of the list.

After the original search, four candidates were produced, one of which was Lunsford. This process cost the University a significant amount.

One of the reasons given for the continued search of a permanent VPSA from the outside, is the hope of bringing in an outsider with fresh ideas. We feel this would create an unnecessary learning curve students could be spared from.

We also note that, although we don't agree with every decision made by the division, it is clear to us that Lunsford displays the qualities that we as students would like to see in our Vice President of Student Affairs.

It is our opinion that this should be one of those situations where the Administration considers the input of students for a change, and name Lunsford as the official vice president of student affairs.

He is an individual who is in tune with what students would like to see from their administration, and has exemplified such traits as both the associate vice president of student affairs and as ombudsman.

The Beacon doesn't stand alone in the matter. Both Laura Farinas, Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus President, and Pablo Haspel, Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus President, stand united on this issue as well.

If ever there was a time to heed the word of the students, this would be it - a time when the leaders of the two largest student organizations at the University, who are often at odds, stand united for a common cause.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to jonathan.szydlo@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.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to jonathan.szydlo@fiusm.com.

CHANNEL SURFING

Summer hit shows to watch

While we expect summertime to constantly be filled with beach trips, sunny days and perfect tans, that is not always the case. However, there is one thing we can count on during the summer, and that's television. Summertime brings us some of the best shows, both new and returning, allowing us to enjoy our summer inside the house, as much as we do outside.

-Spoiler Alert-

Returning Shows

True Blood, Sundays @ 9 p.m. on HBO.

Our favorite blood-sucking, promiscuous, supernatural show is back for season five of this shock-afflicting series. This season not only transforms the natural into the supernatural, but it also reworks multiple character relationships. Additionally, it finally introduces the most-anticipated "Vampire Authority," the ultimate power over all vampires. If that's not enough to choke down, notorious vampire psychopath Russell Edgington is on the loose once again. So if you haven't had the time to tune in, make the time, because you don't want to miss a bloody second of this series.

Pretty Little Liars, Tuesdays @ 8 p.m. on ABC Family.

After finally revealing "A" in season two, season three unlocks a whole new batch of questions for these "pretty little liars" as it's discovered that there's another "A" out there, vindictive as ever. Season three shoots off with the disappearance of Alison DiLaurentis' remains, and no trace of the thief. So if you enjoy the thrill of walking in the dark, then this show is for you, as it leaves off every episode with a new question to be answered.

Falling Skies, Sundays @ 9 p.m. on TNT.

After an unsuspected alien invasion of Earth that wiped out 80 percent of the population, survivors ban together to fight against the alien race. In season one, Tom Mason searches for his son who has been captured by the aliens. The season left off with Mason's surrender to the aliens in exchange for his son's safety. Now, season two begins three months later, where Mason returns and recollects his memory of the past three months. If you're a sci-fi enthusiast, tune into this action-thriller about "citizen soldiers" fighting for each other and their freedom.

New Shows

Veep, Catch it on hbo.com or On Demand.

If you loved her on "Seinfeld," you'll love her on "Veep." Julia Louis-Dreyfus stars as Vice President Selina Meyer, whose role as vice president is not at all how she thought it would be. Chief of staff Amy Brookheimer and personal assistant Gary Walsh are constantly following Meyer, and together they try to get through the day-to-day challenges of being "the president's vice president." To Meyer's frustration, she has to handle not only her own tasks, but also the president's hand-me-down events, which he either doesn't want to attend or is too busy to attend. Between her excessive cursing and cheerful façade, "Veep" is a must-watch comedy.

The Newsroom, Sundays @ 10 p.m. on HBO.

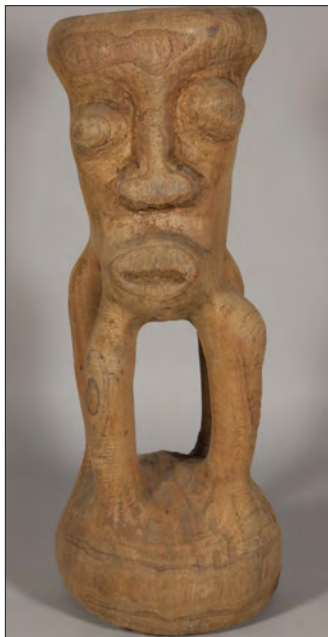
While watching the news, have you ever wondered what goes on behind the camera? Well then tune into this fast, witty, quick-of-tongue show where you get the chance to see what goes on in the newsroom of anchorman Will McAvoy. After returning from a forced vacation, McAvoy comes back to find that his team has left for another show, resulting in the arrival of a new team he is now forced to work with. With the help of his new team, McAvoy gets the chance to "speak truth to stupid" and "reclaim journalism as an honorable profession," not as a "people-pleaser" business.

Channel surfing is a review column about current television series. Email eissy.moneda@fiusm.com.

THE FROST

JAMAICAN ME ARTSY

'Students learn complexity of teamwork'



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FROST ART MUSEUM

From paintings to hand-made sculptures, Museum Studies students get a chance to make their own art pieces to exhibit at The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum. The art will be on display until Sept. 16.

EDWIVE SEME Staff Writer

On Aug. 6, 2012, Jamaica celebrates its 50th anniversary of independence. As a way to commemorate this anniversary and bring awareness to Jamaica's art and culture, The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum is currently hosting an exhibition entirely put together by the students of the Graduate Certificate of the Museum Studies program as part of their annual event.

They started this event last year to give the students hands-on experience with the field and to provide them with a wider understanding of what it takes to curate an art exhibition. They plan on focusing on a different cultural group every year. This year, Jamaica is the chosen group. The exhibition has been up and running since April 25 and will continue until Sept. 16, thus including the date of the independence anniversary.

The exhibit, titled, "Jamaican Intuitive Art," is made up of a collection of artwork donated by a group of self taught artists,

through which they depict what the nation is about, other than what it's popularly known for. Those artists have not had any sort of academic training, so they focus mostly on the content of their work. Not having any rules to follow, the artists have the freedom to use the canvas how they wish.

They are known as "Intuitives," and through their artistic careers they have developed their own styles to tell their stories, what they see around them and what they feel within. Their work refers back to ancient African traditions as they work at a spiritual level, and most are results of intense personal visions.

Attendees get to contemplate these painted and sculpted stories about Jamaica's history, people, culture and what the nation is based on. The artwork is arranged to represent the colors of Jamaica's flag: black for strength, green for resources and gold for wealth.

This exhibition is not only a great way for viewers to learn about Jamaica, but it also helps the students who organized it. "They

learn the complexity of teamwork and the responsibility it takes to put together an art show," said Annette B. Fromm, program coordinator.

She went on to emphasize that they didn't just throw a couple of artworks together; they had to carefully prepare everything by going through multiple steps, starting from the basics and researching the backgrounds of the different artists, learning about the art styles involved, putting together a catalog, a family guide and a video about one of the donors.

This year was also special because they got to work closely with the collector, Wayne Cox, and his wife, Myrene Cox. "This is a rare opportunity, but it is what a university museum should be about," said Mrs. Cox.

Having such an event is very valuable to the students, the museum and the attendees. "It is an opportunity for our Museum Studies students to apply what they learn," said Carol Damian, director of the Frost Art Museum.

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ONE ON ONE

Student media sits with Tony Lucca

VANESSA PAREDES Life! Editor

The University was host to an array of artists this past Tuesday, July 17, for Summer Fest. Among them is Tony Lucca, musician most famous for appearing on "The Voice." Student Media got a chance to interview Lucca, revealing a lot

about this soulful rock musician.

Q: How did you get into the music industry?

A: I come from a real big music making family, sort of by osmosis. I had an interest in it from an early age; it's just what I wanted to do.

Q: How was working on the famous show, "The Mickey Mouse Club," when you were

younger?

A: It was cool; it was a daily kids show, singing, dancing and acting. It was kind of like going to the same high school. I spent my high school years on that show. I got really close to the cast. That was the coolest part about it.

Q: I know you've collaborated with a lot of artists. Who

has been your favorite to work with?

A: I got a chance to open up for Sara Bareilles. She is just one of my favorite people in life. She would invite me out each night to do an encore with her and that was really special.

Q: You've also had a career

SEE LUCCA, PAGE 5

MIAMI LIFE!

"FREAKS OF NATURE"



PHOTOS BY VANESSA PAREDES/THE BEACON

Electronic music invaded Miami's airwaves this past Saturday, July 14, at the Klipsch Amphitheater in Bayfront Park. FIU students, among others, gathered to forget inhibitions and go wild.

Kaskade gives Miami something to dance about

VANESSA PAREDES

Life! Editor

Miami was electrified this past Saturday, July 14.

Kaskade and guest DJ's took the stage at the Klipsch Amphitheater in Miami this weekend for an explosive performance. Just as the sun started setting, the music began, initiating the party that went all the way to the late hours of the night.

Like any other Electric Dance Music show in Miami, Kaskade's "Freaks of Nature" tour was filled with outrageous neon outfits, loud music, mind blowing light effects, and of course, FIU students.

The first DJ began while the sun was still out and the crowd was arriving. At first, it seemed as though the event was going to be quaint, with no more than a couple of 100 people in the crowd. It wasn't until the second DJ took the stage that the amount of people had multiplied by 10.

Freshman communications major Andrea Ochoa was experiencing her first ever EDM concert. She went in a black tube top, dramatic high waisted shorts, red heart shaped sunglasses and hot red lips to match.

"My preparation of my outfit was based on what I was told: to go very outrageous. I thought I successfully did so," said Ochoa.

Everything, from bright colored bathing suites to nipple pasties with tight black panties and fishnet stockings, was seen at this event.

People really have no limits when it comes to dressing up for EDM shows. The crazier and more ostentatious, the better. That is usually the rule of thumb. Ochoa, among many others, described it as "very provocative."

The colorful crowd was bopping to the music blasted upon them from beginning to end. No matter the DJ, no matter the heat, no matter the 10,000 or so people around, everyone was in the zone. A tireless energy and good attitude was prom-

inent throughout. "People were happy, smiling and enjoying themselves with no care in the world," said junior Daniel Castro, hospitality major.

All the DJ's had the crowd jumping, but when Alvin Risk, the act right before Kaskade, took the stage, people went from excited to wild.

"That was the first time I had ever heard him and thoroughly enjoyed his change from dubstep to some high speed electric throughout his performance. In other words, his shit was on point," said Castro.

Risk began his set with the most energy and charisma yet to be seen. He brought originality to the stage, with the most eclectic mix of beats, sounds and genres.

Once Risk finished up, the audience started squealing with excitement to see the person they came for to begin with: Kaskade.

The entire set design was altered, uncovering giant plasma screens and a large high up podium from where Kaskade greeted his fans with the

warmest of welcomes. Happy to see the intense crowd before him, Kaskade started off strong with one of his most famous hits, "Eyes." From beginning to finish, fans were dancing non-stop, yelling along to the lyrics and even crying.

"I enjoyed everything about it, especially the way the music gave me the chills," said Ochoa. "He [Kaskade] was the man of the night and gave all of Miami's 'freaks' exactly what they wanted, an unforgettable night."

Just as Kaskade was playing his last song of the night, a light drizzle sprinkled the crowd, adding a refreshing and magical touch and ending the night on the strongest of notes.

"As if he commanded the sky, rain began to fall. It gave a firm sense of revitalization, allowing everyone around me to end with a bang. It was the perfect addition to the perfect night that was the 'Freaks of Nature' tour," said Castro.

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REEL TO REEL

Female filmmakers explore sex and romance

The Bill Cosford Cinema at the University of Miami never fails at presenting a diverse collection of films - and this summer is no exception. Their latest collection of films brings six female filmmakers to Miami audiences, offering an interesting mix and something for just about anyone interested in exploring up-and-coming female directors.

While Maiwenn Le Besco's "Polisse," Mia Hansen-Løve's "Goodbye First Love" and Alice Rohrwacher's "Corpo Celeste" are all long gone, two films will be premiering this weekend that are likely

to stir up plenty of mixed opinions.

In "Elles," Juliette Binoche stars as Anne, a journalist for Elle Magazine who is on assignment writing about prostitution among university students.

The two young women she interviews, Alicja and Charlotte, offer glimpses into the world of paid sex as Anne reflects on her dull and never changing lifestyle.

"Elles" may sound like the sort of film one with an interest in human sexuality or psychology might want to watch, but it is unfortunately not worth spending your time or money on.

The story is almost embarrassingly shallow, poorly attempting to string together meaningless sequences into an actual narrative.

For every scene that gives

the slightest chance of insight into prostitution and the lives of these women, there's an endless - and extremely gratuitous - sex scene that serves as an awkward waste of time.

The film ends up feeling a lot more like a series of loosely connected vignettes rather than a coherent work of cinema.

As if the writing wasn't enough of a mess, Malgorzata Szumowska's direction doesn't prove to be much better. At times, the camera is placed in the most random angles imaginable, showcasing the sets more than any single human being in the movie.

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Q&A with Tony Lucca

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as an actor; how was that? Do you wish to continue doing it?

A: The acting thing is cool. I really enjoy that process. It's a grind as far as trying to make a career of it, you know, with auditioning and all the sort of rejection that comes with it; It's not fun. It's a very cool thing, cool outlet and something I would gladly return to if what I did musically paved the way for someone who wanted to work with me.

Q: You were a contestant on the hit reality talent show, "The Voice." How did that come about?

A: I auditioned in Chicago last July, maybe a year ago now, and it was kind of a wild ride. It was cool because I was never really much into "American Idol." I was told I had a pretty compelling story; it was hard to sit on the sideline and watch another season of that show going, "What would happen if I auditioned

for it?"

Q: Did you learn from it? Would you do it again?

A: I don't regret it; I don't know that I would do it again, but I learned a lot. Working with Adam Levine was really incredible; he taught me how to take calculated risks and when it's the right time to take those kinds of risks. It provided a creative boost that my career was certainly in need of.

Q: What or who inspires you the most?

A: The most inspiring to me is travel. Traveling and observing life in different environments and seeing other people's stories unfold.

Q: How do you feel when you perform on stage?

A: I feel really blessed and fortunate. I've been blessed with the skill set to get up and express myself musically and connect with people through music. There really is nothing quite like it. Every chance I get to get on stage and share music with people, it's a really great gift.

Q: You are coming to perform at FIU for Summer Fest. What can the University students expect?

A: I'm bringing my band with me, and we're going to rock it a little bit. It's a fun show, integrating a bit of storytelling, playing songs and playing songs from the show [The Voice] as well.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF TVRAGE

Tony Lucca performed on "The Voice" and was recruited on Adam Levine's team.

FOOTBALL

FIU picked to finish first in last year with Sun Belt

LUIS D. GUTIERREZ
Contributing Writer

In its last season as an official member of the Sun Belt Conference, FIU football is expected to go out with a bang.

In a poll conducted by all 10 conference head coaches and select media members during media day on July 16, the Panthers were picked to finish first atop the preseason conference rankings for the second consecutive year.

FIU received five first-place votes, while last season’s Sun Belt champion Arkansas State and runner-up Louisiana-Lafayette received two first-place votes apiece. Western Kentucky also received one first-place vote.

The Panthers also placed a program-record seven players on the all-conference team including running back Kedrick Rhodes, offensive linemen Rupert Bryan Jr. and Caylin Hauptmann, defensive linemen Isame Faciane and Tourek Williams,

linebacker Winston Fraser and defensive back Jonathan Cyprien being those recognized.

Williams garnered recognition from coaches and select media members, being tabbed as the preseason conference defensive player of the year. He is the second Panther to be awarded the prestigious honor as T.Y. Hilton was named the preseason conference co-offensive player of the year in 2011.

The upcoming senior is currently in position to finish his career as FIU’s leader in sacks, just behind leader Antwan Barnes (21.5), and is rated the Sun Belt’s number one NFL Prospect, according to Lindy’s magazine.

Cyprien broadened the program’s horizons last week being named to the Jim Thorpe award watch list. The prestigious award is given each year college football’s most outstanding defensive back.

Cyprien currently has 33 career starts under his belt, three all-conference

selections to his name, and is 30 tackles shy from becoming FIU’s career-leading tackler. Head coach Mario Cristobal describes him as more than just a football player.

“He’s a better leader than he is a football player,” Cristobal said in an interview with ESPN on media day.

In addition, Hauptmann who has notched 25 starts over the past two seasons, was named to the Outland Trophy preseason watch list, which is given to the nation’s top interior lineman. The California native is recovering from a shoulder injury sustained last season.

Kicker Jack Griffin was also named to the Lou Groza award watch list, given to the nation’s most outstanding placekicker.

The accolades have come in droves for FIU over the past week, usually the case for each team picked to finish first in its’ conference. However with the 2012 campaign approaching, head coach Mario Cris-



BEACON FILE PHOTO

The FIU Defense had more players selected to the All-Sun Belt defensive squad, four, than any other team.

tobal and the Panthers certainly look to win on Saturdays as much as they have won on paper.

Looking for his third straight bowl appearance, Cristobal stresses a winning season as a priority.

“We need to make it three (bowl games) in a row,” Cristobal said. “We certainly have the tough, relentless players to do it.”

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PRESEASON COACHES POLL

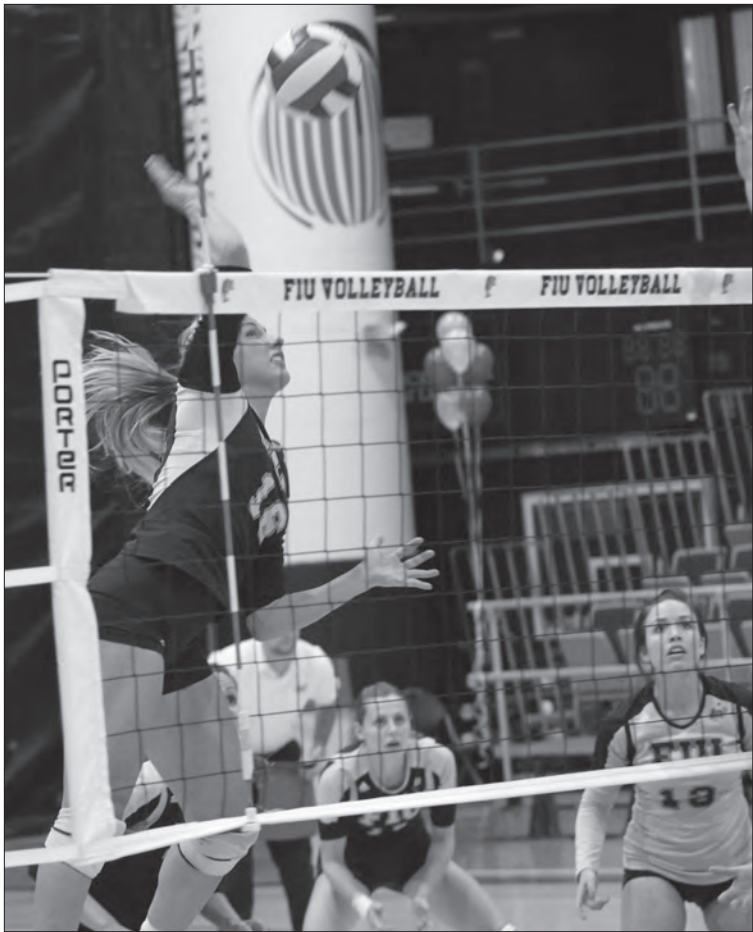
Team	Points Voted
FIU	92 (5)
Arkansas State	85 (2)
Louisiana Lafayette	81 (1)
Western Kentucky	70 (1)
Troy	60
Louisiana Monroe	47
Middle Tennessee	42
North Texas	36
FAU	23
South Alabama	14

FIU ATHLETES TO MAKE ALL-SUN BELT

Player	Position
Kedrick Rhodes	RB
Caylin Hauptmann	OL
Rupert Bryan	OL
Isame Faciane	DL
Tourek Williams*	DL
Winston Fraser	LB
Jonathan Cyprien	DB
*= <i>voted Defensive Player of the Year.</i>	

VOLLEYBALL

Theroulde sets schedule to start with 12-match road trip



BEACON FILE PHOTO

JONATHAN JACOBSKIND
Staff Writer

Head coach Trevor Theroulde was not joking when he declared that the Panthers must defeat the top dogs in Florida if the program begs to withstand a chance on the national landscape. With the 2012 schedule announced on July 13, the newly appointed head coach will have a chance to back his words. In what is shaping up to be one of the toughest seasons yet, FIU squares off against Florida State, University of Florida and University of Central Florida.

“The tournaments that we chose have teams [ranked] in the top 50 or the top 20,” Theroulde commented. “We want to set a high standard for what we are trying to achieve.”

The Panthers look to make a sincere statement against some fierce in-state competition as FIU attempts to out-duel the Gators on Aug. 24 in the Campus USA Credit Union Invitational. The Gators reached the Elite Eight in the 2011 NCAA Tournament.

“University of Florida will always be one of the top teams in the SEC. So if we could knock off one of these top teams in the SEC and as they win in the SEC we look better as a team,” Theroulde said. The Panthers wrap up the invitational against Florida Gulf Coast and Florida A&M on Aug. 25-26.

The Panthers then partake in the Florida State Volleyball Invitational on Aug. 31 that features an even more stifling in-state road test against the Florida State Seminoles. The Noles were on the cusp of reaching the finals in 2011 NCAA Tournament after faltering in the semi-finals. Theroulde is not fazed by FSU’s talent and

is confident that FIU has the skill to go toe to toe with the Seminoles.

“We are very skilled in key areas and really strong in all facets of the game,” Theroulde stated. “We are trying to improve our passing and our setting around those areas and have aggressive attacks in order to beat top teams like FSU.”

In September, the Panthers head west to participate in the Rams Volleyball Classic where they’ll face off against a pair of 2011 NCAA Tourney contestants in Colorado State and Pepperdine University. Despite an early season gauntlet against championship caliber competition, Theroulde remains optimistic about his squad’s chances versus some of the nation’s top tier volleyball programs believing in early team chemistry.

“Some of the girls have decided to stay for summer school and put in that extra work necessary so they can improve that cohesiveness within the team to start building team chemistry,” Theroulde said.

After a grueling 12-match road stretch to start the season, FIU fans will catch a glimpse of the 2012 squad as they inaugurate conference play within the friendly confines of the U.S. Century Bank Arena against University of Arkansas at Little Rock on Sep. 21.

As the season winds down, the Panthers start playing a lot of consecutive home games, a strength of theirs. In the last five years, the Panthers are a remarkable 47-9 at home.

“The girls are comfortable playing at home with the presence of home fans, they are loud and they are very

The Panthers will start their season against three of the best teams in Florida: UF, FSU, and UCF at the Campus USA Credit Union Invitational.

SEE VOLLEYBALL, PAGE 7

BASEBALL

Martinez realizes life-long dream, joins Astros

KEVIN CASTANEDA
Contributing Writer

After the first two days of the Major League Baseball First-Year draft passed and Martinez's name had still not been called, frustration overcame him.

But on June 6, on his way to McDonald's, the FIU slugger received the call of a lifetime to become a member of the Houston Astros as the first pick of the 36th round.

"I was with my girlfriend Eva in the car and I broke down. It was all the dreams I've ever had coming true. It was the happiest moment of my life," Martinez said. "She was just as happy as I was. She has been there for the entire ride and it was just as emotional for her as it was for me," Mike and Eva were not the only one to feel the magnitude of the situation.

"My siblings are very supportive so they were also very happy. When they heard my name called they kept saying, 'You earned the shot, now go make the most of it,'" Martinez said.

Throughout his baseball career, Martinez has shown that he has the tools to make sure he leaves his stamp on the big leagues as evidence by the trail of accolades he leaves behind at every level.

At Miami Killian Senior High, Martinez was named the team's most valuable player his senior year, Miami Herald First Team All-Dade selection, and Florida Athletic Coaches



BEACON FILE PHOTO

As of July 12, Martinez is batting .263 with two home runs and 10 RBI for the Greenville Astros.

Association South Region Player of the Year.

Upon reaching FIU, his success did not stop. He was named the Louisville Slugger Freshmen All-American his first year.

He followed his freshman performance by being named the American Baseball Coaches Association South Central All-Region Second Team and Second Team All-Sun Belt. In his junior year, he led the team with 15 home runs, 60 RBIs and slugged at a .540 clip.

In his final year as a Panther, Martinez ended his career with a

bang. He went on to become the all-time hits leader at FIU by compiling a team-high 77 hits in 2012, and led the Sun Belt Conference with a .383 average and .488 on-base percentage.

Martinez joined fellow teammates and close friends, Mason McVay (San Francisco Giants), Rudy Flores (Arizona Diamondbacks) and Jabari Henry (Seattle Mariners) as Panthers that were drafted in 2012.

Pablo Bermudez, one of Martinez's best friends and the 2011 SBC Player of the Year, was not drafted after posting a stellar 2012

campaign.

"You know, the draft is something I have never understood and I doubt I ever will," Martinez said. "He may not have gotten picked up in the draft, but any team would be lucky to have a guy like that. Not only is he incredibly talented, he is an amazing person as well."

Martinez made his professional debut with the Astros' rookie minor league affiliate, the Greenville Astros. He went 0-for-4 with one strikeout.

"I would be lying if I said I wasn't nervous," Martinez said. "I had a terrible game mostly because I was

so focused on soaking up the whole thing. It was still surreal to me." As of July 11, Martinez is batting .268 with two home runs and 10 RBIs.

Along with the transition of aluminum to wooden bats, Martinez pointed out that the biggest adjustment for him has been playing everyday, as opposed to 3-4 times a week.

Playing every day has not stopped Martinez from keeping in contact with his family who has supported him to capture his dream. He admits he had been lagging behind in the technology curve and bought an iPhone to use Skype with his family.

"I'm not going to lie and say being away from my family is easy, because it's not. It's not something you get used to, but I know back home my parents have the Marlins game on mute and are listening to my game," Martinez said. "Sometimes my dad will say, 'Hey that one hit sounded good, did you get all of it?' and it makes me laugh because I know he would kill to watch it." Despite the new wear-and-tear the third baseman will encounter with playing everyday, he's not going to grumble about it.

"I'm getting paid to do something I love. How could I ever complain about that? I just look up to the sky and thank the people above for letting me be healthy enough to play."

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WRESTLING

Determination defines FIU wrestling

LUIS D. GUTIERREZ
Contributing Writer

Alexio Rodriguez is no stranger to heartbreak.

As a 14-year-old, he suffered a broken left femur as a result of a jet-ski accident and was given the worst possible diagnosis.

"You will never be able to play sports again," his doctor said. "Never" is a strong word. It carries a tremendous amount of weight, especially at the age of 14 when the rest of your life is still ahead of you. But it didn't mean that Rodriguez, the seventh-grade wrestler, was prepared to accept it.

"Watch me," he responded to his doctor. "There is nothing stopping me." Rodriguez went on to recover from the broken femur in due time and ultimately returned to the mats once again. He acknowledges wrestling as the source of determination, motivation and strength that allowed him to back his promise.

"Those who've done wrestling, there is nothing you cannot accomplish," he says. "If you can do wrestling and maintain that level of discipline, there is nothing that you cannot overcome." Now the head coach of FIU's wrestling club, Rodriguez preaches the same ethics to his own wrestlers. It's this discipline that separates wrestling from all other forms of combat.

"Wrestling is one of the hardest sports out there when it comes to combat," Rodriguez states. "It's you

and your opponent, there is no team, and it's all technique."

The club practices three times a week, where Rodriguez utilizes two of the practices to master proper technique on the mats at FIU's recreation center. The third practice is used to polish conditioning and is held off-campus under the direction of assistant coach Peter Aleman, a fitness expert. Rodriguez emphasizes the importance of Aleman's conditioning program, depicting wrestling as a "balanced sport," a survival of the fittest and smartest.

The team also competes annually in such tournaments like the Seahorse open, held during Thanksgiving weekend and recently competed in the 2012 Florida Amateur Wrestling Championships last February. In addition, the squad will begin competing in select NCAA tournaments later this year, facing the likes of Florida Gulf Coast, Florida, and Penn State.

Rodriguez believes it is essential to have the right team captain in place, one who shows heart and demonstrates a strong desire to win, but one who also has the knowledge and discipline to properly guide his team to victory. He placed that responsibility in the hands of former U.S. Army Soldier Adrian Arcenales.

"My teammates can talk to me both on the mat and off the mat," Arcenales said. "A lot of them surpass me in strength and weight. But, I strive to work just as hard or even harder than my teammates, in order for them to

develop a feeling of respect and confidence in their captain."

"His army background, where he has all this discipline helps out a lot" Rodriguez says. "His teammates see him working hard and they become equally motivated to work just as hard."

One of those teammates is Kevin Trujillo, who enjoys the challenges brought upon by the sport.

"Wrestling challenges you when it comes to integrity, determination and diligence," Trujillo said. "It requires the discipline that will lead you towards the path in the right direction of life and I look at my life as a mission to accomplish the impossible." But, wrestling and its challenges aren't fit for everyone.

"When we begin practicing, we always start out with big crowds of people," Rodriguez said. "But, as soon as me and Coach Aleman start working the wrestlers, a lot of them begin dropping. It doesn't make them less of a man, the fact remains the sport is not for everybody."

Rodriguez continues to guide the squad through each practice and match, with the words of his doctor firmly in mind. "Never" continues to be a strong word now as it was during the diagnosis. It still carries the same weight. It can still leave you shattered emotionally. It is still devastating to the athlete's ear.

But for Rodriguez and the Panthers' wrestling squad, "never" is just that, a word.

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Team looks to avenge loss in postseason

VOLLEYBALL, PAGE 6

supportive," Theroulde said. "This year we are trying to approach every venue like if it is FIU. We have to win on the road to be champions. We have to send a strong message that we are here to win championships."

The Panthers look to avenge a 3-0 sweep in the 2011 SBC tournament semi-finals at the hands of WKU in October, on the 12th and the 26th of that month.

FIU concludes the regular season as it plays hosts to five of six opponents in Miami. The SBC Tournament will be held in Bowling Green, Kentucky and is slated for November 15-17. It all leads up to the season finale against Central Florida (Nov. 24) on the road.

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ENVIRONMENT

Down where it's wetter, diving under the sea

STEPHAN USECHE
Staff Writer

It isn't just jumping in the water, "breathing bubbles" and looking at fish.

"It's really the environmental appreciation and awareness," said Robert Weisman, dive and boat safety officer.

The University gives scuba diving courses so students can witness the hidden activity in the ocean and learn to explore it.

During the 2 credits basic scuba diving course and corequisite 1 credit scuba diving lab, students learn all about the science and theory of diving, with an emphasis on environmental protection and awareness. Students also have an option of getting certified through the National Association of Underwater Instructors.

The classes are offered year-round, including a 12-week summer session. The class goes through the diving procedures slowly and gives room to practice different scenarios.

"There's a lot of math in diving, believe it or not, because you go through the physical laws of pressure relationships and partial pressures



JORGE ZUMAETA/THE BEACON

Reporter, Stephan Useche, had a chance to try the basic scuba diving class at BBC.

— a lot of things people don't realize," Weisman said.

During the summer, the class runs at both campuses from May to August, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. The courses are also available for non-degree seeking students and members of the community.

Each credit costs the same as a credit of a regular course. However, students seeking certification pay an additional \$375 which includes the six

dives, charter boat fees, equipment use, scuba license and the safety staff. The certification process is optional.

According to the Director of University College Jorge Zumaeta, who is currently taking the class, there's a lot of material to cover, the most important being safety.

"We spend a few hours in the classroom learning how to use all the equipment, safety rules and regulations," said

senior Courtney Bleier, art education major. "From here, we go to the pool for actual water training."

Having completed this course, students go on diving trips to the Keys and to Pompano Beach where they can practice all the material learned throughout the semester.

The University provides all the equipment needed for the students, so they can dive

safely and adequately.

Next is the advanced scuba course, which according to Instructor Jose Cernuda, is when the actual fun starts.

"In the advanced course, you already know how to dive," Cernuda said.

In this class, students want to go deeper and explore more.

One of the dives includes a beach dive in Hollywood Beach and a night dive, where they experience the marine life in a darker and more mysterious environment.

As explained by Weisman, it's not a sport, it's a science and an experience of going into the environment.

"Scuba diving is the tool for the research," Weisman said.

The Scuba Dive Safety Program began in 1995, and it was officially recognized by NAUI and by the American Academy of Underwater Science in 1996. It is under the administration of Risk Management and Environmental Health and Safety Department with Weisman as the boat and dive safety officer.

"I am happy to say, that during a time of programs being

cut, the FIU Scuba Program stays," Weisman said.

Weisman and his assistant, Alex Carreno, carry these out along with Environmental Health and Safety Director Roger Riddlemoser, who completes the administrative structure.

A Diving Control Board set procedures for the dive safety manual, which contains the basic regulations for safety in scientific diving operations and is based on the policies of AAUS. The DCB is chaired by James Fourqurean and made up of faculty and administrators, the majority being scientific divers.

Weisman is happy to say that after having certified over 1200 students, the program still has a record of zero incidents or accidents.

"You're talking about something that could be potentially life threatening if you don't know what you're doing," said Ady Orezza, Underwater Archaeologist. "It is important to take a program that's thorough and that helps you understand diving."

Watch the video on
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CAMPUS LIFE

Dorm life - not so quiet

SOMAILY NIEVES
Contributing Writer

William Sturup begins his freshman year walking into the Bay Vista Housing building at Biscayne Bay Campus. He is unsure of what he should expect living on campus, but there is one priority on his mind.

"It's really important for me to form relationships because I'm an international student," said Sturup, marine biology major.

Living in the dorms may help students bond even in the summer.

"I started sort of being secluded to myself and then I started opening up to different possibilities and different people and it's been a good experience," said Luco Pierre, senior journalism major.

Although BBC only has one residence hall, this hasn't stopped students from enjoying its appeal during the summer.

According to Nikki Kogan, Residence Life coordinator, Bay Vista Housing tends to have a smaller group of residents during the summer semester because they share the residence hall with camps and student orientations. There were less than 50 students staying at the dorms during Summer A with an additional 20 to 30 students that joined them in Summer B.

According to Kogan, during the summer, the residents tend to be a close group of students that have known each other from the past year.

"It's a little tight group we have there," said Natalie Andrea Williams, junior marine biology major. "Some of my really good friends now are from there."

Since many students living on campus are

away from their homes and families, friendships are very important.

"We've got our own little community where you know everybody's name and where everybody is from and it's nice," said Breanna Woods, sophomore early childhood education major.

Bay Vista allows for these students to interact through group oriented activities coordinated in the common room of the housing building.

The students gather in the common room and enjoy each other's company as they eat or play games.

Kogan has helped organize "game night while watching the Heat game" and "chicken taste off to see what chicken products students like the best." Students at Bay Vista take advantage of events occurring on campus as well.

According to Kogan, "during the months of June and July, Student Programming Council as well as Campus Life are doing more programming during the day, so the staff tries to utilize those things."

According to Williams, the housing staff promotes studying by having study halls where students can get help with homework.

"Being on campus makes me focus more on school," said Woods.

Williams affirms that living in the dorms gives students a chance to become involved in the University setting.

"Staying at the dorms is like a real college experience, so I would get it here and nowhere else."

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LOCAL

A bright Mourning for Overtown kids

SELIMA HUSSAIN
Contributing Writer

The Overtown Youth Center, a charitable organization dedicated to empowering underprivileged minority youth in Miami,

will be holding a fundraising event on Thursday, July 19, 2012, at the new Rusty Pelican waterfront restaurant in Key Biscayne from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The event will be hosted by former Miami Heat All-Star Center and NBA legend, Alonzo Mourning, and his wife, Tracy Mourning.

The event, "It's All Overtown – One Night ... One World," will feature exotic cuisine, live musical performances and a silent auction of items like authentic jerseys signed by Miami Heat stars Dwyane Wade, LeBron James and Chris Bosh.

All of the funds raised at the event will be used to benefit the OYC and the many programs it provides

to help improve the lives of the underprivileged youth it serves. Tickets cost \$125 and are available for purchase at www.overtown-youth.org or by calling (305) 349-1204.

Jayne Klein, professor of religious studies and program director of the Honors College at Biscayne Bay Campus, has been volunteering with the Overtown Youth Center since 2006.

"The Overtown Youth Center is a holistic, in-school, afterschool and summer program designed to help underprivileged kids develop self-esteem, study skills, and character," Klein said.

"OYC is also a safe haven and a place of transformation for young people and their families. The majority of the kids who participate there come from broken homes and have had some extremely difficult life experiences. I have seen firsthand how OYC has helped

them overcome their negative environment to become productive students and citizens," shares Klein.

Students in Tau Sigma Alpha, the Honors College club at BBC, volunteer as tutors for OYC's high school students as part of their community service requirement. The club also hosts events for the children, such as luncheons, pool parties and field trips.

Tashaun Williams, a junior and Honors College student with a double major in marketing and finance, has been tutoring the OYC high-school students for the past year.

"Volunteering with the Overtown Youth Center [children] is a very humbling and enlightening experience for me," Williams said. "I get to meet different types of students and see how they change for the better. The kids are cool, and I formed a few friendships."

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