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Florida International University

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HOPE FOR HAITI



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Haitian Student Organization, External Relations and the Graham Center hosted the third annual ceremony to commemorate the victims of the earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010.

Cuba eliminates restrictions on traveling laws

STEPHAN USECHE
Asst. News Director

The Cuban government implemented a new travel law and with it, the benefit of Cuban residents to travel to other countries. According to the Miami Herald, long lines formed in Havana, Cuba on Monday, Jan. 14 outside of travel agencies and migration offices.

The new law allows Cubans to leave the country with a passport and a national identity card. This eliminates the requirement of obtaining an exit visa, also known as “carta blanca,” or “white card,” which is the authorization for leaving Cuba.

“The law makes it easy to travel abroad as long as they can get a visa from those countries, but that’s going to be the main issue,” said Jorge Duany, director of the Cuban Research Institute. “Only 15 countries in the world actually don’t require visas for Cubans, but most of those countries aren’t the ones that Cubans want to go to visit or migrate to.”

Duany realizes the benefits that this law brings to the Cuban community.

“It is a step in the right direction of making it easier for Cubans to travel back and forth,” said Duany. “It

eliminates a number of requirements like [an] exit visa, which was a very expensive and a very complicated procedure.”

The 15 countries that allow entry to Cubans without a visa are Hungary, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Slovakia, Barbados, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Granada, San Cristobal and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Moldavia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

“So, the U.S., Spain, Venezuela, Mexico, those countries which would be the target of migrants do require visas,” said Duany. “In that sense, the law won’t increase migrants or Cubans traveling, but it will increase the pressure on those countries to regulate the number of visas that allow Cubans to travel to those countries.”

Along with the new traveling law, the Cuban government also changed the migration law, which according to Duany, will now allow Cubans to retain rights and privileges in Cuba as long as they don’t leave for more than 24 months. It also allows those who have left Cuba to come back for 90 days. Information technology software major Lexy Feito has family in

SEE CUBA, PAGE 2

MARKETING

Gender neutral toys becoming more prominent

NYESHIA C. GARLAND
Contributing Writer

Everyone has had a favorite childhood toy, growing up. A product that, when you were younger, you couldn’t fathom living without.

Although we didn’t think much about toys in the past, products and catalogs are now under scrutiny because of gender bias. Protests against overly girly Easy Bake Ovens, ponies, and playtime cleaning sets are now forcing companies, such as Hasbro, to change its prototyping.

Thirteen year-old McKenna Pope outspokenly challenged the company to make an Easy-Bake Oven that her brother could play with. And, as a result, Hasbro complied.

“It’s black and blue and silver,” she said, according to the Daily Beast. “It kind of looks like an appliance you would legitimately have in your kitchen.” “That contrasts with the existing oven, in swirly shades of purple, which looks like it belongs only

inside the maximum-security segregation unit known as Girls’ Toys.”

Protests against gender specific toys have also forced one of Sweden’s largest toy chains, Top Toy, to present girls playing with Nerf Guns, and boys playing with dolls, according to the Daily Mail.

Although the idea seems progressive, separating the bold line between girls and boys toys can be exhausting and meticulous. As Professor Maria Elana Villar of Advertising says, “we [still] have a long way to go.”

Stores across the globe already, expertly divide parts of stores in order to lead children towards their “appropriate” side; with girly aisles decorated in pinks and jewels and boy aisles, blue actions figures which yell out “Pow! Boom! Smash!” when you walk by.

Katie Goldman, mother and author of Bullied: What Every Parent, Teacher and Kid Needs to Know About Ending the Cycle of Fear, explains that another reason stores segregate toys is

to promote sales. A mother with one son and one daughter can easily buy two different soccer balls- one pink and one blue. Ultimately, the kids don’t have

logs, and now in cases of bullying, many of them are looking for immediate solutions.

Laura Dinehart, early childhood education professor and

toy chains or catalogs.

She encourages her girls to play with all toys, and believes that it’s our responsibility, as role models, to promote the same behavior.

“I bought numerous Lego sets this Christmas- and not the “Friends Collection” that Lego released to market specifically to girls,” Dinehart said.

Professor Villar relates, agreeing that we need to start evolving a world that doesn’t separate boys and girls: a world of freedom of expression.

She says discouraging girls from playing with toys, such as Star Wars, could push away the appeal of science, math, engineering, and space careers for women. To her, it goes beyond colors.

With gender neutral toy marketing in place, companies aim to blur the line between feminine and masculine, right and wrong, boy and girl, and instead advertise toys for everyone to love

“I bought numerous Lego sets this Christmas- and not the “Friends Collection” that Lego released to market specifically to girls.

Barbara Weitz
Professor
English

to share, however they lose “an opportunity to develop their social skills,” she says in the book according to CNN.

With more parents becoming concerned about gender bias displayed on toy shelves, cata-

mother of three, doesn’t think toy companies are to blame, solely.

She believes that children’s selection of toys is majorly influenced by parents, teachers, and members of society, and not

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hitting the debt limit: What bills would be paid?

JIM KUHNHENN
AP Writer

Reiterating a threat he first issued in the summer of 2011, President Barack Obama on Monday warned Republicans that older Americans might not get their Social Security checks and veterans won't get timely benefits if Congress fails to increase the government's borrowing authority.

Republicans are insisting on spending cuts in exchange for raising the current \$16.4 trillion debt ceiling. Obama vowed Monday not to use the debt ceiling to negotiate deficit reduction. "We are not a deadbeat nation," he declared, creating an inevitable showdown with congressional Republicans.

The government could run out of cash to pay all its bills in full as early as Feb. 15, according to one authoritative estimate. That means Washington could once again plunge into political brinkmanship like it did in 2011 when Congress ultimately raised the debt ceiling, but only after Obama agreed to broad spending cuts.

On Monday, Obama said Congress should act. "The full faith and credit of the United States of America is not a bargaining chip," he said.

"Republicans in Congress have two choices here," Obama said. "They can act responsibly, and pay America's bills, or they can act irresponsibly and put America through another economic crisis. But they will not collect a ransom in exchange for not crashing the American economy."

Without an agreement, every option facing his administration would be unprecedented.

It would require a degree of financial creativity that could test the law, perhaps even the Constitution.

It could shortchange Social Security recipients and other people, including veterans and the poor, who rely on government programs.

It could force the Treasury to contemplate selling government assets, a step considered but rejected in 2011.

In short, the Treasury would have to create its own form of triage, creating a priority list of its most crucial obligations, from interest payments to debtors to benefits to vulnerable Americans.

"It may be that somewhere down the line someone will challenge what the administration did in that moment, but in the moment, who's going to stop them?" asked Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former director of the Congressional Budget Office. "I pray we never have to find out how imaginative they are."

In such a debt crisis, the president would have to decide what laws he wants to break. Does he breach the borrowing limit without a congressional OK? Does he ignore spending commitments required by law?

In a letter to Obama on Friday, Senate Democratic leaders urged him to consider taking any "lawful steps that ensure that America does not break its promises and trigger a global economic crisis — without congressional approval, if necessary."

The White House has resisted that path. It has rejected recommendations that it invoke a provision in the 14th Amendment to the Constitution that states that "the validity of the public debt of the United States ... shall not be questioned."

"There are no magic tricks here," Obama said Monday. "There are no loopholes. There are no, you know, easy outs."

So what's left if Congress does not act in time?

Technically, the government hit the debt ceiling at the end of December. Since then, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner has halted full payments into the retirement and disability fund for government workers and to the health benefits fund of Postal Service retirees.

The Treasury can stop payments to a special fund that purchases or sells foreign currencies to stabilize world financial markets.

Past administrations have taken such steps to buy time awaiting a debt ceiling increase. That happened under Presidents Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush. The government restored those funds after Congress raised the debt ceiling.

Those measures and others could keep the government solvent, perhaps as far as early March, according to an analysis by the Bipartisan Policy Center. There are other extreme possibilities as well. The federal government could sell some of its assets, from its gold stockpile to its student loan portfolio.

"All these things are in principle marketable, and in a crisis you'd get huge discounts on them," said Holtz-Eakin, now head of the American Action Forum, a conservative public policy institute. "They wouldn't be good ordinary business, but you would be in extraordinary times."

According to a treasury inspector general report last year, department officials in 2011 considered and rejected the idea, concluding that gold sales would destabilize the interna-

tional financial system, that selling off the student loan portfolio was not feasible and that such "fire sales" would buy only limited time.

An idea pushed by some liberals would take advantage of a legal loophole meant for coin collectors and have the Treasury mint platinum coins that could be deposited at the Federal Reserve and used to pay the nation's bills. But the Treasury issued a statement Saturday putting the idea to rest, saying neither the department nor the Federal Reserve believes the law "can or should be used to facilitate the production of platinum coins for the purpose of avoiding an increase in the debt limit."

Once all efforts are exhausted, then the government would be in uncharted territory.

At that point, the government would continue to get tax revenue, but hardly enough to keep up with the bills. According to the Bipartisan Policy Center, the federal government between Feb. 15 and March 15 will get \$277 billion in revenue and face \$452 billion in obligations.

The Treasury would have to decide whether to pay some obligations and not others or to simply pay for one day's bills as it tax revenue rolls in, exponentially delaying payments the longer the debt ceiling is not raised. Under virtually every scenario contemplated, payment of interest on the debt takes precedence to put off a calamitous default.

"I happen to think the triage would be chosen to create the maximum amount of political pressure to break the impasse right away, which would be withholding Social Security checks," said Philip Wallach, a fellow at the Brookings Institution.

New immigration laws allow travel to Cuba

CUBA, PAGE 1

Cuba and the new law will benefit them because they had experienced the downfalls of the previous restrictions.

"I have this cousin who has his daughter there [Cuba], and he tried to get into Cuba to see his daughter," said Feito. "When he got to the airport in Cuba, they told him that because

he left Cuba illegally, he can't get into Cuba anymore, so he had to go back to the U.S."

Feito's cousin lost the money he spent on the plane ticket and the passport. The new immigration law, according to Duany, will also allow Cubans to keep their properties in Cuba when they travel without having them confiscated by the government. Even though these are major changes for Cuba, there will still be


restrictions, such as the cost to obtain a passport which is around \$100, and according to Duany, this is more than what a regular person earns in a month, which is \$20. Some students in FIU expressed their thoughts and opinions on the new law. "This law is wonderful," said sophomore Erika Fernandez. "I can't believe they finally passed something like this. That might help so many people."

On one hand, students like Christopher R. Afonso, english major, doesn't think the law will affect FIU.

"I feel that this law passing will help the Cuban community, but will not feel too much change here on campus because we have so many Hispanics students already."

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THE



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SPREADING TRADITIONS



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Peer Advisor Kawi Gonzalez tells the tradition behind spinning Marty's Cube in front of DM for good luck to Miami Northwestern Senior High School students on tour of the MMC Campus.

Preparation matters in school safety

DIANA ANAYA
Contributing Writer

From Virginia Tech to Sandy Hook, to the more recent shooting at Taft Union High School in California late last week, it's hard to feel safe at school anymore.

School shootings have turned into a trend that shows little signs of stopping, spurred along by the excessive amount of media coverage on these tragic events.

So how can we improve security at FIU in order to decrease the chances of a shooting?

The short answer is, we can't.

Unless we upgraded to airport-like security, which would be nearly impossible for too many reasons to explain. But our campus security is as good as it can get, which is pretty good.

The University Police Department page has detailed information on the various types of emergencies that could occur, including active shooter incidents.

Information, such as 'what is an active shooter' and 'how to respond when an active shooter is in your vicinity,' is presented with minute instructions.

Other emergencies, such as fire, bomb threats, and missing persons are all covered as well, and many of the services they offer are free of charge to

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Being knowledgeable on what should be done...is the most important thing.
”

students and faculty.

As students, we need to know this information in case any of these emergencies were to occur.

Being knowledgeable on what should be done in these circumstances is the least we can do, and the most important

thing, especially if you live on campus.

But beyond being educated, we need to be brave. Not brave in the sense of risking your life for others, an admirable act; that's something that cannot be asked of everyone.

We need to have the courage to tell someone when we see something or someone suspicious.

It may be wrong, and hopefully it is, but it's being aware of your surroundings and making your concern known to people like the University police that can save lives.

The other solution is to be politically active. Whatever you believe will change the current state of security, both in our school as well as in our state or even country.

Make your opinion known. Write letters to congressmen, talk to the University police about campus security, or just get informed on how to better prepare yourself.

Because the truth of the matter is that being a student, as it's been made painfully clear, does not mean you're safe.

-opinion@fiusm.com

THE BEACON | Editorial

Firing coaches does not make financial sense

As students we need to see a different type of management from the Athletics.

In 2012, Isiah Thomas and Mario Cristobal were fired after serving three and six years as head coach of the men's basketball team and football team, respectively.

It's arguable that three years is not enough time for Thomas to bring success to the basketball team on the court, a task he failed to accomplish after finishing with a 26-65 record over his three years. What isn't arguable is that Thomas did bring success to the team off the court.

The team's Academic Progress Rate for Thomas' final year as coach was 910, low compared to a national average of 944.88, but the first time the men's basketball program finished with a score above 900. Also, before Thomas was hired the University was under academic probation. Thomas had a yearly base salary of \$220,000, but he chose not accept his first year's salary.

In Cristobal's final year as head coach – year two of a five-year contract with a yearly base salary of \$450,000 – the team finished with a 3-9 record. That record is horrible.

What isn't horrible is the two years immediately preceding 2012 where the team finished 6-6 and 8-4 and was invited to back-to-back bowl games.

In the same year the coaches were fired, the athletics fee increased by 54 cents, the fourth time in six years the fee was increased.

We aren't using the coaches' record to argue that they should not have been fired, but that more financial responsibility should be applied going forward.

A USA Today breakdown of college athletics' finances shows in 2011 total revenues of the University's athletics department was \$23.8 million with \$16.9 million coming from student fees. This leaves a difference of \$6.9 million to generate from other avenues – ticket sales and advertising on athletic venues.

As students are the main contributors of the athletic department at the University, we need to see more of a willingness on Athletics' part to be financially responsible with our money.

Both Thomas and Cristobal, although fired and not working for the University, are still under contract and could still be able to receive their paychecks from the University.

Now a question may arise, "Do you want to pay someone to do a bad job?" The answer would be, "No, of course not." But we'd rather pay coaches to do a job at FIU instead of paying them even after they're fired.

We would rather have seen Cristobal stay and finish the final three years of his contract. That way he would be here working on recovering from a 3-9 record instead of bringing on and paying a new coach while Cristobal is still under contract and, hypothetically, on a beach in Hawaii paid for with student money.

Enriching entertainment: the good in gaming

NERLYN GALAN
Contributing Writer

Video games have been popular since the 1970s, and by the 1990s they could be seen in

almost every home in the United States. So while spending almost half of my winter break playing my brand new Assassin's Creed 3 game I began to wonder: are video games good for us?

In my opinion: Yes.

But I wanted to see how others felt about it. So I went to the halls of our beloved GC and asked around at our local GameStop to get more information on the subject.

I learned that there are hundreds of different types of games with the four most popular being first person shooters (FPS), action role-playing games (RPG), sports, and finally strategy.

Almost every video game now has multiplayer options connecting you over the Internet to other people playing the same game.

The most sold games at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus are first person shooters and sports games, mainly for the Xbox 360 and PS3 consoles.

Through interviewing patrons and employees about

their favorite types of games and the average amount of time they spent playing them, I found that the majority of the students in the store were mostly FPS and/or RPG gamers.

RPG games have been around since before computers had graphic images and were composed mostly of text, while first-person shooters were first invented by the military as a training tool for soldiers and eventually found their way into the hands of the public.

It has become a trend in the media and the general public to credit these games as being addictive, robbing people of real life experiences and even causing the consumers to become violent.

According to my survey, the average RPG and FPS gamer spends 2 to 5 hours on average each day gaming, which is about equal to the 3.8 hours that users spend on social media, according to marketingcharts.com

Video games, while in some instances consuming much of a person's time, at least causes the gamer to critically think, requiring them to use strategy and skill to solve complex situations.

Multi-player options enable you to play with

others, creating a sense of community for the players, in a way being a more interactive medium than all the so-called "social media"

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These games are a safe havens for anyone who plays them allowing an easy and harmless escape from reality.
”

sites.

These games are a safe havens for anyone who plays them allowing an easy and harmless escape from reality.

The general public argues that it's a violent and inappropriate escape causing our youth to have more violent tendencies and outbreaks.

However, many gamers didn't agree with this statement saying that in reality they would not do the actions they do in the games, but simply enjoyed playing the game.

This led me to believe that

maybe this is what the media and general public were trying to get at: The parents lacked the understanding of which age group the games

were appropriate for and didn't regulate the amount of time their children spent playing.

But instead the video games got the bad reputation, when in reality they offer a lot of great advantages; when consumed in moderation and properly, they can actually be healthy.

Regardless of what the media publishes I know we will keep doing what gamers do best: Keep Calm and Game On.

-opinion@fiusm.com

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.

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LECTURE

Architect Rick Joy to lecture at University

KEILA DIAZ
Contributing Writer

Architect Rick Joy will visit FIU next week to discuss his 22-year architecture career in a lecture titled, “Taking the Time.”

RICK JOY



PHOTO FROM
WIKIPEDIA, ARCHINERO

Joy is well-known for his work in the deserts of Arizona, as well as other international projects. His designs often employ environmentally sustainable materials, attention to space and low impact to the surrounding areas.

According to his nomination for Alumnus of the Year Award 2012 from the University of Arizona, Joy was a founding member of the Environmental Design Council of Tucson. He has received several awards for his works. In 2004 the Smithsonian Institute-Cooper Hewitt Museum awarded him the National Design Award, and in 2008 he won the American Architecture Award.

Some of Joy’s most popular works include the Woodstock Farm in Vermont, the Desert Nomad House in Arizona and the Amagiri Resort in Utah.

Today, Joy is the head of his own architecture firm, Rick Joy Architects in Tucson, Ariz., which he established in 1993 after graduating from the University of Arizona.

In 2002, Joy published the visually stirring “Desert Works,” which is a compilation of detailed photographs of nine of his projects in the Sonoran Desert, description of the building process and other narratives.

The book has received good reviews from architecture magazines, including Architectural Record.

Joy and his firm have also worked internationally. In 2011 he was chosen as one the architects for the development of the Pan American Villa in Guadalajara, Mexico as part of the Pan American Games. Harvard, Yale and M.I.T are among the various institutions that have hosted Joy as a guest professor.

During the lecture, Joy will discuss with students his firm’s major projects and how they represent core values that he developed as an architect over the years. One such project is the Princeton University Project. According to Town Topics, Princeton’s weekly newspaper, the project involved the design of a new train station that was being relocated from a different part of the university’s campus.

Joy’s purpose is that students walk away from the lecture knowing that being a good architect requires a personal development of a strong set of core values and that to do good work requires a lot of hard work and care. After the lecture, students will be able to ask Joy questions as part of a question-and-answer session.

One of the most interesting architects of the time, according to New Voices in Architecture, Joy’s inspiration for design is drawn from natural phenomena, and this is perhaps why he has chosen the desert as the background for his major projects.

His buildings feature large, open, natu-

rally lit spaces. His designs are simple, yet luxurious and they blend into the landscape as if they had been there all along. The distinctiveness of Joy’s designs and their environmental appeal are becoming more important as alternative living spaces become more popular.

-life@fiusm.com

“TAKING THE TIME” A LECTURE BY RICK JOY

When:
Thursday, Jan. 17
at 5 p.m.

Where:
MMC in the Paul Cejas School of
Architecture (PCA) Building
in room 135

BLACK STUDENT UNION

BSU students remember MLK Jr. with commemorative event



AP IMAGES

KARLA REYES
Contributing Writer

In anticipation of Black History Month in February, the Black Student Union has planned a week of events to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and to remember

the most notable figure in the African-American Civil Rights Movement.

Although Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is celebrated on Monday, Jan. 21, BSU’s Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration will take place two

days after on Wednesday, Jan. 23. While its main purpose is to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. and his accomplishments, Lillie Wilson, president of BSU, hopes that “students take away knowledge and inspiration that they can use in their

everyday lives.”

Last year’s event had a guest speaker encourage students to continue with their educational goals and overcome whatever obstacles life may throw at them – lessons that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. exemplified and spoke about himself.

For their 22nd Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration, the distinguished gentlemen of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the lovely ladies of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will be having presentations, along with a live band and food.

Wilson also adds that the event will be a great opportunity for students and faculty to network

and socialize. Tiffany Le, former president of the Asian Student Union, says that she is interested in attending the event because she “understands the importance of celebrating important historical figures” and hopes that “students take advantage of an opportunity to educate themselves and get inspired.”

Senior Ian Somintac also wishes to attend in

order to support the FIU community. “[I want to] spread the importance of the history of the Civil Rights Movement,” added Somintac.

All FIU students are welcome to attend and should take the opportunity to remember a man who inspired the nation and whose actions changed history.

-life@fiusm.com

22ND ANNUAL REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION

When: Wednesday, Jan. 23
at 7 p.m.
Where: GC 243.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2013

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16

\$100 LATE PAYMENT FEE ASSESSED FOR OUTSTANDING BALANCES
WHEN: 12 a.m.-11:55 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC PC 120/ BBC AC1 140

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS
WHEN: 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: The Pit, EC

BOREN SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION SESSION
WHEN: 12-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC PC 113

MOODLE STUDENT ORIENTATION
WHEN: 10-11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC PC 414

PANTHER JOBLINK 101
WHEN: 3-4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: EC 2838

THURSDAY, JAN. 17

LECTURER: RICK JOY, “TAKING THE TIME”
WHEN: 5-6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC PCA 135

RESUME WRITING WORKSHOP
WHEN: 3-4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: GC 230

FIU WOMEN’S BASKETBALL VS NORTH TEXAS
WHEN: 5:30-8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC

INTERVIEWING SKILLS WORKSHOP
WHEN: 2-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: EC 2852

FIU MEN’S BASKETBALL VS NORTH TEXAS
WHEN: 7:30-10:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC

FISTFUL OF TECH

Smartphones, both benefit and distract students

ASHLEY OROZCO
Columnist

It's 8:58 a.m. Somewhere outside of GL 100 sits a lonely freshman, waiting for his 9 a.m. class to begin. Apparently, his classmates have all fallen ill because those who are usually there before he is are nowhere to be seen.

Any other student would whip out their smartphone to check if the professor has sent an email about class being cancelled. Unfortunately, this particular student does not own a smartphone and instead waits for about 15 minutes before deciding class is most likely not meeting today.

According to Onbille's mobile market research, out of the 5 billion mobile phones in the world, 1.08 billion are smartphones. Nowadays, smartphone owners range from middle schoolers

years, especially among college students. The Blackberry was the way to go for a while. Then came the Androids and iPhones, which dominate today's market at 75 and 14.9 percent, respectively, since November 2012, according to The Washington Post. The remaining 10.1 percent is broken into Blackberry, Windows, Symbian and Linux phones. Neither one can be deemed "superior" to the other as it is all a matter of preference, which changes from individual to individual.

However, some points students and other consumers may consider when choosing a smartphone can include battery life—most Androids, like the Galaxy SIII, have an average battery life of 350 minutes, while the iPhone 5 has an average battery of 200 minutes. Androids also have removable batteries. For memory—the iPhone can hold 16 GB, 32GB

There is plenty of time to link in, break up, trade stocks or shop after class. Since [students] are paying for their education, they may want to pay attention to class.

Employers will appreciate
[those] good habits.

Dileep Rao
Professor
Entrepreneurship

to businessmen and everyone in between. They have become increasingly popular in the recent

or 64 GB, while most Androids have MicroSD slots for removable memory; for applications—while

FRESH PICNIC



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Housing Freshmen students decide to have a picnic simply because the weather was delightful, and were encouraging students to join in on the fun.

the Android has several app stores, some apps are made exclusively for the Apple app store. Instagram, for example, did not come out on the Android market until almost three years after it had been released for Apple.

With all the capabilities that smartphones possess, students are using their phones for more than just for social networks now. "I discovered this app, 'Evernote,' which allows me to write notes from my laptop. After that, it is able to sync to my phone and Nook almost instantaneously," said freshman Kaitlynn Gutierrez.

The University has also made its own app with a multitude of features that would help even the most spirited student. Applications such as Blackboard, Dropbox, Google Drive and Catch Notes

are among the few that really benefit students. Blackboard acts as a mobile Blackboard site while Google Drive and Dropbox act as mobile hard drives that can transfer files from your computer to other devices and vice versa. Even email capabilities can allow a professor to quickly get in contact with his or her students if, say, an emergency arises and they must cancel their 9 a.m. class.

However, as great as having a smartphone might seem, it can cause as much harm as it does good. "There is plenty of time to link in, break up, trade stocks or shop after class," says Dileep Rao, professor of entrepreneurship. "Since [students] are paying for their education, they may want to pay attention to class. Employers will appreciate [those] good

habits."

The distractions don't stop in the classroom. "Last semester, I found myself checking Facebook and Instagram and wasting 20 minutes when all I meant to do was check what chapters were going to be on my next exam so I could study," said senior Janet Janero.

It helps to be technologically savvy, and smartphones can put you at an edge; however, being savvy also means knowing which situations are appropriate for using your smartphone. Potential employers may want a quick response from an email they sent, but that doesn't mean you should reply while your professor is giving a review for a final.

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CLUB FEATURE

Fishing club a catch for students across FIU

JONATHAN JACOBSSKIND
Staff Writer

The motto behind FIU's Fishing Club comes from a verse in Zac Brown Band "Knee Deep": "Knee deep in the water somewhere, got the blue sky breeze and it don't seem fair, only worry in the world 'Is the tide gonna reach my chair?'"

What started out as a few fraternity men casually fishing while paying homage to this catchy motto ignited club originator Johnny Davalos' decision to found the Fishing Club.

"Fishing is such an important part of my life and all the times I have gone on fishing trips it has brought me nothing but great satisfaction. Not only do I enjoy fishing, but it is an excellent way to just block all of the stresses in life and what it comes down to is just you and the water," Davalos said.

A member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, Davalos noticed the high amount of interest in fishing among his fraternity brothers. But while his brothers were avid fishers, Davalos was dismayed at the serious lack of interest in such a relaxing sport such as fishing within the overall FIU student body.

"Outside of Pike, I really was shocked when how many people did not care too much for fishing being that it is such a gratifying sport," Davalos said. "Since fishing is so important to me, I felt I needed to share the joy I get from fishing with the rest of the FIU community."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JONATHAN RAMIREZ

Club member Camilo Arias with the biggest catch in club history, a 40-pound Cobia off Cape Canaveral in early October.

After conveying the idea of being out on the water, away from all of life's stresses, he attracted a bundle of students interested in the Fishing Club and 20 of his brothers that signed up as the club's co-founders.

Davalos was then able to draw enough interest for FIU to grant the necessary recognition and future funding to start the Fishing Club.

Currently, the club has about 35 members and does not have any form of set dues, solely a pay-as-you-go policy which may include purchasing one's bait, fishing trip fees and other accessories.

As for their transportation for their fishing expeditions, they use the boat of fellow Pike fraternity brother Jonathan Ramirez, whose boat fits 20 people.

With the interests of the Fishing Club now growing, Ramirez believes the club must accommodate to the hike in members.

"Right now we are only using my boat, but we are trying to find other members who have their own boats," Ramirez said. "With more boats, it will allow the current members to have a more enjoyable experience and comfortable time out on the water."

Only a semester old, the Fishing Club has only gone on a couple fishing voyages, specifically to small islands off the shore of North Miami and Hallandale Beach. According to Ramirez, in the near future the club will venture out on fishing expeditions to the Florida Keys, the Gulf of Mexico and various parts of the Caribbean Sea as well as playing host to fishing tournaments that will feature grand prizes.

For the avid fisherman, a fishing tournament would be the reasonable place to showcase your skills; however, FIU's Fishing Club is not

only for expert fishermen. Unlike Davalos and Ramirez, winners of multiple local fishing tournaments, members like Jason Jean-Louis never picked up a fishing rod in his life prior to joining the Fishing Club.

"The closest thing I have done to fishing is feeding my pet goldfish," Jean-Louis said. "When Johnny approached me about the Fishing Club, I was kind of hesitant on joining since I knew I would be clueless. But after hearing him out and coming out for the first island trip, I had a great time and realized how awesome the feeling was when you finally catch a fish."

As chairman, Davalos is a true believer that with bigger goals comes bigger responsibility. He is sincere when it comes to water and boat safety as he deems this the most vital and intricate part of maintaining the Fishing Club.

"It's all fun and games until someone gets hurt," Davalos said. "It may be a challenge to make sure 30 other fishers are all on the same page when it comes to safety, but it's something that is just as important as catching fish and having a great time out on the water."

As spring approaches and the club expands, Davalos is highly optimistic that future members will obtain the same satisfaction that Davalos and the rest of the members receive when they're "knee deep in the water somewhere..."

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers display split personality on road trip

KEVIN CASTANEDA
Staff Writer

It's no secret that the FIU men's basketball team left on their two-game road trip last week with their heads held high.

The squad won three straight home games for the first time in a decade and reached the .500 mark on their record. They took this confidence with them on the road to Arkansas State to face the Red Wolves, a team they beat 80-61 on Jan. 10.

In that contest, the Panthers held the Red Wolves (10-7, 4-4 SBC) to 36 percent from both the field and the three-point line. Considering the Panthers rank last in the Sun Belt Conference in scoring defense, it was anomaly what they did to Arkansas State.

Fast forward to the rematch, the Panthers did it again to the Red Wolves. FIU held them

to below 35 percent from the field and 25 percent from the three-point line.

The importance of the Panthers field-goal defense could not be more overstated considering they lost the turnover margin by three, were out rebounded by 11 and committed 22 fouls.

For the second time against the Red Wolves, the Panthers shot above 50 percent from the field and for the first time this season, the Panthers were above .500, with an 8-7 record.

KING OF THE HILL

Head Coach Richard Pitino has always remarked about guard Deric Hill being his game changer.

Pitino reinserted Hill into the starting line-up against the Red Wolves, something Pitino hadn't done since Nov. 24 against Coastal Carolina.

Coming off the bench for the majority of the season,

Hill managed to still be ranked third in the SBC in steals, with nearly two a game. Hill has even averaged about three assists per game, which is better than Gaby Belardo's two per contest. Belardo had usurped Hill early in the season as the starting point guard, but Hill's stats have been more impressive.

The 5-foot-9 sophomore played a huge role in the Arkansas State game. His six rebounds from the guard position helped the team lessen their inefficiency on the boards.

He shot 60 percent from the field and 67 percent from the free-throw line, scoring 11 points. Even with his offensive success, Hill made sure to dish the ball out, registering three assists.

Hill's bright performance at Arkansas State was a new cog in the machine of victory for FIU and a another vital

piece they took to the Arkansas-Little Rock Trojans on Jan. 12.

ROAD BLOCK

FIU's four-game winning streak ended after the Trojans (11-8, 5-3) beat the Panthers 88-76.

The Panthers (8-8, 3-4 SBC) dug themselves a huge hole early in the ball game, ending the half down, 51-36.

Offense was not a problem for the Panthers, as they had six players in double-digit points. The biggest problem for FIU and a prevalent theme of their season, was their defense.

They allowed the Trojans to shoot nearly 60 percent from the field, 43 percent from long range and convert the 21 fouls they committed into 24 free points.

The one bright spot for the Panthers was the continued performance of Hill. He scored 11 points, grabbed 5 rebounds,



JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Sophomore Deric Hill is third in the conference in steals at a 1.9 mark and has 22 points, 11 rebounds with a 10-for-12 mark in free throws over his last two games.

dished out 4 assists and was a perfect 6 for 6 from the free-throw line.

The loss was a step back for the surging Panthers, as they are again even on the season at 8-8.

They are coming back home to face the 7-11 North

Texas Mean Green tomorrow, Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the U.S Century Bank Arena.

The Panthers will be hoping that the five days of rest and their home court advantage can put them in the positives.

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SOFTBALL

As offseason nears end, softball coach sets his goals

BRYAN PALACIO
Contributing Writer

The life of a student-athlete is difficult during the season, but the offseason can be just as trying, especially during the holidays.

“Spots are won in the fall and lost in the spring,” said second-year softball Head Coach Jake Schumann.

While college students get to go home and indulge in as much food, sleep, and alcohol as their bodies can take in, Schumann and the softball team are constantly making sure they’re ready for the upcoming season. They work hard to stay in shape and keep their bodies ready for when their 20-hour work weeks start in spring.

“We meet with them before so they can go home and work on fundamentals,” Schumann said. “Strength and conditioning coach Corey Houston and I give them a work outs for them to focus on. We also tell them to play catch and hit at least three times a week.”

The Panthers are coming off a 28-27 record which was sixth best overall in the Sun-Belt Conference. They were 15-9 in conference play which was third best and a school record in conference wins. They look to improve their record as well as their play, something coach Schumann has a knack of doing.

“We’re just working out

butts off every day,” senior Brie Rojas said. “I’ve seen improvement with everybody; strength wise, our conditioning, really all of it. Everyone’s been working really hard, taking extra swings, taking extra ground balls, just getting prepared.”

Since becoming a head coach, Schumann has been able to improve his team’s wins each year. He targets specific goals that he intends to meet, while acknowledging it is not the easiest when you inherit a team. Ten of the 12 seasons he’s been a head coach, he has been able to achieve a team batting average of over .300, from which the two other times were his first years with the programs.

Apart from batting average, the team plans on also focusing in all other areas, for example pitchers are expected to try and lower their ERA by one point. The goal of the squad is to win the conference, not just simply play well in it.

“Your goal is always to win the regular season,” said coach Schumann. “[You want to] Try to place first in the conference, you’re not doing much if you’re not trying to win your conference.”

The team also has its fair share of storylines to keep an eye on. The squad lost their best hitter and most dynamic player in Ashley McClain, a top 25 finalist for best player in college softball, who graduated

last year. Schumann stresses that even while there may not be a superstar going into the year, as long as he’s at FIU, it will always be a great team overall.

“It might not be one big stick, but because we all work together so well and we click, I know if I can’t get it done, whoever comes up behind me will. It’s tough not having her bat in the lineup but I’m confident that we’ll get the job done,” Rojas said.

Senior players Rojas, Jessie Alfonso, Alex Casals, and Kayla Burri are all returning back to the squad to provide leadership to a team welcoming 12 new players.

Some of the new players include two-time champion from Arizona State Bri Kaye, All-American transfer Amber Curry, first team All-American in Junior-College Krystal Garcia, and highly-touted freshman Corrine Jenkins and Aleima Lopez. Add in junior pitcher Mariah Dawson, who led the league in strikeouts, and the team has a solid foundation with which to build upon.

“I’ve never been this excited about anything,” Rojas said. “I feel really good going into this year and I think everybody agrees. We’re a completely different team, we’re going to do a lot of great things this year that many people aren’t going to expect.”

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JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

In its first dual meet of the season, the FIU swimming and diving team dominated Central Connecticut State University with a 198-100 victory on Jan. 11.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT, ARTS AND SOCIETY

The glass half full: GLOWS focuses on sustainable water usage

MADISON FANTOZZI
Asst. News Director

Fresh water is a critical resource for the well-being of humans, but also for the plants and animals of the freshwater ecosystem itself.

Research associate of the Department of Earth and Environment, Elizabeth Anderson, will discuss the Global Water for Sustainability (GLOWS) program and its work to satisfy the water needs of humans without compromising the integrity of ecosystems in her lecture, “Balancing freshwater needs of humans and ecosystems.”

“We need to consider ecosystems’ need for water,” Anderson said.

GLOWS and the School of Environment, Arts and Society seek to address the economic and health issues produced by environmental challenges through research of ecosystems and communication with international governments and individuals.

The GLOWS program and its work and initiatives will be

“Water management will increase awareness as well as reduce pressure on freshwater ecosystems and providing water resources for humans will also reduce these pressures.”

Elizabeth Anderson
Research Associate
Department of Earth and Environment

discussed in Anderson’s lecture on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Deering Estate at Cutler in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

According to Anderson, over 1 billion people do not have access to clean water and over 2 billion people do not have access to proper sanitation.

The mission of the GLOWS program is to promote both the management of water resources and aquatic ecosystems. Activities simultaneously promote economic and social benefits from water resources, while

sustaining these ecosystems.

“It is about designation and allocation,” Anderson said. “For example, determining ‘x’ amount of water a house needs a day and considering animals’ needs for water such as for movement and migration.”

As executive officer of the GLOWS program, Anderson has worked in diverse environments in South America, East Africa and India. The program, which began in 2005, currently spans three continents: Africa, Eurasia and South America.

GLOWS works on the ground to implement water supply, sanitation and hygiene services and water management, working closely with local communities to increase social, economic and environmental benefits to people in the developing world.

“Water management will increase awareness as well as reduce pressure on freshwater ecosystems,” Anderson said. “And providing water resources for humans will also reduce these pressures.”

Current projects include a

water sanitation and hygiene program in West Africa, an integrated natural resource management in watersheds of Georgia, an integrated water sanitation and hygiene program in Tanzania, an integrated water security program in Rwanda, water for biodiversity and human health in Kenya and capacity-building of local and national non-governmental organizations and community based organizations in Africa.

“GLOWS is an extension of FIU that is truly ‘Worlds Ahead,’” GLOWS program administrator and environmental studies graduate student Ana Lemos said.

Anderson said the program is currently working to extend the project to Colombia.

GLOWS is led by the University and financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The consortium includes CARE, WaterAid America, Winrock International, World Vision and the World Wildlife Fund.

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Different daily dishes provide home flavors

SKYLAR SIEGEL
Contributing Writer

Dishes like bourbon grilled tilapia with brown rice and steamed broccoli or chicken masala with white rice and steamed green beans are not dishes necessarily expected on a college campus.

Colleges across the nation provide students with several food options, many of which are fast food on the go options; however, many colleges are innovating by offering healthier, home meal options.

At the Biscayne Bay Campus, Grille Works is following that trend with daily home meal options like bourbon tilapia, chicken masala, and meatloaf.

Executive Chef, Denex Attelus has been working for Grille Works at BBC for six years now and is the one responsible for creating the daily home meal options.

Attelus works with his front line cook, Roberto “Sonny” Laboy, and usually one or two cashiers daily. Sonny has been working here for about 3 years.

When approaching Grille Works to place an order, the first thing students encounter is a large life size calendar listing each home meal available for the month with a different meal for every day.

“I rarely eat on campus but when I do, I like the food at Grille Works, especially the home meal options because it’s not fried or processed, it shows that someone took their time in preparing it,” said Teddy Rood, hospitality management masters student.

Most of the time Attelus works in the back of the café, operating his own catering business outside of the campus as a personal hobby.

“I do not have a name for my catering

company but my friends and associates approach me all the time to cook for them or their event and that’s how I generate my business,” he said.

Attelus comes up with the home meal options each month. Some options show his heritage, such as the option of Jan. 15, Griot, which is fried cubed pork and a well known Haitian dish.

“I am from Haiti so I speak Creole to the Haitian students on campus, I feel like when they see a Haitian dish option, they feel more at home,” said Attelus.

Affordability plays a large role with the hot meal menu options. They are only \$5, but to add a drink and dinner roll it’s just \$6.29.

“It’s great to have the home meal options available on campus, it gives students an option of real food which is really nice to have anytime you’re away from home since so many other options on campus are unhealthy,” said Ashley Navarro, junior business major.

Prior to working at Grille Works, Attelus worked at numerous other restaurants, such as PF Changs, Olive Garden, the Golden Diner and more. “I love cooking it has always been my passion; I have been in this industry for 16 years,” Attelus said.

With so much unhealthy eating in our nation, the food department has implemented a new healthy eating idea called “Healthy Mondays.”

“With healthy Mondays students will have the opportunity to start their week off right with a healthy choice, we are hoping to raise more awareness to the meals so more healthy options can be implemented,” said Lorvin Ramirez, assistant food services director.

“I hate eating out because it’s so bad for you these days but last week I didn’t

have time to cook so I tried Grille Works hot meal option grilled salmon and rice pilaf and it was so good that I’m going back this week,” said Davita J Ramirez, sophomore journalism major.

With 30 different menu options for the month, students have the opportunity to try new flavors every day, giving everyone on campus a chance to try

something new.

“The most important thing to remember when cooking is to make sure your food is full of flavor, because students like every option. If your food has good flavor, that’s what makes people buy it,” said Attelus.

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SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

Jiannan Li, a first year graduate student in hospitality, grabs his order from Grille Works inside of the Biscayne Bay Campus food court. Grille Works prepares its daily meals the night before depending on the menu. Employees come in at 5 a.m. to continue preparing the meal and then serve it at 11 a.m. Grille Works’ hot meals usually run out by 2 p.m., but students like Li can still order items such as their three piece chicken tenders, Philly cheese steak, or angus cheeseburger later in the afternoon.