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Pythons creating a stir among Everglades community

REBECA PICCARDO
Contributing Writer

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and its partners hosted the “2013 Python Challenge,” a month-long harvest competition that invited both amateur and professional hunters to capture the Burmese python, an invasive species of constrictor snake that has impacted the Everglades ecosystem.

The competition took place from Saturday, Jan. 12 until Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013. During this period, a total of 68 Burmese pythons were harvested. These were captured from any of the four wildlife management areas for the competition, which excluded the Everglades National Park.

According to the FWC’s website, the Burmese python arrived in South Florida as an exotic pet, but is now listed as a conditional species and cannot be sold or kept as a pet. As one of the largest snakes in the world, with an average length of six to nine feet long, the Burmese python has no natural predators and has begun to raise environmental concerns; they prey on various “mammals, birds, and even alligators.”

In order to partake in the event, competitors needed to register online, pay a \$25 fee, and take an online training course. The contest consisted of two categories: the General Competition and the Python Permit Holders Competition. There were five prizes given per category: a \$1,500 Grand Prize and a \$750 Second Place prize for the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BLAKE RUSS AND STEVEN FEATHERSTONE

Blake Russ, white shirt, and Devin Belliston, red shirt, caught this python in the hunt that the Everglades hosted between Jan. 12 and Feb. 10. The python they captured in the photos won the contest, measuring 12-feet long.



most Burmese pythons captured, a \$1000 First Place prize and a \$750 Second Place prize for the longest Burmese pythons and an additional prize that was picked through a random drawing.

According to the event’s website, the main goal of this month-long harvest competition was to raise awareness about the “threat that Burmese pythons present to the Everglades

ecosystem, including native wildlife.” By raising awareness, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and its partners hoped to “encourage responsible harvesting of Burmese pythons and encourage people to report sightings of invasive species.”

The “2013 Python Challenge” included two free public events: the “2013 Python Chal-

lenge Kickoff,” which was held at the University of Florida Research and Education Center on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013, and the “2013 Python Challenge Awareness and Awards Event,” which was held at Zoo Miami on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013.

Blake Russ, a junior construction management, received the first place prize for harvesting the longest Burmese python and the

second place prize for harvesting the second most pythons in the Permit Holders category.

Although killing the snakes was a requirement for the competition, Russ said that the University of Florida asked the FWC to make an exception in order to use Russ’ 11-foot-1-inch python for research purposes. According

SEE PYTHON, PAGE 2

Athletes balance pros and cons of social media

DANIEL BREY
Contributing Writer

In late January, a brief exchange between two FIU football players about taking a recruit to a strip club garnered national attention. The team promptly banned all tweets pertaining to FIU football and just like that, social media struck again.

Twitter, along with Facebook, Instagram

and other social media sites have student-athletes, coaches and team organizations cautious of every tweet, post, and upload delivered into the dangerous world of personal interpretation.

“It can be a good, or a bad thing,” FIU pitcher Dillon Maya said via Twitter. “Just have to be careful what you put out there.”

Twitter, which has taken the term “A little bird told me...” to the second power, has inherited an infamous reputation for landing

athletes and coaches in hot water.

Twitter’s unique privacy policy is significantly less authoritative and much more neglectful of its user’s privacy and friendship associations compared to Facebook and Instagram.

“What is different about Twitter is that it allows people to follow and tweet anyone they want without the other person’s consent,” FIU catcher Alejandro Mangano said. “When

emotions run high, especially in sports, this freedom backfires on many players, coaches, and honestly, whoever wants to tweet.”

Although the Twitter bird pecked the FIU football team this past month, other FIU sports programs, such as sand volleyball, have no intention on placing limitations on players who have social media accounts.

SEE SOCIAL, PAGE 6

Well field could run dry in Miami-Dade County

JUNETTE REYES
Staff Writer

Water throughout the Miami-Dade county area could be disappearing fast.

An Everglades restoration project may affect a well field that supplies Miami-Dade County with much of its drinking water.

The plan itself, titled the

Central Everglades Planning Project, is a form of experimentation from the partnering of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District, along with a “working group” of other state and federal agencies, environmentalists and outdoors groups.

The plan is expected to

use up to 65 million gallons of water annually to revive the dehydrated Everglades and salty Florida Bay as well as relieve parts of the marsh where flooding has been historically high, which has caused the destruction and demise of tree islands and wildlife populations.

Alternatives have been combined into a new plan

known as 4R, which will include a seepage barrier meant to moderate the groundwater flow from the Everglades to the suburbs.

This can turn out to be problematic, though, because it can affect, and even diminish, the water flow to Miami-Dade’s well fields.

Leonard J. Scinto,

director of the Southeast Environmental Research Center at FIU, believes in being able to tweak the plan as needed moving forward and that people should not worry about not getting enough water.

“It’s always kind of this balance between too much water and too little water,” said Scinto. “The problem

is how you manage those extremes for [a] constant supply of fresh water to taps [and] constant release from flooding during the periods of high water.”

Scinto said that one of the main points of the plan is that there is going to be an additional 200 thousand

SEE WATER, PAGE 2

WORLD NEWS

Syria says it’s ready for talks with armed rebels

Syria is ready to hold talks with the armed opposition trying to topple President Bashar Assad, the country’s foreign minister said Monday, in the government’s most advanced offer yet to try to resolve the 2-year-old civil war through negotiations. Walid al-Moallem did not say whether rebel fighters would first have to lay down their arms before negotiations could begin, a key sticking point in the past. Still, the proposal marked the first time that a high-ranking Syrian official has stated publicly that the government would meet with opposition fighters.

Cuba’s Raul Castro announces retirement in 5 years

Raul Castro announced Sunday that he will step down as Cuba’s president in 2018 following a final five-year term, for the first time putting a date on the end of the Castro era. He tapped rising star Miguel Diaz-Canel as his top lieutenant and first in the line of succession. The 81-year-old Castro also said he hopes to establish two-term limits and age caps for political offices including the presidency — an astonishing prospect for a nation led by Castro or his older brother Fidel since their 1959 revolution. The 52-year-old Diaz-Canel is now a heartbeat from the presidency and has risen higher than any other Cuban official who didn’t directly participate in the heady days of the revolution.

Soldiers stole children during El Salvador’s war

One of Gregoria Contreras’ first childhood memories was the moment she last saw her parents. Fighting between government troops and guerrillas had broken out around the 4-year-old girl’s family home in the countryside of this Central American country. The soldiers took advantage of the confusion and seized Contreras and her two siblings, who were under the age of 2. “We all fled the house and suddenly it all ended because they captured us and our parents disappeared,” said Contreras, now 35 and living in neighboring Guatemala.

For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.

Dean of Libraries candidates announced

BRANDON WISE
News Director

The Dean of Libraries position has three candidates selected to take over for the Interim Director Thomas Breslin. FIU Libraries have been looking for a new dean since late July, when former Dean of Libraries Laura Probst stepped down and Breslin stepped in. When Probst stepped down, University Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartzok sent out a memorandum on July 26 stating, “I want to thank Dean Probst for her service. These five years have... been a time of significant change in how information is stored and accessed. We have benefited from someone who kept FIU abreast of the changes.” Now, Wartzok has named three candidates to fill the position: Braddlee, Anne Prestamo and Roy Ziegler. Braddlee has worked as the dean of libraries at Mercy College from 2009 to present. Prestamo has worked at Oklahoma State University since 2005 in “library-related work.” Ziegler has worked

at Florida State University since 2001 as associate dean for collection services, associate dean for collection development and associate director for collection development. In an email sent to the FIU students, Wartzok said, “I hope you will take this opportunity to meet these finalists at the forums in which they will briefly present their vision for the FIU Libraries and you will be able to ask questions and demonstrate our collective interest in selecting the most qualified candidate.”

-brandon.wise@fiusm.com

DEAN OF LIBRARIES FORUMS

Braddlee, Anne Prestamo, Roy Ziegler
Forums took place on Feb. 26 for Braddlee, will take place on Feb. 27 for Prestamo, and Feb. 28 for Ziegler.
All meetings will take place in GL 220 at 3 p.m.

Python hunters enjoy season in Everglades to help community

PYTHON, PAGE 1

to Russ, The University of Florida placed a “GPS tracker, inserted a chip in it, and re-released it.” In the future, Russ plans to go back with the University of Florida and re-catch the snake. When catching pythons, Russ

pulls them by the tail, waits until they wear out and then grabs their neck. However, to pull and capture the prize-winning snake, Russ said it was like a “tug-of-war” and needed the help of his friend, Devin Belliston. When transporting the snakes, Russ recommended pillowcases, because it is the “least stressful” for them.

Aside from the competition, Russ and his group, the “Florida Python Hunters,” continue to harvest the Burmese python, along with other types of invasive species, and turn them in to the FWC or the University of Florida.

-news@fiusm.com

Everglades project may drain well field in Miami-Dade county

WATER, PAGE 1

to 240 thousand acre-feet, which would add about 10 to 15 percent more to the total volume of water that is currently in the system. “More water is good,” said Scinto. He noted that this can also mean more natural flow characteristics. The importance of the

Central Everglades plan lies not only in the restoration of the Everglades through the returning of healthy water flows to the marsh but also in the endeavor of moving past Congress’ drawn-out 30-year restoration plan, titled the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, which was approved in 2000. The U.S Army Corps intends to speed up the planning process alone from 5 or 6 years to 18 months. However, the speediness of the planning as well as the short time of frame to deal with possible issues is actually a concern for some, such as Central Everglades program manager for the National Parks Conservation Association and

working group member, Dawn Shirreffs. “Things kind of slowed up a bit in the last couple of years and this is one way of trying to get things back on track; it’s not that we’re moving superfast, it’s just that we’re playing catch-up for a couple of slow years,” said Scinto. Scinto expands on this by saying that everyone will have an issue, despite how very well vetted the plans are. “I’d like to see more water down the Southeast side of Everglades National Park; I work in that area and I know it’s drier than it has been historically,” said Scinto. Scinto said they will

eventually end up with a “compromised model” because of differing opinions. Scinto said it is all to supply the most good for the most uses, such as urban water withdrawal, urban flood protection, ecological restoration, the Everglades National Park and hydrologic restoration of Florida Bay. A plan of restoration has not been formally selected yet but it is expected to happen by April 2013, followed by Congress’ approval of funding. The plans will probably go unsupported, however, until deficiencies are addressed. Scinto said they will

-news@fiusm.com

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
philippe.buteau@fiusm.com

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

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A paradox of the pro-life approach

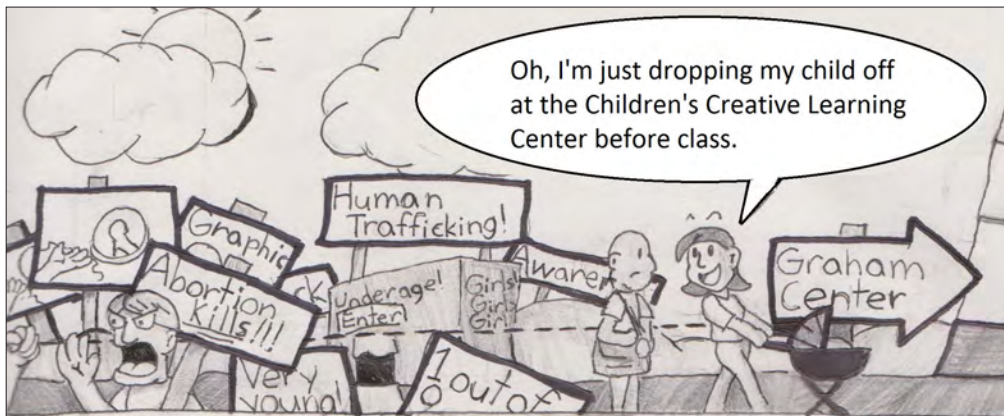


ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIAN SPENCER/THE BEACON

ALEX SORONDO
Staff Writer

If I were to try dissuading you from the abortion of your child who, in utero, has been diagnosed with Down syndrome by showing you, on the one hand, a picture of a cherubic and healthy looking child with the same condition and, on the other, a congealed mass of blood and partly-formed limbs, you'd probably be quick to find that I'm not trying to persuade you by means of logos.

Not only would you see through my tactic, you'd probably be offended by how forward it is. You might, in fact, become angry and, in the heat of the moment, resort to profanity and insults, abandoning logic and the more dignified forms of debate.

You won't point out that

these pictures show only the beauty of my argument and the ugliness of yours. There's a good chance you'll just yell at me.

If I can get you angry enough, I can probably make you sound pretty irrational and, to a surrounding audience, I will look like I'm winning.

I'll also look like a douchebag, though.

The pro-life organization that graces our campus every now and then to employ the aforementioned tactic has good intentions and is -- I'll tentatively suggest -- providing a valuable service. They're trying to start a conversation, to engage college students in one of the day's most delicate issues.

In arguing with these ostensible zealots, students can learn a valuable lesson: namely, the futility of arguing with a zealot.

What we also stand to learn, if we're self-aware, is our susceptibility to our own emotions. Because we all probably know, in the backs of our minds, that if somebody is so fervent about abortion -- whether in support or opposition -- that they'll come to a college campus and preach about it, we hold a slim chance of changing their mind.

If they've gone so far as to bring posters, they will refuse to be proven wrong, if only to save face. Posters and picket signs tell their audience, "I'm here to be heard, not to listen."

Logic would tell us these people are easy to dismiss.

But we see the obnoxious pictures and the self-righteous pamphlets and we let our anger pull us right into their trap. We allow them to make angry fools of us.

This is only one side of the

unfortunate paradox regarding the pro-lifers' approach.

Consider their noble intention -- if you'll tolerate my calling it that -- of coming to a college campus and starting a conversation.

Obviously they can't just put some mild-mannered guy out there with a handful of flyers and a sign that says, "Let's Discuss Abortion." It wouldn't grab attention or participation.

In order to grab attention and start a conversation, they have to make a spectacle of themselves. The paradox, however, is that, in doing so, they make themselves into villains and, with so much drama and sensationalism, zap themselves of all credibility.

In order to have the conversation, they must first ruin it.

It isn't all for naught, though. Just because their means preclude the intended ending doesn't mean they shouldn't keep doing it, or that there aren't other, larger, more poignant lessons to be learned from it all.

The whole affair becomes, in the end, less about abortion and maybe more about the desire to be heard and seen and our total unwillingness to listen to one another.

Which is maybe the root of this whole abortion thing in the first place.

-alex.sorondo@fiusm.com

Black History Month: a celebration or a separation?

LAUREN BANA
Contributing Writer

A nation thrives off of unity, and if we, as a nation, are unified only amongst our own separate races, then we are only further dividing ourselves.

With the passing of Black History Month, we have come reflect on the time we took to celebrate our African American brothers and sisters. This month has been dedicated to their contributions to America as a whole, and we should certainly honor them, not only during the month of February, but year-round.

And we should honor every race every day, and can do so by respecting one another as people instead of categorizing our peers by race.

"Months like Black History month separate us as a country," said senior communication arts major, Carlos Gonzalez.

It is similar to the way 'cliques' work in high school. There are the nerds, the jocks, the popular girls, the band geeks, the drama kids, and so on. They see each other differently because of how they act and where

their interests lie. But if they were to see each other just as students instead of what 'clique' they belong to, then they would become more unified as a school. If they dedicated a month out of each school year to each individual 'clique', then that causes more separation amongst their peers.

I believe that the only way to truly unite as a nation would be to completely remove things like Black History Month so that we might stop looking at race and ethnicity as a quality in a person, and start approaching people as people.

Of course I won't discredit the symbol this month represents. African Americans have endured years of struggle to free themselves from slavery and gain civil rights. They had to live under the spiteful hand of prejudice for years and, as an apology, have had the shortest month of the year dedicated to them.

Nonetheless, should we really have a Black History Month when there aren't special months dedicated the other races of America? Did not the Chinese suffer just as the Native Americans underwent a mass

genocide of their people, and neither of them have a month dedicated to them. Wouldn't the acknowledgement of separate races cause for further separation as a nation instead of union?

By all means celebrate your heritage and pay homage to the people who fought before you to have the liberties you now enjoy.

In fact we should promote this type of celebrating, but let's do it together, not separately as individual races or groups.

Singapore has an amazing event every July called Racial Harmony Day. On this day schools in Singapore mark the anniversary of their 1964 racial riots, and reflect on how far their country has come since that time. But they also use this day to promote the importance of inter-racial understanding.

I think the same can, and should, be done here.

If we're going to finally set aside race, we need to start acknowledging people as people instead of categorizing them by where they're from.

-opinion@fiusm.com

THE BEACON | Editorial

Keeping it in the family is all right

Based on recent hires coaching with kin is not frowned upon at the University, and The Beacon doesn't have a problem with it either. There is a pair of parent and child coaching tandems in football and sand volleyball. Head Football Coach Ron Turner has recruited his sons Cameron and Morgan to help coach his offense. Head Sand Volleyball Coach Rita Buck-Crockett hired her daughter Marrita as the assistant coach.

Human Resource's nepotism disclosure form -- that every family and marital relationship that is employed at the University must fill out that is employed at the University -- states it is the policy of FIU not to discriminate in its employment and personnel actions with respect to its employees and applicants on the basis of marital or familial status.

As of press time, sports information was not able to answer whether athletics personnel have to fill out nepotism forms but said Cameron and Morgan Turner were most likely required to fill out the form since they were officially hired by the University, but Marrita Royster-Crockett is a volunteer assistant.

Both Turner and Crockett have much to prove this upcoming season entering a new conference as recently hired coaches. A coach entering a new position would want assistants they can trust. Why not hire your children if they are qualified? Cameron and Morgan Turner have the credentials to coach under their father.

Cameron Turner served as liaison for the coaching department to all departments of the Minnesota Vikings and NFL Officials. Cameron managed and formulated the coaching budget. From a business administration standpoint, Coach Turner could use his son for business and budgeting.

Morgan Turner served as offensive assistant for the Stanford Cardinals last season, where the Cardinals outscored their opponents 390-241. He was also a strength and conditioning intern in the 2010 season.

In an interview with Student Media, Ron Turner said it was no walk in the park to get his sons to coach for him. "They both had great jobs where they were," Turner said. "I had to fight to get them."

Turner's sons bring early success to their father's offensive game plan, as well as provide sound business insight and strength and conditioning technique. For Rita Buck-Crockett -- who was a world beach champion for the Women's Professional Volleyball Association Tour and finished as runner-up in 1990 -- to hire her daughter must speak loudly as to what Marrita can bring to the table. Neither of the two were available for comment as of press time.

Marrita Royster-Crockett comes to FIU from Hawaii Pacific University, where she served as a graduate assistant coach in 2011. She also was the interim head coach at Lincoln High School in Tallahassee that year, and had previously coached in the high school ranks as an assistant at Maclay, where she led her squad to a Final Four State Championship in 2010, according to fisports.com.

Can these coaches and their children make successful coaching staffs that will translate into wins?

Some assume it is difficult to be creative and make good decisions when emotion is involved, especially mixing family with business. However, emotion takes a major role in sports, such as not making the most logical decision at times and going with your gut instinct as a coach.

If the tandems end up turning out successfully, than the University should continue allowing coaches to hire their kin. The Beacon feels coaching with kin is acceptable, especially with the credentials and knowledge that Cameron and Morgan Turner as well as Marrita Royster-Crockett have of their sports.

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GLOWS receives \$750,000 for Amazon conservation

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

FIU recently took a step towards saving the environment through a \$750,000 grant and a partnership with the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana and the Universidad de la Amazonia in Colombia.

FIU's division of Global Water for Sustainability, a program that works to increase social, economic, and environmental benefits in the developing world, answered a call for proposals from Higher Education for Development.

"They open up bids for different projects and we chose the one for biodiversity conservation in the Andean Amazon," said Ana Lemos-Jara program assistant for GLOWS.

"The partnership is to strengthen capacity with higher education institu-

tions in [Colombia] in order to strengthen conservation in the Andean Amazon," said Lemos-Jara.

She also explained that this project is split into three different components: increasing the capacity for biodiversity within the university, increasing its capacity for students and faculty and strengthening the network for scientific dissemination of information.

Lemos-Jara sites the networking aspect of FIU's proposal as the reason they were chosen for this grant. She stated that FIU's idea was to work "not only to strengthen the University itself but also, to strengthen the network in order to make it more sustainable."

GLOWS has set out to bring together various organizations in Colombia working to improve biodiversity in order to create a network that can provide

The partnership is to strengthen capacity with higher education institutions in [Colombia] in order to strengthen conservation in the Andean Amazon.

Ana Lemos-Jara
Program Assistant
Global Water for Sustainability

resources and prevent duplicate studies. "I think that one of our strong points is being able to work with two universities that are very involved in biodiversity. I believe we got [the grant] because of that."

Along with the \$750,000 coming from the grant, Lemos-

Jara predicts that the experience gained from this partnership will benefit FIU as well as Pontificia Universidad Javeriana and the Universidad de la Amazonia in Colombia.

"FIU stands to gain by helping other universities revise their curricula. Considering that FIU

is a public research university we have a lot of learned experiences to offer these universities that may not have had the infrastructure or the know-how," Lemos-Jara said. "FIU will also gain invaluable contacts in the area. We're going with this 'Worlds Ahead' theme, I think this is great because now not only do we have the connection with Latin America because of where we are in Miami, but also because we're there in the field we're helping these people out and we're helping them develop."

But, ultimately the biggest payout Lemos envisions is a brighter future for the Amazon. "It's a really good opportunity for everyone to work together and work for the common goal which is to conserve the Amazon."

-life@fiusm.com

Howard Rock chronicles New York Jews of the New World

JACQUELINE ROSADO
Staff Writer

New insight into the Jewish community of the New World Era has been unveiled by University Professor Howard Rock, who took on the task of writing about them in his latest book, Haven of the Liberty: New York Jews in the New World, 1654-1865.

His book is part of a three-volume set, City of Promises: A History of the Jews of New York, With a Visual Essay by Diana L. Linden.

According to Rock, his book is about the first Jews that arrived to the colonies and traces their history in New York City – what used to be Amsterdam.

Rock said it was composed of three parts. The first part covers the Colonial Period and the American Revolution. The

second part covers the Jews in the Early Republic, which covers the years 1790 to 1830. Finally, the last part covers the Antebellum Period, which is the period before the Civil War, when there was a huge population boom, especially within the Jewish community.

Rock began his research when he retired in 2008 and the book was published in 2012. Rock worked on it for three and a half years.

Rock got involved in this research after his friend asked him to work on project chronicling the history of New York's Jewish community. He was scared because he knew nothing about Jews around this time and realized there weren't many resources he could rely on, until he came upon some old newspapers that saved him.

Rock mentioned that it was easier for him to do this research because he was no longer a full-time professor when he started it. It would've taken him about seven years

if he were still teaching full-time.

Rock shared some surprising conclusions about the Jewish community in his research, one of them being the challenge of integrating and staying in America.

"They became a part of everyday society," said Rock.

Rock explains how the book reveals how the Jewish community faced the obstacle of staying strong enough to stay integrated within their community and not assimilate to Americanism. According to Rock, the Jewish community in New York struggled with keeping their Jewish identity.

"[This book will help] teach the importance of the early period of American Jewish history," said Rock.

Rock taught full-time for the University for 35 years until he officially retired in 2008. He is currently teaching a graduate program for high school teachers who want to get a master's degree in history.

The three-volume set was awarded the 2012 Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year Award from the Jewish Book Council.

"I couldn't believe it," said Rock. "I've never won an award before and I've published five other books before this one. This is the ultimate award. This was a new experience for me, especially since it's on something I've never written about before. I had to wait a long time for this."

Rock has published a book about every ten years since he's started working. Some of his other works include his first book published in 1979, Artisans of the New Republic. Three of his other books can be found under the the same subject. Also, Cityscapes: A History of New York in Images, which covers all of New York City's history, published in 2001.

-life@fiusm.com

Honors College prepares for 3rd annual day of service

LUIS BOLANOS
Contributing Writer

Community service is a staple of our society, and helps uplift the community through volunteer work.

Here at FIU, students from all backgrounds help and assist the community and the Honors College in particular offers a special event for those students interested called the Day of Service. It is taking place on Saturday, March 2.

As stated on the event registration page, the Day of Service is "a day dedicated to community service involving tree planting, park restoration and beautification and possibly painting

and building in the City of Sweetwater."

Communication and Media Specialist Monique Purnell, a graduate student in the Higher Education Administration program, detailed the history behind the event.

"In 2009, The Honors College created a partnership with the City of Sweetwater and has since then performed acts of service through mentoring and tutoring within the schools, and offering Days of Service to beautify the local community. This year will be our 3rd Annual Day of Service," said Purnell.

Purnell added details behind the attendance of the event in the past, and an estimate of this year's attendance.

"We had an average of 60 students participate in last year's Day of Service and we are anticipating 100 volunteers this year," said Purnell.

The Day of Service is part of several community service projects done by the Honors College.

"Additional community service our students provide are tutoring and mentoring at the local schools, assisting in after school care and programs, and participating in An Evening with the Arts with Sweetwater Elementary," said Purnell.

Melissa Rodriguez, a senior in Psychology and a participant in last year's Day of Service, described how the Day of Service helps out the

community.

"The Day of Service definitely benefits not only the community in general, but it helps an area that is only a mile away from our campus. FIU is a 'world's ahead' university, so what better way to exemplify that than to serve our next-door neighbors first," said Rodriguez.

One moment that stood out for Rodriguez during last year's Day of Service was hearing the Mayor of Sweetwater speak to the volunteers during their lunch break.

"It's one thing doing community service just to get volunteer hours, and it's another thing to doing it while knowing you're making a difference. He was

very inspirational."

Rodriguez added input to the overall benefits of the Day of Service to the community.

"The Day of Service definitely benefits not only the community in general, but it helps an area that is only a mile away from our campus. FIU is a "world's ahead" university, so what better way to exemplify that than to serve our next-door neighbors first?"

Purnell expressed interest in students to participate in the event.

"We encourage all students within and outside of the Honors College to participate in Day of Service. For additional service opportunities, FIU students can refer to

the Center for Leadership and Service."

Rodriguez offered encouraging words to any student interested in participating.

"It's an extremely humble experience that you will only get to participate in a few times during your undergraduate career so definitely take advantage and do it!"

Any student interested in the Day of Service taking place on Saturday March 2 can register online at <http://honors.fiu.edu/event-registration/?ee=39>. For any additional questions in regards to the event, students can contact Monique Purnell at mpurnell@fiu.edu

-life@fiusm.com

‘The Liar’ to reveal a web of lies on stage

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer

What a tangled web of lies “The Liar,” directed by Michael Yawney, an assistant professor of the Department of Theatre, will weave when it premieres on March 1.

The play, adapted by David Ives from Pierre Corneille’s original, promises to make audiences laugh and be a little bit confused as they watch Dorante’s antics unravel on stage when he tries to cover up one lie with an even bigger one.

“‘The Liar’ is one of those plays that’s really challenging because it has so many things clashing with each other,” explained Yawney. “There are other translations of the play but none are as funny as this because it has been revived, in part, thanks to Ives’ great wit and combinations of many other comedic elements such as farce, slapstick, high comedy and the fact that while the setting is 1643, the characters still talk about things like multiplexes and Twitter.”

The play, which Yawney described as the child of “The Three Musketeers” and “Family Guy,” has been a close knit experience between Yawney and the cast of eight as they tried to explore the character’s motivations and keep control of the lies that build up during its duration.

“We’d had to come together to figure out how to express the characters physically and how their movements express their relationships to one another. There was a point where we had to sit down and really dig into which character knows

what lie and which one is lying about lying and what they really want,” said Yawney. “The play has one main liar but really every character is lying or pretending to be something they’re not and by the end those lies are going to be revealed.”

For Daniel Leonard, a junior BFA performance major who plays “The Liar,” Dorante, who he describes as “a lover, not a fighter and an incredible storyteller,” the biggest challenge to playing the role has been the outright lies his character says. “I do like to be honest so it’s a little thing I’ve had to work through but he’s such a grandiose storyteller and master artist at painting elaborate pictures with his words.”

Dorante’s constant inconsistency has also been a big plot point that Leonard has used to formulate his character. “Yawney and I agreed that the less constant, the better, because it will surprise the audience the most, the way Dorante is able to fabricate lies like a magician pulling rabbits out of a hat.”

Leonard, however, feels that Dorante’s lies are what will make him an interesting character to connect with. “He likes to put a façade but he’s still human and when you strip away everything else, what he wants is to make connections and form relationships with other people.”

Lucille Cocco, a senior BFA performance major, who usually plays the ingénue, the role of Clarice has offered her a chance to explore the multifaceted personality of her character. “All the roles are amazing but I was really happy when

I got casted because it’s easy to see her as one level but when I read her I feel there’s so much more to her than you initially see and that’s helped me discover who she is, by the way she behaves with the different people in her life like her fiancée, her best friend, even her servants.”

Cocco hopes the audience will be able to connect with the character and see that behind the carefree personality, she is someone who suffers and is able to fall madly in love like a little girl. “It has felt easy and organic to play her because I’ve been able to find similarities between us like my own pride and Clarice’s. I try to take from my own feelings to make each action feel real.”

The inspiration for the play’s color costumes, designed by Costume Shop Supervisor Marina Pareja, began with a wallpaper sample from a child’s room which made Pareja think of the characters as little kids playing grown up in the playground. After going fabric hunting, Pareja’s initial image transformed as she came across bright, shiny, satin fabrics that, while wrong for the time period, were right for the play.

“The time period, 1643, is very specific but I switched the years to make the costumes more attractive and sexier than the actual time period,” explained Pareja. “If we were doing a serious play, we would have to stick to the actual time period but it’s comedy about love and discovery and has a lot of sexual innuendos so the stiff, bulky costumes of the actual period would be too formal for this play.”

The final designs for the costumes have become more stylized and resemble insects such as grasshoppers and beetles for the men and flowers for the women, whose skirts give the illusion of petals made out of a variety of colors.

“Insects jump from flower to flower so that, as I continued to read the play, I noticed that movement connected them all,” said Pareja. “Lucrece’s dress, for example, can be interpreted very organically either like the petals of a flower or the cap of a mushroom.”

For Cocco, the costumes of the play have helped keep the play’s movements simple and organic. “I’ve worked with corsets before and it forces you to breathe in the right place and do it properly but because the dresses have kept us at a distance, the fact that we are so far apart because of the dress has only added to our need to be closer.”

For Yawney, the extensive work that has gone into preparing the production will be rewarded when the play premieres. “It’s a play about laughing and being awed and when it is done, the final effect will be this effortless, funny, beautiful machine that seems to go on its own. If we didn’t take the time to work on it, it would never become effortless.”

“The Liar” will run from Mar. 1-3 and again on Mar. 6–10 at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center’s Mainstage Theatre. For more information call 305-348-0496.

-alfredo.aparicio@fiusm.com

Getting Artsy



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Third grade students from David Fairchild Elementary visited the University’s Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum with Museum Operator Alison Burrus, who is also their art teacher, to show them her work at FIU.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2013

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27

KALEIGH BAKER & CERAMIC PAINTING
WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: BBC Panther Square

DANCING WITH THE WOLFE SERIES - BELLY DANCING
WHEN: 7-8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: BBC Rec Center

LES MISERABLES
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Tickets available at Campus Life BBC (WUC 141) for only \$10. One ticket per student with valid student ID.
WHERE: Adrienne Arsht Center

CENTER FOR PROFESSIONALISM & ETHICS 2ND ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
WHEN: 8 a.m.-1:05 p.m.
WHERE: MMC RDB 1000

TARGET WEDNESDAY AFTER HOURS
WHEN: 6-9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: The Frost Art Museum

MMC MINDFULNESS MEDITATION SESSION
WHEN: 12-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC GC 314

THURSDAY, FEB. 28

FREE DRIVE-IN MOVIE - THE TWILIGHT SAGA BREAKING DAWN PART 2
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: Overflow Parking Lot (FIU BBC). Parking between ACII and Kovens Center

DANCING WITH THE WOLFE SERIES - TANGO
WHEN: 7:30-8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: BBC Panther Square

COCONUT CREEK HS COLLEGE FAIR
WHEN: 7:15-10:45 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Coconut Creek High School, Coconut Creek, FL

COFFEE BREAK MIAMI
WHEN: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: College of Business Complex’ Lobby (adjacent to the Java City coffee shop)

WOMEN WHO LEAD
WHEN: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC GC Ballrooms

CRLT THEATRE PERFORMANCE
WHEN: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC 150

SPECIAL PANEL DISCUSSION: SURVIVING YEARS 3 AND 4 OF MEDICAL SCHOOL
WHEN: 12-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC AHC2-160

To have your event featured, email us at
calendar@fiusm.com

Panthers use weather to notch first win

STEVEN ROWELL
Contributing Writer

Despite seeing her tennis team lose its sixth consecutive match on Feb. 22, Head Coach Katarina Petrovic knew her team was close.

She felt the energy the team had on Feb. 22 in the Florida State loss was exactly what it needed going into Sunday's match against conference foe Arkansas State.

It turns out they had more than enough energy ready for the Red Wolves.

Junior Giulietta Boha, along with Seniors Magali Holt, and Rita Maisak won their respective singles match to help the Panthers author their first win of the season winning 5-2 and improving to 1-6.

"I needed our upper class girls to step up to be examples to our freshmen," Petrovic said. "I told the team after the loss to Florida State, even though we lost, if I saw the same energy today that we had Friday, we would be fine."

The Panthers showed resilience in their first win of the season. After falling in two of three doubles matches, the Panthers took five of the six singles matches. Three of the singles matches went to a

maximum three sets.

Maisak lost her first singles set and was down 5-2 in second set but rallied to win the match.

Holt found herself down one set, and trailing 4-1 in the second set before turning it around and coming out with the victory for her first singles victory of the season.

"I always preach to the players that they can comeback win a match no matter what the score is," Petrovic said.

"When I was down 5-2, I just told myself, 'OK, you have nothing to lose now' and I just started playing my tennis and started to relax a little," Maisak said.

Freshman Carlotta Orlando lost in her first set before battling back to win the next two sets to continue her hot start to the season, improving her singles record to 6-1. Despite the 1-6 start to the season, the Italy native has been one of the consistent bright spots for FIU.

"She is mentally strong and believes in her game," Petrovic said.

While resilience was key in the victory, Petrovic felt the hot weather and the fact that three of the singles matches going the distance played the biggest role in their victory.

"I feel it was a big advan-



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Freshman Carlotta Orlando, left, chats with tennis Head Coach Katarina Petrovic in Sunday's match against Arkansas State. Orlando is 5-1 on the season in singles matches and is the only Panther with more wins than losses.

tage. The reason we won our matches was because we were at home and the weather was a bit warm and I think the opponent was struggling with the heat," Petrovic said. "I told the girls if we played longer matches it would be to our advantage. We had three matches go to three full sets and we won all three."

The barometer read 85 degrees with heavy humidity on Sunday at noon, a stark contrast from Arkansas' 50 degrees at the same time.

"I don't think we practiced

or played in weather like today this semester, so it was kind of a shock to all of us," Holt said. "We are used to practicing in the heat, so when players come here we know what to expect and they don't."

Now that the Panthers have their first win, Maisak and Holt feel it can be a springboard to a strong finish to their season.

"It's always that one win that is really hard to get, but once you get that first win, it really helps you get the others," Holt said. "At the beginning when

you have so many new players, it was so hard to feel like a team, but with more months together, I'm pretty sure we are going to do good from now on."

"I feel like we are getting better now, and we are working harder as a team, everyone is trying harder," Maisak added. "We didn't have a good start to the season, and I really hope we are going to do better now. It's not how we start, it's how we finish."

-sports@fiusm.com

Double Down



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Through Feb.24, the FIU baseball team was 6-1 and among the players that helped slug 38 combined runs in the Manhattan series was Edwin Rios. The first baseman has nine hits on the season, and a whopping eight are doubles.

Hilliard: "It can be a gift or a curse."

SOCIAL, PAGE 1

"It's not my place to go into their stuff," FIU sand volleyball Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett said. "If I am told that social media has become an issue, then will I get involved."

Apart from student-athletes, coaches also utilize social media. FIU basketball Head Coach Richard Pitino who declined to comment, is a frequent user of Twitter, using the platform to talk about his team and other FIU sports.

Players and coaches who use social media suggest that although Twitter and other similar sites pose a danger to team chemistry and image, it could be utilized positively just as long as it is handled responsibly.

If not used in a responsible manner, social media can taint a person's image, attitude and personal life.

"It depends on your use for [social media]," FIU quarterback E.J Hilliard said. "It can be a gift, or a curse."

Notre Dame University standout linebacker Manti Te'o serves as a prime model of the detrimental effects social media can take on an individual's personal life and reputation.

Te'o, a Heisman finalist during the 2012 college football season, was tricked into believing a woman who attended Stanford University, fictionally named Lennay Kekua, loved him after he exchanged numerous messages over a social media site. Ronaiah Tuiaosopo, the man behind the hoax, led Te'o to believe that she later died from leukemia.

After growing suspicion that Te'o and his

unusual love story was fiction, a man named Ronaiah Tuiaosopo revealed to Te'o he fabricated the entire relationship.

Since the hoax was revealed, Te'o has been the victim of constant criticism, hate messages and daily ridicule from the general public.

"It is saddening to see such a great player suffer because of something that happened over social media," Mangano said. "Regardless, no one deserves to go through that."

Twitter beef, a term used for any argument held over Twitter, is the most common form of distraction in professional sports via social media.

In addition, individuals such as Miami Marlins outfielder Giancarlo Stanton serve as an example of how to alienate yourself from a team in one day. He took to Twitter to voice frustration when the Fish traded away several superstars in November, causing friction between him and the front office. This example is a key reason why student-athletes, such as FIU third baseman Josh Anderson, feel that social media has a time and place.

"I think social media networks are for the social aspects of life," Anderson said. "The least amount of personal sports [information], the better."

These incidents bring up the question of whether social media should be noted in conduct policies for athletes and coaches on both a collegiate level and professional stage.

"You just have to be careful," FIU sand volleyball player Emily Podschweit said. "Whatever you put online is going to get to everybody."

-news@fiusm.com

FIU stumbles in final home game

RUBEN PALACIOS
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team's hot streak is no more.

FIU's four-game winning streak, which was their second longest of the year, ended on Feb. 21 by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The Trojans fought fire with fire; they traveled to Miami on a seven-game winning streak. The Trojans proved to be too much to handle for FIU, beating them 51-47.

UALR played stifling defense on junior Jerica Coley for 35 minutes. Coley, not easily phased by a 17-point UALR lead, valiantly brought her team from behind. She cut the huge lead down to three points with 17 seconds left in the game, but that was as close as she brought her squad.

UALR had another big winning streak that should have caught the attention of the FIU coaching staff. Entering the contest, the Trojans had won 79 consecutive games when holding their opponents under 50 points. Under Head Coach Joe Foley, the Trojans are 106-5 when allowing opponents to 50 points or less.

"It was a very physical game," said Head Coach Cindy Russo. "We needed people to step up but they just beat us down."

With the loss, the Panthers dropped to 17-10 (11-7 Sun Belt Conference).

FAILED LAST STAND

The matchup with UALR was a big game. Both teams were on winning streaks, it was a conference game and potential seeding in the upcoming conference tournament was also up in the air. But there was something larger at risk for the Panthers. The game was the last home game of the season, and that represented the final home game for three impact players.

Seniors Carmen Miloglav, Finda Mansare

and Diamond Ashmore played their final home game against UALR. The loss was the first on a senior night since 2010.

Miloglav and Mansare have been a part of the program for the past four years. Miloglav has been a regular in the starting rotation since her freshman year and Mansare is an All-Second Team Sun Belt Conference Preseason selection.

Ashmore transferred to FIU from junior college before last season and has been a defensive anchor to the second unit. Recently, Ashmore has played seven games within the starting rotation and has enjoyed much success. Her late-season surge has her leading the team in field goal percentage at a clip of 52 percent.

"You can't say enough about them. They work so hard and they have been great contributions," Russo said about her trio of seniors. "We shall miss them."

STANDING TALL

Junior Marita Davydova continues to lead the Panthers in rebounding at an astounding rate of 8.5 rebounds per game. Davydova has led the team in rebounding in five consecutive games and in 18 of 27 games this season.

In her first year at FIU and playing basketball in the states, the Russian transfer is defying the odds by currently ranking third in the SBC in rebounding. Davydova also registered a team-leading nine double-double performances this season. Davydova is the rebounding anchor on a team that leads the conference in outrebounding opponents.

On top of being the primary post presence, Davydova is also the second scoring option behind Coley. Other than Coley, she is the only other Panther scoring at a double-digit clip at 10.3 points per game.

-sports@fiusm.com



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Russian native Marita Davydova is first on the team with 8.5 rebounds per game and second in scoring at a 10.3 mark.

Late-inning home run snaps nine-game win streak

BRYAN PALACIO
Contributing Writer

A game-winning homerun in the last inning of the game by Mercer University landed FIU in second place, one win short of a two-tournament sweep and a 10-game winning streak.

"I thought we played pretty well," said softball Head Coach Jake Schumann. "We pitched well, swung the bat well, [but] we lost focus on a couple of pitches there in the end. We had some bad walks, and those walks will come back to bite you and they did."

FIU (9-6) took home silver in the FIU Classic this past weekend, where they faced the University of Hartford, Mercer University, and Savannah State University in the Softball Field.

The Panthers finished the weekend 4-1, losing 4-3 in the championship game to Mercer. The loss handed Junior Shelby Wagnon (3-1) her first loss of the year. But even with the loss, the Panthers continued their winning ways and had a successful weekend.

"I think we've gotten better every day. We haven't taken any steps backwards," Schumann said. "But still not where we need to be in two weeks when we start conference play. That's something we talked about post game and the girls know that. A nine-game winning streak will cover up some stuff that you're doing wrong."

Freshman Corrine Jenkins (4-1) and sophomore Shelby Graves (2-1) both picked up two wins each during the tournament. The pitching dominated, giving up more than six hits only once. The Panthers also limited their opponents to 10 runs in the three games. They managed to keep the opponent under .300 in all but the final game.

As good as they pitched, FIU also hit better than they had all season. They managed to put up more than six runs, in four out of the five games. Their previous game high this year was only six.

Sophomore Krystal Garcia had an efficient weekend, extending her hitting streak to five games before she went hitless in the last game. Garcia tallied an average of .467, four runs and five RBIs.

After the weekend, FIU still finds itself in third place in the conference, now five games in back of first place South Alabama. But Schumann said the team doesn't stress the standings too much now while they're playing non-conference games.

"College is about the experience not just the game. So, we'll do some Savannah ghost tours and stuff like that. We're going to face some good teams, so it'll be a good warm up for some conference play."

The Panthers will play their first road games of the year as they participate in the Georgia Southern Tournament starting this Friday, March 1. They will take on Georgia Southern, Kennesaw St., Alabama St., and South Carolina in Statesboro, Ga.

-sports@fiusm.com



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Senior Brie Rojas is one of two Panthers to start all 16 games through Feb. 25, but has been struggling recently with a .229 average and a .302 on-base percentage on the season.

WANT TO WRITE?

If you want to become a part of the sports team at The Beacon, email:

sports@fiusm.com

‘Vetting’ for 143 Street as option for secondary access road

ALEXANDER SUAREZ
Staff Writer

With about 9,000 students and one access road, the University is now earnestly working towards the possible creation of a secondary access road for the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Though no proposal has been finalized, it is being hotly discussed as the University looks to expand existing programs. According to Steve Sauls, vice president of governmental relations, the University took concern over having one access road and began a process in exploring different routes.

“As part of that process, Mark Rosenberg went to Mayor Pierre, the mayor of the city of North Miami, and asked the Metropolitan Planning Organization, called the MPO, to do a study,” Sauls said.

According to Sauls, the study consisted of three new routes with a study on improvements needed for the existing access road on 151 street.

The three new routes evaluated were from 135 street, 143 street, and one alternative through Oleta River State Park to 163 street. The route through the state park was not granted and the route through 135 street. received opposition from the residents.

“We are not actively looking at 135 street, although 135 street would be the least expensive and the least envi-



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF STEVE SAULS

The above graphic displays the proposed new streets that will lead out of the Biscayne Bay Campus. One of the proposed streets will potentially take students on 143 street, highlighted by the blue line, in addition to the 151 street entrance already at the campus. Another potential roadway is being discussed on 135 street.

ronmentally disruptive. But there is an existing road bent through there,” Sauls said. “What had happened a few years back is that neighbors were working with the city

of North Miami, removed the vehicle bridges and replaced them with pedestrian bridges. It’s a beautiful area, a beautiful area for people to live in and ride their bicycles.”

The current plan has been set on “vetting” for the 143rd street. According to the president of the Student Government Council at BBC, Pablo Haspel, 143 street would be

a “straight shot” from the school entrance. However, there are some complications.

“Because it is a protected area, because of the mangroves, and the regu-

lations the state has on mangroves, it would have to be some sort of over-pass,” Haspel said, “But it’s a large investment and it’s an investment that you expect it to outlive most of us. So as a student I want to see an investment of that nature that is actually beneficial.”

According to the study produced by the MPO, this new road could cost up to \$38 million depending on how many lanes are wanted.

There is no current deadline for the final decision to be made.

So far only research and collaboration with different community leaders are being carried forward. The source of funding is also not something set yet and will be addressed as plans progress.

“The biggest challenge is, once our property ends, our property ends. So if you want to build a road that goes from your property to somewhere else, you no longer have control over that end,” Haspel said. “You need to make sure everyone is on board and everyone is a willing participant. If it were just building a road on our own property, you get it done within a few months and it’s taken care of.”

Haspel encourages students to contact the Student Government Association with any opinions or ideas they have regarding this matter.

-bbc@fiusm.com

Pantherization continues with new panther statue

ACKENA MILLER
Contributing Writer

Although the project has not been completed yet, there are already expectations of what the Panther Statue will bring to Biscayne Bay Campus’ spirit.

Pablo Haspel, president of Student Government Council at BBC, believes the creation of a statue here at BBC would leave a legacy and create memories for this generation and generations set to come.

“Since the opening of the school there has not been anything that is symbolic and represents the entire history of FIU,” said Haspel.

The statue that was unveiled in front of the U.S Century Bank Arena at Modesto Maidique Campus this past January was built to create a new tradition and create more school spirit.

Haspel expects the same result at BBC. He believes that the statue would serve as an inspiration for past, current and future FIU students.

“As beautiful as it is here on campus, the statue would entice people to stay on campus,” said Pablo.

The statue will cost approximately \$55,000. This money came from accumulations of Student Government Association Budget allocations over the past two years. It will weigh almost 2,000 pounds.

The statue for BBC is expected to be ready during Welcome Week of fall 2013.

Money was put aside to fund the project every year since 2010. During the 2010-2011 school year, \$10,000 was put aside, in 2011-2012, \$20,000 was put aside and finally, in 2012-2013, \$30,000.

There has not been a set location determined for the statue. The statue is the latest of many pantherization initiatives at BBC which Haspel has attempted to accomplish while president.

“The statue will be the latest embodiment of the continuing evolution of our University,” Haspel said.

-bbc@fiusm.com

Straight Flexing



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

On Feb. 25, students gathered inside Panther Square for the Affair of the Arts kick-off event. Affair of the Arts Week is from Feb. 25 - March 1. Jonathan Burns, a flexible young man, entertained the students while they designed their complimentary cupcakes with frosting.