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Obama proposes changes to student loan interest rates

REBECCA PICCARDO
Contributing Writer

Students that cannot cover their financial needs through Florida Prepaid, scholarships or grants have the option to borrow money through subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford loans. However, the interest rates on federal student loans could change in the next year, affecting students who will have to take on a greater amount of debt to pay for their education.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, the Obama administration is proposing to

change the way interest rates are set on federal student loans. Currently, Congress sets a fixed interest rate of 3.4 percent on subsidized loans, but the administration's proposal seeks to make interest rates become market-based.

If the way interest rates are set for federal student loans become market-based, it is predicted that the interest rates will double for subsidized Stafford loans.

According to the Financial Aid website, subsidized Stafford loans do not charge interest while

SEE LOANS, PAGE 2

Culture shock



OSCAR LIN/THE BEACON

Executive chef and operations manager for dining services at Doctor's Hospital, Chef Bob Gilardi (far left), serves his signature farro risotto dish to students and faculty members to sample. This cultural activity was hosted to enrich and facilitate the learning process of students under professor Maria Antoineta Garcia (center).

Course requirement: march in gay pride parade

STEPHANIE MASON
Staff Writer

Professor Oscar Loynaz quotes Buddha in the syllabus for his class LGBT and Beyond: Non-Normative Sexualities in Global Perspective. It reads, "Believe nothing... unless it agrees with your own reason and your own common sense."

The course covers a wide range of topics in the including subcultures, the role of media, health care, history and religion. One of the first things Loynaz has his students look at in particular is nature vs. nurture.

Another topic discussed in the course is the controversy surrounding same-sex

marriage. Loynaz said there are many different kinds of students in the class with different opinions on the issue.

"If you come to terms with that question, whether you're born gay or does society make you gay...it can sort of develop a framework on how you see marriage and marriage equality later on," said Loynaz.

Loynaz personally feels that the legality of marriage should not be a state's right as it limits one's ability as an American citizen.

"I am hoping that [the Supreme Court] basically stands on the side of marriage equality because it serves no purpose for them not to make

an appropriate legal ruling because they're afraid of the consequences," Loynaz said.

"I think all of us want to get married to someone we love," said William Llerena, sophomore with an undecided major.

"I think everything in the world changes. You go back to the '30s, women got their rights...African Americans got their rights too. Why are we going to go ahead and deny the homosexual community?" said Llerena. "People are afraid of the stupid truth."

Ricardo Charlestin, junior in mechanical engineering, said he is "totally against" the legality of same-sex marriage and that he thinks it should

not be legal in any of the states.

"It comes with my background, I'm a bible believer. I'm from a Christian family... they're totally against it so I guess that's why," Charlestin said.

Loynaz said that often times, people associate same-sex marriage with things that it should actually be differentiated from.

"You have to respect people's points of view but a lot of people kind of confuse marriage with religion," said Loynaz.

Loynaz said the same is true for traditional marriage and same-sex marriage.

"I think one really has nothing to do with the other,"

said Loynaz. "You're only allowing a group of people that want to do something in the name of love and in the name of legal equality to do something...why should that negatively impact you?"

A requirement of Loynaz's class during the spring semester is to march in the Miami Beach Gay Pride Parade in order for students to experience what it feels like to stand up for something.

Isaias Caceres, freshman in mathematics and one of Loynaz's students, was enthusiastic about the opportunity to march in the parade. Caceres feels it will be good "to represent everybody that doesn't have a voice."

According to Loynaz,

this was the first year that the University had its own float in the parade. During the first march, the students came up with the slogan, "Who you are is not a choice, at FIU you have a voice."

"[The slogan] lets the community know that FIU is a welcoming environment, embraces diversity and is respectful of people's orientations," said Loynaz.

"Sexual orientation is something that's very personal but it's also something that's very public, and so I encourage everyone to really give it some thought," said Loynaz.

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Florida Senate passes bill to stop texting and driving

ALYSSA ELSON
Staff Writer

A new ban on texting and driving has students pleased to know that actions are being taken to prevent the over 200,000 accidents that occur in Florida as a result of texting and driving, a statistic from the National Safety Council.

"Passing this bill is great for Florida, I think we are one of a few states not to have a ban and so many accidents have been caused by texting and driving, the thought of getting a fine for texting and driving will prevent many people from doing it, including myself," said Santiago Pava, a senior psychology major.

On April 16, the Senate unanimously passed a bill that will ban texting while driving, but will allow typing while stopped at a red light.

While steps are being taken to end this

popular and dangerous trend, through this bill, texting and driving will only be recognized as a secondary offense, meaning police will first have to pull over drivers

“Texting and driving is not safe at all, I’ve tried doing it myself and it was way too distracting.”

Jeffrey Arias
Junior
Biology major

for an offense like speeding or distracted driving.

Drivers with a first violation for texting and driving will receive a \$30 fine with additional court costs, while a second violation within five years could add three points to the driver's license with an additional \$60 fine.

Jeffrey Arias, junior biology major, is a bit skeptical of the success this ban will have in preventing texting and driving.

"I think it's good that the bill passed. Texting and driving is really dangerous, but I'm not really sure this ban will be as effective as it could be," said Arias. "Making it a secondary offense might make it difficult to actually catch people that have been texting and driving, as they would have also had to be doing something else wrong."

Rep. Senator Nancy Detert said this is the fourth year she has sponsored a bill

to ban texting, this is the first year it has been heard, and now Florida is only one of five states without a ban.

Liz Sarmiento, a freshman biology major, supports the passing of the bill and believes it will make driving safer.

"Texting and driving is not safe at all, I've tried doing it myself and it was way too distracting," said Sarmiento. "So many people get into car accidents while they are texting, I'm sure this ban will help to prevent many accidents and deaths."

According to Detert, texting and driving has become an "epidemic" that needs to stop, as texting and driving claims the lives of 11 teenagers across the country on a daily basis.

Additional reporting by The Associated Press.

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Students becoming weary of false fire alarms

DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS
Staff Writer

Students are paying less attention to fire alarms. Speculation is that due to events in recent weeks, including the false alarms on April 1, students have become desensitized to fire alarms.

“If it happens to be a real fire no one is going to actually believe it. It’s the boy who cried wolf and so on,” senior geography major Martin Busaca said. “I can understand a practical joke every now and again but when it comes to the safety of residents that just boils down to downright

stupidity.” University Chief of Police Alexander D. Casas noted that his department treats every fire alarm as if there is a real fire despite the number of times or locations a fire may occur.

“We are actually one of the few [police] departments that respond in emergency mode [lights and sirens],” Casas said.

Casas also noted that the majority of fire alarms that are related to actual incidents are small grease fires, smoking inside of buildings or carelessness around fire alarm sprinklers.

However, many students are still

unsure about how they feel when they hear the alarms go off because it might be an actual fire or a joke.

“They go off a lot. I don’t think they are drills,” junior international business major Mariana Hernandez said. “I feel they are people playing with the alarms. Honestly, I don’t feel safe. They go off so often that I can never tell if it’s a real drill or a joke.”

Casas gave an analogy to better explain why some students chose to ignore alarms, saying “How many times have you walked through a parking garage and heard a car alarm go off and have paid attention to

that?” Still, some students feel that many people just disregard the alarms because of how often they have heard them go off throughout the semester.

Many students are still weary of what will happen in the future.

“I don’t feel safe at all,” Hernandez said. “How will I know that its not a drill or a real fire if two times a week someone is pulling the alarm. It’s not just me what about everyone else.”

Additional Reporting by Heidi Reyes.

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Interest rates could increase \$345 per year

LOANS, PAGE 1

students are still in school or during authorized periods of deferments. Students must demonstrate their financial need through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to be eligible to receive subsidized federal loans.

Unsubsidized Stafford loans do not require students to demonstrate financial need to receive these loans, but the federal government does not subsidize the interest payments on these types of loans.

At FIU, 15,559 undergraduate students and 4,944

graduate, professional and law students used loans this school year, according to Director of Financial Aid Francisco Valines.

For undergraduate students, the subsidized Stafford loans disbursed have a fixed interest rate of 3.4 percent and the unsubsidized Stafford loans disbursed have a fixed interest rate of 6.8 percent for the duration of the loan. Additionally, subsidized and unsubsidized loans have a loan fee of 1.0 percent of the principal amount of each loan that is borrowed.

Francesca Rosario, a sophomore majoring in journalism, has been taking out a subsidized loan each year. Rosario also receives scholarships, but needs loans to cover part of her tuition.

“My older cousin had already gone through the process of taking loans for FIU, so it made me feel comfortable with borrowing money,” said Rosario.

If interest rates on loans change, Rosario said she would still have to take out loans in order to afford her tuition, increasing her debt.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, some democrats favor extending the current rate on the subsi-

dized loans indefinitely, although they do not have funds to finance their plan.

Rep. Joe Courtney of Connecticut introduced a bill that would postpone the interest-rate increase for two years.

“This issue of doubling the interest rates came up last year and Congress fixed it only for one year, hence we are here again,” said Valines.

If Congress does not prevent the change and loan interest rates are doubled, the financial aid office estimates an increase of \$345 a year in payments.

“I don’t like the idea of increasing the interest rates on loans,” said Connie Buitrago, a junior in criminal justice, who started taking subsidized loans this past fall semester.

Buitrago does not think changing interest rates will prevent her from taking out another loan, because she pays them off before the semester ends.

“I think the interest rates would be more of an issue if one waits until they are done with school to pay his or her loans,” said Buitrago.

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CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 24, issue 86 of The Beacon, on page 7 in the standalone title “No bat, No Problem”, the incorrect photographer was attributed. Roberto Jimenez is the correct attribution.

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

Electronic grading system causes concern in University

GRADING, PAGE 8

“My greatest fear is that this is just propaganda for someone to say that we can now have an English class where a teacher teaches 2,000 students at a time. A student needs one on one [face time] with the professor,” Klint said. “According to research, there should only be around 17-19 students per classroom. This program will most likely encourage the idea of increasing the cap limit.”

Nicholas M. Temple, assistant professor of the Communication Arts Department, shared his opinion on the program. “As a teacher assistant, one of the major complaints that students often had is that one teacher aid graded differently from the other, so it was believed to be unfair.”

Temple believes that the computer program, however, would be incapable of replacing human judgement. “A computer program might be able to understand logical argumentative structures,

however it wouldn’t be able to judge the student on more subjective factors. For example, a student might not start off doing well but may improve dramatically as the course progresses. By the programs standards, they may still end up getting the same grades anyways.”

“As a teacher a lot of teaching is making sure that the students learn and being able to judge that learning appropriately.”

Temple heavily doubts the computer’s ability to give back specific advice that would be useful for the student. “It can possibly help as much as something like Microsoft Word. Depending on this won’t

mean you’ll learn to properly write.”

Temple indicated that the program would be useful for homework, but never for something as important as a graded paper.

Furthermore, Temple does not believe that the program will be useful for the students’ future. “Who are you writing for if you’re writing for a computer program? We can’t train students to write for a computer program. If you’re a public relations specialist or a political candidate you’re writing for a specific audience.”

“The question of audience completely undermines the computer program when it comes to

grading,” Temple said.

Aaron Bethencourt, senior environmental studies major, said that while the program might promise consistency for the students, it might not account for the specifics that a professor might be looking for in the paper.

“It’s as if they are generalizing knowledge, and you cannot generalize knowledge,” Piedrahita said.

An online petition by the Professionals Against Machine Scoring Of Student Essays

In High-Stakes Assessment exists to prevent Edx and similar programs from being put into effect.

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FINALS WEEK

Extended Hours at University libraries

Sunday, April 21: 10 a.m.-3 a.m.
Monday-Thursday, April 22-25: 7:30 a.m.-3 a.m.
Friday, April 26: 7:30 a.m.-Midnight
Saturday, April 27: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sunday, April 28: Closed



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Students' differing rituals for final's week

ASHLEY VALENTIN
Staff Writer

It's final exams week and I've fully equipped my bank account to handle the burden of all the skinny triple shot white chocolate mochas I'm going to be inhaling like a druggie for the next few days to keep me awake.

This has become a ritual I cannot function without. Final exam rituals differ from student to student, but each one helps students get into the study groove.

First, there are the rituals to help you stay awake.

A lot of us stay up for days straight, pulling all-nighters in the hopes that we can learn months of material in just a few hours.

Some students like junior Olga Torres becomes addicted to coffee.

"When my anxiety is at an all-time high, I like to add to the anxiety by drowning myself in coffee," Torres said.

Some students have been known to abuse Adderall pills to help them concentrate on final essays, often accompanied with energy drinks.

Finals week also has a dress code that students strictly adhere to to be as comfy as possible for cram sessions.

The style is "just-rolled-out-of-bed-looking-like-a-Walking

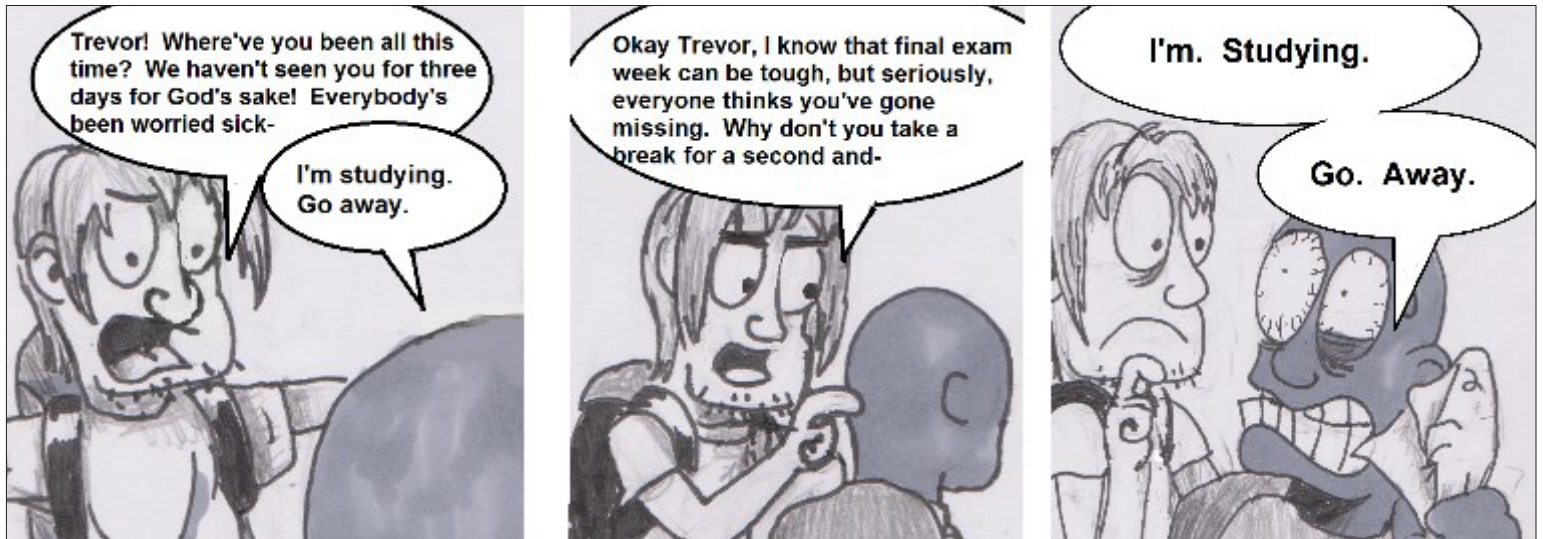


ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIAN SPENCER/THE BEACON

Dead-cast-member-chic."

I refuse to come to school in anything but my comfiest sweats and shoes if I have finals. There's no way I'm gonna wear some skin tight skinny jeans or worry about my makeup smearing when I have formulas to memorize! Ain't nobody got time for that!

Then there's the matter of stress. Personally, the way I deal with stress during finals week is by eating nauseating amounts of chocolate.

Other students however prefer a healthier way to burn off steam.

"I exercise," said junior law major Fiorella Vilchez. "Jogging helps me relax."

Junior Krystal Valls said that

getting massages helps keep her stress levels low. Junior Nixon Alcantara likes to go out with friends for drinks after exams so he can relax and get ready for the upcoming break.

For some students, finals rituals are all about having a very controlled study environment.

"I like to study in the same place every time so that I'm familiar with the environment. I like to stick to the 5th floor [of the library]. And I listen to piano music because its stimulating but not distracting," said junior Melissa Miranda.

Other students don't seem to care about being in a study environment at all. Amidst the flocks

of students poring over their notes and books in the library, there are students who spend hours reblogging posts on tumblr and liking Facebook statuses. The nonchalant approach works for students who can only work under the pressure of time. However, some students just don't care enough to study.

What else helps students get into the swing of studying?

Senior advertising major Gabriel Rodriguez gives himself a mantra: "Don't take time for granted. I like to tell myself this. It helps put everything into perspective for me."

I've seen kids bring good luck charms before an exam, some who

claim that every time they wear their blue underwear they get an A, and some who pray vigorously to not forget everything when they see the exam sheet.

The most famous exam ritual for University students, however, is the spinning of the cube in front of Deuxieme Maison. It's supposed to give you luck on your exams if you spin it clockwise.

No matter if you're injecting caffeine into your bloodstream, praying to the FIU gods, or procrastinating on tumblr, I wish you the best of luck on your exams! May the curve be forever in your favor!

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A 'thank you' to the unsung heroes of the University

VINSON PRESSLEY
Staff Writer

There are thousands of people who work their butts off every day to make our college experience awesome and enjoyable.

These people work behind the scenes and quietly perform the tasks absolutely necessary to keep our school up and running and to those people I say, "Thank You!"

Thank you, to the heroes who are responsible for maintenance and keeping our campuses clean and beautiful. Every single time I arrive on either campus early in the morning, the custodians are already hard at work making sure our campuses never lose their magnificent glow and essence.

The floors are always spotless, there are never large piles of trash or trash bins overflowing anywhere on campus; I've never lost my appetite at the sight of unpleasant vermin hunting for food crumbs.

These heroes perform countless amounts of duties that make our lives much easier and allow us to focus on the harder things like exams and papers and

lectures that never end.

Imagine rushing to the bathroom right before class and not being able to use it because the toilets were uncleaned, now you're stuck holding it until after class or being late and running to find another restroom. Imagine trying to study for a midterm and having to move every five minutes because the odor in every location was too much to endure.

These heroes perform vital functions that without them, I don't think FIU would be able to run smoothly and accommodate such a large number of students.

Thank you, to the people who work tirelessly in the bookstores at the Biscayne Bay and Modesto Maidique campuses.

Carla Chauca, assistant manager of the bookstore at BBC said she tries to help students with the cost of textbooks by trying to get more used books in the bookstore.

She also mentioned that when a student needs a textbook that's located at the other campus, rather than telling the student to make the long trip to MMC, she offers to have the book transferred from MMC to BBC and save the student a trip.

These heroes "go h.a.m" in helping us

The services that
are performed
by FIU's heroes
are worthy of
constant praise.

with whatever we need: if you have no clue which textbooks you need or where to find them, they work their magic and find it in no time. One time I was completely lost and had no idea which book to get; this particular class had a lot of different books to choose from so I was confused.

But then a hero on a white horse emerged from the back of the bookstore,

took my schedule and found the book I needed in 60 seconds and saved my academic life.

The people at the bookstore have remarkable qualities: their ability to serve an endless line of people and never lose their cool. I don't think I would be able to handle a large line without getting frustrated and ready to throw in the towel; it's painful enough having to wait in a huge line, imagine having to ring up every person in that long line.

I could write a book on the countless efforts and contributions of all the heroes at FIU and how they make our lives on campus great but unfortunately I don't have the space. I will say this though, to all the heroes who work at FIU that perform the tasks that in any way make our lives easier or help us, I profoundly appreciate your work and I hope that nothing but good things come your way.

The services that are performed by FIU's heroes are worthy of constant praise and when we cross paths, I will no doubt show my appreciation for your work, thank you.

-opinion@fiusm.com

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Papua New Guinea trip brings back more than research

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

This past March, University professor Tudor Parfitt traveled to Papua New Guinea to continue his research on the Gogodala tribe, which practice a form of Judaism and claim Israelite descent.

In 2012, he was appointed President Navon Professor of Sephardi and Mizrahi Studies and SIPA Research Professor at the University. “This means I am interested in the Jewish world and particularly its oriental and African component,” said Parfitt.

This interest fueled Parfitt’s desire to travel to Papua New Guinea for the third time and expand his research on the Gogodala. Traveling with him this time was his wife, Gerald and Bonnie Sussman, a pair of married Rabbis, and a crew from External Relations that documented the 12-day journey.

Parfitt and company were also joined by five FIU students: graduate students Sabrina Diz and Olivia Autolino, undergraduates Kyle Decker and Keysel Pelaez and Honors College student Pablo Currea.

Religious studies



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROFESSOR TUDOR PARFITT

In Papua New Guinea, graduate student Olivia Autolino presented a trophy to the best Gogodala dance group.

students Sabrina Diz and Kyle Decker discovered new interests within their field while on the trip.

“Sabrina Diz became very interested in medical and women’s issues,” said Parfitt. During the trip she organized an event that delivered supplies to a women’s shelter in the village.

Decker, who has a background in studying Hebrew with University professor Erik Larson, took a liking

to Parfitt’s work and began researching the subject on his own while in Papua New Guinea.

“Kyle Decker took an interest in my area of research and conducted a number of interviews on his own looking at the way in which the Jewish religion or aspects of it had been developed in the Gogodala tribe. He also conducted some classes in Hebrew,” Parfitt said. Apart from his studies, Decker also enjoyed a game

of rugby with the tribe.

“Olivia Autolino from the School of Education had an interest in missionary education among the tribe and how ritual was being used to transmit Jewish values,” Parfitt said.

But during her time in Papua New Guinea, Autolino also got to show off one of her special talents by educating the Gogodala in a different way. “Olivia, who is an amazing dancer also presented a cup for the

best Gogodala dance group and showed a few thousand Papu how Salsa should go,” Parfitt said.

Honors student Pablo Currea spent most of his time in Papua New Guinea behind a lens assisting the External Relations crew. “[Currea] played a full-on role in the production of the documentary film and was a credit to the Honors College,” Parfitt remarked.

Last but not least, there’s the student who Professor

Parfitt referred to as “by far the coolest member of the expedition.” Biology student Keysel Pelaez traveled to Papua New Guinea to collect medical plants to study. But he wound up returning home with more than a few plant samples.

“Keysel Marcel Pelaez won the hearts of the Gogodala tribe with his charm and energy,” said Parfitt. “One of the highlights of the trip was a concert our crowd put on for the Gogodala people. Keysel had taken a banjo and ukulele - and he’s obviously set for a great career in music.”

While the students and crew each had their own memorable experiences, Parfitt said that the moment that will always stick with him will be when they finally had to leave Papua New Guinea. “The tears in the eyes of the Gogodala when we left the village in an army transport plane told me that the visit had been a success in human terms.”

For a greater look into the group’s trip to Papua New Guinea Parfitt said the release of the full documentary can be expected this fall.

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Seniors advised: dress in comfort and confidence



Graduation is only days away for those few that have made it through four years of all-nighters, thesis papers and the all-around stress that comes with being a full-time student. But for seniors, that is all about to be over and soon they will venture out into the real world to apply what they’ve studied.

Summer is here, which means you should be spending your days tanning on the beach, window shopping on Lincoln Road and not waking up until after noon. For those of you seniors that are officially done with your final exams and just waiting until you get to walk down the aisles in your cap and gown, take this time to relax and breathe.

Undecided freshman, Tate Caroline, seemed to be embodying the carefree, confident and relieved spirit that all seniors should be feeling right about now in a full-length lilac dress. Its double tiered and pleated style made for great visual appeal when the wind blows, and not to mention airflow to the whole body during these scorching days.

“I feel fabulous and beautiful, not to mention comfortable. Comfort is key to me,” said Caroline. Who could blame her? All seniors should be taking a tip from Caroline’s selections of comfort. Why not be comfortable and feel fabulous and beautiful all at the same time?

For you men out there, take a look at finance major Lawrence Jiles’ sunny choice in apparel for inspiration. His preppy look is not only smart since he is wearing colors that won’t attract the sun, but he has managed to make it unique with the styling of a white beanie.

Ultimately, you want to find comfort and beauty, and always feel fabulous.

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEY GARNER/THE BEACON

College of Medicine conducts breakthrough research

KEILA DIAZ
Contributing Writer

Researchers in the University's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine have developed a new technique that can be used to deliver and release AZTTP, an anti-HIV drug, directly to the brain.

The technique is revolutionary because for years doctors and scientists that work with neurological diseases have been unable to get past the "blood-brain barrier."

The barrier is a natural filter in the brain that prevents medicines from reaching the brain. Even though not all medicines are blocked from reaching the brain, most antiretroviral therapies that are used to treat HIV are deposited in other organs before they reach the brain.

Antiretroviral therapies are treatments used to treat people infected with HIV by using a combination of three or more anti-HIV drugs, like AZTTP, to restrain HIV replication and lowering the likelihood that the virus will develop a resistance. These therapies help reduce mortality of HIV-infected people as well as improve their quality of life.

Thanks to the new delivery technique antiretroviral therapies will be more effective.

"I think it's so exciting that we're making such important breakthroughs here at FIU. This has the potential to save lives and improve the people's quality of life significantly," said Grettel Zubiaur, senior and journalism major.

Madhavan Nair, professor and chair of the College of Medicine's Department of Immunology, and Sakhrat Khizroev, professor and vice chair of the same department, used magneto-electric nanoparticles to get past the "blood-brain barrier." By using this method of delivery, the level of AZTTP delivered cells infected with HIV is up to 97 percent more.

"I'm sure this will even help reduce damage to the liver and other organs that are often negatively affected by increased amounts of medication," said Omar Madrigal, senior and nursing major.

The technique developed at the College of Medicine attaches the anti-HIV drug to the magneto-electric nanoparticle which is then inserted into a type of white blood cell that is then injected into the body and travels to the brain where the drug is released by an electrical current.

This new delivery method is an exciting development because it has the potential to help with the treatment of other neurological diseases, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

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WE'LL BE BACK!

The Beacon will return to production for summer semester B.

Radiate FM will continue broadcasting, and you can keep up to date FIU news, sports and entertainment on FIUSM.COM

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New men's basketball coach eager to lead program

JONATHAN JACOBSSKIND
Asst. Sports Director

He picked up the phone on the first ring.

That was Anthony Evans' initial reaction when he saw FIU Athletic Director Pete Garcia calling him for what eventually became the call that named him head coach of the men's basketball team.

Garcia introduced Evans in a press conference on April 16. The former Norfolk State University head coach was the favorite to win the job.

"We wanted somebody that was going to come in and build on the success we had last year. Anthony Evans who we are introducing here today was the clear-cut choice," Garcia said. "I actually spoke with him last year and I am a big fan of him as well as what he was done at Norfolk State by going to the NCAA Tournament last year, the success he has by going undefeated in his conference, being coach-of-the-year and having one of the biggest turnaround in [academic progress rate] scores. So, he gets it done both very well in the classroom and on the court."

Evans is 99-94 overall at Norfolk State in six years as a head coach and is coming off a 21-12 record with no losses in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference boasting a 16-0 record.

Along with being given the honors of the MEAC Coach of the Year, Evans was voted a finalist for the Jim Phelan, the



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Anthony Evans, right, sits next to Athletic Director Pete Garcia, left, during a press conference on April 16 to introduce Evans as the new head coach of the men's basketball program.

nation's top Division I coach as well as the Ben Jobe Award for the nation's top minority coach.

Evans was in serious consideration the last time this position was vacant, losing out to former Head Coach Richard Pitino a year ago. Pitino is now heading the University of Minnesota program under a deal six-year, \$7.2 million deal that FIU couldn't match. At the time of press, Evans' contract details were not available.

"I am extremely humble and grateful for this opportunity to

take this basketball team to new heights. [FIU] is a sleeping giant and I am truly excited about this," Evans said.

Evans wasted no time in talking to his new players and expressed the direction he plans on implementing for this program moving forward.

"Last night [April 15] I had the opportunity to meet with the team and I love their energy. Their message to me was that they wanted to continue to ride the success they had last year and I told them we will be able to

do that," Evans said. "We going to play a similar style and to be up-tempo and work hard, but I also told them if we're going to do it on the court we need to do it in the classroom. We have raise our standards and understand that if we are going to push to be great basketball players, we need to push to be great students."

Education and grades will play a huge factor during the Evans era, as the Panthers are facing a possible 2013-14 postseason ban after receiving low APR scores when the program was under the

Isaiah Thomas regime two years ago. Evans dealt with similar sanctions during his tenure at Norfolk and pledged to raise the team's grades along with their win total.

"It's about implementing a plan that gets students to understand the importance to go to class," Evans said. "I think that us putting a plan in place for student athletes and understanding the seriousness will help us improve."

Norfolk State's 2009-10 multi-year APR score of 894 resulted in the NCAA removing two scholarships and reducing the team's practice time.

Evans' team bounced back in 2010-11 with a 926. The 2011-12 scores are not available.

If current players transfer out because of the change of regime, it will negatively affect the program's APR score.

Garcia reiterated the importance of education after Evans made a request for his players before the start of the press conference.

"Nobody wants to win more than myself, our president and our chairmen of the board but we are a university and our number one business is to graduate these young men and even today before the press conference, Anthony told me to invite [the players], only, if they're not supposed to be in class," Garcia said.

Additional reporting by Eduardo Almaguer

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Track and field athletes find their niche in throwing

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

When you look on the roster for the overall track and field team, you will see freshman Nicole Chang listed at pole vault, junior Kim DeKrey under sprints, and Chris Sullivan not even on the list.

However, they have all found a true home in the throwers section of the team under the tutelage of Assistant Coach Ryan Heberling.

Sullivan started out his freshman year as a preferred walk-on for the panthers in football. Having been a premiere weapon for Cocoa Beach High School, in Cocoa Beach, Fla., at wide receiver, he took a backseat while medical redshirting for his freshman campaign last season.

Sullivan was a track phenomenon for the Minutemen of Cocoa Beach as a sprinter, but mostly on the field side as a high jumper. Still being a high jumper here, Heberling has been showing him how to throw the javelin throughout this current outdoor season for the

Panthers.

"I played a little bit of quarterback in high school so I am used to throwing something, but throwing what is basically a weapon is kind of cool. There are a few major things that are different like the implement, the grip, and somewhat the motion," Sullivan said. "I really just like doing whatever I can to help the team gets points because in the end that is what I am here to do."

With the practice schedule being strained around because of final exams and classes, neither Chang nor DeKrey, both hammer throwers with the team, were available for comment about their roles with the team.

The Panthers will travel to the University of Florida for the Tom Jones Memorial Classic today. Next week, some of the team will travel to Philadelphia for the Penn Relays. After the relays, the team will begin preparation for their final Sun Belt Conference Championships, which begin on May 10 at the Ansin Sports Complex in Miramar, Fla.

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Breaking sports gender barrier, an impossible feat

It's been two weeks since Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban raised eyebrows by saying he'd draft women's college basketball superstar Brittney Griner in the NBA draft, and still no one gives the thought any serious merit.

COLUMNIST



MERCY GUILLOT

Will women ever break the gender barrier and call themselves athletes in a men's professional league? There is no doubt that women have made significant advances in joining and advancing in the professional workforce. Integrating themselves in professional sports dominated by men seems to be a whole other ballgame, however.

ESPN Women's commentator Kate Fagan argues for a reality check. Even if a female athlete is talented enough to permeate a male sport, Fagan holds that

breaking the gender barrier would mean that the best female athletes will now assume second-class status amongst stronger and heavier male athletes. There will never be that equal plane where you can judge both objectively.

Marita Davydova, a player on the University's women's basketball team, agrees.

"I don't think that it could work. When I think about it, I just compare [Griner] with LeBron James and that won't work," Davydova said.

Since its establishment in 1972, Title IX has contributed to the increase in the quality of women's athleticism. The result has been an increase in the number of women belonging to a pool of talented athletes that professional male league scouts can set their eyes on. The question becomes whether it is more desirable for those women to be considered the best players in a women's

professional league, or an average player on a men's professional league.

Griner, who was drafted as the top pick in the Women's National Basketball Association by the Phoenix Mercury on April 15, will undoubtedly be the star player of the team, but even being considered an average player in the Mavericks would have been socially groundbreaking.

Then there's the question of what sports can women even join? Any excessive contact sport like football may be out of the question. Perhaps basketball? Maybe baseball?

But female athletes will need to overcome much more social hurdles than physiological ones to join a professional male league. It's the minute things that will get magnified. How will showers work? Changing in the locker room? The notion of a physical barrier for women in a male locker room would be ironic.

When women display qualities that are normally associated with men, such as assertiveness and aggressiveness, it is considered unfeminine. As a result, they lose their likeability.

In the world of sports, women face greater social stigmas resulting from criticisms of being too masculine. As a successful female athlete, you can embrace your athletic talent, but only at the expense of your sexuality being questioned.

If these deep-rooted social attitudes do not change, the only women we will continue to see on fields and courts alongside men will be cheerleaders, not equally deserving professional athletes.

Regardless of the strength and athletic ability of female candidates, this is a glass ceiling that even the most talented athletes will be unable to break through.

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Panthers bear their teeth when it comes to offense



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Sophomore catcher Aramis Ramirez has been one of the hottest hitters this season with a team-leading 7 home runs and second in the team with 31 RBIs.

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Staff Writer

You can be sure of two things at an FIU baseball game: good seats and a lot of offense.

FIU (20-16) is entering tonight's matchup against Middle Tennessee State University (21-18) with one of the best offenses in the Sun Belt Conference. The Panthers rank in the top five in batting average (.298), slugging percentage (.449), runs scored (218), hits (373), runs batted in (197) and second in homeruns with 34.

Leading this offensive charge for the Panthers is freshman Edwin Rios who has a .385 batting average with 34 RBIs and six home runs.

"Edwin is on a tear right now and he's definitely one of the best hitters on this team," catcher Aramis Garcia said. "The thing about Edwin is that he never lets anything bother him and that's what makes him the man."

Even Head Coach Henry Thomas has noticed just how impressive his freshman shortstop has been this season, especially during the series finale against the University of Louisiana at Monroe where Rios drove in the go-ahead run to open the floodgates for the Panthers.

"He got a huge hit when the score was 4-4 and he hit that bullet up the middle to drive in two runs. That was a big deal," Thomas said. "He certainly swung the bat well and he's maturing as a hitter no question about that."

Garcia is not too far behind Rios himself with a .331 batting average and 31 RBIs with seven home runs, one of which was a grand slam against the War Hawks.

"It had been a rough day for me at the plate

before that last at bat," Garcia said. "I was just not trying to press, see my pitch and put a good swing on it and that's what I was able to do."

However, Rios knows that individual numbers mean nothing in the big picture and that it's all about racking up as many wins as possible.

"We were down in the conference and we were just trying to win, trying to get ahead and win a series," Rios said. "I've just been able to really be seeing the ball good lately so I'm just trying to put a bat on the ball."

Rios also understands the importance of consistency and becoming a creature of habit, never letting a bad game change his approach to the plate.

"It's just a matter of hard work and concentration," Rios said. "I just try to think the same thing every time I go to the plate, I try not change and if I have a bad game I just throw it away and just go on to the next day and do my best."

Thomas, understands that his offense is not going to come every inning and that sometimes his team just needs a little wake me up call to snap out of a slump. Just like when FIU was down against the War Hawks in the series finally until the seventh inning came around.

"Well we didn't hit much for about six innings and finally in the seventh inning somebody shook us and we woke up and started doing some things with the bat," Thomas said. "But the bottom line is you play nine innings, you don't play three or five or seven you play nine innings and it's the final score at the end of nine innings that counts and it doesn't matter when you get them just as long as you get them."

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Law professor campaigning for Dolphins Stadium

VICTORIA RONDEROS
Staff Writer

College of Law professor H.T. Smith has been appointed co-chair of Friends of Miami First, a political action committee by the Miami Dolphins.

The committee aims to convince voters of Miami-Dade County to approve tax-subsidized renovations of Sun Life Stadium. The legislation, however, would force Miami-Dade County to increase its hotel tax rates and state sale-tax subsidies. According to Smith, these renovations will benefit the county.

"We'll have 4,000 construction jobs and we'll have up to 400 million dollars of economic benefit," said Smith.

Seventy percent of jobs would go to Miami-Dade residents and the Dolphins have guaranteed four Super Bowls over the next 30 years which would could provide economic development, according to Smith.

According to The Miami Herald, Miami-Dade lawmakers are uneasy about the legislation. Some think the Dolphins will only pay back a small portion of the funds if legislation passes. Some think that the Dolphins

will follow the footsteps of the Miami Marlins and will not be able to pay back taxpayers after the costly renovations.

Smith said if legislation passes and renovations bring profits, the Dolphins will pay back the people of Miami-Dade for their investments. The Dolphins also stated that if it does not meet promises and profits, it will still return the money back to the people.

"This agreement is the best in the country," said Smith. "The Marlins deal was so bad that people are rightly outraged. The Dolphins deal is totally different. It had to be different, to protect

the taxpayers."

Smith, who teaches civil litigation and criminal procedure, has been working closely with the Dolphins since 1995. With the help and contributions from the National Football League and the Dolphins during the 1995 Super Bowl, Smith was able to build and open the NFL Youth Education Town youth center in Liberty City.

Smith's long-time partnership with the Dolphins has made him an advocate for the franchise.

"I know what fine, corporate citizens [the Dolphins] are. They just raised four million dollars

for the Sylvester Cancer Center to help save people's lives. And I know, as a taxpayer, what a good deal [the renovations are]. This is going to be a very tough campaign, but I believe it's right, and I have always fought for what is right," said Smith.

The ballot for the renovations will be April 23. Early voting begins April 29 and the official referendum will be May 14.

If passed, renovations will begin this summer. Smith states that the project should be completed within 22 to 24 months.

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Hospitality's festival raises \$2.1 million

STEPHANIE MASON
Staff Writer

After the four long days full of hard work for students and celebrity chefs alike, the University was able to take home a total of \$2.1 million from the South Beach Wine and Food Festival this year.

According to Richard Lopez, Student Associate Program manager for SOBEWFF, 1,303 students from the University worked at the festival this year; 300 more students than last year.

"We had 2,000 people register but we only had 1,303 involved so that means that SOBE is really starting to become an exclusive event for top students," said Lopez. "We're only picking the best talent that the University has to offer."

Senior in hospitality management, Jennifer Martinez, said she worked six days for SOBEWFF this

year in a culinary position.

Martinez said it was fun working at the festival and the main thing she would improve would be the process of checking in and out. "We'd be done and we'd still have to wait like an hour or two to be checked out or we would come in at 5 and the event wouldn't start until 10 and we'd just be sitting around."

Martinez hopes to do event planning when she graduates and feels the festival helped her with timeliness, working at events with guests and quality control.

Another student who worked at SOBEWFF, Claudia Vera, junior in hospitality management, said, "I thought it was really great because I got to meet a lot of people." Vera said she really enjoyed working at the Wine Seminars and thought it was really organized and well prepared.

Pertaining to improve-

Flavors of art



PHOTOS BY SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

On April 17, hospitality students prepared dishes for the Eat My Art event. All the food preparations are what they have learned throughout the semester in their Arts in Culinary Arts class. Luciana Page, a junior in hospitality, prepared kimchi fried rice. Page was also awarded the Red Robin's Savory Scholarship of about \$10,000 for her Korean Kalbi BBQ burger. Showcased items included biscotti, english muffins, homemade cheese and smoked salmon.

ments she feels the festival could make, Vera said, "I think I would change the way they distribute the workload because I think people didn't know exactly what they had to do."

Students are already able to register to work at SOBEWFF in 2014. Lopez said next year he hopes to include video capturing of students.

"I want to be able to

see what the students are growing and learning from, live, like in real time," said Lopez. "It's very difficult to kind of..get your hands around the experience that is SOBEfest because

there's so many things going on at the same time and it's such a fast-paced environment."

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Possible electronic paper grading scares some students

ERIC WATT
Contributing Writer

To those students and professors that are used to online grading programs like Turnitin and Blackboard, electronic grading and assessment has approached a new level of efficiency with the introduction of the Edx, a non-profit enterprise founded by Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Edx consists of an online program that receives essays and grades them, returning immediate feedback to the student. The student then has an opportunity to improve his or her answers

for resubmission. According to The New York Times, Edx was designed with the intention of relieving stress from the teacher.

Both faculty and students seem to think otherwise.

Stephanie Piedrahita, freshman communication arts major, said the program devalues the education profession.

"Only a teacher can know the capabilities a student has," Piedrahita said. "The biggest advantage I can see with the Edx is the fact that the percentage of human error would decrease. Papers would not be misplaced and students wouldn't have to worry about bias from the

professor."

Though Piedrahita acknowledged the advantages of the program, her apprehension was not swayed.

"We don't come here to depend on an electronic system to tell us the worth of our intelligence. I want to hear from someone who has experience that can give me personalized feedback. Well-thought-out responses can only come from a human," said Piedrahita.

Arlene Roger, sophomore international business major, also believes that Edx would be defeating the purpose of the professor's job. "It may be good

for teachers, but while teaching is a part of the job, the other part involves grading and evaluating essays. I wouldn't consider a grade from that computer program authentic," Roger said.

Roger also stated that while a computer can detect logic (logos) and credibility (ethos), it would be incapable of identifying emotions (pathos). "You should be writing to an audience that will be responsive to the emotional appeal, not to a computer program," Roger said.

Professor Karl Klint of the English department shared similar opinions about Edx.

"Programs like this have

come up before, but they can't do everything that a professor is capable of doing," said Klint.

According to Klint, implementing the Edx system into the education system would promote language bias.

"America has multiple forms of English. Teaching English in Minnesota and in Miami is different. Here, in some cases, English is a secondary language," Klint said.

Klint added that the program would not be able to understand the localisms of the student because it is not personal.

SEE GRADING, PAGE 2

Before your test, take a trip to the Wild Wild West

JENNIFER SANS
Contributing Writer

Students can bring their cowboy hats and appetites to the Wild Wild West event on Monday, April 22 at 10 p.m. The midnight breakfast will take place in the Wolfe University Center at the Biscayne Bay campus.

Campus Life is holding the midnight breakfast event for students as a way to relieve any stress before their finals.

There will be massages, line dancing, laser tag, paper critiques and a costume

contest.

"We wanted to keep an academic setting, since finals are during that week," said Claribel Azcona, graduate assistant at Campus Life-BBC.

There will be graduate assistants from career services to polish and make the finishing touches on any resumes and papers students have due during the week of finals. The graduate assistants from career services will be available in WUC 157.

"We understand that there are finals the next day and students may want to

be studying, so it's beneficial to have the graduate students at career services available to critique resumes and papers," said Azcona.

The midnight breakfast will be provided by Aramark. During the event, students may dress up as cowboys and cowgirls to participate in the costume contest. According to Azcona, three winners will be announced in which first, second and third place will be awarded to the students who dress the best.

A DJ from the Round Up Country Western Nightclub in Davie, Florida,

will be teaching line dancing in Panther Square.

The laser tag will be in WUC 221 and WUC 223. There will be digital pictures of the Wild West and props in the rooms.

The massages, provided by the Wellness Center at BBC, are for any students who are stressed from the week of finals to relax and will be available in WUC 155.

"We are really excited for this event! We hope to see a lot of students participate," said Azcona.

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