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LACC partners with Uruguay for marijuana research project

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The Latin American and Caribbean Center and the Universidad Católica del Uruguay have partnered to conduct a research project on the legalization of marijuana and the transformation of drug policy.

In 2013, Uruguay passed a bill regulating the production, distribution and consumption of marijuana. For Jose Miguel Cruz, director of research at the university's LACC, this was the ideal situation for an experiment.

"The point of the project was not to advocate, or oppose, the legalization of marijuana," Cruz said. "We really want to know, in terms of policy, what happens when you change your approach toward drugs."

Once Cruz heard of Uruguay's change of policy, he saw it as an opportunity to start studying the effects of the legalization in a Latin American country. According to him, it was the perfect way to explore the immediate consequences of a change of policy and people's reaction to it.

"We haven't seen an expansion in the amount of people who consume it," he said. "In our preliminary findings, it seems that the legalization has, in some ways, increased consumption among those who already consumed marijuana before."

Cruz believes that, unlike popular

belief, the legalization of marijuana in Uruguay is different than that of the legalization in Colorado or Washington.

"Marijuana was legalized in Uruguay despite the fact that most of the Uruguayans, over sixty percent of them, opposed the legalization," he said. "In Colorado, for instance, it was legalized because of popular support for that measure and because of an idea for recreational use."

According to Cruz, the government of Uruguay implemented the bill as a way to improve the conditions of security and public health. The change of policy came primarily from the fact that most of the marijuana that was being consumed in the country was being brought from Paraguay under "challenging" circumstances.

"This [importation] brought a sort of challenge, not only in terms of control but also in terms of public health," he said. "The marijuana was being sent in an illegal way... so it came with insecticides or chemical substances that were bad for people's health."

Now, with the new bill, Uruguayans are able to consume "safer, cleaner and more controlled" marijuana, including marijuana that is home grown.

Michelle Loreto, a junior education major, thinks this is beneficial.

"I can see the good thing in that change of policy," she said. "People

GC JITSU



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

International business senior and jiu jitsu club member Alejandro Vera coaches Danja Hofmann, a senior studying business management, how to escape from sociology senior Carlos Ortiz. The Jiu Jitsu club practiced in the pit on Friday, Feb. 6 to showcase their skills and advertise the club.

who are consuming the marijuana are, in a sense, getting a safer and better substance. If you think about it like that, I don't know why Florida hasn't followed their lead."

Nevertheless, the findings show that, with the increase of consumption, there is also an increase of risky behavior among users. "So far, more people are exhibiting these risky behaviors," said Cruz. "They're driving under the influence of marijuana, operating machines and attending classes and/or work under some type of influence."

Isaiah Alvarez, a senior public

relations major, thinks that these "risky behaviors" are normal when dealing with a country that has legalized consumption of an illicit drug.

"When a whole country legalizes consumption of a drug, you're bound to have issues," he said. "Even if this started because of an issue with public health, I don't think it was the right way to go."

The Latin America Marijuana Research Initiative, which started a year ago, began with the study of public opinion and the study of the political processes of legalizing the substance.

LAMRI will present their findings and current field research in a presentation on Wednesday, Feb. 25 in the MMC's MARC Pavilion at 9 a.m.

For more information, go to lacc.fiu.edu/events.

"Uruguay provided us with the opportunity to see what would happen if a country decides to change their approach on illegal substances," Cruz said. "It's important that we talk about this now because [this research] might have implications regarding drug policies in the U.S. for the future."

Recognizing contributions of dual enrollment faculty mentors

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The University department overseeing the dual enrollment program met on Feb. 5 to recognize the efforts of three faculty mentors who have contributed significantly to the program.

The honored mentors were Kimberly Harrison, an associate professor of English, Professor Martha Barantovich, an instructor in the Department of Leadership and Aurelio Baldor, a senior instructor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages.

Baldor was the only faculty mentor to receive the accolade present at the reception.

"It's not just about me being recognized, it's about a lot of people here that need to be recognized as well," Baldor said.

An early enrollment option, the program allows high school students the opportunity to take college-level coursework for free in order to accelerate credit accumulation.

Despite the fact that the event was intended to honor the team members of the dual enrollment mentor team, more attention was placed on the current status of the program and strategies to improve it.

Maricel Cigales, associate dean of undergraduate studies for the College of Arts & Sciences, mentioned that one of the

targeted goals for the program was growth of enrollment.

According to Jorge N. Zumaeta, director of Continuing Education and Dual

University to take courses, and another department oversees the program as it is taught on-site at the high schools, according to Zumaeta.

“

I had my introduction to college in high school, so I came to college with a better understanding of what I needed to do and I was better equipped to succeed.

Marcus Ghent
Junior
Criminal Justice

”

Enrollment Programs, although the program has been around at the University for some time, it took off in full force around the 2009-2010 academic year.

When the program started, it was just offered in private schools.

Starting with over 300 students, the dual enrollment program currently hosts around 6,700 high school students from both Broward and Miami-Dade Counties.

The department of Undergraduate Education oversees the on-campus component of the program, which is when the high school students come to the

In order to highlight the growth and impact of the program, Zumaeta invited Marcus Ghent to speak.

Having participated in the dual enrollment program while he was a student at Miami Northwestern Senior High, Ghent, a junior criminal justice major, admits that the program allowed him to strengthen his time management skills and provided him with the opportunity to become more self-disciplined.

He believes that expanding the resources to other schools in the area will allow other students to take advantage of the same

benefits he received, the biggest being the chance to get a head start on his college career.

Ghent admitted that the dual enrollment program influenced his decision to attend FIU, commenting that it was his professor's methods of teaching that attracted him.

"It brought some sense of confidence," Ghent said. "I had my introduction to college in high school, so I came to college with a better understanding of what I needed to do and I was better equipped to succeed."

Loubna Bouamane, assistant director of Program Evaluations, oversees the quality control component for the dual enrollment program.

Her duties include training the team of faculty mentors and evaluating the college-level courses being taught in high schools to ensure that they meet the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' standards upheld in the University setting.

According to Bouamane, the principals of the respective high schools served in the dual enrollment program are the ones who express interests in having the program offered at their school.

The next step involves identifying potential high school instructors to teach the courses.

In order to teach the college-level

SEE RECEPTION, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Jordanian fighters strike Islamic State positions

Jordanian warplanes bombed suspected Islamic State hideouts in Syria in a show of the kingdom’s determination to maintain its presence in the U.S.-led coalition even as other U.S. allies hold back.

State-run Jordanian TV on Thursday said the royal air force carried out a mission without saying where. Arabiya TV said it was over Raqqa, the group’s de facto capital, in Syria.

The jets “rocked the cowardly terrorists in their holes and hideouts since the morning,” Jordan’s Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh posted on his Twitter account. The planes flew over the pilot’s hometown of Karak on their return as he, the king and other officials were with the father offering condolences, he said.

Former members of France’s military have joined Islamic State

At least 12 former members of the French military are among the estimated 1,000 French citizens who have joined the Islamic State group, including one highly trained special forces commando who was radicalized while working as a security contractor in the Persian Gulf, according to French officials and analysts as well as Arab security services.

One French intelligence official said the number is a reflection of France’s changing demographics, even though mandatory military service ended in France in 2001.

Torn apart by Tiananmen, father and son still fight for free speech in China

He spends his days under house arrest in a grungy west Beijing apartment block. Government minders track his every move and communication.

At age 82, Bao Tong has every right to be bitter. He once was a top dog in China’s Communist Party, but for a quarter-century, his former comrades have kept him on a leash.

Yet even when he recalls the seven years he spent in prison – mostly in solitary confinement – Bao shows few signs of anger. He exudes the air of a man who feels unshackled, even with the partial loss of his personal freedoms.

Dual enrollment faculty is recognized for contribution

RECEPTION, PAGE 1

courses, teachers must either have a master’s degree in the discipline under which the course in question is offered or a minimum of 18 graduate credit hours in the course’s discipline. Bouamane offered a course in mathematics as an example.

If the interested instructor doesn’t have a master’s in mathematics but one in math education, then his or her graduate-level transcript will be evaluated to ensure that he or she took at least 18 credits in math-specific courses.

Some principals are concerned that high school instructors don’t have the skills to teach the courses, referenced Zumaeta.

One of the challenges that Bouamane referenced was the difficulty of managing the resources of the program, considering its rapid growth in four years from serving around 300 students to over 6,700.

However, the biggest challenge, in her opinion, is aligning the courses taught in the high school with the ones taught in the University.

Participation in the program appears to have

its benefits.

Bouamane admits that after conducting research on the performance data of students in the dual enrollment program she found that the graduating GPA of high school seniors who participated in the program was higher than that of those who didn’t take part in the program.

She also cited a national research statistic that revealed that participation in dual enrollment courses increases the chances of staying in college and graduating in a timely manner.

According to her, although the dual enrollment program offers benefits to the participating students, it also benefits the University directly.

Among these benefits are that the University’s name may be publicized and that the participating students may be attracted to the idea of attending the University full-time after graduating from high school.

Bouamane hopes to potentially offer online dual enrollment courses in the future, considering the displayed demand for such course offerings.

“I would like to see this program grow and offer different opportunities.”

Legal battle expected in wake of status change for orca

HAL BERNTON
THE SEATTLE TIMES
TNS

A Puget Sound orca held for decades at Miami’s Seaquarium will gain the protection of the federal Endangered Species Act, a move expected to set the stage for a lawsuit from advocates seeking the whale’s release.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced Wednesday the decision to list Lolita as part of the southern resident killer whales of Puget Sound, which already are considered endangered under the federal act.

Whale activists, who petitioned for this status, have long campaigned for Lolita’s return to Puget Sound. They hope the listing will provide a stronger legal case to release Lolita than did a previous lawsuit that centered on alleged violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act.

“This gives leverage under a much stronger law,” said Howard Garrett of the Whidbey Island-based Orca Network, which hopes a San Juan Island cove will one day serve as the site for Lolita to re-enter the wild. NOAA Fisheries officials on Wednesday described their decision in narrow terms, which set no broader precedents. It does not address whether Lolita should be released from the Seaquarium. “This is a listing decision,” said Will Stelle, the NOAA Fisheries regional administrator for the West Coast. “It is not a decision to free Lolita.”

Aquarium officials have repeatedly said they have no intention of releasing the orca.

“Lolita has been part of the Miami Seaquarium family for 44 years,” said Andrew Hertz, Seaquarium general manager, in a statement. “Lolita is healthy and thriving in her home where she shares habitat with Pacific white-sided dolphins. There is no scientific evidence that ... Lolita could survive in a sea pen or the open waters of the Pacific Northwest, and we are not willing to treat her life as an experiment.”

Orcas, also known as killer whales, are found in many of the world’s oceans. The southern resident population, which spends several months each year in Puget Sound, is the only group listed in the U.S. under the Endangered Species Act.

The three pods in the population were reduced by captures by marine parks between 1965 and 1975, NOAA says. Among them was a roundup in Penn Cove where seven whales were captured, including Lolita.

Under the Endangered Species Act, it is illegal to cause a “take” of a protected orca, which includes harming or harassing them.

Orca activists are expected to argue in their lawsuit that Lolita’s cramped conditions result in a prohibited take.

But NOAA officials still have concerns about releasing captive whales, and any plan to move or release Lolita would require “rigorous scientific review,” the agency said in a statement.

The concerns include the possibility of disease transmission, the ability of a newly released orca to find food and behavior patterns from captivity that could

impact wild whales.

NOAA said previous attempts to release captive orcas and dolphins have often been unsuccessful and some have ended in death.

Garrett said the plan for Lolita calls for her to be taken to a netted area of the cove, which could be enlarged later. She would be accompanied by familiar trainers who could “trust and reassure her every bit of the way,” he said.

The controversy over releasing captive whales has been heightened by the experience of Keiko, a captive orca that starred in the 1993 movie “Free Willy,” about a boy who pushed for the release of a whale.

In 1998, Keiko was brought back to his native waters off Iceland to reintroduce him to life in the wild. That effort ended in 2003 when he died in a Norwegian fjord.

Garrett, who visited Keiko in Iceland in 1999, said he was impressed by the reintroduction effort, and that there was plenty of evidence that Keiko was able to catch fish on his own.

“The naysayers predicted that as soon as he got into the (Icelandic) waters he would die, and wild orcas would kill him,” Garrett said. “He proved that 180-degrees wrong. He loved it.”

Mark Simmons, who for two years served as director of animal husbandry for the Keiko-release effort, has a different view. He says Keiko never was able to forage for fish on his own, and that he continued to seek out human contact at every opportunity.

“It’s not really the fact that Keiko died, but how he died,” Garrett said Wednesday.

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Get the full story, not just the hashtag

MEGHAN MACLAREN
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In decades to come we may well be defined as the “social media” generation. The ones who tell Facebook about our achievements, who judge our attractiveness by Instagram likes and find solidarity in Twitter hashtags. But the thing that makes social media so very addictive is the same thing that could cause – and already is causing – a very big societal problem.

I’m not pointing at the fact that when you go out in public, you’ll see more people with their eyes glued to their iPhone screen than you will having conversations with each other. That is a big societal problem, yes, and one that frustrates me in unbelievable amounts. But I think there’s a deeper problem with the simplicity of social media – and it’s a problem because people don’t know it’s a problem.

Social media can make anyone an expert. It can do a huge amount of good – through the level of attention it can generate, it has the capacity to influence change for the better. One picture or one Twitter hashtag can cause global public interest and/or division, but

that doesn’t mean it is accurate. It only takes a few choice words to stir up controversy, and a lot of people who find themselves feeling strongly about that message in those few moments probably don’t feel strongly enough about it to actually look up all the facts and the whole story.

I read an excerpt from a book recently called “Made to Stick” by Dan and Chip Heath. It talks about a set of six principles that almost all “sticky” ideas have in common – six traits that make them memorable to others. The first one they mention is simplicity. Social media hands this to us on a plate. People browse social media during the breaks in their day, but they aren’t doing it to read lengthy articles or discussions. That’s why there’s a character limit on Twitter and that’s why Instagram is for image purposes. Yet they are hugely popular.

You only have to look at the biggest current issues to see these principles in play. “Black Lives Matter” and “I can’t breathe” both relate to the race and police problems in the United States at the moment. Chances are, you didn’t have to look up either of those phrases – you already know where they came from and what brought them

to public attention – they “stuck” with you. As well as simplicity, they both use other principles mentioned by the Heath brothers – concreteness, emotion, story and credibility (the video footage from the Garner case). In just three words, five out of the six principles of sticky ideas are hit, and they’ve sparked a huge movement in the US.

“It only takes a few choice words to stir up controversy, and a lot of people who find themselves feeling strongly about that message in those few moments probably don’t feel strongly enough about it to actually look up all the facts and the whole story”

“Je suis Charlie” is another example, which is trying to promote solidarity with freedom of speech following the horrific terrorist attacks in France. Not many people would have known anything about the Charlie Hebdo magazine, but this simple message allows them to show their support. In both cases, the support that has been

generated is overwhelming and almost reassuring – clearly, there are people that care.

The problem I have is that when something so inextricably complicated – race, religion, freedom of speech – gets boiled down to three words, surely we are missing parts of the story. We as a society shouldn’t need issues to be made concrete

What cheaper gas really means for us

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Aside from the obvious benefit of paying less at the pump, many FIU students will feel the effects of lower gas prices in ways that they perhaps did not expect.

While the president and many politicians on both sides of the isle rush to call this a “\$750 tax break” for the average American household, they had little to do with the plunge in gas prices. It actually comes down to simple economics.

Fracking and horizontal wells have allowed American oil companies to remove oil from the ground at a price that makes that oil profitable under normal market conditions.

They produced so much that they stored their oil in

reserves and empty tankers offshore in order to maintain stable prices, but eventually they ran out of room and were forced to sell. This massive increase in supply is responsible for lower prices.

American oil companies have a lot to lose from this. Saudi Arabian oil is very cheap to dig up. They can compete at the current prices -- which hovers around \$50 per barrel -- while American companies suffer.

This is because fracking is expensive and requires the market price of oil to be at around \$70 or more in order to be profitable. In the long run, this will likely hurt the overall American energy sector although the extent by which it does is unknown.

Environmentalists are also concerned about falling oil prices. Many people look for higher fuel efficiency in their

automobiles and appliances because they want to save money on fuel.

While many Americans still care about the environment, lower oil prices will make it harder to justify paying more for a hybrid. The good news for them is that while prices have gone down, consumption has not gone up. This suggests changing trends in the way that Americans consume oil.

There are, however, even bigger losers. Our diverse student body will likely be affected by the fallout that this turn in oil prices will have in South America. The problem is that many economists believe that the Venezuelan economy will collapse this year.

The government of that country calculated its budget based on \$100 to \$120 per barrel of oil. Petroleum exports account for 90 percent of Venezuela’s exports, so there is little doubt that this fall in prices will exacerbate many of the already rampant problems in Venezuelan society and lead the country to default on its debts.

In the event of economic collapse in Venezuela, it is likely that many other countries will suffer because of the interconnectivity of the Latin American economies. Undoubtedly, Cuba stands to lose the most as Venezuela is their largest trade partner and provides billions of dollars every year in humanitarian aid and oil.

This is perhaps the reason that the island’s government is so willing to work with the United States. Argentina, Bolivia and Jamaica will also likely see economic slowdown if the trade and aid from Venezuela were to cease. Argentina would probably be hit very hard because of their relationship with Venezuela through Mercosur.

After Argentina refused to pay some of its debt last year, it will be very hard to find countries that are willing to give Argentina a loan with a payable interest rate.

While it might seem like so many stand to lose, it is important to remember that many of us stand to win. Most Americans will have a little extra cash to spend and this will likely stimulate the economy overall.

That being said, don’t expect the low prices to last forever, they will rise again.

The questions are when, and by how much.

FRANK AND IRENE: Smugglers



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

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Symposium to celebrate Bob Marley

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Life! Director
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As a young child growing up in Jamaica, Michael Barnett, wanted to start a record collection of reggae music.

“I would eat some really dreadful food or a piece of cake because I wanted to save my lunch money to buy a vinyl,” said Barnett, a sociology professor who specializes in Caribbean culture and African diaspora studies. “I still have a few of those seven inches [records].”

Barnett grew up listening to reggae his father would play on his old turntable. He was in his pre-teens when his father would play classic Bob Marley albums such as *Catch a Fire*, an album released by The Wailers in 1973.

“He was big into music so maybe I got that from him,” Barnett said. “The seventies for me was the golden age of roots reggae, that’s when you had the culture, like the Mighty Diamonds and many other quality reggae groups.”

Today Barnett is a panelist at The Marley Symposium, an academic discussion seminar that was constructed to take a critical look at Marley’s life, music and message.

“It’s about having another look and another perspective about what Bob was about and what he had to offer to the world in general,” said Barnett. “It was more than ‘One Love,’ it was about fighting against oppression, social injustice and fighting for equality.”

The Marley Symposium will be on March, 6 at 7 p.m. in WUC 155 at FIU Biscayne Bay Campus.

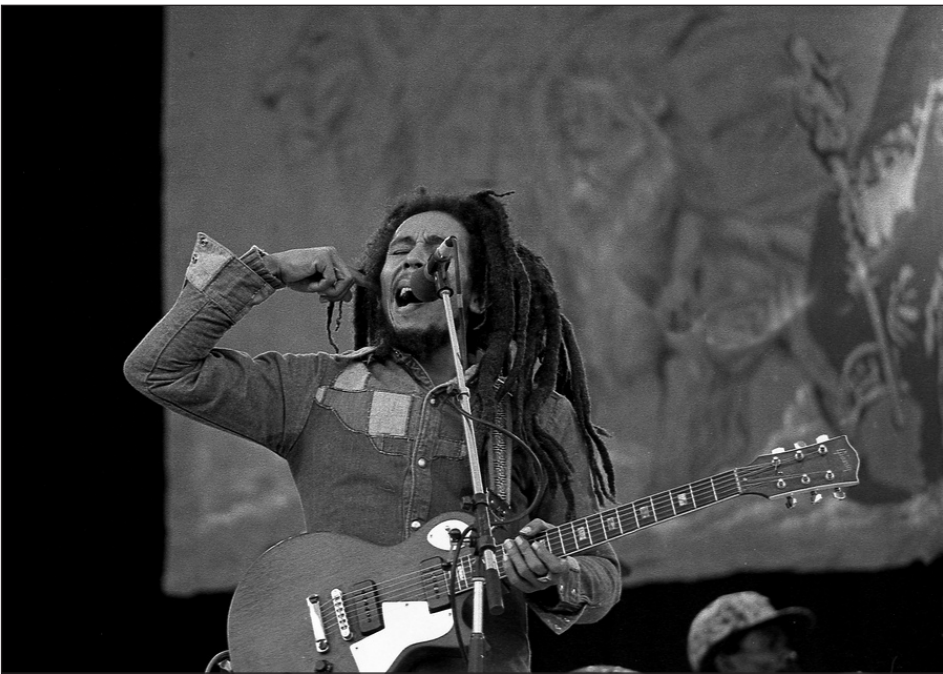


PHOTO COURTESY OF MONOSNAPS VIA CREATIVE COMMONS FLICKR

If still alive, Bob Marley would have turned 70 on Friday, Feb. 6. This was Marley performing in Dublin, Ireland in the 1980s.

Including, Barnett, participating panelists are Jabulani Tafari, founder and editor of *Rootz Reggae* and *Kulcha Magazine*, a local business in Hallandale Beach, Florida, and Roger Steffens an author and international multi-media lecturer who is known for having one of the world’s largest Bob Marley archive collections.

According to Barnett, Steffens will share rare footage of Marley.

“That’s a special treat for anyone who attends,” said Barnett. “It’s a big plus for even people who know about Bob Marley inside and out.”

The symposium will also serve as a

celebration of the artist’s life.

Friday, Feb. 6, as most Marley fans would know, would have been the artist’s 70th birthday and Barnett said he would celebrate in a cliché manner.

“Not to sound corny, but I intend to be listening to a lot of Bob Marley music,” said Barnett. “I’ll be going on the internet, seeing what documentaries are being shown and what interviews are being scheduled.”

Some key points that come up often when discussing Marley include his legacy as well as activism, the decriminalization of marijuana and his music.

All of which, Barnett has studied and

familiarized himself with.

“One of the first things that comes up is the legalization of marijuana,” said Barnett. “The decriminalization of marijuana, the smoking of Marijuana. Why is it so stigmatized? And why do people class it as a narcotic drug?”

He continues.

“Another topic that comes up is his message, regarding the fight against social injustice,” said Barnett. “The song ‘Get up, stand up for your right’ he co-wrote with Peter Tosh and ‘Get up stand up for your rights’ is about positive affirmation.”

The discussion will also tie Marley’s songs to Africa, neo-colonialism and the fight against oppression.

“Some people say that he was so revolutionary in his thinking, that the truth of the matter is he probably wouldn’t have lived till 70 anyway,” said Barnette. “I really wonder if the world would be a different place.”

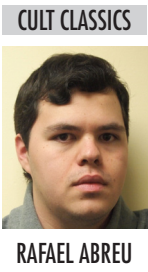
BOB MARLEY SYMPOSIUM

When:
March 6 at 7 p.m.

Where: BBC - WUC 155

What: Bob Marley at 70: A critical look at the man, the music and the message

Johnny Mnemonic: a movie so bad, it’s actually good



Released in 1995, directed by Robert Longo, with a screenplay by William Gibson (based on his own short story), the film stars Keanu Reeves as the titular character Johnny, playing a data trafficker in the year 2021. After overloading his brain with data, he must find a way to safely dispose of it before it seeps completely and kills him.

It’s a classic example of cyberpunk fiction in film, featuring cyberspace, weird fashions, a dystopian MegaCorp run world, and VCRs.

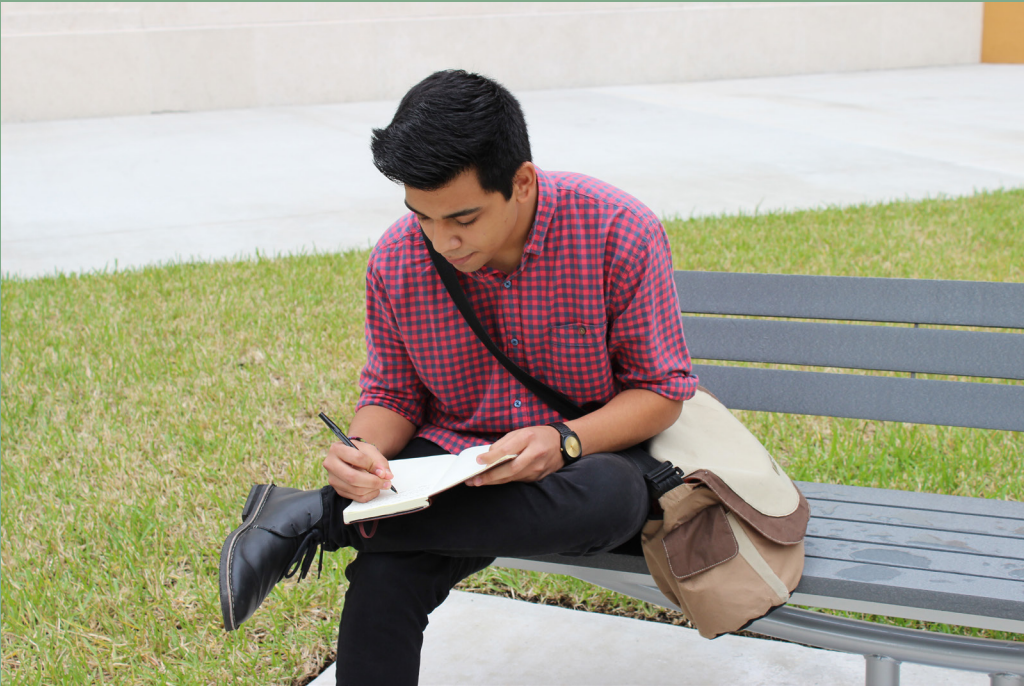
You can forgive the film for its outdated look at the internet and the future, among other things. However, you can’t forgive a film for strange direction, awkward acting, and a plot hole ridden story that makes almost no sense.

With all the wrong that “Johnny Mnemonic” does, I can’t help but like it. Maybe I’m just a sucker for the genre and the type of film it is, but something about it makes me enjoy it all the way through.

From the visuals to the soundtrack to the overall concept, it’s a film that’s become somewhat of a cult favorite for a reason. Whether it’s the hammy acting by Dolph Lundgren, the not-even-worth-talking-about plot, Ice-T, or Keanu Reeves screaming about room service, there is a certain charm to “Johnny Mnemonic.”

P.S. If you watch this film and genuinely like it, you can look up the rarely seen Japanese cut, which is almost ten minutes longer, has a different soundtrack, features more screen time by famous Japanese actor Takeshi, and uses alternate shots of scenes, among other differences.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



ANA ARENAS/THE BEACON

ANA ARENAS
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For Enrique Rosell, a Communications major of class 2018, writing is everything. He writes his own music, personal journals, and class assignments. It’s his passion.

“Preserving people, memories, and thoughts through writing lasts throughout all time. If a writer falls in love with you, you can never truly die,” Rosell said.

Based off Humans of New York from the NYTs, Student Spotlight captures FIU students as their natural self. Ana Arenas, FIUSM Staff, will spotlight a new student every Monday, with a photo and quote that eludes to their personal story and goals.

First annual Rolling Loud ‘mega-concert’ to be on Feb. 28 in Miami

VINCENT RIVES
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It’s springtime in Miami. As the days get warmer and the sands of South Beach fill up, the Ultra promoters show up in full force: girls in eccentric outfits, flying banners and EDM tunes blaring from the speakers, reminding beach-goers that Festival season has returned.

himself year ago.
If you’re living under a rock, Dope Ent. has been the force providing Hip-Hop concerts throughout Florida for the past five years, with acts as big as Wale and Waka Flocka, to more underground artists like Dom Kennedy and The Underachievers.
On Feb. 28, Tariq and the rest of the Dope boys will bring in Hip-Hop acts for Dope Ent’s first annual

notable MC’s: Action Bronson, Juicy J, A\$AP Ferg, Curren\$y, Domo Genesis, Travi\$ Scott, and Casey Veggies. Expect to see Miami’s local scene represented by Denzel Curry, Pouya, Robb Bank\$, and Yung Simmie.

Tariq, who comes from a Western Sahara background, found himself moving around the United States every 2-3 years, living in Washington, D.C.; Cambridge, Mass.; Hollywood, Fla.; Albuquerque, N.M. until he finished in Fort Lauderdale during his last years of high school before eventually enrolling at FSU.

Before throwing Dope concerts throughout Florida, Tariq was already throwing parties back in high school.

“My grandma has a pretty cool house in Fort Lauderdale. She would let us throw parties there. So it started like that. Remember Hurricane Katrina? Yeah, so we threw a massive rager, bro. We charged everybody \$5, had like four kegs, and if you were a

freshman, we charged you \$20. We raised \$3,500 and donated it to Red Cross. We promoted it as a Hurricane Katrina relief party, and we did it through our school. I remember coming in to school with all that money in fives and ones. They asked us how we got the money and we told them we went door-to-door.”

Which eventually led Tariq to where he’s at now, booking rappers for shows throughout the Sunshine State.

“Sophomore year I moved into a house with my two really good friends, and it had a three car garage, and we built the dopest party area ever. We had this nice oak bar, this kegerator that fit two kegs, and a 120-inch projector screen to watch football games on. We got a written arrest for charging entry, charging for alcohol, but we’re past that now. I was doing that because I liked throwing parties and girls coming in. Then I saw kids were doing these EDM parties in Tallahassee and booking DJs. Frat kids and

sorority girls were selling tickets hand to hand. They’re just booking a DJ for their party, which isn’t that different from what I’m doing. I was really into hip-hop. Then I was like, ‘Yo where are all the rappers I like? Why don’t they come into town?’”

But success wasn’t that easy, as Tariq’s first party eventually flopped, and led to him taking a huge loss.

“Then this opportunity to book Rick Ross for an after party came up. I saw him tweet ‘For Rozay after party bookings email this email address.’ I was like, that was easy enough. He had a FAMU arena homecoming concert with Birdman and Waka Flocka. So we ended up booking Rick Ross for the after party. It was our first event, so we didn’t know what we were doing. The promoters for the arena show had rented out the only real nightclub in Tallahassee at the time, and they promoted that the whole lineup was going to their after party, meanwhile we were promoting Rick Ross

at our club. The fact was they didn’t have anybody, but we only did 200 people, but they had 5,000. We had Rick Ross and they had nobody. But they made money and we lost money. We lost a lot of money. At the same time, I was finding out I was having my son. I locked myself up in my room for the next 24 hours. I was like, ‘I need to go back to my original plan and get Curren\$y. I’ll just do it next year.’ I got the money for the deposit. I didn’t have the rest of the money yet, but I was willing to take the risk so I paid them the deposit, signed contracts - we set up three shows in Florida in February of 2011. Orlando did 500, Tampa did 800 people, and the Miami show sold out, like 1000 people. From there we kept going. After we found a little bit of success, then we were like ‘Alright, we’re not gonna be doing the after parties or anything like that. We’re gonna book rappers for shows and that’s it.’”

“We had this nice oak bar, this kegerator that fit two kegs, and a 120-inch projector screen to watch football games on.”
Tariq Cheriff
Co-Founder and CEO
Dope Entertainment

But why is it the only major music festival happening in Miami?
That’s what Tariq Cheriff, Co-Founder and CEO of Dope Entertainment asked

mega concert Rolling Loud.
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Schoolboy Q is headlining, with other

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FOOTBALL

Addition of quarterbacks may lead to competition

JACOB SPIWAK
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National Signing Day saw FIU get a lot of new, exciting talent on both sides of the ball. Along with the optimism this day brings to coaches, players and fans alike, it also brings controversy about which true freshmen may have a chance to win a starting job from players already on the roster.

Specifically, one of the positions where there is at least a possibility of a new starter is at quarterback.

Sophomore Alex McGough took over that spot in his true freshman season last year, and is expected to start when the season opener rolls around on Saturday, Sept. 5 against the University of Central Florida.

to retain his position.

The first of the new quarterbacks on the roster is Christian Alexander, an early enrollee from Lakeland Christian High School.

Alexander was a five year starter in high school who finished fifth in the history of Florida in career touchdown passes with 110 and ninth in career passing yards with 8,299. Coach Turner has spoken very highly about him, and really likes what he offers the Panthers.

“He’s a very smart, instinctive guy and a natural leader,” Turner said. “He has everything that we are looking for in a quarterback.”

The other quarterback commit of FIU’s 2015 class is Maurice Alexander from Booker T. Washington High School. Alexander was named First-

“[The Alexanders are] going to come in and compete right away. That’s something that Alex [McGough] knows, as he came in last year and competed for the starting job.”

Ron Turner
Coach
FIU Football

However, he will have to beat out two dual-threat players who were recently added to the roster

Team All Dade County, and led Booker T. Washington to a state championship with a perfect 15-0

COACH EVANS



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Head coach Anthony Evans speaks to the men’s basketball team during the game against University of Texas at San Antonio. The Panthers lost against UTSA 63-74.

record this past season. He was also named Second-Team All Dade County in his junior season.

“He came into camp and everyone said ‘he’s too short and he doesn’t weigh enough”, Turner said. “I saw him walk out on the field, and I knew he had the it-factor you look for in a quarterback...then I saw him throw and I said ‘that’s enough, let’s offer this kid.”

McGough, the current starter, is coming off a fairly decent true freshman season. He completed just over half his passes for 1,680 yards, 14 touchdowns, and 10 interceptions.

After officially winning the job from E.J. Hilliard a few weeks into the season, he started to grow into his role and showed a lot of progression as the season went on.

As much as McGough

improved over the course of the season, one of the Alexanders very well may challenge him for that starting spot. Coach Turner has shown his willingness to let a true freshman start at quarterback, and his comments in the post-Signing Day press conference hint at a potential quarterback competition this offseason.

“[The Alexanders are] going to come in and compete right away,” Turner said. “That’s something that Alex [McGough] knows, as he came in last year and competed for the starting job.”

I’m all for a competition, as it tends to bring out the best in players, especially at the quarterback position.

As long as they don’t try to run a system with alternating quarterbacks (which rarely ever works), I believe a competition

can not only improve McGough’s play, but also help the true freshmen work through their growing pains.

Once McGough began taking all the snaps last season and didn’t have to worry about sharing plays with Hilliard, he solidified himself as a legitimate D1 starting quarterback with a lot of upside.

Factor in the experience he has over both of the Alexanders, and he seems to be the most qualified candidate to lead the Panthers offense next season.

While McGough seems like the clear choice looking from the outside, I think each Alexander has a lot to bring to the table. Judging by their high school film, they are each capable of stretching

SEE QB, PAGE 7

BASKETBALL

Looking forward to March Madness

JORGE CORRALES
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March Madness is just around the corner and college basketball’s best teams are lacing up their dancing shoes.

For those who don’t know, March Madness is a term used in college basketball to describe the post season tournament; it is also sometimes referred to as “The Big Dance.”

In total, 68 teams get invited to dance in this single-elimination tournament. Teams can get in by winning their regular season conference title, winning their conference tournament or being invited as an at-large participant.

Tournament games take place all over the country until the “Final Four” which will be played at Lucas Oil Stadium in Houston, Texas.

With just a few weeks left in the regular season, the University’s men’s basketball team finds itself floating around .500 and living in the middle of the pack in the Conference USA standings.

Despite outstanding play from both Dennis Mavin and Adrian Diaz, it is unlikely that the Panthers will receive an at-large bid to the

dance.

Their only hope will be to make a run in the C-USA tournament and earn the automatic bid.

The Panthers only have one tournament in their history. They earned a bid in 1995 when they won the Trans Atlantic Athletic Conference (now the Atlantic Sun Conference) tournament. They entered the tournament as a 16 seed and fell to eventual champion UCLA by a score of 92-56.

They got close again in 2013. The Panthers, then members of the Sun Belt Conference, entered the conference tournament as the four seed.

They were one game away from an automatic bid before losing to Western Kentucky in the conference championship game.

That would be the Panthers’ final run in the Sun Belt Conference as they made the switch to C-USA the following year.

Joe Lunardi or ESPN predicts only two C-USA teams in the tournament: Old Dominion(17-4) and Louisiana Tech (17-6). C-USA has a storied history in basketball.

The only C-USA to ever win the NCAA tournament was Texas Western University, now

FIU Basketball 2005-2014				
Season	Coach	Overall	Conference	Standing
2005-06	Sergio Ruoco	8-20	4-10	11
2006-07	Sergio Ruoco	12-17	7-11	11
2007-08	Sergio Ruoco	9-20	6-12	10
2008-09	Sergio Ruoco	13-20	7-11	8
2009-10	Isiah Thomas	7-25	4-14	12
2010-11	Isiah Thomas	11-19	5-11	11
2011-12	Isiah Thomas	8-21	5-11	11
2012-13	Richard Pitino	18-14	11-9	4
2013-14*	Anthony Evans	15-16	7-9	10
*Move to Conference USA				

JORGE CORRALES/THE BEACON

The chart shows the Panthers’ struggles and coaching changes over the last decade.

SEE MARCH MADNESS, PAGE 7

TENNIS

Women's tennis suffers first loss of the season

REINALDO LLERENA

Staff Writer

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The FIU women's tennis squad faltered against the Penn State Quakers (2-0), 4-1 on Friday at the Hecht Tennis Center in Philadelphia.

The loss signified the first loss of the season for the Panthers, who were undefeated heading into the match against the Quakers.

The lone bright spot for the Panthers came in the form of junior Kaitlin Borozvich. In the match, Borozvich claimed her 12th singles victory of the

season and the second of the spring, defeating Lina Qostal of Penn State in consecutive sets 6-3, 6-2.

Borozvich's victory would represent the Panthers' sole point in the match against the Quakers.

The meet against Penn State did not begin the way the Panthers had envisioned, however, as they dropped two of the three doubles matches.

The duo of Borozvich and senior Yana Koroleva defeated the Quaker pair of Sonya Latycheva and Luba Vazhenina, 6-2 in the first doubles match.

From there, though, the Penn State

Quakers rallied to take the following two doubles matches and claimed the doubles point.

Trailing 1-0 heading into singles play, the Panthers looked to its players to spark a rally of their own, hoping to earn a come-from-behind victory.

Unfortunately, the Quakers claimed the first two singles matches for a 3-0 lead before Borozvich defeated Qostal to make the score 3-1.

The Penn State Quakers finished off FIU when Sol Eskenazi defeated Koroleva in three sets, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1. Eskenazi's victory ended the match with the Quakers

defeating the Panthers by a final score of 4-1.

The tennis team will look to rebound against a warm St. John's University in Jamaica, New York, on Saturday, February 7.

The Red Storm defeated Fairfield University 5-2 in their first match of the season before collapsing against Columbia University.

The Red Storm then swept LIU Brooklyn, 7-0, to claim their second win of the season. The first serve is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

BASKETBALL

2014-2015 Heat Season: a buzzkill we will all get used to

DRUCKER DIGEST



DAVID DRUCKER

I bought it all.

After a successful offseason maintenance program, Dwyane Wade would be healthy enough to play all season.

I was hooked on the idea that Danny Granger, rusty but accurate as ever, would become the Heat's secret shooting weapon off the bench.

Even Pat Riley's ridiculous claim that Luol Deng would be "one of the most important free agent signings we have ever had" stuck to me.

Looking back, I ate it all up for one reason: it only seemed right.

Teams don't just go from all-time greats – and yes, the Miami Heat teams of 2010-2014 are some of history's best – to playoff-hopefuls because one guy decided to take his talents to colder weather. The NBA cycle of justice can't work that way, and even if it did, Pat Riley wouldn't tolerate it.

This season was going to be fun because every game counted, I convinced myself. This was based on the assumption that the Heat was not going to lose focus and let games against Milwaukee (3-0 versus Miami) and hobbled Indiana (2-1 versus Miami) get away from them. The stakes – proving to the world that the four-time Eastern Conference champions were alive and well – were too high for that nonsense.

With Wednesday's loss to the league-worst Minnesota Timberwolves, the Heat fell to 28-21 on the season. They are the eighth seed in the East by just half a game. Both

Milwaukee and Charlotte claim better records than the Heat.

It wasn't bad to begin with this year; the Heat was 5-2 at one point and Chris Bosh was earning every cent of his top-dollar contract. Shawne Williams even looked like the second coming of Ray Allen for a stretch.

All was well, but it was not going to last. The Heat was

“This team needs upgrades at point guard, depth at shooting guard, and better scorers on the wings. If the day comes when Wade returns, Bosh finds himself again, and Whiteside continues to produce, then the Heat may be one of the better teams in the East again – if that day ever comes.”

exposed for what they are: a team with an insufficient backcourt and scarce decent shooters. Tack on a season-ending injury for Josh McRoberts and a hamstring strain for Wade and you're seven games below .500.

Even worse, ex-Miami Heat star LeBron James' Cavaliers seem to have figured it all out. Cleveland struggled to work as a group in the season's first days (insert image of Dion Waiters begging for the ball wide-open here).

Now, the Cavaliers are riding the NBA's best winning streak and are the third seed in the East. Sure, David Blatt still does questionable things from time to time and Cleveland still relies heavily on isolation offense but they are getting it done.

The Cavaliers have too much sheer talent for failure. The Miami Heat, however, can't get enough players working together to maintain a ten-point lead over the Timberwolves.

The worse part of it all, The Heat has no quick fix. A stroke of luck came along in the emergence of Hassan Whiteside, but even his dominant play has not been enough to get his team even close to .500.

His team needs upgrades at point guard, depth at shooting guard and better scorers on the wings. If the day comes when Wade returns, Bosh finds himself again and Whiteside continues to produce, then the Heat may be one of the better teams in the East again – if that day ever comes.

Now that Miami is just clinging on to a playoff seed in the NBA's weaker conference, the concept of "every game will count" is no longer some misdirected sense of hope for fans anymore – it's a reality that the Heat have to deal with.

Until the next free agency extravaganza in 2016, Miami Heat fans should be prepared. There will be plenty of back-and-forth, a ton of missed opportunities and an overwhelming abundance of normal.

sports@fiusm.com

March Madness approaching quickly, teams prepare

MARCH MADNESS, PAGE 6

known as the University of Texas at el Paso. In 1966, the Miners won the NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship. They were the first team to win a men's basketball title with an all-black starting lineup.

More recently, C-USA was consistently represented at the big dance by conference

giant Memphis University. Between 2003 and 2013, the Memphis Tigers had eight NCAA tournament appearances. They even reached the championship game in 2008 before falling to Kansas University in overtime. In 2013, Memphis moved to the American Athletic Conference. The move opened up the conference for another team to step in and lead the pack.

Competition among team members may increase with new quarterbacks

QB, PAGE 6

the pocket and making plays with their legs, something McGough struggled with last season.

Each one is a proven leader, as Christian Alexander started for an unprecedented five years in high school, and Maurice Alexander is coming off a perfect season.

This is all speculation for now, and a lot can happen over the course of the offseason.

Will I be surprised if Turner announces that one of the true freshmen has been named the new starter?

Yes, it would probably catch me a little guard if someone ended up taking the job from McGough.

However, nothing is impossible, and given Turner's coaching history I believe he will make the right choice for this program regardless of who lines up under center for the season opener.

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LLK Center hosts leadership webinar

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
BBC Managing Editor
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Still today, men continue to dominate the media industry. Despite challenges, women journalists too are advancing and playing important roles in the field.

To demonstrate their growing influence, the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Center for Advancement of Women in Communication will host a webinar with guest speaker NBC News Vice President of News Partnerships, Dianne Festa.

As part of a monthly leadership series, the center aims to motivate and provide students, particularly women, with tools to become transformational leaders in communications. Last month, the center invited News Local 10 reporter Glenna Milberg and Don Silver, chief operating officer at a marketing and public relations firm to discuss

the impact of social media.

“We want to give [women] the ability to be empowered,” said Lillian Kopenhaver in a previous interview with Student Media. “To tell them the kind of things they need to be able to do so that they become the leaders in mass communications in the years to come,” she said.

A Class of 1983 FIU Alumna, Festa graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. Soon after, she worked as NBC Miami bureau coordinator and covered the Grenada invasion and civil war in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

For 30 years, Festa has worked with NBC News covering four presidential summits and during the early ‘90s the First Chechen War, a hostility between Russia and the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria. She has earned an Emmy award nomination in 1993 for her coverage in Moscow, Russia during a parliament revolt.

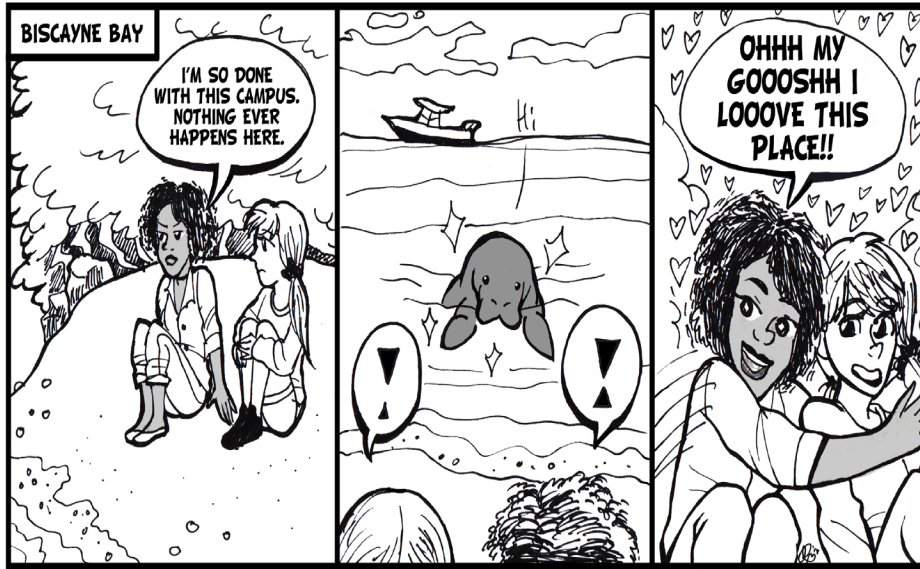
Around that time, Festa was also the Weekend News Manager. She was responsible for coordinating worldwide news coverage for NBC News. She has also served as the acting bureau chief in Amman, Jordan during the Persian Gulf War.

According to Sigal Segev, associate director at the LLK Center, the leadership series provides valuable insight for students from those who have climbed the ladder in their prospective careers.

Segev said that journalism students and all other communications majors can learn much about their fields of interest, especially since they are similar to each other in the media industry.

“They are different angles, [yet] they share many aspects. It is relevant to any student that seeks a career no matter what discipline they choose in the end,” Segev said. “[Students] can learn from a leader in their field that achieved a lot in their

JUST SAYIN’: Manatee



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

career.”

Recently, as Vice President of the News Partnerships team, Festa has leveraged the department’s relationship with its affiliated stations. She has also increased local participation on NBC News projects and prime stories such as the 9/11 terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina.

The webinar will be held live at the center, but for those who are unable to come can also join the discussion through its website link. There will be a

moderator and students can ask Festa questions directly online.

Israel Enriquez, a senior recreation sports manager major, agrees that women continue to triumph in the journalism field. Interested in sports news broadcasting, Enriquez said there continue to be more female sports reporters.

He also said students can learn from leaders like Festa who have a can-do attitude.

“She’s probably worked hard to get where she’s at, so I

think what they can learn from that is to not give up on your dreams and keep fighting for it,” said Enriquez. “Women are on the rise.”

The webinar will take place Tuesday, Feb. 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Biscayne Bay Campus in the Academic 2 Building room 252. Participants can also use the link: <https://connect.fiu.edu/kopenhavercenter> to view the webinar in real-time. Admission is free.

Survey finds college freshmen party less, worry more

LARRY GORDON
Los Angeles Times
TNS Staff

The current crop of college freshmen showed up at school as less experienced party animals than their older peers but with more mental health and emotional issues, according to a national survey by the University of California, Los Angeles researchers.

At the same time, the new college students, who entered their teens when many of their parents grappled with the recession’s economic fallout, are more concerned about financial success and aspire to attend graduate schools to enhance their career prospects, the annual American Freshman study found.

However, it remains unclear whether these students will prove on average to be a tame group, Eagan said.

In fact, he said their relative abstinence during high school may mean they could be more tempted to binge drink and get into other trouble as social newbies away from the constraints of home.

That risk, along with reportedly higher levels of depression and other emotional problems, will challenge colleges to provide enough counseling support and substance abuse education, he said.

Nearly 11 percent of respondents said they spent six hours or more a week at parties during their senior year of high school, down from 23 percent a decade ago, the survey found.

Additionally, 61 percent reported that they spent only an hour or less a week at parties, up from 39 percent 10 years ago.

Along the same lines, those who said they occasionally or frequently drank beer dropped to 33.5 percent, compared with 45.5 percent a decade before and 69 percent in 1984.

Just 39 percent of current freshmen said they drank wine or hard liquor in the last year, compared with about 52 percent 10 years ago and 68 percent in 1987, when the poll addressed the issue.

Colleges around the country are struggling to meet higher demands for psychological and crisis counseling, heightened by

fears that their campuses could face incidents of violence and suicide.

The survey, which was taken by 153,000 students mainly during last summer’s orientations at 227 four-year colleges, bolstered those concerns.

Nearly 12 percent of the freshmen rated their mental health as worse than most others their age; that compared with roughly seven percent about a decade ago and 3.5 percent in 1985, when the question was first asked.

In addition, 9.5 percent said they frequently felt depressed, up from the six percent low point, recorded in 2009.

Yet whatever problems the freshmen have, a lack of ambition is not one of them.

A record 82 percent said that it was very important or essential that they become well-off financially, compared with nearly 77 percent in 2008 before the recession hit and almost double what it was 40 years ago during the countercultural era.

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