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Florida International University

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English class delves into rising sea levels

CRISTINA GARCIA
Staff Writer

When you think about environmental activism on-campus, you may expect to hear from the University Organic Farmers Market or the FIU Garden Club. Now the English Department is adding its voice to the cause.

Patricia Warman-Cano, English professor and instructor of Writing as Social Action, a class that started a project to save the Everglades, has organized the event “6 ft. Under” on Nov. 22 – in conjunction with the FIU Nature Preserve – to raise awareness about rising sea levels, the loss of the Everglades and their effect on South Florida.

Amelia Caceres, a senior English major in the class, said she was among those students that asked “so what?” when approached by environmentalists, but the class agrees there is a reason to care.

“The reason I learned to be compassionate was because [the environment] makes the economy work,” Caceres said. “And we need a working economy.”

The Everglades houses 34 percent of Florida’s endangered animals, provides the state with a third of its clean water, a filtration system, a buffer against

natural disasters.

“It also supports outdoor recreation, agriculture and tourism industries in Florida – all billion dollar industries,” Yemilen Bravo, a senior English major in the class, said.

The class project started out as a project to save the Everglades, yet as their research deepened, the class realized that ultimately the Everglades would vanish.

According to Bravo, as salt water intrudes into the Everglades, it starts to die.

“Every plant, except mangroves, will die; crocodiles and alligators can live in it, but other animals like manatees need to drink freshwater. We can’t save the Everglades no matter what we do,” Bravo said.

What does that mean for Floridians?

A University case study highlighted South Florida’s population as one of the fastest growing human populations in the United States – approximately 900 new tenants enter Florida daily and about 39 million vacationers annually.

The average person uses approximately 124 gallons of water per day. A publication by the University of Florida said that while the state is “rich in water resources,” intensive use

HENNA HELPS



JAHREL FRANCIS/THE BEACON

Henna artist Urzam Gilani (right), junior pre-med psychology major, raises money for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society by drawing henna on dinner attendees like Briana Philippe (left), junior marketing major.

of water places it under a lot of stress.

“At this rate, we’re going to have to invest in desalination. Orlando and Tampa have had to invest in it already. This will lead to a need to raise water taxes,” Bravo said. “But it is prohibitively expensive”

According to Bravo, the rising sea levels are a product of global warming, a naturally occurring phenomenon. The only unnatural thing about global warming is the accelerated rate at which it is happening – a product of humans’ ecological footprints.

“There are two sides on the

issue. One side says we should protect [the environment] for children and freshwater,” Bravo said. “The other side says we need to find alternatives to fund to help us be more sustainable, to lower emissions and for more time to prepare.”

The Natural Resources Defense Council describes global warming as “the single biggest environmental and humanitarian crisis of our time.” According to the Council, global warming refers to the increasing temperatures of Earth’s atmosphere stemming from an atmosphere full of “heat-trapping carbon

dioxide;” which lead to a wide-scale impact on climate.

As depicted by the Council’s “Extreme Weather Map 2012,” Florida did not pass last year unscathed, as evidenced by record-breaking heat, rain and a total of 62 large wildfires. Nationally, the United States saw “the worst drought in 50 years,” Hurricane Sandy and wildfires that burned approximately 9 million acres across the U.S.

“In the next 100 years, the most optimistic predictions say

SEE ENGLISH, PAGE 2

Professor emeritus motivated by University’s growth

DESTINEY BURT
Contributing Writer



STEPHEN FAIN

Stephen Fain thought it was a prank call when he was asked to be part of the University’s founding team, the one that would build the school from an old airport.

“Well you could imagine getting a phone call and someone says that to you,” said Fain. “I thought it was a joke until I called the person who originally had the idea and that’s when I knew they were serious.”

The professor emeritus in the College of Education and fellow of the Honors College joined the University in 1971 as the founding team’s academic planner. Fain established

the University’s academic programs as the team’s curriculum developer.

“Dr. Fain has seen each of these buildings come up at the University and you can sense that he doesn’t concede that sense of pride he has,” said Rhandi Elliot, development assistant in the Office of Annual Giving.

Fain said watching the University evolve is what has kept him here for so long.

“I thought I would stay for about two years, but the University got moving very quickly,” Fain said. “It moved much more quickly than people thought it would, and the momentum was enough to keep your passion ignited.”

Fain has remained a devoted Panther for 42 years.

One of the most compelling components about the

“I come to the campus late at night sometimes and just drive around or walk around just because I remember when there was nothing here.”

Stephen Fain
Professor emeritus
College of Education

University to Fain was that they served an underserved community. “It was important work and it seemed to grow in importance,” said Fain, “and the realization that time and time again, as you met more students, it was like a snowball picking up momentum rolling down a hill – you just get caught up in it.”

“As one of FIU’s founding professors, Dr. Fain has been instrumental in moving our university

toward its next horizon,” said Howard Lipman, senior vice president of University Advancement and president and chief executive officer of the FIU Foundation, Inc.

Fain is also the chair of Ignite, a University fundraising campaign driven by faculty and staff.

“Through the Ignite campaign, he’s taken that fearless passion and drive to the next level and is helping our faculty and staff connect with and

support the FIU projects they care about the most,” said Lipman.

Fain is excited about the Ignite campaign because he has the opportunity to work with people who understand the importance of giving back.

“It’s a pleasure to work with Dr. Fain because Ignite is so much more than a fundraising campaign for him, the team he’s created and all the faculty and staff he’s involved,” said Laura Padron, assistant vice president of University Advancement.

Fain said he is passionate about investing in the University since he has seen it evolve from nothing.

“I am challenged by the idea that there are people who don’t get it as much as others” said Fain, “and maybe I can help them become aware of how

special FIU is.”

According to Padron, Ignite is “about making an impact and investing in the FIU dreams, initiatives and projects that fuel creativity, discovery and innovation.”

“Working at FIU has been extra special because I’ve had a chance to make a lot of things happen,” Fain said.

Fain has also served as the faculty athletics representative at the Student Athlete Academic Center since May 2004.

“Right now even though Dr. Fain is busy with the Ignite campaign, he was asked to take on the position at the SAAC and he was willing to do that because he loves the University so much that he is willing to put aside

SEE IGNITE, PAGE 2

WORLD NEWS

Emerson College to name school after Ron Burgundy

It’s kind of a big deal that Emerson College is changing the name of its school of communication. The college in Boston will rename the school - for one day only - the Ron Burgundy School of Communication on Dec. 4 to honor the fictitious television anchorman. Actor Will Ferrell, in character, is scheduled to share his path to journalism greatness with students. His visit will include a news conference, the renaming ceremony and a screening of “Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues.” Ferrell, as himself, will introduce the movie. College President Lee Pelton says Burgundy “understands the power of media, as well as hairspray, firsthand.”

Philippine corruption magnifies effects of typhoon

The government of President Benigno Aquino III, who has made fighting corruption a priority, is promising full transparency in reconstruction spending in areas devastated by Typhoon Haiyan, known in the Philippines as Yolanda. It announced Monday that it has established a website called the Foreign Aid Transparency Hub where funds given by foreign donors can be tracked. More than \$270 million in foreign aid has been donated to help the victims of the Nov. 8 typhoon, which killed at least 3,976 people and left nearly 1,600 missing, according to government figures updated Monday. More than 4 million people have been displaced and need food, shelter and water. The typhoon also wrecked livelihoods on a massive scale, destroying crops, livestock, coconut plantations and fishing boats.

For more world news, check out FIUSM.com.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 25, Issue 39, in the article titled “Local fraternity teaming up to help kids read,” we misspelled Aniza Cantillo’s name as Aniza Castillo.

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

Department Recital showcases top performers from School of Music

KIERON WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

In between faculty and student meetings, Trumpet Instructor Jim Hacker takes a moment in his office to check on the most recent submissions for the School of Music: Department Recital.

“I’ve been coordinating this for about four years now,” said Hacker. “This is gonna be just like an evening concert, only it’ll be happening at 3:30 p.m.”

The concert on Nov. 21 will be held twice a semester and is free for University students. It will feature premier students from all different music disciplines, including jazz, winds, percussion, vocals, piano and classical guitar. Each department in the School of Music chooses all-star students to represent them that have satisfied the requirements and have displayed extraordinary talents.

The performances for next week include a vocal performance, a classical guitar piece and a trio which consists of a piano player, a violin player and a cello player.

Students invited to play in the Recital must first have

“In these forums, we give the students that are listening an opportunity to make comments,” said Hacker, who is also director of the University Brass Choir. “It gives everyone an opportunity to learn; from a performance standpoint, they learn

around the world as a studio musician. He has worked with everyone from Frank Sinatra, Madonna and Celia Cruz to James Brown, Aretha Franklin and Gloria Estefan. He is also the director of the FIU Studio Jazz Big Band and performs with them a day before the Recital.

Hacker has been teaching at the University for 18 years and has always had a hand in the Recital since 2009.

“This is kind of their chance to shine,” Hacker said. “No responses from the audience for this. One or two students from each area get to perform and showcase their talent. It’s kind of a way to reward them for their preparation and their good performances at the area forums, getting to perform for all the music students and most of the faculty.”

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“This is kind of their chance to shine.”
Jim Hacker
Trumpet Instructor
School of Music

already performed in an area forum within their discipline, exhibiting their talents to an audience of peers and teachers within their focus. In these area forums, the performer and the audience have a back and forth; the audience says what they like, what should be improved and the performer continues based on their criticisms.

how to play in front of people and from a listening standpoint they learn to make observations that will help them in their own performances or for the students they may have in the future.”

Hacker is a world-class trumpet player, receiving his degree in Trumpet Performance from University of Miami in 1989 and traveling

Panther invests passion into University

IGNITE, PAGE 1

tion at the SAAC and he was willing to do that because he loves the University so much that he is willing to put aside golf,” said Elliot.

“I care about athletics and I care also about academics. I was always concerned about the SAAC because it’s a place where students come together,” said Fain, “I know how important it is that we have athletes who fulfill not only the promise that

their coaches see in them, but the promise that FIU makes and then keeps with people about achieving academic success and doing well in their studies and we try to facilitate that.”

Elliot said Fain’s love for the University is so strong that he often calls it his third child.

“I come to the campus late at night sometimes and just drive around or walk around just because I remember when there was nothing here,” said

Fain.

Fain said there is so much to get excited about because the University is growing and developing each day. “It’s a passionate commitment,” he said.

“Whatever the University needs, whenever they call for him to be here, he’s definitely someone who will always be there,” said Elliot.

-news@fiusm.com

English class underlines rising sea levels as cause for concern, action

ENGLISH, PAGE 1

the sea levels will rise 6 feet. Six feet and Miami is underwater – exponentially worse than when a hurricane happens,” Bravo said.

The aforementioned case study explains that the warming of the planet causes ocean surface water to expand, in addition to melting glaciers and ice sheets. Currently, South Florida’s sea level has risen over 10 inches since the 1840s and is still rising. Today, scientists have measured the rate at which the sea level rises to be about 8-16 inches every 100 years, a rate 6-10 times faster than the average rate for the past 3,000 years.

“We keep looking for solutions that create more problems,” Caceres said. “We keep spending a ton

of money that we could use to create a sustainable city that could survive the

class’ findings and their proposals for steps to be taken for a more sustain-

“The reason I learned to be compassionate was because [the environment] makes the economy work...And we need a working economy.”

Amelia Caceres
Senior
English Major

century.”

The student-organized event taking place at Parkview Plaza, near the entrance of the Nature Preserve, is intended to educate viewers on the

able city.

The event, starting at 2 p.m. and lasting until 4:30 p.m., will provide students with a chance to participate in a scavenger hunt, with clues stemming from

their research and tips.

Unlike other doom-sayers, Warman-Cano’s class has taken a proactive approach by educating the community and getting them involved.

“This event is centered on awareness, but we will definitely be talking about how we can become better consumers and work for a more sustainable and better society,” Caceres said.

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A case for human compassion

JAIRO RAMOS
Contributing Writer

They must have not believed themselves when they first walked outside and saw that the world had ended. Typhoon Haiyan had swept its wrath through the streets of Tacloban and left behind only remnants: broken statues, skeletal trees and tall clusters of wooden debris looking like hills. The survivors must have shivered out of body when they first saw the corpses, piled up like bricks, cold and distant under the morbid wind — like the city, no longer reminiscent of their former selves.

As I read stories of the Asian disaster and saw their faces on the news, I thought back to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. I still remember my first walk around the ravaged neighborhood that day and the unshakeable sensation of being in a movie set... perhaps that of “Twister,” that 1996 film with Helen Hunt.

Back then, the idea of a tragedy of such extent had seemed so distant I could only connect it to fiction; and it was no different now. The tears inside the television set, the half-naked children running, dirty, through the remains of Tacloban, they all seemed like parts of a separate reality — parts of myself that I longed

for, yet hardly found within my grasp.

The struggle of the individual to connect deeply with the suffering of others has existed since the first notions of self and nonself gained the slightest level of concreteness in human society — the search for compassion.

Naturally, in times like this when such struggle grows heavy, the question arises: just what is the role of universities in guiding their students through this understanding? And just what is their duty in the face of tragedy?

Of course, as basic human institutions, colleges have intrinsic leadership positions in any efforts to provide aid to those in need. But this is not enough. Online donations and campus fliers are all essential manifestations of compassion, clearly, but they are not the feeling itself. What we can give is always significant... but, in terms of humanity, it is limited by our understanding of our fellows’ suffering.

Schools are, above all, human workshops and, as such, it should be their responsibility to aid students in their quests for the universal connection. Man searches for his part in the world stage through the eyes of others but often, amidst the disconnection, he peeps through the lenses only to find a void. It is here that universi-

ties would come in.

But can compassion really

has an established partnership with the Dalai Lama and

“What we can give is always significant, but in terms of humanity, it is limited by our understanding of our fellows’ suffering.”

be taught?

Tibetan Monks have long believed so, and they have used their own members and methods as examples of such cognitive process.

In 2008, 16 monks were part of a study by University of Wisconsin-Madison Professor of Psychiatry Richard Davidson and Associate Scientist Antoine Lutz which revealed that the areas of the brain related to “empathic” feelings were much more developed for them than for regular subjects. Consequently, regular subjects who had undergone a two week long “compassion training,” showed significantly more development in these same zones than those who had not. These outcomes are further supported by experimental studies performed in various universities, including Harvard University, which have come up with consistent behavioral results.

Today, Emory University

the order of Tibetan Monks which focuses highly on “Cognitively-Based Compassion Training.” Their method employs meditation and other techniques in order to turn “empathic emotions” into automatic responses, hence making these more accessible.

The question, then, is: why do other universities not encourage such practices? Why do college societies promote “leadership” but not “compassion” in their slogans?

Perhaps it is a matter of pragmatism.

Yes, compassion might not carry the highest weight in a curriculum, nor itself be the solution to any problems; however, in a free world, it is the root from which all these solutions stem and the bridge that shortens the gaps of distance, time and being that separate our lives from each others’.

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Becoming one with nature at FIU

SHEHRYAR EFFENDI
Staff Writer

My phone read “slight rainfall and 78 degrees Fahrenheit” as I made my way to the freshly built jogging track near the University nature preserve. The first view of the jogging track was as encouraging as I thought it would be. I began my jog at 4:34 p.m. and the first time my feet landed on the soft red material I knew I was in for a surprise. As I jogged around the 0.58 mile track, my experience was actually uplifting.

“It really is inspiring and brings you close to nature after a whole week of stress, work and assignments.”

The track is so inviting that it almost dissolves your steps into itself as you progress with your run. It starts from the nature preserve, goes side-by-side to the baseball stadium, followed by Parkview Housing and then finally reaches the nature preserve again. As I ran, I could not help but notice all the walkways inside the nature preserve. Although I was not able to take a tour of these tracks and where they lead, I still had a lot of fun.

As it was raining while I jogged, the feeling became almost heavenly. I was around nature, breathing fresh air while listening to songs and exploring this new mystery that lay before me. After 3.2 miles I stopped and began working out at one of the stations. I saw a couple of people go into the forest while others stood on the outside picking what I took as fruits from trees.

The tall, dark forest not only has pathways that wind up somewhere but it also has planks on stands that highlight the kind of trees there are around the area and where these kinds of trees actually grow. These pathways appear to be quite inviting

as they leap into the middle of the forest and hence provide an amazing opportunity for adventure.

For all those who like adventure I would definitely recommend you to explore these forests. People were going in and walking out every time I would complete a lap. On the back side facing the baseball stadium there is also a little green house from what I could tell. This was where most of the people were. For me, the new jogging track proved extremely helpful because I like to run every day and this track helps me be around nature and actually enjoy what I do.

Although I jog almost every day I still haven’t discovered where the tracks lead to and how far they go but I’ve designated next week for this with a couple of friends. I would recommend everyone to at least check out the forest because it really is inspiring and brings you close to nature after a whole week of stress, work and assignments.

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THE BEACON | Editorial

MAST students need to pay up for facilities

Biscayne Bay Campus is notoriously known for being crowded with every kind of student besides those of FIU. High school students crowd the hallways and the cafeteria, and now Maritime Science Technology Academy students are granted FIU OneCards to crowd every other University facility, too, taking advantage of services paid by student fees — fees these high schoolers don’t have to pay.

While most students blame the high schoolers for the loud noise level and overcrowding of BBC’s cafeteria, these students may actually be using additional services that they do not even pay for. Instead, these services are funded out of University students’ pockets at no cost to MAST.

University students pay \$12.37 per credit hour each semester as part of the activities and services fee for services like the Recreation Center and Campus Life’s free (or not-so-free) events.

If MAST students are eating our “free” slices of pizza and using our gym, shouldn’t they be paying a fee like every other student?

Student Government Association is investigating if and how much MAST students use University services to charge a fee if determined necessary. This should have been assessed before students were handed FIU OneCards — at most, they should have received library cards.

In response to complaints, it was said that MAST students are indeed FIU students taking FIU classes. If this is the case, they should be treated as such — fees and all.

Most students complain that high schoolers crowd the cafeteria, but luckily this is only a 30-minute nuisance each day. As much of a nuisance this is, the real burden comes when University students are funding these high schoolers’ access to the gym and campus events.

And while this semester there are a mere 90 MAST students, with the building of a MAST facility in the next two years, BBC will be home to a thousand MAST students — maybe then the University will better recognize these students using services for which they should pay.

But a system should be in place to better assess how student services are used and who should be paying a fee.

University students are clearly not the only people using these services, and if MAST students are FIU students, they should pay FIU student fees. Hopefully a fair system can be put in place so that both University and MAST students are happily using the services they pay for.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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Missing the spark: virtual act releases real failure

COLUMNIST



LUIS SANTANA

Sparkydog and Friends’ eponymous EP has great cover art. It really does. It shows off the band’s biggest asset: its comic book.

Unfortunately for them, that’s their only asset.

The CD begins with a radio disc jockey who calls himself “Stingray” broadcasting from “Cali-forn-I-A” telling us the next song is from the “groovy new band ‘Sparkydog and Friends.’” The ensuing song is reminiscent of Smash Mouth in that it chimes inspirational “get up, get up’s” while the intro synths try to add this cute bubbly feeling.

But Sparkydog kills this song. His voice is like someone trying to sing in this sort of surfer-ish tone and trying to be “groovy,” in the way an old person gets a tattoo for the sake of being “hip.”

The band hits its stride on “Creepy

Crawly,” thanks to bassist Grey-moor’s turn on the mic; the synthesizers complement a voice reminiscent of Michael Stipe. This is a sound Sparkydog should capitalize on. The same goes for “Red Light,” which plays like music for the opening of an indie movie.

The acoustic guitar intro and Moogs create a sense of loss while still keeping the song loud. The problem with the song is it sounds typical.

It doesn’t tread any new ground.

Over all, the Sparkydog and Friends’ self titled album is not a good way to begin a career in music and leaves much to be desired.

Sparkydog may want to retreat back into the folds of their comic book and leave music making to the Gorillaz.

-life@fiusm.com

‘MATER BUCKETS

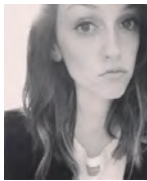


OSCAR LIN/THE BEACON

Joe Parker, co-coordinator of Student Farmworker Alliance, explains the the Coalition of Immokalee Workers’ Fair Food program to students during an event to promote awareness of the labor and compensation from farmers that pick tomatoes. Top Companies have joined the program to help provide incentives for farmers that treat their workers right and rescind their transaction for farmers that do not follow guidelines of equal treatment.

Paul McCartney does it again with “New” album

COLUMNIST



NATALIE MONTANER

After 56 years in the music industry and a total of 24 studio albums to his name (post-Beatles), Paul McCartney successfully remains relevant within the world of music. McCartney retains the ability to produce albums that are able to stand tall and strong, unlike many of his ex-colleagues who have long since bid farewell to their glory days.

His latest studio album, “New,” was released Oct. 11, and is the first album since “Memory Almost Full” (2007) to contain all completely original compositions. On this album, McCartney enlisted the help of four renowned producers: Paul Epworth, Mark Ronson, Giles Martin and Ethan

Johns. Having such a contrasting lineup enabled him to embed four separate styles that still manage to work together in harmony.

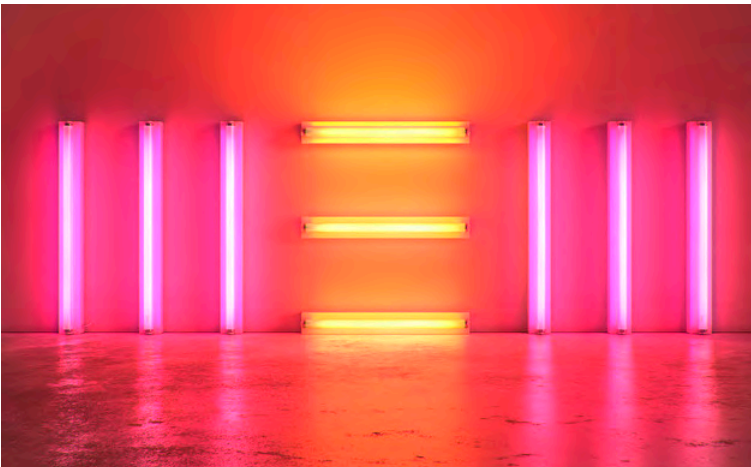
The opener, “Save Us,” wastes no time jumping right up and in your face with a steady, attention-stealing guitar riff. “Alligator,” in particular, gives a strong nod to the Beatles — specifically during their later, more mature years. Acoustic guitars and simple drumming patterns are periodically joined by a psychedelic-esque guitar that is very reminiscent of 1969’s “I Want You (She’s So Heavy).”

Much like a Beatles production, where infectious sounds resonate with the listener, McCartney is able to successfully catch your attention with just about every song on the album. He’s just an endless stream of ideas, catchy riffs and capti-

vating melodies.

Reaching its peak with “New” and “Appreciate,” this album reminds the believers and skeptics alike why McCartney is still a significant figure in the musical sphere. The upbeat and pop-influenced “New” is a stark contrast from the darker, more trip hop/electronic “Appreciate,” but despite those differences they are easily the strongest songs on the album. Both show complexity and both are extremely diverse.

Despite being 71 years old, he’s effortlessly evolved with the times, calling upon and playing with genres he hasn’t yet experimented with before. We are shown some pop rock, some new wave, some downtempo electronic and some inspiration from the very band that thrust McCartney into the spotlight all those years ago. Although



COURTESY OF HEAR MUSIC

Paul McCartney’s new album, “New”, is in the top five of the Billboard Top 200 charts, which includes singles, “Queenie Eye” and “New”.

this album brings in different musical styles and influences, it’s still able to successfully function and flow together.

In short, there’s really no one

who makes music quite the way McCartney does. He does it all and does it well.

-life@fiusm.com

‘Best Man’ nearly topples ‘Thor’ in battle of sequels

JAKE COYLE
AP Writer

In an unlikely battle of sequels, “Thor: The Dark World” bested “The Best Man Holiday” at the box office.

Disney’s “Thor: The Dark World” continued its

box-office reign with \$38.5 million in its second week of release, according to studio estimates Sunday. Opening 15 years after the original “The Best Man,” Universal’s “The Best Man Holiday” opened strongly with \$30.6 million.

Drawing an overwhelm-

ingly female and African-American audience, “The Best Man Holiday” was a surprise challenger for the mighty “Thor.” The R-rated romantic comedy, with an ensemble cast including Morris Chestnut and Taye Diggs, debuted with more than three times

the box office of 1999’s “The Best Man.” That film opened with \$9 million.

The performance of Malcolm D. Lee’s “The Best Man Holiday” continued an ongoing trend. Movies that appeal particularly to black audiences have often been surpassing expectations at

the box office.

“It’s a familiar refrain, and it’s getting a little tired,” said Lee. “I thought we had a chance to do something special.”

“Lee Daniels’ The Butler” led the box office for several weeks in August, leading to a

cumulative total of \$115.5 million domestically. The Oscar-contender “12 Years a Slave” has made \$25 million in five weeks of limited release.

Lee said that while black audiences “see every-

SEE THOR, PAGE 5

‘Thor’, ‘Best Man Holiday’ battle it out at box office

THOR, PAGE 4

thing” at the movies, from action movies to romantic comedies, he hopes broader audiences begin responding to so-called “black films.” The audience for “Best Man Holiday” was 87 percent African-American.

Regardless, a third “Best Man” film now seems a likely bet.

“If there is going to be a sequel, it won’t take 14 years,” granted Lee.

Marvel’s Norse superhero, however, has been hammering audiences around the globe.

“Thor: The Dark World” made \$52.5 million internationally over the weekend, bringing its worldwide total to \$479.8 million. With Chris Hemsworth as the title character and Tom Hiddleston as the popular villain Loki, the Thor franchise has proven to be one of Marvel’s most successful.

Just as “Thor” approached the half-billion mark, Warner Bros.’ space adventure “Gravity” crossed it. In seven weeks of release, “Gravity” has made \$514.9 million globally.

“The Best Man Holiday” was the only new wide-release opening

over the weekend, as the marketplace clears out for the release of “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire.” In limited release, Alexander Payne’s black-and-white Midwest road trip “Nebraska” opened in four locations with a solid \$35,000 per theater average for Paramount Pictures. Martin Scorsese’s “The Wolf of Wall Street” was originally slated to open, but was postponed to Dec. 25 by Paramount.

Expected to be one of the year’s biggest debuts, Lionsgate’s “Catching Fire” will abruptly close the box-office window for “Thor” next weekend. “Catching

Fire” opened in Brazil over the weekend, earning \$6.3 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. “Thor: The Dark World,” \$38.5 million (\$52.5 million international).
2. “The Best Man Holiday,” \$30.6 million.
3. “Last Vegas,” \$8.9 million

- (\$3.5 million international).
4. “Free Birds,” \$8.3 million (\$1.2 million international).
5. “Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa,” \$7.7 million (\$5.5 million international).
6. “Gravity,” \$6.3 million (\$18.5 million).
7. “Ender’s Game,” \$6.2 million (\$2.2 million international).
8. “12 Years a Slave,” \$4.7 million.
9. “Captain Phillips,” \$4.5 million (\$8.4 million international).
10. “About Time,” \$3.5 million (\$1.9 million international).

German man hides art for over three decades

FRANK JORDANS
AP Writer

The recluse German collector who kept a priceless trove of art, possibly including works stolen by the Nazis, hidden for half a century says he did so because he “loved” them and that he wants them back.

Cornelius Gurlitt told German magazine Der Spiegel in an interview published Sunday that he wanted to protect the collec-

tion built up by his late father Hildebrand, an art dealer commissioned by the Nazis to sell works that Adolf Hitler’s regime wanted to get rid of. Bavarian authorities say they suspect the elder Gurlitt may have acquired pictures taken from Jews by the Nazis — and that this may lead to restitution claims by the original owners or their heirs.

In his first extensive interview since the case was revealed two weeks ago,

Gurlitt told Der Spiegel that everybody needs something to love. “And I loved nothing more in life than my pictures,” the magazine quoted him as saying.

The death of his parents and sister were less painful to him than the loss of the 1,406 paintings, prints and drawings by artists such as Pablo Picasso, Henry Matisse and Max Liebermann that authorities hauled out of his apartment last year, he told the magazine.

Der Spiegel said a reporter spent several days interviewing the collector while he traveled from his home in Munich to visit a doctor in another city last week.

Officials are investigating whether Gurlitt may have “misappropriated” the pictures or committed tax offenses in connection with them. However, a spokesman for Augsburg prosecutors, who are handling the case, told The Associated Press last week that Germany’s

30-year statute of limitations may prove to be a stumbling block.

Hildebrand Gurlitt died in 1956, and his wife Helene died in 1967. Officials were unaware of their son’s huge collection until a chance customs check three years ago led them to the Munich apartment.

Authorities in Bavaria and Berlin kept the find secret for more than a year and a half. But since the case was revealed by the German

magazine Focus two weeks ago they have come under pressure to find a solution that will prevent legal obstacles from standing in the way of rightful claims to the art — particularly if Holocaust survivors or heirs of those persecuted by the Nazis are involved.

Gurlitt told Der Spiegel that he won’t just hand over the art. “I won’t talk to them, and I’m not giving anything back voluntarily, no, no,” he is quoted as saying.



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Panthers hit mark at late point in season

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Not even a “similar uniform delay” could prevent the Panthers’ drubbing this weekend at the University of Texas at El Paso.

The game with the Miners was delayed for 15 minutes. The reason was tweeted out by the official UTEP Miners twitter account.

“Kickoff for the UTEP & FIU game has been pushed back to 6:13 p.m. due to the teams wearing similar color uniforms. #minerstrong,” UTEP Athletics tweeted.

Despite that, the Panthers finally accomplished a mark after 10 games that Louisville nearly reached in one: 100 points for the season.

That’s right, the Panthers have finally reached the century mark in points, just barely above Miami University (Ohio) for last in the country in

points per game at 10.1.

With all of the struggles offensively, the Panthers fell for the ninth time this season in the game against the Miners 33-10.

The Panthers had three offensive players throw at least one pass and the non-quarterback threw the only touchdown when runningback Lamarq Caldwell tossed a 16-yard touchdown pass to receiver T.J. Lowder in the first quarter.

The offense, which had quarterback Jake Medlock start and ended with E.J. Hilliard finishing out, was held to under 100 yards rushing and only had 200 yards total offense. Medlock had three completions on nine attempts for 36 yards. Hilliard had five completions out of 14 attempts for 54 yards.

The Panthers, as of Nov. 18, have 2,234 total offensive yards this season and average 3.7 yards per play average. Opponents of FIU have accumu-

lated 4,167 total offensive yards and have a 6.3 yards per play average. FIU is ranked second to last in the nation in front of only Miami (Ohio).

Staying on the field is also an issue for the offense, as they hold a 24 percent third down conversion rate (34 of 141) and a 47 percent fourth down conversion rate by converting eight of 17.

As of Nov. 18, the Panthers had no set starter for this coming Saturday’s final home game against the Thundering Herd of Marshall University, who are led by quarterback Rakeem Cato. Cato, who is statistically one of the best quarterbacks in Conference USA, will look to improve on his team’s 7-3 overall, 5-1 conference record.

Cato has 28 touchdowns as opposed to only seven interceptions. He almost has more completions, 214 out of 355 attempts, than the Panthers do total pass attempts, 236



JASEN DELGADO/ THE BEACON

Redshirt sophomore wide receiver Clinton Taylor (tackling) looks to help the offense keep up with the high scoring Thundering Herd of Marshall University on Saturday.

total pass attempts, on the season to date. With those 214 completions, he has more yards in the air than the Panthers have total offense. Cato has 2,801 yards in the air and 238 yards on the ground.

The game will also see

multiple faces return to South Florida as 19 players on the Thundering Herd roster went to high school in South Florida.

Former assistant head coach and offensive line coach Alex Mirabal – a Panther alumni from 1993

– will make his first return to the South Florida area after being fired from the program following the Mario Cristobal release.

The game will kick off at FIU Stadium at 6 p.m.

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FIU looks to improve both sides of the ball

STEVEN ROWELL
Staff Writer

After a loss to Florida Gulf Coast University on Nov. 8, and also before hitting the road for three straight games, senior guard Jerica Coley and sophomore guard Taylor Shade cited things that the Panthers must improve on.

The Panthers already with obstacles such as the absence of senior center Marita Davydova, and also with many players playing with limited experience on their belt, FIU is still looking for improvement on the defensive end.

“We just need to work on our defense a lot, we play man and we switch, so it’s not like a huge scheme we just got to play better defense,” Coley said.

“We need team defense; individually we have our strengths and weaknesses but if we can get it down together as a team I think that will be the turning point for us going on the road,” Shade said.

So far to start the season the Panthers have allowed both Florida Gulf Coast and the University of Central Florida to do damage in the paint.

In their loss to FGCU, FIU allowed the Eagles to score 46 points in the paint and in their Nov. 15 loss to UCF, the Knights put up 42 points in the paint.

FIU hasn’t been hurt by three-pointers as they have allowed a

combined 6 makes on 24 attempts in their first two games. In their first two games, however they have allowed their opponents to penetrate and also reach the free throw line.

While defense is something FIU is seeking improvement in, the Panthers also look to reverse the turnover trend and get in more sync on offense.

“We are still figuring out our offense a little bit, like coach said we are still figuring out each other because there are a lot of new people so we have to get used to each other and how people are going to play us,” Coley said.

They were able to cut-down the turnovers from 20 against FGCU to 13 against UCF and the points off turnovers from 30 against FGCU to 15 against UCF.

Another trend that hasn’t gone FIU’s way is the edge in fast break points. For a team that likes to run and play up-tempo, the Panthers have only two fast break points in two games. Against FGCU, they were outscored 16-0 on the fast break, and UCF outscored FIU 16-2.

As FIU seeks to get the offense in sync, they will have to do it without Davydova whose return is still uncertain, who was the Panther’s second leading scorer last season and their top rebounder. Davydova’s only action this season was in an exhibition game on Oct. 27 against Nova Southeastern.

“She is a huge contributor on offense, defense, and rebounds so we definitely have to adjust now,” Coley said.

Panthers fall to 0-2, look to bounce back at Harvard

Against UCF, unlike the game against FGCU, neither team led by double digits as UCF pulled away down the stretch over FIU 71-66. Coley led FIU by scoring 25 points on 11-25 shooting. Sophomore Brianna Wright added 12 points her first double figure scoring game of her career. For UCF, senior forward Sara Djassi led the way with 23 points.

Next up, the Panthers travel to Cambridge, Mass. to take on Ivy League opponent Harvard College on Nov. 19. Harvard is 3-1 and currently on a three game winning streak.

The Crimson are coming off a 84-56 win over North Dakota State University. Harvard is led by senior guard Christine Clark who is averaging 18.2 points per game and is coming off a 21 point outing against NDSU.

Harvard so far is forcing 17.5 turnovers a game including an average of 7.5 steals per game.

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BEACON FILE PHOTO

Jerica Coley (above) and the rest of the women’s basketball team look to get on the same page when it comes to the offensive side of the ball.

Women's swimming and diving off to hot start

COLUMNIST



LUIS BARROSO

The Swimming and Diving season for FIU has been nothing but successful.

The squad has shown improvement from all aspects of the game. From the new freshman class to the well experienced seniors, the entire team is stepping up. The coaching staff has also created a positive impact on the team by ensuring a better

and 285.97 respectively. Kaufman was recipient of the award after her three-meter victory over the University of North Florida on Oct.19 with a score of 270.90.

In the Swimming events, FIU has been led by senior Sonia Perez which has not lost an individual's event this season, she also earned Swimmer of the Week honors on the UNF victory when she won both of her events, by posting a conference's best time of 4:20.93 in the 400 IM, and an outstanding time of 58.70



BEACON FILE PHOTO

The FIU women's swimming and diving team look to continue their dominate season when they head to the Mizzou Invite on Nov. 21, 22 and 23.

performance season by season since their arrival.

This was a hopeful season by the Panthers, but not many would have predicted such an immediate success from these Swimmers. This season is highlighted on both sides of the pool, in the diving platforms as much as the swimming pool, and having a balance of these two sports has given the Panthers the edge over their opponents.

Getting things started from the beginning with their first matchup against Florida Atlantic University in which they posted a season high 175 points and a victory that also marked the largest win for the Panthers over the FAU Owls in the history of the rivalry. After the win against the Owls, FIU has gone to defeat the University of North Florida with a score of 140-98 and most recently came up with a win against Indian River 140-101.

On the swimming platforms, it has been the senior-freshman duo that has been arguably the best in all of Conference USA. Senior Sabrina Beaupre along with freshman Lily Kaufman have dominated the diving platforms this season, this Canadian couple has shown great strength in competition along with the leadership of Sabrina and the performance of Lily. They have combined for two C-USA Divers of the Week awards, each being recipient of one, their first of this award in their careers. Beaupre was the latest to achieve this recognition with her performance against Indian River State College by winning both of her events, the one-meter and the three-meter diving competitions posting scores of 294.45

on the 100m backstroke. Along with Perez, FIU saw great success with Hannah Vanderluis early in the season with impressive breaststroke times.

Head Coach Randy Horner entering his fourth year in FIU has probably been the most powerful change on this program over the years, he has worked day in and day out with these girls as well as taking recruiting to another level by having nine different countries represented in the team, he is what the swimmers call a great coach and someone that would put full trust on their divers, a method that has given him great success so far. Horner has also just announced nine new divers into the new signing class, this new recruiting class is a class he referred to as "a class that will make immediate impact on our team next fall, and can't wait to get them to campus".

This is a program to watch out for many years to come, FIU swimming and diving will be talked about as a legacy and somewhere anybody would be honored to be part of. It has raised their performance and standards year by year and it keeps growing at a very rapid pace. FIU has finished third in the Sun Belt Conference Championships, but entering this new season and on a new conference, they are keeping sight into taking first place this season, and coach Horner is making sure that they stay focused on the prize, as to him everything is a checkpoint until the end of the season for championships and zone competitions.

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LGBTQA Initiatives creating “safe zones” with faculty training

PAOLA MOLINI
Contributing Writer

Cruel jokes, judgmental looks and even fear of using University restrooms are some of the challenges faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer students.

While this type of adversity was once considered routine, members of the faculty and staff are now challenging it.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Allies Initiatives — a national program within the Multicultural Programs and Services office — is hosting Safe Zone training on Nov. 20 to provide faculty and staff with tools and resources to address a number of situations students may encounter, like harassment, questioning their sexual orientation or “coming out.”

“The amount of harassment and victimization on campus is at an astronomical level,” said Gisela Vega, associate director of the LGBTQA Initiatives. “This population is at a higher risk of

dropping out of school than its straight counterparts.”

The Safe Zone training program has been in place for more than 25 years throughout the nation. The University began Safe Zone trainings in 1997, initially funded by The Jewish Community Foundation. Today training is funded by The Miami Foundation.

“Our office is now funded through Student Government Association,” Vega said. “It’s not institutional funding, and it’s really important that we help students understand the meaning of what we are doing.”

The faculty and staff that participate in Safe Zone training volunteer as advocates and allies to these students. Once volunteers complete their training, they are awarded a Safe Zone sticker to place on their office door, or somewhere visible, to symbolize a safe environment where LGBTQ students can approach someone without fear of discrimination.

“There are some real alarming statistics in terms of this community and why we need a safe zone,” Vega said.

According to Edwin Serrano, graduate assistant of LGBTQA Initiatives, some of the volunteers that attend the training program assist to gain a broader perspective of issues they are not familiar

A COLORFUL WORLD



MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Patricia Figueroa, grad student at Nova Southeastern University and intern at the LGBTQA Initiatives office, discusses what it's like for LGBTQA communities throughout the world.

SAFE ZONE TRAINING

Date	Time	Place
Nov. 20	2 p.m. to 3 p.m.	WUC Room 155

11/20-11/21 EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20

PANTHER POWER PEP RALLY

WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: BBC WUC Ballrooms

THURSDAY, NOV. 21

FIU COMIC-CON 2013

WHEN: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: BBC WUC Hallways

THANKSGIVING DINNER

WHEN: 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: BBC WUC Ballrooms

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

Writers on the Bay hosts poetry reading for all

JUAN ENDARA
Contributing Writer

Julie Maria Wade, assistant professor in the English department and coordinator of Writers on the Bay this year, is calling not only poets and writers, but whoever is

“If you think poetry is not for you, I think James is someone who would make you rethink that.”

Julia Maria Wade
Assistant Professor
English

looking to be inspired, to come to James Allen Hall’s reading on Nov. 21, an event hosted by Barnes & Noble that is open to the public.

The event’s tradition is to bring different

speakers every year to inspire and encourage the audience based on their journey as writers.

The message wants to tell people to adopt a new set of habits where everyone takes an initiative to start practicing their writing.

“James Allen Hall was my pick because this happens to be my friend who is a wonderful poet, but if you go to the event, you get the benefit of not just meeting a writer who is reading up on a stage far away from you, but also you get the experience of Q&A that follows; you can ask questions,” Wade said.

Hall wrote in an email that he is looking forward to meeting the writers and students at the University.

“The people of my heart, the people for whom language matters desperately.”

“People should come hear me read and expect a good time. They should expect to receive a nice smile,” he wrote. “They should expect to hear a hell of a poem. Intense feeling given eloquent form. That’s what I expect of myself and of every poet writing in America.”

“Poetry is that art form that incorporates silence: every poem begins and ends in silence, and every poem utilizes the line break, that moment of pause, of deliberation,

as well as provides the resources to become better informed in helping their students succeed.”

LGBTQA Initiative’s Safe Zone training program will take place from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center Room 155 at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

“We are here to meet the needs

of our LGTBQ students and also the needs of who we call Allies, our straight friends, to learn to appreciate and understand this community because the reality is its going to touch everyone’s life at some point,” Serrano said.

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of wavering, of quiet disquieted, of reflection pregnant with meaning,” he wrote. “My own silence as a young gay man was like that: fraught, full of meaning, of things unsaid, things wavering and left in the air, trying to take form.”

Hall’s reading will begin at 8 p.m. on the first floor outside of the bookstore in the Wolfe University Center.

“I would say, to encourage people to come, that James is a person who, if you are a poet, he wants to make you be a better poet and he gives you a way into his poetry that is exciting, new and captivating. If you think poetry is not for you, I think James is someone who would make you rethink that,” Wade said.

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WRITERS ON THE BAY

Date	Time	Place
Nov. 21	8 p.m.	WUC outside the bookstore