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FIU medical school programs help local communities

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Since its opening in 2006, the University's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine has implemented programs that benefit the local community and give students a hands-on opportunity to learn.

One staple of the medical school is the Green Family Foundation Neighborhood Health Education Learning Program, also known as NeighborhoodHELP.

According to its website, the program provides service-learning opportunities to students, through which the students can apply basic supervised medical care to patients in the program.

With the use of mobile health centers, NeighborhoodHELP provides weekly, cost-free care to underprivileged communities in Miami.

The mobile medical units are 38-foot vans, fully equipped with a laboratory and two examination rooms for patients. These health centers venture to different local areas, such as Miami Gardens and Hialeah from Monday to Thursday.

The program provides services such as routine physicals, adult vaccinations, disease management and screening, health education and WellCare.

In November 2014, the program launched a new branch to its existing program—the Linda Fenner 3-D Mobile Mammography Center. This facility's initiative is to help control the South Florida breast cancer rate.

The national average of women finding

cancer at this stage in these underserved South Florida communities is 54 percent.

"We don't care that they don't have insurance. We don't care that they're not citizens. All we want to do is provide them with mammograms and be as efficient as possible in helping [the community]," said Lorraine Nowakowski, program director for all clinical initiatives at NeighborhoodHELP.

The mobile mammography unit has a mammogram station and two changing stations. The mammograms use a machine that uses digital tomosynthesis, which creates a three-dimensional image of the breast. Compared to the traditional two-dimensional approach, tomosynthesis is a newer option that more efficiently finds masses in the breast and gives less false positives.

The Braman Family Foundation donated \$1.1 million to make this initiative possible, according to John Rock, dean of the College of Medicine.

The program is named after Linda Fenner, who died at 54 of breast cancer and is the sister-in-law of Norman Braman, founder of the Braman Family Foundation.

The donated amount was matched by the Batchelor Foundation, which has funded other University entities in the past, such as the Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science.

"The NeighborhoodHELP was very excited about this program to help women gain access to preventative care," said Rock. "We had a wonderful visionary in the community, Norman Braman... who helped make this operation [possible]."

"We don't care that they don't have insurance. We don't care that they're not citizens. All we want to do is provide them with mammograms and be as efficient as possible in helping [the community.]

Lorraine Nowakowski
Program Director, Clinical Initiatives
NeighborhoodHELP

breast cancer at a late stage—stages three and four—is at about 37 percent. The average rate for women finding breast

Since the program is new, the mobile unit has only gone out a handful of times. Nowakowski said they're

ROSENBERG HIM-SELFIE



.@r_morejon Here you go, with a copy of today's Beacon -MBR

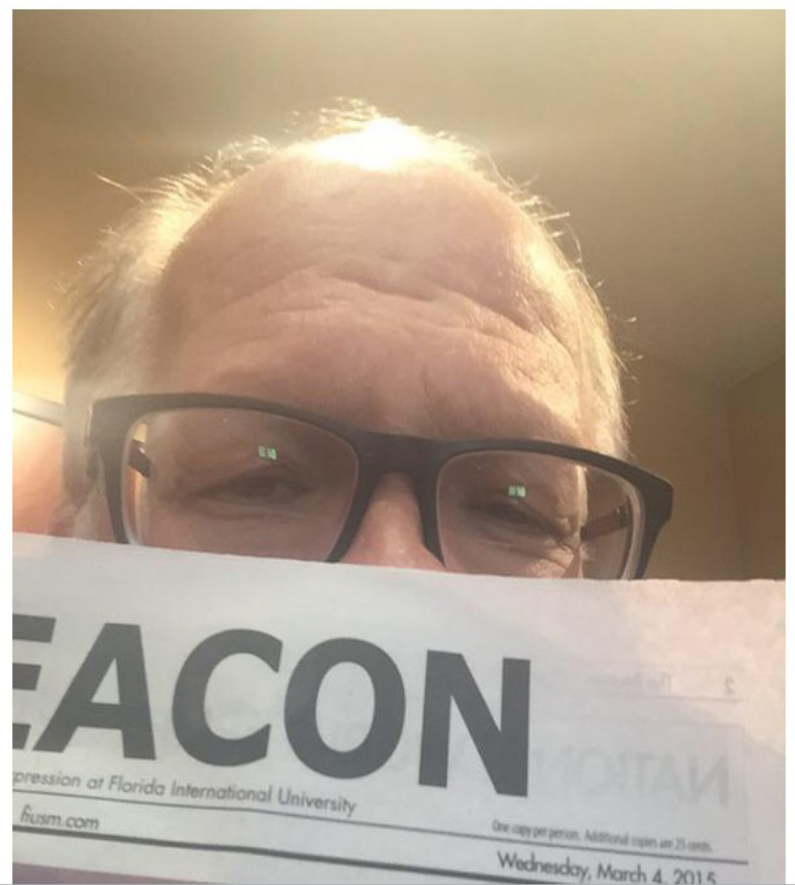


PHOTO COURTESY OF @FIU ON TWITTER

President Mark B. Rosenberg takes a picture with Wednesday's edition of the Beacon to prove to students that he was answering questions during the #askrosenberg Twitter event on March 4. From 3 to 4:30 pm, Rosenberg answered student questions via the @FIU Twitter.

still in more of a trial process before implementing a fit schedule, as the general NeighborhoodHELP mobile centers currently have.

Students have not yet joined the program. Once there's a system in play, students will slowly start to be able to join, said Nowakowski.

However, students have addressed the issue by establishing the Mammography Art Initiative, an organization to help raise money for breast health services in South Florida. The organization was founded three years ago.

For the last two years, students have put together a fundraiser by collecting artwork from local artists for an auction. Thus far,

the students have raised \$50,000.

Alfredo Armas, a second-year medical student at the University and member of MAI, hopes to make a difference. In last year's fundraiser, Armas recruited artists for the show and even submitted some of his work.

He and other students look forward to working with the mammography bus.

"The 3-D mammography van not only raises health awareness in South Florida, but it also provides mammograms directly to many women in the community that might otherwise not have ready access to healthcare, and this is a beautiful thing," Armas said.

Panel to hold discussion on immigration reform

ALESSANDRA VASQUEZ
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Last year in December, the United States and Cuba ended more than a half-century of aversion and announced that they would reestablish diplomatic relations and begin dismantling the last pillar of

the Cold War.

The move, following 18 months of secret negotiations, fulfilled one of President Obama's key second-term goals.

Following the Dec. 17 announcement that called for the revision of the relations between the two countries, the Center for Humanities in an Urban Environment and the Cuban Research Institute

set up a discussion panel to explore the relations between Cuba and the United States and the immigration reform.

"These 50 years have shown that isolation has not worked," Obama said in a televised address, according to the Washington Post. "It's time for a new approach."

The president also said that he was "under no illusion about the

continued barriers to freedom that remain for ordinary Cubans," and that he was convinced that "through a policy of engagement, we can more effectively stand up for our values and help the Cuban people help themselves."

For many states, this sparked the discussion on immigration reform.

Now the University is bringing a panel to further discuss the different

perspectives of these relations.

The panel will host four speakers, including Archbishop Thomas Wenski from the Archdiocese of Miami; Helen Aguirre Ferré, an award-winning journalist covering topics in the Hispanic community; Gepsie Metellus, executive director at Sant La Haitian Neighborhood

SEE CUBA, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Supreme Court wades into dispute over online retailers and state taxes

Online merchants won an important technical victory at the Supreme Court on Tuesday, empowering them to challenge state sales tax reporting requirements in federal court. Rejecting the pleas of two dozen states including Idaho, Texas, Mississippi and Washington, the court unanimously sided with online companies that favor federal court as the place to dispute state tax laws. The decision foreshadows future legal fights relating to the taxation of increasingly popular Internet-based sales. “Although online businesses

may not have a physical presence in some states, the Web has, in many ways, brought the average American closer to most major retailers,” Justice Anthony Kennedy noted, adding that “a connection to a shopper’s favorite store is a click away.” States, in turn, have been vexed by their difficulty in collecting sales taxes from Internet commerce. California, Kennedy observed, has estimated that it is only able to collect about 4 percent of the taxes due on sales from out-of-state businesses purveying goods via the Web.

As airstrikes damage Islamic State, it seeks ‘money, money, money’

The Islamic State might be the best-funded radical Islamist group, perhaps in history, but the coalition air campaign that’s targeting its oil-refining operations and military assets has begun to damage its ability to earn. And by denying the group additional territorial expansion, the airstrikes have limited the opportunities for it to profit from capturing new infrastructure and banks, according to a recent report by a money-laundering watchdog group, as well as U.S. officials and residents of Islamic

State territory. The Islamic State, a self-styled modern caliphate that controls much of northern and western Iraq and eastern Syria, turned itself into perhaps the richest and best-equipped military non-state actor last June after seizing tremendous amounts of money and equipment from the Iraqi government as it swept through Mosul and to the western and northern outskirts of Baghdad while the Iraqi army collapsed.

Service to be held for late University staff member

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A memorial event will be held to honor the memory of a University staff member who passed away on Friday, Feb. 27. A memorandum was sent by Trudy Fernandez, director of Human Resources relations, to University faculty and staff on March 1 to inform them of the event. Analise Dlugasch, who commenced her career at the University in August 2010 working as a student assistant, earned her master’s degree from the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management. “Analise’s sweet nature and generous heart touched all who knew her, and she will be dearly missed,” read Fernandez’s email. According to Jennifer Fernandez, a long-time friend of Analise, in early November of last year, while having dinner with a friend, Analise passed out shortly after experiencing a choking fit. Having suffered cardiac arrest, Analise was later transferred to Baptist Health

South Florida, where she spent some time in a medically-induced coma. She passed away after suffering complications in late February. “[Analise] touched a lot of lives in a lot of different ways,” Jennifer said. In the memorandum, it is mentioned that Dlugasch is survived by her mother and father, Lucie and Philip Dlugasch, a clinical associate professor in the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences, and a doctoral student at the University, respectively. She is also survived by her sisters Lauren and Nicole, and by extended family members and friends. A viewing was held on Sunday, March 1, in Bernardo Garcia Funeral Homes in Miami, FL, along with a mass service on Monday, March 2 in Saint John Neumann Catholic Church. A memorial, titled, “Her Bright Light,” is scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 7 in the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum in the University, located on 10975 SW 17 Street, Miami, FL. The memorial event will feature a silent auction,

in which restaurant gift certificates will be offered alongside a sculpture by artist Romero Britto and other items, according to Jennifer. The memorial is sponsored by the Unbridled Spirit Society, an organization that seeks to provide the means of assistance to families and individuals through equine association, according to the organization’s web page. According to Jennifer, a portion of the proceeds will go toward educating restaurant personnel how to be better prepared to handle choking and other emergency situations. The event will last from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. According to the memorandum, the Dlugasch family has requested that, in place of flowers, donations be submitted on behalf of Analise to www.unbridledspiritsociety.org. Standard donations are set at \$75. Those interested in more information should contact Trudy Fernandez at 305-348-0101. “No matter what room she walked into, she lit it up,” Jennifer said.

Panel on immigration reform

CUBA, PAGE 1

Center; and Dahlia Walker-Huntington, an immigration lawyer. Wenski will be discussing moral issues in the immigration legislation, while Metellus and Walker-Huntington will be discussing the varied immigrant groups affected by the possible reform and the roles of lawyers as they interpret and implement immigration law. Among the speakers considered for the event was Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL), who co-teaches a political science course at the University, along with Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director for Political Science Dario Moreno. A topic that has been discussed heavily, immigration reform is not only a timely topic, but also a very important topic to the South Florida community and to the University. On Wednesday, Feb. 25, Obama was on campus to hold a town hall meeting, in which the discussion revolved around immigration reform in the United States. According to the Migration Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., the state of Florida is the fifth state with the largest population of eligible immigrants -- with over 253,000 candidates who can apply for relief from deportation through the Deferred Action program, an initiative by the government that seeks to temporarily provide relief to immigrant children and parents under unlawful status. This initiative not only helps integrate the large immigrant population, but also keeps families together, which too often consist of undocumented parents and documented children. The University and Miami Dade College were among the first institutions in Florida to allow DREAMers -- students under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program -- to attend and enroll at the in-state tuition rate, giving

many young hopefuls the opportunity to pursue a degree when out-of-state tuition would have served as a deterrent from pursuing opportunities in higher education. For Yusein Gonzalez, junior modern languages major, this is what helped him continue his education. “I’m an immigrant here,” he said. “Without that in-state tuition, I wouldn’t be able to study because there’s no way I can afford out-of-state. I’m glad that FIU incorporated this to its curriculum because it can impact many, many other people like me... that’s why I love Florida. Because I feel at home here and there are many other immigrants.” States like California and Texas have an immigrant population that comes primarily from Mexico, whereas Miami and the state of Florida house an immigrant population that includes groups who migrate from various countries across the Caribbean and all of South and Central America. Jorge Duany, director of the Cuban Research Institute and professor of anthropology in the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies, said that this reform can have a huge impact in the community of Miami. Duany also stressed the importance of informing the public about a topic that can affect the dynamic and diverse immigrant community in this region. “This is an important topic to be addressed now, even if there are few expectations that the topic will be addressed in Congress anytime soon,” he said. The panel will take place on Wednesday, March 18 at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. It will be held in the Green Library Room 220 at 2 p.m. It is free and open to the public. *Additional reporting was done by Nicole Montero.*

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Netanyahu won't let the State of Israel be destroyed

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Unfortunately, we live in a country in which everything has become politicized and we sometimes forget the role of our leaders.

We often assume that it is the same in other countries, but it is not. Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin (Bibi) Netanyahu came to the United States in order to address Congress.

Meanwhile President Obama refused to see Netanyahu because he believes this to be a political ploy by the Israeli Prime Minister to garner support for his reelection which will be just a few weeks after his trip to Washington.

However, the Prime Minister of the State of Israel came for the sole purpose of saving the people of his country from complete and utter extermination.

It is important for the American public to understand why this is not a political ploy for increased votes. While his popularity has dwindled since the past summer's war with Hamas, most polls indicate that the Prime Minister will keep his job.

Israel's alliance with the United States is very important to Israeli voters, but going on a diplomatic mission to America is hardly groundbreaking.

“It is important for the American public to understand why this is not a political ploy for increased votes.”

Nearly all Israeli Prime Ministers come here and they are all warmly received, so Israelis don't consider this sort of diplomatic mission as a reflection of Netanyahu's diplomatic prowess.

Prime Minister Netanyahu came to the

United States because at the end of this month, the current nuclear non-proliferation treaty with Iran expires, after which Iran can resume its nuclear weapons program.

He came here to implore Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, to make a deal that will ensure that Iran will not achieve its goal of attaining nuclear weapons.

Netanyahu needed to come here because one nuclear weapon is enough to destroy the entire State of Israel.

There were two main criticisms of Netanyahu's visit to congress. The first being the Boehner invited Bibi without Obama's consent.

While this might not be standard operating procedure, it is not illegal. People tend to overlook the fact that only congress can ratify treaties and only they can remove sanctions.

Netanyahu felt that he needed to come here and appeal to the ruling body of the most powerful nation on earth as well as Israel's closest ally.

Internal American politics aside, if the leader of a country facing destruction is invited to come to congress and plead to the American people, it is obvious that he/she will come and make an appeal to them.

The second criticism of Bibi's visit is that he did not propose a different

“

plan of action. In truth, Netanyahu has been doing so for years.

As he said in front of congress, he wants a path by which the international community can verify that there is no enrichment of nuclear fuel in Iran.

Whether this comes

from a good deal between the governments negotiating in Geneva, with the collapse of the Iranian regime through sanctions or through a military strike, Bibi just wants to make sure that he can verify that no weapons are being built.

Netanyahu has put those three options on the table for years. If neither of the peaceful options work, the alternative is clear, “even if Israel has to stand alone, Israel will stand” he said.

As Prime Minister of the State of Israel, Netanyahu has the obligation to do everything in his power to prevent Iran, a theological dictatorship which funds terrorism world-wide and denies that the Holocaust happened, from developing the means to wipe out Israel.

The idea that Iran will attack Israel is not an irrational fear, but the literal message that the clerical dictator Ayatola Khomeini broadcasts repeatedly to his people through his public speeches, through the state-owned propaganda machine and even Twitter.

Even Saudi Arabia, a historic enemy of Israel, has allowed Israeli planes to pass through Saudi airspace if Israel were to attack Iran because they are also afraid of a nuclear Iran.

Israel is smaller than New Jersey. A 1 megaton nuclear bomb detonated in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem or Haifa would instantly incinerate millions of Israelis and the fallout would kill nearly all men, women and children in the country.

This would not only be a national tragedy for the country but a genocide of the Jewish people less than 70 years since Adolf Hitler unleashed a Holocaust upon us which killed more than six million Jews.

Over half of all the Jews in the world live within the borders of the State of Israel, and they are the target of Iran's nuclear ambition.

PHOTO VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Peaceful negotiations take some more time

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The recent visit of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has gained the attention of U.S. government officials, but not in the way he had hoped.

His motive was to address Congress about Iran and how recent diplomatic talks with the country will not reduce the threat of nuclear warfare.

With elections happening merely weeks from now in Israel, the White House reports that President Obama refuses to meet with Netanyahu during his unapproved visit to prevent him from using the interaction to gain influence within his political campaign.

It is too much of a coincidence that the Prime Minister visits the U.S. during this timeframe and it comes off as a power move to show voters that he could take on foreign policy without fear.

A recent Times of Israel article and his opponent Isaac Herzog warned the Prime Minister not to make the visit since it would cause “strategic damage to Israel's standing and to the relationship with the United States.”

These fears were confirmed when House Speaker John Boehner broke diplomatic protocol by inviting Netanyahu without first

“Netanyahu comes to the United States to speak about peace but has only hurt himself and his people by antagonizing his supporters and enemies.”

consulting with the White House in an effort to further undermine Obama's administration.

Republicans support Netanyahu and advocate for heavier sanctions in Iran so it's no surprise that they invited the Prime Minister in January to further challenge how the President handles foreign policy.

For someone who meant to no disrespect to our president, Netanyahu still accepted the invitation knowing it would create more problems internally and therefore challenging it's strongest international supporter. Nancy Pelosi, the House Democratic Leader, said this visit was “an insult to the intelligence of the United States” and said she was “saddened by the condescension toward our knowledge of the threat posed by Iran.”

According to Reuters, 60 of 234 of the Democratic members of congress were not present in order to boycott this embarrassing political tactic but offered a separate meeting to discuss the deal with the Prime Minister who surprisingly refused. When it comes to politics, actions will always have more weight than simple words.

This is especially true when we realize that the Prime Minister's speech happened at the same time Secretary of State John Kerry is in Geneva to discuss a deal with the Iranian

Foreign Minister which limits Iran's nuclear program in exchange for lifting sanctions that have crippled the Iranian economy.

Iran has said that it's involvement with nuclear energy is to produce electricity-like every other country that has similar programs-and are open to speaking about regulations and checks that would be put into place to ensure that no nuclear weapons were being developed.

The fact is, if there is no deal then the nuclear program will still work to it's full capacity and the “future” Netanyahu fears will only happen faster.

It shows that Netanyahu has no trust in our President and has taken it upon himself to interfere and potentially sabotage any progress made even though Obama agrees Iran shouldn't have nuclear weapons. As he said in his speech, “we're better off without [the deal.]

So having flown all the to the United States, you would hope that Netanyahu would bring something more than this political theater spectacle but if you look over the transcript of his speech you'll find he provides no clear alternatives.

Former U.S. Ambassador of Israel Martin Indyk who had worked with Netanyahu in the past said “The prime minister should say not only what is wrong with the deal, but how to

get from where we are today to a deal that he could accept.”

Aside from this, Israel is developing a counter plan by secretly meeting with Saudi Arabia and planning an attack if it falls through according to The Sunday Times in Britain.

Additionally, Israel is believed to have possession of nuclear power with over 80-100 nuclear warheads, with fissile material (the key element for making nuclear weapons) for an additional 200 ever since U.S. intelligence discovered it's first nuclear facility in 1960.

This means even if Iran had time to develop a nuclear weapon, Israel already has a strong enough military presence and over \$20 billion in U.S. aid to be able to combat this threat and it deters Iran from beginning a war it would lose almost immediately.

Netanyahu comes to the United States to speak about peace but has only hurt himself and his people by antagonizing his supporters and enemies.

When it comes to the delicate situation in the Middle East, the path of peace is indeed the road less travelled and the Prime Minister needs to place more trust in U.S. and these negotiations before he starts making demands of his own.

PHOTO VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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ANA ARENAS/THE BEACON

PANTHER SPOTLIGHT

Yiranny Guzman, communications arts alumna, is an aspiring fashion stylist, whose ambition for all things fashion and fervent interest in art, design, and communication has driven her and her best friend to launch a fashion and lifestyle blog.

“In every era of life, communication has been an important aspect of our society’s creation and development. Language, in particular, is one of the principal tools we use to engage and interact with others. As theorist Barnett Pearce claimed through his Coordinated Management of Meaning theory, language is ‘the single most powerful tool that humans have ever invented for the creation of social worlds.’ In the same way, much of social world is stimulated by the individual and collective styles we project - forms of expression, character, speech, writing, mode of living, and the very thing and phenomena that inspires me -fashion,” Guzman said.

Assistant Director creates hybrid Zumba boxing class at Rec Center

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While most students are in class or having lunch on a Wednesday afternoon, Recreation Services Assistant Director Lia Giannine and her class are moving their bodies to heart-pounding dance and latin beats, working on their jab-cross combinations and stomping their feet in a club-like atmosphere.

Is it Zumba? Kickboxing? Neither. Both. These are some of the sights and sounds of Giannine’s new Zumba boxing class being offered at the Recreation Center.

Giannine is currently the FIU Recreational Services Assistant Director of Fitness.

If you have taken an aerobic

class at “The Rec” chances are she is a familiar face. Some of her weekly classes include Zumba, Kickboxing, Total-Body, Cardio-Sculpt, Spinning, Hip-Hop and now Zumba boxing, a heart pounding combination of zumba, cardio and kickboxing.

As a new class to the rec center, Giannine promises it is a fun switch for anyone who is stuck in a workout slump.

“It’s something new, and that’s what I like most about it. Sometimes workouts get repetitive and I’m the kind of person who likes to switch it up,” Giannine said.

The 50-minute class is offered at the rec center Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m..

“It’s intense and it’s so much fun and fast-paced. I like to make it

into a club-like atmosphere and that makes the time fly,” Giannine said.

Giannine is no stranger to high intensity workouts. While pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Health Science Education at the University of Florida, she joined her first collegiate recreational class at the age of 17, a hip-hop dance class under the University’s group fitness program called Gator Funk.

“It was a lot of fun,” Giannine said. “I was basically just looking for something to do in my spare time and I really enjoyed it. It opened up a lot of doors for me.”

Giannine enjoyed it so much that it wasn’t long before she joined an 8-week fitness training class to obtain her fitness instructor certification.

Giannine was one of only six

selected for the certificate and has kept herself busy ever since.

As she moved on to obtain her master’s degree in exercise and sports science, she began teaching. Everything from kickboxing, total body, cardio blast, interval training, step, spinning and even Gator Funk, at her Alma Mater until 2007.

“Gator Funk was always my favorite. I still run into people that took my class more than a decade ago.”

To start a new chapter in her life, Giannine moved to Miami. In July 2010, she applied for a fitness coordinator position and joined the FIU recreational family.

“I wanted to get out of Gainesville and live somewhere else ... I still wanted to stay in the same field, so I applied for a job at

FIU, and here I am almost 5 years later.”

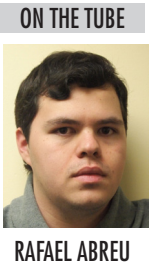
Despite her energy-demanding job as a fitness coach and her busy schedule, Giannine is happy to do what she loves every day.

She is passionate about her career and relies on the energy of her students to keep her going.

Giannine is also a doctoral student at FIU and is recruiting volunteers for a research study examining the relationship between physical activity, self-concept and sexual behavior for which anyone can volunteer.

“Health is just so relevant to every aspect of human life,” Giannine said. “I got to learn about nutrition, drugs and sexual behavior. What is more interesting than that?”

‘Last Man on Earth’ tackles isolation with comedy



RAFAEL ABREU

Created by and starring Will Forte, “The Last Man on Earth” is about... the last man on Earth. There is, of course, more to it than that, but I don’t want to go into spoiler territory just yet.

However, I can say that the premise itself really is that simple: Phil Miller, played by Forte, is the last man on Earth after a virus has somehow killed off everyone else in the world (or at least the USA).

The first episode, Alive in

Tucson, was directed by Phil Lord & Christopher Miller, the duo behind The Lego Movie and 21 and 22 Jump Street, and written by Forte. It worked so well on its own that it could have been its own short film.

However, this is supposed to be a series, so something does in fact happen that leads to episode two, The Elephant in the Room, also directed by Lord & Miller. The premiere is an hour long as a result, but doesn’t skip a beat in transition, so I give them an extra dose of kudos for not doing the

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MIDWEEK MAYHEM



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Payton Paliakoff, junior studying Criminal Justice, DJs for the Mid week Mayhem event at Lakeview North on Wednesday, March 4.

Father John Misty creates mystifying album

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It's rare that an album tackles a subject matter as cliché as love with such creative elegance. Joshua Tillman, also known by his pseudonym Father John Misty, has managed to create a record as equally clever as it is heartfelt and cynical.

His musical prowess should come as no surprise judging by his past work as a former member of Fleet Foxes who are known for their larger-than-life sound, or by his work as a singer/songwriter with half a dozen albums of emotional and personal folk songs akin to his contemporaries Bon Iver or Iron and Wine.

"I Love You, Honeybear" is J. Tillman's sophomore album under the Father John Misty name and is arguably his most ambitious work yet. His first album "Fear Fun" marked the transition from his barebones acoustic approach to a grander and more psychedelic approach to folk music.

Instrumentally, "I Love You, Honeybear" is reminiscent of Beck's 2002 masterpiece: "Sea Change." The usual mix of rock instrumentation is coupled with lush strings, carefully layered vocals and horns.

What is most impressive is the way in which Tillman's soulful vocals and orchestral support combine to create soaring crescendos which lead to equally wondrous choruses. This songwriting approach is a risky one, due to the fact that it places a strong emphasis on the lyrics (which is one of the best aspects of the record).

The album contains themes of alienation ("True Affection"), bitterness ("The Night Josh Tillman Came to Our Apartment") and

honest, affectionate, love ("Chateau Lobby #4" and "When You're Smiling and Astride Me"). While his presentation may be unorthodox, his oddball personality really shines through in this album, while never coming across as uncaring or disingenuous.

The few songs that take a break from the motif of love and heartbreak (namely "Bored in the USA" and "Holy S**t") instead act as a commentary on modern day society.

"They gave me a useless education / and a subprime loan / on a craftsman home / keep my prescriptions filled / and now I can't get off / but I can kind of deal / oh, with being bored in the USA" J. Tillman cried out, as he is ironically mocked by the laughter of what appears to be a recording of a live studio audience. The end result of these songs is poignant and intelligent rather than overly judgmental.

Part of the experience of this album comes from the packaging of the physical media release. Both the CD and vinyl versions include pop-up artwork and a booklet of "Listening Exercises" which is both miserable and ridiculously hilarious. The exercise for the song "The Night Josh Tillman Came to Our Apartment" is a sarcastic fill-in-the-blank about a man (presumably J. Tillman himself) and his encounter with someone from his past.

We are not even a quarter of the way through the year but I can already guarantee that "I Love You, Honeybear" will be regarded as one of the best albums of 2015.

Artist: Father John Misty
Album: "I love you, Honeybear"
Rating: 4.5/5

'Last Man on Earth' gives comic relief to a stressful situation

TV, PAGE 4

whole one-hour-special-but-still-individual-credits-for-both-episodes thing.

As for the show itself, it's so far a great mixture of comedy and tragedy, showing some hilarious hijinks coupled with serious moments of sadness. In a world where it seems that there's no one else around, what would the last man on Earth do?

But even though we expect a lot of doom and gloom, it's barely there. The show mostly sticks to comedy and succeeds pretty well. It's also strongly anchored on the acting of Will Forte, which definitely works for this sort of show. Its aim is not to be super dark and gritty, so Forte and his hilarity are welcomed and

amusing to see.

Even the more serious moments are believable, especially in the first episode where Phil spends his birthday alone, flashbacking to when there were real friends and family celebrating alongside him.

Things might be cool and fun at first, but there's ultimately no escaping the cold truth that he's alone may never see another human again.

That's as far as the first episode goes, it worked very well on its own and set up expectations for the coming airings. The second episode changes things up a bit, throwing more challenges at our main character while bringing up questions about what one does in a situation like this.

The show does a

surprisingly good job raising questions and sometimes providing more than one answer to each. For example, do certain establishments and rules still matter when there's pretty much no reason to recognize them anymore?

After the conclusion of episode two, I'm really curious as to where this show is headed. With a premise as open as this one, there's no telling what's going to happen, where this character is headed and whether or not he's going to shave his shaggy beard.

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Show:
Last Man on Earth
Network:
FOX
Rating: 4.5/5



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BASEBALL

Portelli and Nunez headline baseball team early on in the new season

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At this point of the season it is a so far so good feel for the FIU baseball team in their 2015 campaign. Coming off a loss to the Miami Marlins in a friendly exhibition the Panthers have an overall record of 7-5.

It's too early to tell still where the Panthers will end up by the end of the season but as of now, the team has a few players that have had a hot start and that hopefully could be impact on the team until the end of the season.

This season, the team as a whole has been competitive game by game and has played hard. That play style has shown due to some Panthers being among the national leaders in different offensive and pitching categories.

Anchoring the batting lineup is outfielder Brian Portelli who leads the nation with 11 doubles in the latest

NCAA statistics. Portelli also leads FIU in a lot of major offensive statistics with 17 hits, 11 RBI and a .609 slugging percentage.

Portelli has an impressive .370 batting average which is good enough to be second on the team.

The only player with a better batting average is catcher Zach Soria who has started the season with a .417 average.

With Portelli leading the way hitting doubles consistently, FIU is second in the nation in the category with 30.

The baseball team has managed to hang in there with the better hitting teams in the nation.

At first by seeing the team collectively has a .266 team batting average it would seem FIU struggles offensively, but that's not the case here.

The Panthers are 40th in the nation out of 301 teams with 110 hits.

Also, FIU is 26th in the nation with 78 runs scored, 46



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Senior infielder Julius Gaines slides into home plate to score against Manhattan college. The Panthers won that 4-game series with three wins.

of those runs coming from the Manhattan series. Mississippi State leads the nation with 115 runs scored.

On the other side of the

game, FIU pitching has been able to limit teams hitting and scoring runs which is why they are fourth in the nation with three shutouts.

TCU, Bradley and California State Northridge are the only schools with more shutouts with four. Leading the rotation so far this season is

freshman right- hander Andres Nunez, who not many fans expected as the pitcher leading the rotation so far this season.

He has had two starts and four appearances overall and throughout that time he has allowed zero earned runs in 16 2/3 innings to place in a tie with 42 other pitchers for the national ERA lead.

Nunez has had exceptional control only walking one batter in all the innings he has worked. What has made Nunez even more dominant is that he has not allowed many runners to reach base and a factor for that he has kept opposing hitters to a .153 batting average.

Hopefully FIU can continue this impressive play and become a force in Conference USA.

The Panthers have a three game series versus the University of Connecticut this weekend and after that have only one more non- conference game until they kick off conference play March 13 against Southern Mississippi.

GOLF

Panthers look to keep momentum going after first victory

RAYMOND SIXTO
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On Friday, March 6, the Panthers will continue their season by playing in the 2015 SunTrust Gator Women's Invitational at the Mark Bostick Golf course. Here's a small preview of each team in the tournament:

Florida International University

The Panthers have been in six tournaments this season. They're coming off their first overall team victory at the Amelia Island Collegiate tournament. The team is led by junior Meghan MacLaren who began the season by winning the Mary Fossum Invitational.

She has finished in the top ten of every tournament but one this year. She also has a team best stroke average of 71.94.

University of Arizona

The Wildcats have already participated in seven tournaments so far this season.

Their best finish as a team was when they came in second place at the Annika Intercollegiate. The team is led by senior Manon Gidali who leads the team with a 73.50 stroke average.

University of Central Florida

The Knights have played in six tournaments this season. Their best finish

was third place at the UCF Challenge.

They are led by sophomore Ashley Holder who has a team best 72.60 stroke average.

Clemson University

The Tigers have played in six tournaments this year. They haven't fared well all season finishing in the bottom tier of all their tournaments so far. The team is led by sophomore Lauren Salazar who has a team-high stroke average of 75.44.

University of Denver

The Pioneers have been in six tournaments this year. Their best finish as a team was third place at the Golfweek Conference Challenge. The team is coming off an eleventh place finish at the Tulane Allstate Sugar Bowl Invitational.

University of Florida

The Gators have played in six tournaments this year.

Their best finish was a tie for second place in the Tulane Allstate Sugar Bowl Invitational. Sophomore Kelly Grassel leads the team with a 74.60 stroke average.

Florida State University

The Seminoles have played in six

tournaments this season. Their best finish came at the Mo Morial Invitational. Sophomore Lydia Gumm has a team high 73.18 stroke average.

Georgia Regents University

The Jaguars have played in five tournaments this year. They already have one overall team victory at the Lady Pirate Intercollegiate. It was one of four top five finishes overall by the team this year.

Kent State University

The Flash have played in six tournaments this year. Their best performance was at the Mercedes Benz Intercollegiate as they finished in third place. The team has finished in the top ten of all their tournaments so far this season.

University of Missouri

The Tigers have been in seven tournaments this year. They won the Johnnie Imes Invitational that was hosted by them earlier this year. The team has three other overall top ten finishes this year.

North Carolina State University

The Wolfpack have played in four tournaments this year. Their best finish was at the Tar Heel Invitational when they finished in third place. They are led by

Senior Augusta James who has a team best stroke average of 72.44.

Ohio State University

The Buckeyes have played in five tournaments this year. They won the Chip-N-Club Invitational to start the year. The team is led by senior Jan Chanpalangstri who has a team best stroke average of 73.76.

Penn State University

The Nittany Lions have been in five tournaments this year. They came in sixth at the Nittany Lion Invitational. The team is led by Senior Ellen Ceresko who has a team best stroke average of 72.67.

University of Texas at San Antonio

The Roadrunners have been in five tournaments this year. Their best finish was a tie for seventh at the Mo Morial Invitational. The team is led by junior Brogan Townend who has a team best stroke average of 75.92.

Tulane University

The Green Wave have played in six tournaments this year. Their best finish was tied for first place, coming at the Betsy Rawls Longhorn Invitational.

They have four other top ten finishes as a team this year.

FOOTBALL

Football welcomes Ron Cooper as new assistant head coach for 2015

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The extremely active off-season for FIU football continues as they have announced the addition of Ron Cooper to the coaching staff as assistant head coach.

Cooper, who will also coach the defensive secondary, brings a lot of coaching experience to FIU, having been a coach at the collegiate level for over 30 years.

He began coaching in 1983, one year after his playing career at Jacksonville State University, where he was a four-year letterwinner and two-time Gulf South

Conference champion, ended. The first job he had was as a graduate assistant with Appalachian State University.

and University of South Carolina.

He had three different stints as a head coach at Eastern Michigan

professionally in the National Football League as the defensive backs coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

“

I had the privilege of working with him at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, so I saw first-hand how he works and how he coaches. He is a very good teacher and very good with the players.

Ron Turner
Head Coach
FIU Football”

Throughout his career, Cooper has been part of the coaching staff at schools including Louisiana State University, University of Wisconsin-Madison,

University, University of Louisville, and Alabama A&M University, where he compiled a 45-55 record.

During the 2012 season, Cooper coached

He and FIU head coach Ron Turner actually worked together in Tampa, and clearly Cooper left a positive impression on Turner.

“I’m excited about Ron Cooper,” Turner said. “I had the privilege of working with him at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, so I saw first-hand how he works and how he coaches. He is a very good teacher and very good with the players. Coach Cooper brings a tremendous amount of experience having been a head coach and a coordinator during his career. He will be an excellent addition to our defensive staff.”

Cooper shares Turner’s excitement as he prepares to begin working with the Panthers.

“I’m excited about being here,” Cooper said. “I’ve known Coach Turner for years and worked with him in Tampa. He’s

done some great things in rebuilding this program over the past couple of years. I’m excited about having the chance to coach these players. I’m looking forward to doing it and feeling real good about it.”

Most recently, Cooper spent the 2013 and 2014 seasons as the defensive backs coach at the in-state rival University of South Florida.

In addition to the hiring of Cooper, it was also announced that assistant coach Tem Lukabu will be coaching the defensive line, and defensive coordinator Matt House will coach the linebackers.

SOFTBALL

Softball hosts the Thundering Herd of Marshall University for weekend series

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Coming off a victorious weekend for the FIU softball team in the Felsberg Invitational, we look forward to this upcoming weekend when the Panthers (15-8) host the Marshall Thundering Herd (13-5) in the first Conference USA series of the season.

Saturday will be the start of the three game set with a double header at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m..

Sunday, the FIU softball team will be featured on FOX Sports at 1 p.m.

Offensively, sophomore Stephanie Texeira is a team leader in almost every category including batting average (.528), slugging percentage (1.057), hits (28), RBIs (26), home runs (6), walks (19), and total bases (56).

Sophomore Ashley Leon is right behind her with a batting average of

.391 and 25 hits.

Senior Krystal Garcia has also been making quite a huge impact offensively with a slugging percentage of .523, 19 hits, 9 RBIs, 3 triples, 2 home runs, and 34 total bases.

Defensively, the Panthers have junior ace Corrine Jenkins (8-5) with a 2.57 ERA and 51 strikeouts alongside senior Shelby Graves (4-3) with 32 strikeouts and an ERA of 4.48.

The Thundering Herd have a very young team and only three pitchers with their ace being sophomore Jordan Dixon (12-5) with a 2.39 ERA.

Leading the Herd offensively is sophomore Morgan Zerkle with a slugging percentage of .641 and 11 RBIs.

The FIU softball team is a very promising young team that could take the lead in the conference after this series with the Thundering Herd.



MARIA SOLEDAD LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Sophomore infielder Ashley Leon slaps a base hit opposite field to get on base and start a rally for the softball team.

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MAST students prepare to race electric car

MARIA SOLEDAD LORENZINO
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The streets of downtown will close later this month to host an environmentally conscious race series.

Among the competitors is MAST @ FIU.

Almost a month after building an electric car, the high school students will watch their creation race in the Formula E School Series in downtown Miami on Saturday, March 14.

The FE School Series is part of the 2014/2015 FIA Formula E Championship, the world's first fully-electric racing series, according to their website. Miami is the fifth location out of 10 in the series.

FIU's School of Journalism and Mass Communication's Eye on the Rise initiative is co-sponsoring the MAST @ FIU students' participation in the race.

Eyes on the Rise is a project funded by a \$35,000 Challenge Fund for Innovation in Journalism Education grant to SJMC professors Robert Gutsche, Kate MacMillin, Susan Jacobson and Juliet Pinto.

The Eye on the Rise team works with MAST @ FIU to conduct research and reporting on sea level rise.

"A lot of the communication

that we have been doing has focused on the problems of sea level rise and the problems of the government trying to keep up with it," Gutsche said. "This event is an example of the positive or solution-based initiatives that we can be doing as a way to recognize sea level rise."

MAST @ FIU student Reunie Faustin agrees with Gutsche that the project and the race will raise interest for every day electric car use.

"I feel like this is something we should have already been doing. If you look at it now, the coal that we use and all these other non-renewable resources, they're making the earth not as good as it used to be," Faustin said. "By going into renewable sources, we're helping the earth cleanse itself."

MAST @ FIU will compete against nine other local schools.

Each school received a kit to build their own electric car from Greenpower UK, a charity organization with interest in promoting careers in engineering and sustainability to young people, according to the Formula E website.

The schools will first compete in a 20 minute practice and qualifying round, and the qualifying teams will race in the final 20 minute race.

The teams must not only keep in mind their speed, but their car's



MARIA SOLEDAD LORENZINO/THE BEACON

MAST @ FIU technology teacher John Zoeller reads instructions to his students as the begin building an electric car on Saturday, Feb. 14. The MAST @ FIU team will watch their car race through the streets of downtown Miami in the Formula E School Series on Saturday, March 14.

energy efficiency.

To participate in the project, MAST @ FIU technology teacher John Zoeller selected students who have demonstrated the most initiative, independence and work ethic.

"I think they're going to have a great experience at this event. Because it's a race, it's a competition and they want to

win," Zoeller said. "What I'm more interested in is teaching them a process; following instructions, tools, equipment, documentation."

And while the students learn, Gutsche believes the race serves a larger purpose in raising awareness.

"Getting students to learn how to do the engineering behind things like this is a way for us

to communicate to society that there are things we can do at this point," Gutsche said. "We can't stop sea level rise but we can try to slow down effects by using these new forms of technology and innovation."

MAST @ FIU is in the process of selecting the student who will drive the car in the race, according to Zoeller.

SOBEWFF students come back stronger

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For South Beach Wine & Food Festival students, the experience of working next to culinary experts is unforgettable. Yet for student Daniela Malabad, losing her car keys in the beach was no highlight.

Malabad, a senior French major, was one of the thousand of students who volunteer at the SOBEWFF, a national four-day event hosted by the University and Southern Wine & Spirits of Florida. Each year, more than \$2 million are raised for the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management.

According to Richard Lopez, Student Associate Program Events Manager at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, a number of this year's money collected from the festival has yet to be finalized.

Last month, students from the Chaplin School, to engineering and business majors, participated in different areas of the festival through the SOBEWFF Ambassador Program. Some worked at guest services and logistics, as well as culinary and event production.

"It was hopeless," Malabad said. "It's sand, so by the end of the event, after like four hours, they're going to be at the bottom somewhere."

The program also gives students the

opportunity to receive scholarships. According to Lopez, the actual award amount depends on the number of shifts the student covers during the festival.

Despite Malabad's unfortunate incident, she said attending over 2,000 people at the festival taught her to remain calm under pressure. She said working at guest services with University foreign exchange students was a challenge.

"I learned that simplicity is key," Malabad said. "When you've got so many people going in and out, you just have to keep things short to the point."

For Sylvia de Ovin-Berenguer, a masters student at the Chaplin School,

SOBEWFF for the past three years. At last month's festival, she was product coordinator and supervised all the beverage products for the event.

"Every year is a different adventure. [There are always] different challenges, and even if it's the same old challenges, you find different way to tackle them," Ovin-Berenguer said.

"If you do mess up, you have to resolve it immediately. If not, it's so detrimental to the rest of the festival experience," she said. She also said that working at a high-volume traffic of people all while doing it "gracefully", proves great problem-solving skills.

This year, she worked alongside Lead Culinary Instructor Michael Moran at the Chaplin School to help coordinate operations for the festival's opening event.

Torres said what was most surprising at the event was to see culinary students who come from studying to be doctors, engineers and accountants, for example.

"You realize [that] you know this is an industry of just fun people and doing different things, and it's always nice," Torres said.

Torres agrees that working on your feet to fix problems is important. Ironically, she said she enjoyed when things went wrong during her time at the festival because they challenged her.

"I love when things go wrong as bad as it sounds," Torres said. "Because it's always how are you going to solve it and then once you get over that little bump, it's always nice to say, 'Yeah you know, we got over it, we did it, on to the next one.'"

Torres said her favorite moment was just watching how students would dance under the live music and engage with guests. Everyone had a great time.

"I'm very prideful. FIU has done so many great things," Torres said. "We've assisted in the wine and food festival for so many years that you know things can only get better from here."

“Every year is a different adventure. [There are always] different challenges, and even if it's the same old challenges, you find different way to tackle them.”

Sylvia de Ovin-Berenguer
Student
Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management

the festival is about the opportunities that come with working next to professionals and not so much for the monetary compensation.

Ovin-Berenguer has volunteered at

Adelynn Torres, a senior culinary management major, said volunteering at SOBEWFF assured her that working in the culinary field is what she wants to do in the future.