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## The Beacon, March 20, 2015

Florida International University

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## Suicide Walk coming to FIU this weekend

**NICOLE MONTERO**  
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Mikaila Berkman lost her best friend to suicide six years ago.

Since then, Berkman, a student majoring in hospitality and a building monitor at the University's Graham Center in the Modesto A. Maidique and, has made it her goal to spread awareness and make the topic of suicide "less taboo."

"He was 21 days away from his twenty-first birthday," she said. "It was probably one of the hardest things I've ever been through... Two years after it happened, I did a [suicide awareness] walk in San Francisco that really helped me."

When Berkman moved to Florida, she tried finding similar campus walks at different universities.

She had no such luck.

Last year, she reached out to the University's External Relations office to try to get one incorporated at the University.

"External Relations told me that it's this whole big production and they would have to shut down the school, so I just said, 'Never mind,'" Berkman said. "Then this year the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention reached out to me and we figured out a way to produce a walk inside the school – that way it wouldn't be this huge thing."

AFSP, a leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to preventing suicide, is sponsoring this year's walk.

Adriana Trespalacios, assistant director of operations for GC and

chair for the event, believes that this walk will open up discussion about mental illness.

"I went through an experience with my father and I learned that it is something that people just don't like to talk about," she said. "It's also something that, unfortunately, is happening a lot in all universities. It's a big issue among college students."

According to the American Association of Suicidology, suicide is the second leading cause of death among young attending colleges and universities in the United States. The study states that 33 percent of undergraduate and graduate students have considered attempting suicide at least once and over 30 percent of students have reported having suicidal ideations.

"People have said to me things like, 'It's been 20 years and now is when I can actually say the word out loud,'" said Trespalacios. "People have been taught to not talk about it and I think this walk will stop that. This is an opportunity to meet people who have been through very similar experiences, people who have felt the same pain and who have had to cope with the same thing."

To ensure that happens, Trespalacios and her team will be giving out colored beads to attendees.

"Everyone who's wearing a red bead means that they've lost a parent, everyone who's wearing a blue bead means they've had an experience with a sibling and so on," she said. "You'll get to share your stories and help each other because you'll see who has been through what."

## LETTUCE GO GREEN



KITTYA HARRIS/THE BEACON

Students line up to get free healthy food at the Lettuce Go Green event on Tuesday, March 17. The event taught students how to live a sustainable lifestyle.

The event will serve as a fundraiser for AFSP – with a goal of raising at least \$5,000.

So far, they've raised \$4,590.

"Now, it's just about raising awareness," said Berkman. "If there's even one student that's teetering on the thoughts [of suicide] and they come out and talk and that life is saved, then it's absolutely worth it. It's OK to talk about this. And it's important that people can have easily-accessible places to go to do this."

Berkman has been in both sides of issue and has contemplated suicide.

"I've been there. I can personally say I've been there," she said. "But I've also been on the other side and

it's devastating to your family and to your friends and, trust me, you will be missed... Talk. Reach out. It gets better."

Lisa Varela, a sophomore engineering major, is looking forward to the event.

"Suicide affects everyone and we should all care enough to support this walk," she said. "I'm really glad that FIU was able to do this because I'm sick of everyone shying away from the topic of mental illness. I'm looking forward to some change in the University and I think that this event is the perfect way to start it."

The planning for the walk began in February. Currently, there are over

290 people registered for the event.

Registration is still open and will close before the walk at 10 a.m. To register, go to [afsp.donordrive.com/event/fiu/](http://afsp.donordrive.com/event/fiu/).

The walk will be held on Saturday, March 21 in the GC Lawn at 10 a.m.

"Don't ever assume that the other person's issue is not a big deal. Even if it's not important to you, don't brush it off," said Trespalacios. "Always be someone's angel. You never know how much a smile can mean for that other person and it can really save a life... Suicide is extremely preventable and, with the right help and sources, it should not be happening."

## President and CEO of Miami Dade County Fair & Exposition, Inc. on FIU's expansion

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Founded in June 1965, the University began with just one building: the abandoned Tamiami Airport's traffic control tower.

Fifty years later, the University has grown to acquire various campuses, regional centers, international campuses and a student body of nearly 54,000.

And at present, the University has no plans to halt its continuous expansion anytime soon.

According to Robert Hohenstein, president and chief executive officer of The Miami Dade County Fair & Exposition, Inc., roughly five years ago the University began discussions of expanding onto its adjacent land, where the The Fair currently resides.

The Miami Dade County Fair is a private non-profit organization whose mission statement is "to enrich its community by promoting education and South Florida agriculture while showcasing youth achievement," according to its website.

The Fair has been on the Tamiami land for 43 years and, according to [bizjournals.com](http://bizjournals.com), it's

the largest fair in Florida in terms of attendance.

According to Hohenstein, although The Fair is a yearly event in spring that lasts 21 days, the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition, Inc. is a year-round business.

"This is not just a Youth Fair over here," Hohenstein told Student Media. "We do about 70 exposition events here -- trade shows, festivals, christmas parties, corporate addresses and police use the land for training."

Last fiscal year, which ended June 2014, it hosted over 915,000 guests through their exposition business.

On November 4, 2014, the community had a vote regarding the University's expansion onto the occupied adjacent land.

The community spoke, and 65 percent of voters voted in favor of the expansion.

"I'm so excited that the community supported us," said Alexis Calatayud, Student Government Association president at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. "[First,] we need to put together the money to relocate [The Fair]... the second opportunity is that we need to negotiate another site for the fair to move to."

The Fair & Expo Center holds a lease agreement with the County that is valid until

2085 and Hohenstein states that the November decision is not a mandate for The Fair to move or for the University to start expanding.

According to the cancellation clause on the lease, the lease may be terminated or cancelled for the public interest. The County must give the tenant, in this case The Fair, three years' written notice and must first provide a secure and equal, or better, alternate site in Miami-Dade County.

The lease also states that, in the event that The Fair moves, the County must pay to the tenant all moving expenses.

"Our lease is with the County, if the County wants to break the lease before 2085, they know the ramifications," Hohenstein said. "Financially, they are not going to break the lease until the University finds a site that we like and are agreeable to... The money to pay for it and none of those [other] things are close to happening."

According to the Miami-Dade County Fair & Expo Relocation Study, there have been three places that the University, The Fair and the County have taken into consideration for the relocation.

These places include the Graham Site, located in the Hialeah/Miami Lakes area; the

Homestead Site; and the Sun Life Site, located around the land of the Sun Life Stadium.

According to Hohenstein, none of the three proposed sites measured up to The Fair's current site.

Hohenstein said that the Homestead Site is outside the development boundary and the mayor doesn't want The Fair to leave a central part of the County. He also said that the Sun Life Site is too small to accommodate the largest fair in Florida and that the Graham Site had much potential, but was too expensive for the University to pay.

"We'll just continue to have conversations and talk, we all know what our responsibilities are," he said. "We are not going to abrogate our rights under the terms and conditions on the lease."

According to [expand.fiu.edu](http://expand.fiu.edu), the University plans to use the fairgrounds for the construction of an incubator entrepreneurship and data center, additional housing, expansion of STEM programs and green space.

When contacted for further contacts on the expansion, the University's Office of Media Relations submitted an email with frequently asked questions on the issue.



# Department of the Interior inaugurates Youth Initiative



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# NERD CULTURE...

## *Nerd culture is fake Nerd is the word, and that's okay*

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It's fascinating to see how something that used to be considered nerdish suddenly becomes cool once it hits the mainstream. Look at the term nerd, for instance. When used, it could mean you are really smart, but it's still used as a degrading and cruel word to bully someone.

However this word has suddenly become a "cool" phrase.

Celebrities walking around wearing shirts with comments such as, "I Love Nerds" and stating in interviews that they consider themselves nerds is probably the reason for the word's newfound popularity, leading to stores that target young adults selling shirts with pictures of Hello Kitty wearing glasses with "nerd" sprawled across it with other accessories used as nerdy self-identifiers.

A campaign against bullying is a great thing, but changing the meaning of a word that is constantly used to bully, in my opinion, will not stop the act of bullying. Maybe this campaign is meant to aid the self-confidence of those who have suffered from or are currently being bullied. The thought behind this unofficial campaign could be that, if you give negative word a new, positive meaning, it will stop being negative - but it doesn't work like that. If the word nerd suddenly takes on a new connotation, people will just invent another word to replace it. Changing the meaning of words isn't going to stop bullying, it's just going to make the bullies have to think and come up with a new cruel word to use.

In fact, this campaign to make "nerd" a positive word might be doing more harm than good. I can imagine that anyone who has been called

someone who had been called that in the past. While it gave someone grief, it's a source of amusement for someone else. In my book, that still sounds like bullying if you're deliberately saying it in front of someone you know has suffered from the name-calling.

Friendly name-calling is fine when both parties are okay with it and know it's not meant literally, but if one of the two takes it the wrong way, it becomes bullying.

It seems silly to think that bullying would transcend high school and into university but it does. It even translates into the workforce.

Just because someone graduates from high school doesn't mean they suddenly change their ways. Yes, people change, but it doesn't happen overnight. Change takes time.

It doesn't matter if we're out of high school, it doesn't matter if you're now a part of the workforce or if you're finally graduating into the "real world," you have to remember that words can still hurt.

Saying you're an adult and being one is two completely different things. Bullying will never go away, to think otherwise is foolish, but it can be lessened.

People like to think they don't imitate what they see on TV or in movies, but the truth is, sometimes we do - even if we don't realize it. Instead trying to change the meaning of words like nerd, maybe the campaign should focus on showing more people standing up to bullies in shows and movies. Some of you may be doubtful, but I think this idea could work.

Doesn't hurt to try, right?

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I am a nerd.

Because you are reading this, you are probably a nerd. It's beginning to seem like everyone is a nerd now, and that has the potential to create a wonderful world.

The connotations of words change constantly to match the vernacular, so it isn't a surprise that "nerd" means something different today than it did ten years ago - and it doesn't need to be a bad thing.

Whether it is well-meaning or not, it is more important for the other person's feelings to be respected than it is for you to feel free to call them whatever you want.

For example, describing someone as "cool" used to be somewhat negative. It described a person as standoffish before evolving into a synonym for mysterious, calm or slick. After that, it took on today's use as a compliment for someone hip and enjoyable to be around.

The reclaiming of a term to empower an oppressed group is a very common, effective practice. Words like "bitch" and "slut" have been used to insult women for decades, however, many women have begun using them as terms of endearment. Even this, however, is a disproportionate comparison.

When "nerd" was used in the past to bully smart or counter-culture people, it was a result of distaste toward those who may be seen as different, not as a way to discriminate against a person for

variances in their genetic makeup they have no control over.

That said, it is important to note the fact that some people will never be comfortable with certain terms. Understand and follow people's desires, should they ask you not to call them something. Whether it is well-meaning on your part or not, it is more important for the other person's feelings to be respected than it is for you to feel free to call them whatever you want. This applies to all aspects of social interaction - not just the word "nerd."

When something nerdy hits the mainstream, nerds should rejoice. Be happy for the people who created something that became successful because they poured their hearts and souls into a project.

Keeping something to an esoteric few simply because it's a part of "Nerd Culture" is elitist and against the very values that comprise the movement.

Nerds are supposed to be welcoming to one another, not trying to test whether or not a person is a "true fan." They are a group created as a result of a level of societal exclusion.

Instead of scaring off potential friends by saying a person doesn't meet a certain level of nerdiness, as nerds once did not meet a certain level of popularity, why not let someone call themselves a nerd if they like aspects of the culture? It only creates more people to have something in common with.

Being called a nerd in a new light should not be viewed as a dismissal of those who were bullied in the past, but as an acceptance of oneself.

The mainstream use of "nerd" isn't a clandestine anti-bullying campaign, but an example of the natural evolution of society into a more accepting whole.

To unapologetically and passionately enjoy something, as nerds do, is a beautiful thing, and I think that people are coming to realize that by reimagining the meaning of the word.

ATOM BY TOMASBAT, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## FRANK AND IRENE: The News (is scary)



SAMUEL PRITCHARD/THE BEACON

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Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto: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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## PRESIDENTIAL SPOTLIGHT



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROBERT ANDAI

Florida International University President Mark B. Rosenberg accepted Miami Symphony Orchestra's second annual "Golden Baton" recognition award during Spring break at the Knight Concert Hall at the Adrienne Arsht Center. See the symphony perform at the FIU Wertheim Performing Arts Center, at 6 p.m., Saturday, April 11.

# Study abroad is a big chance for self-discovery

### STORIES ABROAD



ITZEL BASUALDO

Drinking beer in between classes at Fresh Foods – one can only dream.

That's why I left Miami and decided to fly across the Atlantic to the city of Barcelona and study abroad here for a year, where I am fortunate enough to regularly drink beer in between classes.

But this way of life has had its implications, nonetheless.

I am occasionally accidentally groped in the mornings on the subway, I have class at the devil's hour, 8 a.m., in a language which most of America probably doesn't even know exists - Catalan.

I've been pickpocketed twice and the bakery next to my building is responsible for the twelve pounds I've put on over the course of six months. It can't be all fun and games when you're a Miamian studying abroad in Barcelona.

Despite these miniscule financial losses, I have gained not just a great deal of weight but a great deal of life experience by getting as far as way from home possible.

“It's been about seeing life in a different light and walking out the front door with a smile for no apparent reason.”

Alcohol wasn't really my only motive in leaving; after nearly twenty years of Miami, I had been dying to get out of the peninsula and I knew this much-needed break was going to greatly impact my work as an artist and a writer, two

opportunities I couldn't pass out on.

Call me a drama queen, which could be appropriate, but I've always felt like the odd ball growing up, and when I came to Spain, not much changed.

In kindergarten, I felt weird because all of my classmates had brown eyes and my eyes were of a different shade.

I also, usually would have the hardest name to pronounce in class.

Now, again, I was the strange one who somehow had no foreign accent in Spanish or English, who remained primarily stoic during small talk, and spoke of the seemingly beautiful Miami with disdain.

However, the Escola Massana and Barcelona has allowed me to embrace myself by embracing me.

A group of Spaniards from this school have inducted me into their group and, to date, we've travelled to Rome together, played a “truth-or-

dare” that involved a great deal of strip-teasing, sent pictures of each other's feces to each other, made art together and have shared a beer during our lunch break at the coffee shop across the street from school.

We accept each other and our unusual mannerisms; Adelaida's objection to hair removal, Manu's battle with addiction to marijuana and negativity, Raul's benevolent innocence and monkey-like tendencies to climb trees, Judit's apparent asexuality and me for a hair that's neither brown, or green, or blue, or purple or blonde.

Going abroad, for me, has been far more than being of legal drinking age, living in a cool European city and “carpe diem.”

It's been about becoming comfortable in my own skin, detaching from the labels of my nationality and gender, about exchanging anecdotes with the old woman next to me on the subway, about hearing the

sounds of the streets below me and the rhythm of my neighbors life through these thin apartment walls, about understanding cultural differences and about accepting the opposing perspective.

It's been about seeing life in a different light and walking out the front door with a smile for no apparent reason.

About sharing this story with you and encouraging you to take the next flight out of Miami, so you too can enjoy that beer as you walk to class.

*Itzel Basualdo attends two different schools in Barcelona, the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and the Escola Massana, a school exclusively for art and design. Basualdo is double majoring in journalism and fine arts, with a minor in art history. She writes weekly columns for The Beacon about her experiences and encounters abroad.*

## Traffic jam to be expected for Sunday, March 22 near MMC

### NICOLE ZUMMAR

Staff Writer

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On Sunday, March 22, the traffic pattern for state roads 826 and 836—the Palmetto and Dolphin expressways, respectively—will shift. Westbound State Road 836 will close late Saturday and will reopen at 6 a.m. on Sunday in order to affect the least amount of traffic.

The changes concern a switch in the lanes; instead of using the left two lanes of the Dolphin Expressway to exit into 826 North or South, traffic will use the right lanes. For traffic that continues west on 836, it will use the left three lanes instead of the three right lanes the expressway is currently using.

This \$560 million project—which is funded in part by federal stimulus money—began in 2009 and is expected to finish by March 2016. There have been several

previous shifts in the lanes for state roads 826 and 836. In early 2014, the Palmetto and Dolphin expressways were set into the lanes that are currently in place: left for 826 and right for 836.

The new change is expected to bring about confusion for people that tend to traffic these expressways. The 2014 shift increased congestion at the 826-836 intersection, causing many people to arrive late to work, school and other activities. Drivers should expect the same result this year starting Sunday.

However, Oscar Gonzalez, spokesperson for this project, stated that it usually takes drivers only about a week to adjust.

The shift of the lanes will take place after the exit ramp for Northwest 72nd Avenue.

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If interested please contact Lauren Shade, the recruitment director for FIU Student Media, at lauren.shade@fiusm.com or fill out an application in one of the offices - GC 210 or WUC 124 - or at fiusm.com

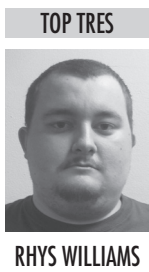


ROLLING, ROLLING, ROLLING



Members of the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity pose with their giant beach on the GC lawn on Tuesday, March 17.

Panda Express is already on top



RHYS WILLIAMS

Food, something we all need and love. There are a decent amount of places on campus to grab a quick bite in between classes, hang out with some friends - or even a particular special friend - and chill out.

Over my time here at FIU I have eaten just about everywhere on campus for some variety and have come up with my top three places to grub out.

Three: Chili's Too

Chili's Too, yes it has the 'too' at the end like you would see because it is an express version of it's much larger counterpart ranks at No. 3 simply

for the reason of the adult beverage options. Good enough to get it in the rankings but not as good or fast as the top two options for me.

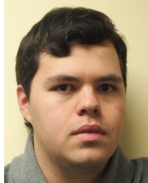
Two: Breezeway P.O.D.

The Breezeway P.O.D. - Provisions On Demand - comes in at No. 2 for convenience in relation to the dorms, where I currently live. It is a great place to get something quickly. "Crack Cookies" are also a big reason.

One: Panda Express

Mango building where the lines move fast and the food is great is home to my top choice. I only recently had Panda Express for the first time and I have already been back on an almost every-other-day basis to grab either lunch or dinner. This leads the way for me even in its infancy.

CULT CLASSICS



RAFAEL ABREU

Based on the popular UK comic strip by John Wagner and Carlos Ezquerra, "Judge Dredd" was released in 1995 and was promptly a failure.

It stars Sylvester Stallone as the titular Dredd, a man who must always remind those around him that "I am the law!"

The film also stars Armand Assante as Rico, Rob Schneider as Fergee, Diane Lane as Judge Hershey and Max von Sydow as Chief Justice Fargo.

"Judge Dredd" has a loose

association with the comic and the film is, above all, over the top. Now, I love over the top. I love it when something is so bad it's good, but sometimes, something is so ridiculous it's fantastic.

While sitting down and enjoying "Judge Dredd," I was able to occasionally see the things viewers would definitely dislike and cite them as things that make the film a bad one.

However, and this may be a flaw within my being, I couldn't help but love all these flaws and everything else in this film.

The actors are so hammy (Stallone and Assante, especially) it elevates the film to a level it probably doesn't deserve.

To be clear: I'm not saying "Judge Dredd" is a good movie, but I'll be hard pressed to pan it. It doesn't deserve praise - although it's visual effects, set design and costumes are pretty good - but maybe all the flaws and "badness" are what make me love it so much.

The film managed to blind me of its flaws and make me fall in love with it. I also don't hate Rob Schneider, so that's a plus.

I'll give "Judge Dredd" some credit: Like I aforementioned, the effects, design and costumes are good and the world that's been realized isn't too bad either (though not entirely fleshed out).

The performances are generally good for this kind of movie, to the

point where it seems many of the actors were aware of what kind of movie they were making. The story also isn't as bad as I thought it would be. It's simple enough to follow and silly enough to go with.

The film is also hilarious, mainly due to its flaws and acting. There's no way the filmmakers, cast and crew didn't know they were making a ridiculous movie, as the finished result clearly demonstrates.

"Judge Dredd" could have probably succeeded in some degree, but its lack of success seems to have been its only success. As a result of it failing to be either straight sci-fi action

or parody thereof - it's a weird mix of the two - it is not only a faint ghost of the actual source material, but an uproarious farce that can't be seen as anything but over the top.

It's everything I could ever want out of a bad movie.

MOVIE:  
Judge Dredd

RATING:  
2/5

Big K.R.I.T.'s "Pay Attention Tour" Hits LMNT

RIVES REVIEWS



VINCENT RIVES

Mississippi artist, Big K.R.I.T. has recently felt the need to prove his worth since his latest release "Cadillactica" dropped November of 2014.

Besides being labeled as one of the victims of Kendrick Lamar's scathing "Control" verse, K.R.I.T. even stated on "Mt. Olympus," that the odds aren't in his favor in regards to being considered the best lyricist in hip-hop because of his southern background.

With that being said, K.R.I.T.'s "Pay Attention Tour" (named after his second single) hit LMNT in Wynwood this past Saturday (March 13, 2014) and much like its title, proved he's not the one to sleep on, but rather to "Pay Attention" to.

The concert hit a bit of a rough start as Texas group Crit Life, who besides having a similar name as the headliner, actually had the crowd on the opposite side of the spectrum.

During their opening performance, the group was met with locals heckling throughout the crowd, which then led to an affiliate of the band throwing water at the hecklers.

Usually performers throw water into the crowd as their energy picks up but in this

case, it was more of a taunt, which led to the individual playing concert vigilante-going into the crowd himself looking for the perpetrator, inciting a brawl at the front of the stage.

Security handled the scuffle swiftly, but the vibe of the crowd was pretty distraught. To little surprise, DJ Dibiase took to the stage to set up, instantly shifting the overall tone of the venue.

Krizzle ran up on the stage, exuding pure adrenaline and performed his high tempo mixtape cut "King Without A Crown". After the song, K.R.I.T. revealed to the crowd that he has not performed in Dade County since 2012. With that being said, he promised to give his fans a memorable performance and he would not let them down.

With much disdain, I felt as if K.R.I.T. was going to only perform songs off his latest release, "Cadillactica," but to my surprise, he performed tracks off both studio albums as well as several of his mixtapes. This led me to the realization that 28-year-old K.R.I.T. has a stronger, more extensive discography than most of his peers.

While performing "Only One" off the mixtape "King Remembered In Time," K.R.I.T. surprised the crowd by bringing out frequent collaborator Smoke DZA. Soon after while performing the title track of the tour, K.R.I.T. brought out Rico Love to



VINCENT RIVES/THE BEACON

Big K.R.I.T. promises the crowd a memorable performance after revealing he has not performed in Dade County since 2012.

serenade the crowd during "Pay Attention."

Late in his set, K.R.I.T. ran off stage and out to an alley outside the venue briefly. He returned to the stage to announce to the crowd that LMNT management had received noise complaints and that his set was to be cut short. In order to soothe the crowd, K.R.I.T. performed an ode to his

deceased grandmother with "The Vent," a soulful cut off the "Return of 4Eva" mixtape, before ultimately finishing the show with the powerful track "Mt. Olympus," where he solidifies his place as a top-tier artist in hip-hop.

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SWIMMING

FIU swimmers save life of a drowning woman

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The fantastic season for the FIU swimming and diving team became even more incredible over Spring Break, as swimmers Chase Harris and Jess Chadwick saved a drowning girl’s life in North Palm Beach.

Harris (freshman) and Chadwick (junior) were spending their time off at John D. MacArthur Park, when they noticed two people trapped in a rip current.

Without any hesitation, the two world-class swimmers jumped in the water to save them.

One of the two civilians who was trapped in the current was a young woman, and despite

Chadwick being “deathly afraid of open water” after getting stung by a jellyfish prior to the 2013-14 season, she swam to the woman and was able to rescue her.

“She was drowning,” Chadwick said, “but I just told her to hold onto my foot and I just swam as fast as I could to shore and pulled her out.”

Unfortunately, despite the amazing display of instinct and heroism by Harris and Chadwick, some tragedy struck as well.

Twenty-one-year-old Dario Williams, the rescued woman’s cousin, was the other person stuck in the rip current.

Harris was fighting off the currents attempting to reach Williams, but she was unable to reach him in time.

“Like, I was 5 feet from the man,” Harris said. “A wave hit and he was under and never popped back up. I swam and swam and swam.”

A fisherman spotted Williams’ body in the water a day later, after a previous search had been unsuccessful.

The death of Williams is terribly unfortunate, but the fact that Harris and Chadwick heroically swam into the water and saved a life can’t be overshadowed or forgotten.

If it wasn’t for the two Division I swimmers and their bravery, two lives would have been lost that day.

Although the heroic efforts of Harris and Chadwick and the extremely unfortunate loss

of Dario Williams are the real important stories here, it is worth noting that two of their teammates are going to be competing in the NCAA Tournament this weekend.

200 IM) will be looking to add even more accolades to what has already been a tremendous season for the swimming and diving team.

“She was drowning but I just told her to hold onto my foot and I just swam as fast as I could to shore and pulled her out.”

Jess Chadwick  
Junior  
FIU Swimming and Diving

Senior Johanna Gustafsdottir (200 and 400 IM event, 200 breaststroke) and freshman Silvia Scalia (100 and 200 backstroke,

Though times for each event differ, the tournament begins on Thursday, March 19th, and ends on Saturday, March 21st.

CLUB SPORTS

Continuing to play America’s favorite past time

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It’s not easy to give up playing your favorite sport, especially when you played it at a young age. Baseball may come to mind when you think about the sport you played in your livelihoods. And that’s how the FIU Club Baseball started. It is currently led by Gustavo Garcia, a sophomore meteorology major, who is the current president and plays in-field.

“We all love the sport, we’ve been playing it since it was a big part of our lives, so it’s not easy to let it go, so we decided to keep it going because we want to get together, have fun and do something that we all been doing in our entire lives”, said Garcia, who played baseball since he was four years old.

Even though FIU does have a collegiate baseball team at a Division-1 level, trying out to get a roster spot was slim to none.

“We all tried to walk-on, but they got great players over there. The roster spots would be filled up before we get a chance to try-out,” Garcia said. “We’ve all dreamed that we could play at the collegiate level, but this is the best thing we can do right now, we just added three more pitchers to the roster” he said.

Guys like David Weiss, the club’s outfielder and star slugger got the opportunity to try out for the FIU Baseball team, but didn’t make the cut.

Even though it’s only a club, competition remains the same. Its still on a Division 1 level as a club sport. The team is part of the National Club Baseball Association (NCBA) and are playing in

the South Atlantic-South Conference, where they play against teams like UCF, UM, FSU, and Florida Tech.

“We all love the sport, we’ve been playing it since it was a big part of our lives, so it’s not easy to let it go, so we decided to keep it going.”

Gustavo Garcia  
President  
Baseball Club

The team is currently on a three week break right now preparing for their upcoming games. The team is going

to have back-to-back road series once they come back from the break, starting with the University of Florida and the following series will be against Florida State University.

The NCBA has a playoff and a world series for all club baseball teams. They even provide championship rings to the winner of the world series according to Garcia.

The club is currently 3-5 overall, but 3-0 in the conference according to ClubBaseball.com. The team is looking to making a big push in the next seven weeks of the season. The team believes that they are the underdog and their talents can take them far, even to the World Series.

Anyone can join the club if interested, if they love the sport and don’t want to give up playing it.

FOOTBALL

Future true freshman is a stone cold kicker

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As the FIU football team is having their spring practice with their returning players and early enrollees, some up and coming true freshmen have to wait until the fall camp to practice with the team.

There is one true freshmen who won’t be participating in the spring, but will make an immediate impact this coming season. His name is Stone Wilson, the kicker from Nokomis, Florida. That’s right, I said kicker.

Stone Wilson at 5’11 170 pounds was a standout kicker/punter at the IMG Academy, a football powerhouse and private school located in Bradenton, Florida, where it is home

to elite talented athletes and future NFL prospects.

The school produces NFL players like Cam Newton from the Carolina Panthers and Super Bowl winning QB Russell Wilson from the Seattle Seahawks; Just to name a few. Wilson finished his high school career without missing one field goal attempt. According to FIU Sports.com, he was 22-22 in field goal attempts, a net punting average of 40 yards, three came inside the 20 yard line and one inside the ten.

He also had 51 kickoffs that result into touchbacks and a 74 percent touchback rate.

He helped lead his team to a 10-1 record and finished the season ranked number 16 in the nation. Wilson was also second team All-Area selection and Korbblue Fab50 rated him as the number 5 ranked punter and 31 ranked kicker in the country.

According to Kohls Kicking, they listed this specialist as the number 14 ranked punter and number 66 ranked kicker in the country. There were high praises by Head Coach Ron Turner and Special Teams Coach Billy Miller.

I believe with his versatility and strong leg, he will have the opportunity to compete in multiple positions on special teams this coming fall. He will have to compete with returning and incumbent starter Austin Taylor, who will be a junior this fall and finished last season 15-21 in field goal attempts.

I expect Wilson to contribute and help improve FIU special teams, whether on kickoff, field goal attempts, extra points or punting; He can do it all at a high level. First game is at UCF and special teams will be critical, but I expect good ole Stone to get the job done.

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SOFTBALL

Softball extends winning streak, sweep River Hawks



PHOTOS BY MARIA SOLEDAD LORENZINO/THE BEACON

**ABOVE:** Sophomore outfielder Gabby Spallone runs to home plate in the game against the University of Massachusetts Lowell on March 17. The Panthers play North Texas on Saturday, March 21. **RIGHT:** Freshman pitcher Rachel Dwyer pitches against the University of Massachusetts Lowell on March 17. In six innings, Dwyer allowed just three hits and one run.



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The FIU softball team (20-11, 3-3 C-USA) swept the UMass Lowell River Hawks in a doubleheader on Tuesday, improving their win streak to three.

In the first game of two, sophomore Rachel Dwyer (2-0) threw her second complete game this season striking out a career-high four batters.

She only allowed three hits and one run in the six innings out in the circle.

The Panthers offense dominated in the third inning with seven runs including senior Krystal Garcia’s home run and junior Aleima Lopez’s two RBI double.

Sophomore Stephanie Texeira, junior Dominique Grossman, freshman Ashley Belans and Lopez all recorded two hits to combine for the nine runs scored.

Sophomore Sammi Green made her first collegiate start at second base and started a 4-6-3 inning-ending double play to get the Panthers out of the top of the first.

FIU made some great defensive plays in the second inning as Dwyer caught a sharp



MARIA SOLEDAD LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Panthers softball players congratulate infielder/catcher Krystal Garcia after she hits a homerun. The Panthers scored 9 runs in the first game of the day on Tuesday, March 17.

line drive up the middle and Grossman caught a fly ball steps before running into the right field wall.

Offensively, Belans and senior Rebekah Sanchez hit back-to-back singles in the third while sophomore Gabby Spallone broke a scoreless game with an RBI single up the middle.

Lopez added two more runs on a double to left-center, while Garcia hit a two run shot over the center field wall.

All in all, the first game against the River Hawks was a 9-1 victory plating seven runs on eight hits.

Junior Corinne Jenkins (12-5) started the second game and got her second shutout this season which moved her into a tied position for fourth all-time in FIU history. She pitched all seven innings tallying a season-high nine strikeouts.

The first run scored in the second game was one to be remembered.

With one away, Belans hit a double down the left field line and advanced to third on Sanchez’s sacrifice hit.

Then the River Hawks intentionally walked Texeira to put the runners in the corners. Texeira then distracted UMass Lowell in a rundown while Belans snuck across the plate to score.

The Panthers took the game 3-0 .

Conference USA action will return on Saturday, March 21, at 4 pm in the Felsberg Field at FIU as the Panthers softball team takes on North Texas.

NFL

Rule changes possible but very unlikely for NFL

**RHYS’ PIECE**



**RHYS WILLIAMS**

With NFL administrative meetings coming up next week, it is time again for possible rule changes. These meetings, which have executives and coaches from each of the 32 NFL franchises come together, are where rules such as the “Tuck Rule” were born.

A week out at the 23 possible rule changes, with some of them proposed by different teams, have their high points, their low points and their insane points.

A few of the lower points for me - meaning the ones that I do not believe will be passed, include rules proposed by the Detroit Lions and the New England Patriots, as well as a change to a bylaw.

The Lions’ proposed rule

change would make every penalty need to be reviewed by the booth officials. This makes sense for them to propose seeing as they were the No. 4 most penalized team in the league for 2014 and maybe a review would have given some of those back. However, that would increase the game time by a lot and will more than likely not be passed by the voters.

The Patriots were again active, as they are yearly, in prospective rule changes. One of their proposed changes is one that has been on the table for years and never passed, but it is a long shot to make it this year as well. It also effects the media. It would be that cameras are placed by certain points on the sidelines and on the goal posts in stead of being brought in by each media network. I don’t see why this would need to be changed as of now but who knows, maybe someone will vote yes this time.

The bylaw that has a proposed change is the strangest one to me. It suggests that instead of having the point in the middle of the summer where teams must cut down from 90 to 75 players that it simply goes all summer to where each team must simply cut down to 53 by the end of the summer before the regular season begins.

This to me is a joke.

That will not give any of the cut players a good chance on making it on to another team’s roster.

There are two of the rules that I really see as high points, or what I believe will be passed.

These changes come from the Chicago Bears and the Patriots.

The Bears’ suggestion should be passed. It states that each team should be granted at least one possession a piece in overtime.

This would change it from where the first team to get the ball scores, the automatically win to

where both teams would have the right to try. That only makes sense for a fair game to be played.

The proposed rule by the Patriots that I believe will pass is one that states that the ban on challenges during the final two minutes of the halves and over time be removed, so that they may occur.

I do not see why this ban would be in place and completely agree that the ban should not be in place.

Now to the insane point.

This one is from the Indianapolis Colts, where former FIU star wide receiver T.Y. Hilton now plays.

This rule change would make a 9-point series be possible.

No, you didn’t read that wrong. Nine points in one series.

They propose that if a team scores a touchdown and successfully goes for two points, that they be given the option to

kick a field goal from 50 yards out for another single point.

That is insane to me. However, I can see some merit to this. It is not a usual thing for a team to miss a field goal from where it is set up currently and a 2-point conversion is definitely more exciting. This would add a bit of flare to the point-after-touchdown time.

If this passes, I will be a fan of it. If it doesn’t, I would still love to see this be a possibility in the annual Pro Bowl to see how it would go, and maybe put it back on the table in 2016.

In the end though, I am going to doubt that even a quarter of the prospective rule changes will occur. So many things of these changes are brought up every year but stay the same.

However, from a fan’s perspective, some of these proposed changes might make the games even more enjoyable.



## University to commemorate new Royal Caribbean facility

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The University will formally welcome the new Royal Caribbean facility, located at the Biscayne Bay Campus, in a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, March 20.

FIU commemorates the recent partnership with Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. and the completion of the Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Entertainment Production Studio.

The University signed a deal with the Miami-based

in a press release.

Several months later, FIU faculty and student leaders will get their first glance inside the 130,000-square-foot facility.

“I think it’s going to be everyone’s first time for the most part,” said Jazmin Felix, Student Government Association president at BBC, on entering the building.

The three-story, state-of-the-art entertainment studio has a 300-seat theater, 20,000-square-foot costume facility and 10 other rehearsal studios.

Part of the deal includes ROYAL@FIU World Stage

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Royal Caribbean considers South Florida home, and what better way to give back to the community than to be able to enrich the education of FIU students

Richard Fain  
Chairman & CEO  
Royal Caribbean

”

cruise line to build their entertainment studio on campus grounds in December 2013, and the building opened for business last January.

The deal aligns with the University’s strategic commitment to the arts and to build win-win public-private partnerships, according to President Mark B. Rosenberg

Collaborative, a program offering hospitality and architecture University students exclusive access to these facilities via research and other internship opportunities.

At least 20 students of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, and College of Architecture and the Arts receive paid part-time

## WELLNESS EXPO



MARCIA AKSU/THE BEACON

Emmalie Morisseau, a Computer Engineering sophomore, gets her results after checking her blood cholesterol, sugar levels and blood pressure at the Florida Health Research Institute booth during the Wellness Expo.

internships this summer at the new facility.

Felix said the partnership is a good opportunity for hospitality and CARTA students because it will help them gain experience. They will also have access to RCL’s proprietary data for their research.

“Hospitality internships will include hands-on experience in operations and management,” said President Mark B. Rosenberg in an email about the ceremony.

According to Rosenberg, arts internships will include music, theater and visual arts – from stage

management, lighting and design to auditions, promotion, rehearsals and final production.

“Royal Caribbean considers South Florida home, and what better way to give back to the community than to be able to enrich the education of FIU students,” said Richard Fain, chairman and chief executive officer of Royal Caribbean.

“We are excited to partner with FIU on our new entertainment facility, not only because it will enable Royal Caribbean to continue to produce world-class entertainment for our ships, but because it will provide an opportunity for FIU students to

receive a unique and hands-on education in the hospitality industry,” Fain said.

Royal Caribbean has also benefited with housing provisions offered by the University at Bay Vista Housing.

Over 200 students who lived in the residential space had to leave by May 1 of last year, leaving the campus without any housing available for students.

However, students confronted health-safety issues at Bay Vista Housing due to its poor construction.

According to a powerpoint obtained by Student Media,

Royal Caribbean has invested nearly \$6.5 million into renovating the facilities to provide housing for RCL employees.

President Rosenberg will deliver a speech at the ribbon cutting ceremony, as well as RCL Chairman and CEO Richard Fain. Following this will be a reception.

The event will be held in the Royal Caribbean studio, from 10:15 a.m. to noon and is by invitation only, with the general student body unable to attend, according to Jehnny Rivera, Divisions of External Relations coordinator.

## SJMC hosts lively Communications Week

**CAMILA FERNANDEZ**

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To succeed in the media industry, Philip Tucker, marketing and communication coordinator at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, said that students need to be innovative and digitally savvy.

Communications Week is a week-long event opportunity for SJMC students to enhance their abilities in the industry, with workshops and lectures led by professionals in their field. From Monday, March 23 until Saturday, March 28, it is a week jam-packed with different aspects of the School’s programs, Tucker said.

“Communications Week is the SJMC’s sort of flagship event of the spring semester where we try to showcase to our students and the community just how varied and exciting the industry is,” Tucker said.

“We are really focusing on innovation and entrepreneurship and digital-first practices because we see that being where our industries are going,” he said.

The week kicks off with a visit from Chief

Digital Officer at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Sree Sreenivasan, who will speak at Monday’s Hearst Distinguished Lecture Series. According to the Comm Week website, the lecture will be based on getting the best use out of time spent online and how to build more fans and followers on social media effectively.

Sreenivasan has spent more than 20 years teaching at Columbia University. In 2009, he was named one of AdAge’s 25 media people to follow on Twitter and one of Poynter’s 35 most influential people in social media in 2010. He currently leads a 70-person world-class team in New York City.

“He’s a really high profile, social media sort of digital tech guru and we’re really excited about having him come,” Tucker said. The lecture will be held in Room 244 at the Wolfe University Center from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. There will also be livestreaming through the website.

On Tuesday, students are invited to the Graduate School Colloquium led by speaker Leon Gomez, a serial entrepreneur in online marketing and advertising.

Along with SJMC graduate student entrepreneurs and SJMC Innovation-in-Resident Alex de Carvalho, the lecture will be based on

what not to do when starting a business.

There will also be a Moving Women Forward webinar hosted by the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication which can be viewed at <http://connect.fiu.edu/kopenhavercenter>.

To help prepare students for the job market, Wednesday will include a group of Human Resource-related professionals at Professional Development Day. Followed by workshops, they will talk about how candidates are being sought by their respective industries.

“Since these are actually the people hiring right now, they’re going to give very cutting-edge advice on what the students should be doing on how they should be preparing themselves,” Tucker said.

On Thursday, students will engage in Panther Cage where four chosen student teams will present new media business ideas to be judged by a group of panelists. The game mirrors the television series Shark Tank. The winning team will be eligible for a \$5,000 International Innovators Cup Prize.

There will also be a SJMC Awards Ceremony where recipients will be awarded with different recognitions and scholarships.

Jessica Figueroa, a senior public relations major and FIU Public Relations Society of America Membership Director, has been nominated for an Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award. In 2013 she transferred from Broward College and has been heavily involved as a public relations intern for the BBC Office of the Vice Provost.

“I basically learned as much as I could in terms of leadership experiences, professional and networking skills,” said Figueroa. To finish, the Society of Professional Journalists will host an all-day conference with panel discussions and break-out sessions Friday.

Saturday, there will be a technology conference at BarCamp Miami in Wynwood’s Miami Ad School where people show up and pitch innovative ideas. It is entirely sponsored by the SJMC in collaboration with Hacks/Hackers, the Knight Foundation and the Fourth Estate.

“Companies are looking for individuals who cannot only stay at the cutting-edge, but can also understand where things are going,” Tucker said.

“You need to have that mentality of being able to look beyond the horizons and innovate yourself and become a leader in these changes.”