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Interim dean gives hope to amputees

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The arm that reaches for a pen, the legs that help a runner during a morning jog and even the digestive tract are all controlled by the nervous system.

And Dr. Ranu Jung, who the University appointed as interim dean of the College of Engineering, has and continues to find ways to improve the lives of thousands of people who use prosthetics or have damaged nervous systems.

Jung, professor and chairwoman of the University's Department of Biomedical Engineering, has worked on treatments for spinal cord injuries and designs for modern neuro-prostheses, prosthetic systems that connect or interact with the host's nervous system.

The nervous system is like a computer as they both use electrical impulses to transmit information which is later read in a binary code, which is made up zeroes and ones.

To make sense of the flood of signals it receives, the brain analyzes the signals' frequency, or the number of impulses sent at a given time, to determine the code in the message. From there, impulses are sent back to muscles, glands or organs to dictate the appropriate responses.

If someone suffers a spinal cord injury, say from a freak mountain climbing accident, the impulses cannot reach their targets and enact a response. This is why severe damage to the spinal cord can lead to paralysis or even organ failure.

The body's natural response to a partially damaged spinal cord is to develop new pathways for the wandering signals using existing synapses. "Synaptic plasticity" refers to a synapse's ability to take on new

functions and to act as a new pathway for different signals.

Jung and her team have tested a method for promoting recovery after a partial spinal cord injury through electrical stimulation of the paralyzed muscles that exploits this plasticity and speeds up recovery time.

"We are sending back sensory information that would be lost otherwise," Jung said.

She said her team's data suggests that employing this stimulation therapy allows for the neurons to remain active and may preserve signaling pathways between the spared spinal cord circuits and the motor neurons.

If the damage to the spinal cord is too great or if the synapses fail to reform strong enough connections between the muscle and central nervous system, then the last resort for the patient is to use a prosthetic or orthotic device.

An orthosis is a device that assists the functionality of a body part while a prosthetic is a device that mimics the body part's functionality. Essentially, a walking cane would be an orthotic device while a false hand would be a prosthetic device.

Recently, prosthetics that use neural interfaces to communicate with the nervous system are picking up momentum as researchers from all over the world race to create prosthetics that are as versatile as human body parts.

Susan M. Racher, chief financial officer and vice president of the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation, volunteered as a test subject in

SUPER FUN AT SUPERCON



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

Christian Gil, a junior hospitality major, wearing his custom Mandalorian armor based off the Star Wars movies.

Jung's lab. She said she had sensors all over her body to gather data while she walked in different patterns.

"I think it's game changing," said Racher.

Jung recently patented a design for what she calls an "Orthoprosthesis." This device, a powered false-foot, can be fitted onto a broken or injured ankle to assist in walking, or it can be fitted onto a prosthetic foot so it works better.

"Her brilliance is only surpassed by her kindness," said Racher.

Jung said these systems could become available to the public within the next few years because the National Institutes of Health and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency have just recently injected money into the field for further research.

The U.S. Army funded the orthoprosthesis to provide soldiers injured in battle a means of evacuation. It uses a battery to power an actuator controlling the foot and an

electronic circuit with a biomimetic design for mimicking the action of walking.

Modern engineering, coupled with a new understanding of the nervous system, has brought the genesis of the long awaited biohybrid system: linking nerves and machines.

"The impact is going to be magical," said Anil Thota, a member of Jung's lab.

Current prosthetics for amputees only have simple mechanical or electrical functions, which Thota refers to as "tools."

Future prosthetic biohybrid systems would allow not only for voluntary control of the prosthesis through existing nerves, but use those same nerves to convey back sensations such as touch and pressure.

"Amputees can finally say: this is my arm. I am controlling it. I am feeling it," Thota said. "Not a piece of electronic, this is all me."

Longtime children's center director departs after 40 years of creative teaching

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When the Children's Creative Learning Center launches their 40th anniversary this September, they hope to see a lot of purple shirts.

Over the years they have awarded more than their fair share of kids sizes, but before the fall semester starts they will give an adult-size to one of their own.

Nancy Ponn, the CCLC's founding director, retired June 19, after 39 years of working and molding the center.

Ponn, founded the center with the help of Barbara O'nan, a University alumna with children 1975 and Jules Janice, a former faculty member.

"We do a lot of talking about feelings here. So they put together the feeling of 'sappy,' so I'm sad and happy," Ponn said about retiring.

Ponn worked with O'nan and

Janice to open and establish the CCLC after being recruited from a Jewish Community Center. She wanted to work in a place where children were allowed and encouraged to speak about their feelings and opinions.

The center teaches students as young as two to build family-like relationships and think creatively.

The center, which is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, allows the students to learn as individuals while still encouraging them to bond socially, according to Libby Kirsch, the associate director of the CCLC.

The CCLC believes in allowing children to build their unique ideas and opinions through memorable lessons and unique techniques. This structure made the CCLC successful and allowed the center to prosper for 40 years.

"You can't teach a child how to think by telling them what to do,"

Kirsch said.

When Ponn was a child, she always did what she was told. When she was in her early 20s, her father gave her a chore and she said, for the first time, no. Afterwards, she went into her house and felt like she was "going to die."

"That experience alone made me realize that no one should wait until they're 21 to express their feelings or feel comfortable," Ponn says.

Because of this incident, she was able to develop a system based on communication that transfers to the children by giving them room to express their likes and dislikes.

The center projects this philosophy within the children's schedule, allowing time for a range of activities of literacy, science and math, which are taught in a variety of ways that are applicable for daily life. The children begin at age two with a series of lessons that grow more difficult

throughout each year.

"Everything is like a genesis," Kirsch said. "It's kind of organic in that way."

Once the children finish their final year, they go through the "Moving On Ceremony," a graduation where they receive a medal and a purple shirt of the center that they are required to wear if they visit the center in the following years.

"The most exciting part was when I talked to all the audience," Nicolas Lozano said about the ceremony.

Lozano, a student of four years, said he's also excited to go back and visit.

Juan Lozano, a professor at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and Nicolas' father, came from Colombia and when time came to enroll Nicolas into a care center, he was unsure of where to enroll Nicolas before choosing the CCLC.

He chose the CCLC "mostly

because it was convenient," but the center's philosophy impressed "Not only myself, by my wife and Nicolas too."

The center started as only a double-wide trailer when it first opened its doors in 1975. It is now a one-story building near the softball field that teaches over 60 children.

The Capital Improvement Trust Fund provides money for the center and its operations, which makes it possible to discount the price of tuition for the children.

The price of tuition ranges based on association with the University. A student gets the lowest price, followed by a faculty member, then an alumni. A member of the community with no affiliation to the University will still be able to enroll but they will receive the highest price of tuition.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Sugar from Cuba not a concern to U.S. sugar producers

Powerful forces with a lot of clout and money are making sure the U.S. Sugar Program stays intact, recently killing long-held plans to flood sugar land in the Everglades while holding on to lucrative subsidies and price supports in Washington.

The expansion of the industry in South Florida after the 1959 Cuban Revolution has resulted in an \$8.4 million annual lobbying effort and campaign donations that buy the support of loyal members of Congress. The combined effect is to keep sugar cane and sugar beet prices higher than world prices, with resulting higher food prices, critics complain.

Even an eventual opening to sugar-producing Cuba is likely to have only a marginal impact on the U.S. market.

No MERS cases reported for two consecutive days

South Korea reported no additional Middle East respiratory syndrome cases for two consecutive days, while announcing it would give out 16 billion won (\$14 million) to support MERS-affected hospitals and expand the coverage of the national health insurance for patients with infectious diseases.

As of June 29, the virus has

More than 50 killed in terrorist attacks

Three attacks on three continents, at a resort in Tunisia, a mosque in Kuwait and a factory in France, all apparently carried out by Islamic extremists, have left more than 50 people dead.

The deadliest attack took place in the Tunisian city of Sousse, where 28 people were killed and 36 wounded as gunmen opened fire on a beach resort popular with

tourists. The Health Ministry said German, British, Belgian and Tunisian citizens were killed.

In Kuwait, a suicide bomber, apparently from the Islamic State group, blew himself up inside a packed Shiite mosque, killing at least 25 worshippers and wounding 202 during prayers on the second Friday of the holy month of Ramadan.

Millenials redifine feminism goals

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Ask a feminist born after the 20th century what they think of feminism and they'll give answers as diverse as the millennials who now fly what was once a pink-only flag. The feminist movement has since grown to include other colors which reflect its new, younger and more international members as well as male members.

As the movement has expanded to include a broader swath of men and women, the goal of the movement has expanded as well.

One international ally is Audrey Aradanas, a 20-year-old first-generation naturalized citizen of two Filipino parents and president of the University's affiliate chapter of the National Organization for Women.

She commented on the expansion of the movement's goals and said that how today's feminists view themselves is irrelevant, because the ones in the 18-34 year old demographic are at a crossroad of ideas that are as broad and far reaching as their home countries. Aradanas boiled down the feminism movement to a statement, one that aimed to unite feminist-identifying millennials.

"In its current iteration, feminism is about more than equal rights," said Aradanas, "It's about liberation."

She said today's feminists seek liberation from oppressive forces that keep people from being equal, which includes sexual assault, on college campuses or otherwise.

Justin Santoli, a peer educator with the Victim Empowerment Program and junior elementary education major, has two years of experience educating students about consent, double standards and other issues related to sexual assault.

He said the ideals VEP promotes tend to follow feminist guidelines.

"We teach how not to be bystanders," said Santoli "And that it's never the victim's fault."

VEP is only one component of the "It's On Us" campaign, which the University adopted after President Barack Obama asked colleges and universities nationwide to liberate female and male students from the threat of sexual assault on campus.

It is only the most visible piece of the University's effort to curb sexual violence, according to Cathy Akens, the University's dean of students.

Along with its "pantherized" t-shirts, buttons and other paraphernalia, the University's campaign has brought

together VEP, Psychological Services, Orientation and other departments to educate the community about the impacts of sexual assault.

"It says sexual assault is an issue that is important to all of us," said Akens. "It's not saying that women have to end sexual assaults, or men be responsible, or students, faculty or staff, but everyone."

Another of the movement's male members is Alex Orta, a junior English major, but he, like Santoli, disagree with the idea of "male feminists."

"A feminist is anyone who believes in the social, economic and political equality of women," said Santoli. "I don't see the point or need in explicitly adding 'male.'"

Orta said the use of "male" can help ease the mind of some men, but finds it unnecessary.

"It does give the impression that there are men for the feminist movement which makes it easier for other men to follow in support," said Orta, a 22-year-old born to two Cuban parents. "But gender shouldn't matter as far who is supporting feminism."

Orta said the men who shunn feminist-identifying men, for what he thinks are reasons that exist in the subconscious, should accept that women give birth to all people and "everyone has to acknowledge that we live in the world together."

"They are unsupportive of the status quo being challenged," said Orta. "Meninist obstruct the progress of equality."

Santoli said classifying feminists based on gender leads to the assumption that the default feminist is a female, which he said isn't true.

"I think everyone and anyone can and should be a feminist," he said.

Santoli, the gay 21-year-old son of an American-born Cuban mother and Italian father, said all people should wear the feminist label with pride rather than join the "meninist" movement, which he said was created to spite the feminists.

Instead, Santoli suggests that those men should advocate for issues and speak out against institutions that have real impacts on men's lives such as racial equality, the rights of transgender men and women and the prison-industrial complex.

Santoli said it was the feminist movement's overarching goal of equality that appealed to him most.

"At its root, it's about equality of the sexes," said Santoli.

The movement in the 60s and 70s was a fight for equality, but more specifically about making white women

equal to their white husbands, fathers, brothers and even sons. Although black Americans in the South were in the middle of their fight for equality, it didn't mean much for women of color, according to Aradanas.

Aradanas, a dual-degree seeking student - one in women and gender studies - pointed out a difference between who the movement officially recognized decades ago and who it recognizes in the last five, 10 and even 20 years, which could be considered its third wave. But she also said it is difficult to compare the feminist movement's different waves in terms of their objectives because people of the first wave faced different socio-economic problems than those of the second and third.

She said the first wave of the movement recognized Western-born white women, but today's feminists are focused on the rights of all women, but pay special attention to women of color.

"It's a recognition of more than just a certain group," said Aradanas. "Women of color are finally being recognized."

TruLe'sia Newberry, a 20-year-old senior double majoring in international relations and political science, said the previous waves, "excluded some of the pertinent needs of women of color."

"In the beginning, it was pretty exclusionary," said Newberry, a newly hired program assistant in the Women's Center.

Newberry said there was a big shift that occurred in the early 90s that forced the movement to include the women of color.

Akens said the University will launch in summer B an online educational training course that all incoming students are required to take. The University used student athletes, personnel from Residential Life and Orientation and peer advisors as part of a pilot program before it decided to make the course mandatory for freshmen and transfer students.

Another issue is the struggle for gay and transgender rights in the world.

However, there is still a debate among women and men about whether gay rights is a feminist issue.

Aradanas said that it is because it encompasses a broad ideology that empowers all minorities.

Newberry disagrees with the inclusion.

"Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, asexual and intersexual people can be a part of the movement," said Newberry, "but the things they hold as a priority do not intersect gender equality and feminism."

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The lie of the new \$10 bill

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Alexander Hamilton will be replaced by a woman on the new ten dollar bill.

The result of activism from advocacy groups like Women on 20s and legislation like the one proposed by New Hampshire Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D), the new bill will be released in 2020.

Put away the party hats, people.

The new bill is nothing more than a patronizing nod on the part of the powers that be to the women that helped build this country. The fact that whoever will end up on the bill will share a space with a man shows as much. It's crumbs and scraps from the top.

The US Treasury's workforce is 70.2 percent male. The pay gap between men and women has not improved with any notable significance in the past decade, and it will not close for over 70 years at the current rate. The U.S. Congress has proportionately fewer women serving in it than the parliaments of Iraq or Afghanistan. We don't just have a

long way to go, we've shot ourselves in the foot before the race even began.

The New Ten is the latest story in the neo-liberal appropriation of feminism. This new "feminism," what I like to call Mass-Media Feminism, is spearheaded by websites like BuzzFeed and Jezebel. The goal does not appear to be the breakdown of patriarchy, but limited participation within that system.

These feminists support Hillary Clinton to be the first woman president, despite the broader, decidedly anti-liberation and anti-human rights implication of perpetuating a political dynasty. One which passed a free trade agreement that has entrenched the slavery of marginalized women in the name of global capitalism and "growth" the first time it was in power. It would likely do so again if given the chance.

They attempt to marry the politics of gender equality with the ideology of liberation through the free market and an alliance with the state. As a result, the feminist movement has been suckered in to the old trap that Che Guevara's fans are in, seeing their message of collective pain

being turned into a commodity and traded for individual profit. Radical chic is back in full force.

Mass-media feminism will superficially improve things for women in pop-culture through its faustian bargain with capitalism. However, as more and more of the movement's adherents coalesce behind Hillary Clinton, the cost appears to be a marriage with the imperialist system of exploitation that placed women in a lower class in the first place.

Women may have a face on the American currency now, but that currency is paid for in the blood of the women who were not fortunate enough to be born in the right country. It is not enough to beg for pennies on Wall Street. Women must wholly reject the establishment and the institutions of capital if liberation is ever to be achieved.

For that, the news of the new ten must be seen for what it is, a distraction in the battle for liberty and equality, a dangerous collusion with the corporate state and the calling card of the new Statists; the fascists who wear a smiley face and Minnie Mouse ears.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Student elections fly under BBC's radar

When elections are held at MMC, the campus is abuzz with excitement and campaigning parties – throughout the race, FIUSM ensured that students could make sense of it all.

As FIU hurdles toward the future, one may notice radio silence from the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Though students may know that Alexis Calatayud and Tiffany Roman Biffa were re-elected in April as the president and vice-president of the Modesto A. Maidique Student Government Council, very little comes through the grapevine regarding positions at BBC.

"BBC is dead after 3 p.m.," said Abby Davidson, a junior Anthropology major. "They have interesting events, but I've never heard anything about elections over there."

This editorial board holds the opinion that students should be aware of the goings-on of their University - especially one with so many majors split over multiple campuses.

When the balance between campaign strategies is so heavily skewed toward one campus, whether it is the main one or not, there is something wrong.

Without any information about the candidates or voting processes at BBC, and without a population of on-campus residents to support worthy officers or parties, there is no one to safeguard the interests of students, and no way to tell if the candidates elected at BBC are competent.

Jazmin Felix, the previous SGA president of BBC, as reported in April, never expected to run, despite her experience in a student government position in high school.

Moreover, she ran without competition - which is hardly a democratic election.

While the current president has more experience in college-level student government, Allhan Mejia is not a household name. Perhaps his platform regarding transparency and accessibility for students regarding SGA is apt.

There are currently 12 unfilled positions on the MMC Student Government Council.

At BBC, there are 29, mostly in the Senate and Executive Cabinet - leaving many departments and student groups unrepresented.

It is no secret that the millennial population is one that votes infrequently, but it is imperative that students have a say in our national, local and student governments if they wish to make a difference - otherwise, those elected have the power of stagnation in office, whether due to under-qualification or deliberate enforcement of an agenda - who knows what can happen when people simply aren't looking.

Supreme Court decision not the end for LGBTQ+ rights

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Congratulations are in order for the lesbian and gay communities for their victory June 26, 2015. Friday morning, the Supreme Court ruled that it was unconstitutional for state courts to deny marriage to same-sex couples, therefore opening the path for couples who have been denied so long the opportunity under the law to be married in all 50 states and U.S. territories.

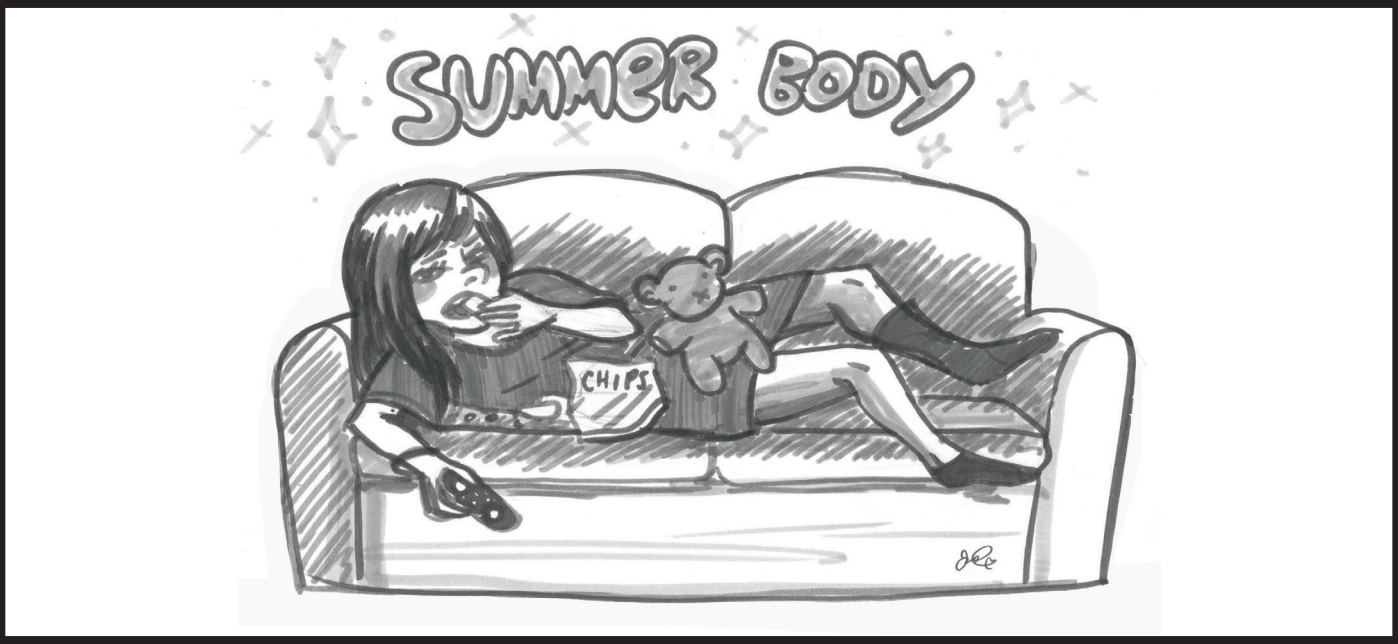
However, it is important to note that the fight is not over. Although Friday was a major landmark for LGBTQ+ rights, equality is not within reach of all sexual orientations and gender identities. During our celebration, it is imperative that we do not forget the struggles of those who came before us and of those in the future. Just as the right to vote, and the breaking down of separate

but equal facilities was not the end of the civil rights movement, this is only a first step in a marathon of struggle.

We surely must rejoice, but we cannot afford to become complacent – there is still bigotry and hatred in this world. We cannot allow the belief that all people are equal because of this one decision to settle in our minds. Bisexual, transgender, asexual and gender nonconforming people still face an uphill battle order to secure their rights. Even now, the fight is not over for lesbian and gay couples, as Alabama courts are fighting the Supreme Court's decision.

Just as the fight for women's rights is not over because we are able to vote, the LGBTQ+ community needs to stay on its toes – this is not the end of the battle, it is only the beginning. Despite this, the history books will note this day for generations to come. We can only hope that our children, and our children's children, are not embarrassed that it took us so long to make change possible.

FITNESS GOALS



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

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

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‘Culture without borders’ at Florida Supercon



All Photos By Jasmine Romero/The Beacon

Above: Alex Cuevas, a senior pre-med major, plays the ocarina from the Legend of Zelda video game series to complete his Link cosplay.

Center: Jennifer Hidalgo, an upcoming junior nursing student, works on sewing a fabric as she volunteers at the Cosplay Medics booth.

Top Left: Vincent Sanchez, an information technology junior, cosplays as Jacket from the Hotline Miami video game.

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This year’s Florida Supercon saw over 10,000 people pass through its gates as comic book and anime fans from all over the state congregated in the Miami Beach Convention Center for four days of panels, screenings, cosplay competitions and of course, loads of merch.

Maneuvering around the fanboys, the manga girls and countless iterations of Marvel’s punch-line dropping assassin, Deadpool, through rows of booths and

tables loaded with art, memorabilia and creators, eager to meet fans and discuss their work, it was easy to forget that not many years ago this was a niche culture. Not so in today’s world.

Perhaps actor Jason Mewes of “Clerks,” “Mallrats,” and “Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back,” put it best at his Saturday afternoon Q&A session when a fan asked how he felt about a new generation of kids discovering his older movies after seeing the upcoming sequels.

“The cool thing is, kids from this generation will understand the old movies even more, especially ‘Mallrats’ that deals

so heavily with comic books. Twenty years ago, when the movie came out, not that many people knew about comics. Now it’s pop culture and this generation will get it right away.”

Through Marvel’s blockbuster movies like “The Avengers,” “Star Wars” video games and theme parks, and shows like “The Walking Dead,” what used to be “nerd” culture has simply become pop culture. Nowhere is this more evident than at Supercon where the most seemingly unlikely blends of people can be found side by side, staring starry-eyed at their favorite writer or oohing and ahing over

an original print from a much-loved artist.

As Christian Gil, a junior majoring in hospitality put it, “here, you’ll meet a person you don’t think you’d meet on campus, and then you end up seeing the same people you met at Supercon on campus and you end up becoming friends.”

From t-shirt-and-jeans clad dads with their wives and children in tow, to super-fans in all out “Dragon Age” cosplay, people like Gil have a place to enjoy culture without borders.

To see a video of Florida Supercon, visit FIUSM.com.

Stop summer suffering: four steps to treating a sunburn

HEALTHY, HAPPY,
HUMBLE



CRYSTAL
FERNANDEZ

As the sun sets on June and we head in to the heat of July, most of us have had our share of fun outdoors. Why shouldn’t we? It’s Summer! Time for biking, beach outings, tropical vacations and sunbathing on the open spaces on campus.

But sometimes bathing in the sun can come with a price, and although our intentions are good when it comes to taking care of our skin, it is easy to lose track of time and forget to slap on the sunscreen.

Next thing you know, ouch - a sun burn!

I could sit here and lecture you on how you should have worn sunblock and covered up, but let’s face it, we’re not perfect!

So, if your bronze tan turned more of a tomato red, here’s how you can relieve the burn and the discomfort.

Early Detection

If you’re out in the sun and you feel your skin burn or you can feel it stretch as you move, the best thing you can do is get out of the sun. Either cover up under shelter

or leave the heat entirely. Even if your skin looks the slightest bit pink, it could mean a painful burn later.

Stay Hydrated

When you get a sunburn your body overheats which leads to the loss of fluids. Stay hydrated and drink ice-cold water which will keep your body temperature low, and will help restore moisture to your parched lips. Remember to hydrate whenever you’re outdoors.

Dry mouth, thirst, reduced urination, headache, dizziness and sleepiness are all common signs of dehydration. Be sure to keep water and sports drinks by you at all times to help your body stay cool.

Ease the Pain

One of the worst side effects of a sunburn is the pain. You can’t move, showering hurts and even small things like speaking can feel like a hassle.

Taking a dose of ibuprofen for the first 48 hours will reduce the swelling and pain. The earlier you take it the better, so if you’re heading for a day out in the sun, be sure to keep it close by just in case.

Relieve the Itch

One word: Vinegar. I know it sounds weird but hear me out and try it.

If the sunburn itches, take a cool bath, but add two cups of vinegar to the bathwater before you get in.

Once you’re done with your bath, mix baking soda and vinegar to make a thick paste, and slather it over the sunburned areas. Apply the cream before bedtime, and leave it on overnight.

You can also go for moisturizers that have vitamin c or vitamin E.

Considering we live in South Florida, every now and then you may get a sunburn.

Keep in mind that frequent sunburns can cause major damage to your skin and overall health. Keep SPF in your school bag, your car and be sure to wear it every day.

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Feminism to millenials

FEMINISM, PAGE 2

Although Student Media was unable to find any transgender University students to comment as of this writing, FIU is on course to make itself more friendly to people who currently identify as female or male regardless of their gender at birth.

Access to gender-neutral restrooms and the option to sort through dorm rooms based on open housing, which allows any student to room with another regardless of gender identification are potential issues to the transgender community at FIU.

However, according to staff from the University’s Student Affairs division, the completion of a transgender bathroom on the first floor of the Graham Center and the open housing option in a few of the University’s residential facilities are tentatively set for fall 2015 and fall 2016, respectively.

For Akens, who was an undergrad at the University of Toledo studying communications and later a graduate student at Michigan State University studying college and university administration during her first experiences with the feminist movement, it is both a female and male empowerment movement on issues that are important to them, like ending sexual assault.

“It’s about empowering women and men to make positive systematic changes about issues that are important to women and men,” said Akens, who is

also one of the University’s leaders in their “It’s On Us” campaign.

Akens said the University is engaging in other areas to empower potential victims of sexual assault, which has also become a rallying cry for feminists throughout the country.

“I was fortunate to be able to engage in discussions around topics of human rights, diversity and feminism,” she said. “Those conversations helped shape my thoughts on these issues, as well as how I saw myself in relation to the world around me.”

As someone who lived through the movement’s first and second waves, she offered some advice to young men and women to remember what the previous waves did if they want to someday see change in their lives.

“The history of the movement gives context to where we are now,” Akens said. “And helps us, hopefully, appreciate the voice that we have to advocate for the changes that have to happen.”

She said students should take advantage of where they are to help themselves become better people and take on issues that are important to them.

“In a University setting, it’s an ideal opportunity to become more educated about issues, to become involved in actions or activities to increase their own awareness,” Akens said. “What better avenue than on a University campus to be involved and do those things?”



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Every week, the DJs at WRGP will be providing students with a list of the ten albums that have really been making waves on the waves. Tune into 95.3 to hear songs from these great albums and more.

1. Jamie XX - “In Colour”
2. Florence + the Machine - “How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful”
3. The Oh Sees - “Mutilator Defeated at Last”
4. Kid Wave - “Wonderlust”
5. Girlpool - “Before the World Was Big”
6. Kendrick Lamar - “To Pimp a Butterfly”
7. Hudson Mohawke - “Lanterns”
8. Pins - “Wild Nights”
9. My Morning Jacket - “The Waterfall”
10. Alabama Shakes - “Sound & Color”

The Miami Art Expo brings a wealth of masterpieces to art enthusiasts in South Florida

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This summer’s Miami Art Expo was all about contemporary art.

The exhibition featured a week-long roster of artists ranging in a variety of art mediums from all over the globe.

FIUSM got up-close and personal with some of the artists such as Daniela Valentini from Chile and Jeff Murray who flew all the way from London.

Valentini acquired her painting skills from her



VANESSA MARTINEZ/THE BEACON

A look at the work presented as part of the Miami Art Expo gallery on June 19-26, 2015.

enjoy out of life and where I’ve gone with it, as well as my journey in person and as an artist.”

American artist Annika Banko has a display of pictorials which convey expressive colors and gestural methods as a response to nature and life as an artist.

Her techniques involve the mastery of controlled spontaneity by using her body to create the works.

Between canvases engaging in brilliantly colorful detail to intricate

abstract expressionism, there is so much to see at the event.

The audience is one interested in the prestigious atmosphere of the fine art world.

The various pieces emit the human emotions of the idealists behind the artistic exploration.

Getting a glimpse from the minds of these talented individuals is sure to promote artistic exposure of the local Miami art scene today.



VANESSA MARTINEZ/THE BEACON

Chilean artist Daniela Valentini with several of her pieces.

homeland at the University of Chile with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. She specializes in bringing aesthetic qualities of realism to life in her artworks.

“I’m exhibiting at the art show with three of my works,” Valentini said, “one orchid and two portraits that I did over the last two years. I’ve studied art since I was studying in Chile, but I’ve drawn since I was around three. Two years ago I decided I wanted to go fully into the art thing with my work.”

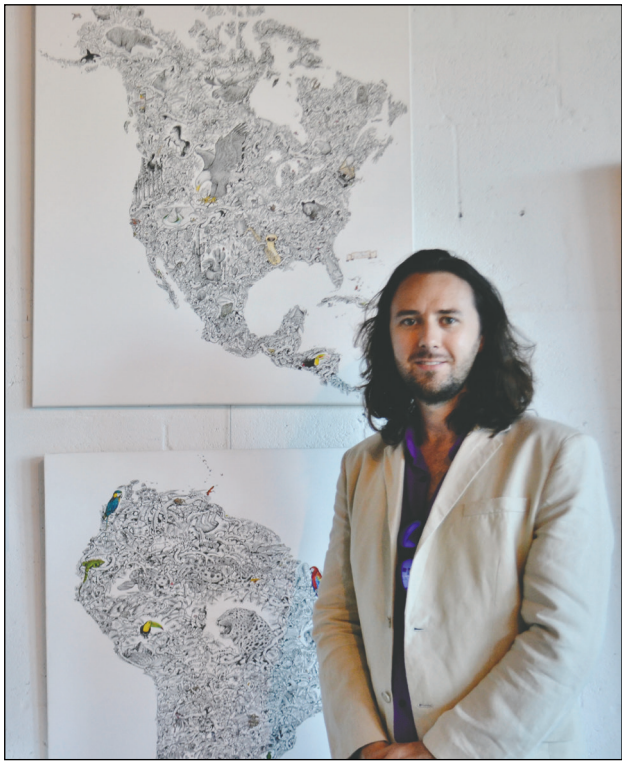
Murray’s work reflects his lifestyle as a traveler of seven years through his pen and ink pieces.

“I do a lot of pieces

that are predominantly black and white with little elements of color to get rid of contrast,” said Murray.

Lifestyle choices and natural elements are the focus of Murray’s current work.

“The themes that I’ve chosen are sort of represented and reflects through my lifestyle choice which is being a traveler,” said Murray. “A lot of the pieces I’ve done recently have been these country/continent shaped pieces in the form of a location around the world while using natural elements from indigenous places around the world. That just reflects what I



VANESSA MARTINEZ/THE BEACON

London artist Jeff Murray besides two of his “Traveler” pieces.

FOOTBALL

Identical twins first to verbally commit to Panthers for 2016 season

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It's not every day a high school football recruit verbally commits to FIU. It is also pretty rare for FIU to have two high school football recruits verbally commit to FIU that are also twins.

The Panthers had identical twins, Douglas and Dallas Connell, verbally committed to FIU on Thursday, May 7. This pair of offensive linemen out of Treasure Coast High School, located in Jacksonville, Florida, received their first offer from FIU and seized the opportunity. The Connell Brothers will be the first two commits for the Panther's Class of 2016 recruits.

The two brothers provide versatility and athleticism as an offensive lineman. Both started for their high school team for three seasons, this coming season included. Douglas, 6 feet 3 inches, 280 pounds, started both offensive guard and center in his high school career so far. He is ranked number 13 center in the country and ranked 166 overall in the state of Florida, according to 24/7 Sports.com, Dallas, however, only five pounds lighter, played both guard and right tackle in his high school career. Dallas is ranked number 86 offensive guard in the country and ranked 163 overall in the state of Florida.

It won't be easy for the dynamic duo to commit very early, knowing that there will be more college teams



BRIAN TRUJILLO/THE BEACON

Football season begins again this fall.

that will be interested in the two as they are preparing for their final season in Treasure Coast High. As

much as the Panthers are excited to have both Dallas and Douglas as part of the FIU Family, it won't be official

until they both sign their letter of intent, making them the FIU's signee. We have to wait until next February,

which is National Signing Day. Can the two brothers stay loyal for the next nine months? We have to wait and see.

CLUB SPORTS

Power-lifting club seeks another championship

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The word "power" doesn't begin to describe the level of dominance the FIU Power Lifting Team has in the world of collegiate power lifting. This squad is just two years old and has already been able to take their place at the State Champions. The FIU power lifting club was able to topple Florida State University from claiming the State Championship title for the eighth year in a row. Going into the year, FIU had the tools to give FSU a good fight. With any team, it all starts with its leader. Head coach, Bill Hennessey, is a national champion power lifter and Assistant coach Damian Fronzaglia is a three time world champion. That's a lot of power lifting experience that

was passed down to a very young team.

The FIU Power Lifters muscled their way to a State Championship last November and defended the trophy in another state competition this past March. Going into this season, it will be tough to regroup to go for another State Championship title. The club is suffering heavy losses since they will not have two of their top competitors. JC Monduy, the American record holder in squat, deadlift and bench press, and freshman Roman Fronzaglia, team captain and son of assistant coach Fronzaglia will no longer be part of this team, but the power lifting club should not be counted out yet.

When asked what the secret is, coach Hennessey expressed it wasn't just his coaching, but also the talent level this school gets thanks to the legacy they've already made in the powerlifting world. Unable to give

scholarships for powerlifting, powerlifters are drawn to FIU not just for its culture, but also for the chance to compete with one of the nation's most up and coming powerlifting programs. One of the newest recruits that plans to prove her power among the State's strongest is a champion Olympic lifter named Natalia Cabanillas.

But even with the State Championships this team already has, the FIU Power Lifting Team has plans that are even bigger than they can imagine. Every active member of this team has qualified to compete in the Raw Powerlifting Nationals, a competition that will be held in Pennsylvania on October 15. "We plan to win the State Championship every year," said coach Hennessey; and with the leadership he and the strongest father-son duo I've ever seen bring to this team, that plan is more than attainable, it's inevitable.

FOOTBALL

Alumnus tries out for the Miami Dolphins

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As the NFL Draft is behind us now, all first year players drafted or undrafted reported to their team's rookie mini-camp this past weekend. Even though no FIU player was drafted this year, they

still have the opportunity to try out for an NFL Team as an undrafted free agent. That also includes former starting offensive tackle David Delsoin. At 6-foot-6 and 313 pounds, this Hollywood native was invited to try out for the Miami Dolphins. With the Dolphins in need of more help at the offensive line position, Delsoin has the opportunity to compete for a rookie

contract, which enables him to vie for a roster spot during training camp, which starts in July.

Delsoin started in a total of 19 games during his FIU career at left tackle and right guard. Injuries prevented him from playing in his final year last season as he started only three games. At his pro day, he weighed in at 6 feet 5 inches 308 pounds. He ran a 5.47 in the

forty-yard dash and did twenty total reps during the 225-pound bench press. What the Dolphins are getting is a player with NFL size, leadership, versatility and athletic ability because of his basketball background when fully healthy. FIU is known to produce players from the diamond in the rough such as starting wide receiver for the Indianapolis Colts T.Y. Hilton

and starting free safety for the Jacksonville Jaguars Johnathan Cyprien. Can David Delsoin make a name for himself in the NFL despite going undrafted? Will we see Delsoin in a Miami Dolphins uniform? Anything is possible, but we have to wait and see.

FOOTBALL

Jonnu Smith named best player currently wearing number 87

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A rose by any other name would smell just as sweet. What about a number?

According to ESPN.com, a number by any other name is not equally as sweet, and for junior tight end Jonnu Smith, this comes as no surprise.

A panel of reporters from conferences across the nation sat down to choose the best college players in each numbered jersey from 1-99. Smith was named as the best player currently wearing the number 87.

In 2014, Smith led the team and the nation in receiving yards (710), receptions (61) and touchdowns (8) as a tight end. He started every game last season and was just named Preseason First Team All Conference-USA by Phil Steele.

According to ESPN.com, while at FIU Smith

“has flourished, starting with a rookie season in which he was All-Conference USA honorable mention.”

The Ocala, FL native set the school record for tight ends in receiving yards, receptions and touchdowns. His eighth touchdown broke the previous record, which was held by current NFL player T.Y. Hilton (2008, 2011) and Corey McKinnon (2002). His 710 receiving yards ranks seventh of all-time in a season at FIU, and his 61 catches are tied for fourth.

Smith also had the sixth longest catch in school history with 75 yards on Saturday, Sept. 6 against University of Alabama at Birmingham. SI.com selected him as an All American Honorable Mention and CBSSports.com named him mid season All-American. He was also Mackey Tight End player of week in week two last season and was named to the John Mackey Watch List for best tight ends



BRIAN TRUJILLO/THE BEACON

Jonnu Smith competing at the FIU vs Marshall game.

CLUB SPORTS

Women's Soccer Club Touts First Year Success; Prepares for Year Two

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With the FIFA Women's World Cup in action, soccer is becoming a growing popularity in South Florida. One such club that can excite many soccer fans is the Women's Soccer Club. Founded just a year ago, the club was created in July of 2014 by Daniela Dupont and her friend after their mutual love of soccer led them to believe there should be a women's soccer club on campus. "I personally formed the club because I have been playing soccer for 10 years and really enjoy playing the sport as well as watching soccer games..." She went on to add: "I thought forming this club would be a nice way to unite other young women at FIU who also enjoy playing soccer

and get some soccer matches going with other state universities."

Right from the start, this club has made a big impact on the FIU community in making a name for themselves. As one of FIU's newer sports clubs, Dupont has done everything she can to attract soccer fans at FIU to join and the success the club achieved in its first year was remarkable. "We competed in one tournament invitational, one fundraising tournament and about six games. Overall, the team did a great job for its first year and won most of its matches."

The club grows with new members joining every semester and they have not been disappointed.

"Any woman FIU student interested in playing soccer with other universities with or without previous experience." She said members should expect "to work as a team with

other members, dedicate around 4-6 hours a week to the sport and have fun playing the sport."

Once in the club, new members will have the opportunity to improve their skills while meeting other soccer players from FIU and other universities. They will have the chance to learn from their peers as well as head coach Fabien Machea. The women will form a team that practices together, participates in fundraisers and competes out on the field.

As Dupont and the team prepare for year two, she hopes to expand its roster as well as the number of matches it will play against soccer clubs from other Florida universities. Her effort in expanding this club shows the FIU community that the Women's Soccer Club will become a mainstay at FIU for years to come.

NBA BASKETBALL

Draft picks make Heat conference contenders

COLUMNIST



JOSEPH
BUSATTO

With possibly the steal of the draft, the Miami Heat selected Duke's Justise Winslow at the 10th overall pick, and strategically boosted their roster with the acquisition of second round pick Josh Richardson.

In mock drafts, most analysts had Winslow being selected between 4th and 7th overall pick. With some stroke of luck, the Heat were able to get him.

The Heat didn't even invite him to Miami to workout because they didn't expect him to still be available by pick number 10.

Justise Winslow, at 6-foot-6, is a game-changer for the Miami Heat. According to Statistical Plus/Minus projections, there is about a 51% chance that Winslow becomes a starter as early as during his first two seasons. At

only 19 years old, he is still a long way from a complete player, but Winslow was possibly the most complete player in the 2015 NBA Draft.

Winslow is a two-way player who can defend and contribute on offense as well. Miami's biggest weakness last season was the three pointer. During his season at Duke, Winslow shot 41.8% from the three-point line. He averaged 12.6 points per game during the regular season but his numbers rose during the NCAA tournament where he was probably more consistent than even Jahlil Okafor. During the tournament he averaged 14.3 points, 9.3 rebounds, 2.7 assists, 1.7 blocks and 1.5 steals as the Devils dominated in the tournament leading to their eventual victory.

Another facet of his game that can help Miami is that he is a great transition player. Winslow is someone who will run the floor with Goran Dragic every

rebound. The fast-paced style of play is something Dragic wanted the Heat to build around this season, if he and Dwyane Wade choose to resign with the Heat. The selection of a great player that can contribute right away could probably enable Wade to resign with the Heat as well.

Winslow had his first meeting with Pat Riley, Erik Spoelstra and Micky Arison on Monday, June 29 as well as his first press conference. At the press conference, Riley spoke very highly of Winslow.

"He's got the same maturity as some older players. He's unique in that way," said Riley.

Spoelstra remarked at the young player's ability to overcome pressure in tough situations.

"Winslow has proven, in a remarkable way, to be able to rise in those moments," Spoelstra said.

Winslow loves pressure saying, "I've had pressure on me

my whole life. It's nothing I can't handle. I sort of think I thrive under pressure"

In the second round, the Heat selected Josh Richardson who can provide tenacious defense and spot up shooting.

Josh Richardson, in the other hand, was a player many people didn't know. But he has promised to become a 3-and-D type of player. Richardson is a tenacious defender who will bring more grit to the bench of the Heat. Richardson played all four years at Tennessee. In his senior year 16 points, 4.5 rebounds, 3.6 assists and 2.09 steals while shooting 36% from three.

All in all, Winslow will provide an instant impact with defense, energy, and timely scoring. His tendency to never shy away from the moment and the tutelage of veteran Heat players, hopefully Dwyane Wade, will help mold Winslow into an impactful NBA player. Richardson will try to provide

the 3-and-D player the Heat covets. Both of these players will be impactful for the next coming season among the State's strongest is a champion Olympic lifter named Natalia Cabanillas.

But even with the State Championships this team already has, the FIU Power Lifting Team has plans that are even bigger than they can imagine. Every active member of this team has qualified to compete in the Raw Powerlifting Nationals, a competition that will be held in Pennsylvania on October 15. "We plan to win the State Championship every year," said coach Hennessey; and with the leadership he and the strongest father-son duo I've ever seen bring to this team, that plan is more than attainable, it's inevitable.

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New Digital Media Club to begin this fall

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Adobe Photoshop and InDesign are just a few of the computer programs students should be comfortable using.

The Digital Media Club will teach students how to use those and more programs in the fall.

Jose Gomez, 27, senior in Digital Media Studies and Lauren Shade, 23, senior in Digital Media Studies and FIU Student Media Director, are the founders of this new club.

“Few people feel prepared to face the digital world outside of their classrooms,” said Gomez, “I’m going to graduate soon and I need more experience.”

Students face situations every day requiring digital media skills.

FIU students will find help and guidance in this club surrounded by peers and not feel the pressure of professors grading them.

“The goal is that the students joining our club begin with the end in mind,” said Gomez.

Moses Shumow, assistant professor in the Department of Journalism and Broadcasting, will be the advisor for this club. He teaches a course in digital media theory and production at BBC.

“It requires a lot of responsibility to start a club and I will help wherever I can,” said



ALEXANDRA MOSQUERA/THE BEACON

Jose Gomez, a senior in digital media, is president of the Digital Media Club.

Shumow. “I think the students in this club will get a lot out of this experience.”

Students will learn and develop skills that haven’t been taught in classrooms according to Gomez.

“We will teach skills in an efficient way by going over each program step by step and apply the new learned skills to new projects,” said Gomez.

When students develop more skills that will help them in a competitive field in the future, the chances of being chosen over many other candidates grows immensely.

Gomez and Shade have many surprises in store for the students who want to join, such as a variety of workshops involving Adobe Photoshop, After Effects and more.

“As for the speakers, there are a lot of

experienced people in the field that are willing to come and talk to students,” said Shumow.

Other students have also expressed their wish for a digital media club to Shumow.

“There has been a need for a digital media club,” said Shumow. “Others started not too long ago, such as a PR and a broadcasting club, so it’s great that Lauren and Jose are starting this.”

The club will offer web design workshops and videography tutorials. Educational speaks with professionals in Digital Media related fields and collaborations with other FIU clubs. One of the first planned collaborations will be with the Creative Writing Club to create a student literary magazine.

“We want to be the bridge between what isn’t yet and what could be,” said Gomez.

There are no restrictions to FIU students who want to join this club. Students from all majors are welcome, as long as they have an interest in learning.

“This club is also a great opportunity for students to promote their projects and to get exposure,” said Shumow.

The club is planning plenty of events in collaboration with the SJMC, the Digital Media Studies faculty and clubs at both campuses.

The first two general meetings will take place at the Biscayne Bay Campus in September.

Supreme Court rules in favor of same-sex marriage

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A divided Supreme Court made history on Friday, ruling that the Constitution ensures the right of same-sex couples to marry.

In a resounding decision that caps a remarkably fast transformation across the social, legal and political landscapes, the high court overturned marriage restrictions in four states and ensured marriage equality for gay couples nationwide.

The court’s 5-4 majority concluded the Constitution’s 14th Amendment guarantee of equal protection ensures the same-sex marriage rights.

Same-sex marriage became legal in Florida on Jan. 6, after a federal court decision overturned the state’s ban went into effect.

Daniel Cazzaniga, an 18-year-old senior at Design and Architecture Senior High School when not at FIU, said the Court’s decision was long overdue.

“I’m surprised they didn’t do it earlier,” he said.

He said his gay friends are “ecstatic over” the decision.

“They feel whole,” Cazzaniga said.

The decision locks in same-sex marriage rights and

guarantees that marriages which have already been performed must be recognized in every state.

The multiple cases decided Friday, consolidated under the name *Obergefell v. Hodges*, challenged marriage restrictions in Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee and Michigan.

All told, 37 states and the District of Columbia already allow same-sex marriage, either as a result of a court decision or because of the state’s own action.

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Elena Kagan, Sonia Sotomayor and Stephen Breyer joined in the majority decision. All were appointed by Democratic presidents, and their support for same-sex marriage was never in question. Their decision was greeted with exultation outside the Supreme Court, and in a flurry of immediate reactions from advocacy groups.

However, members of two of FIU’s advocacy groups reminded supporters of equal rights that the fight continues.

“The movement is not done,” said Justin Santoli, a junior elementary education major and a peer educator with the Victim Empowerment Program.

He said the rights of transgendered people, violence against them and the plight

of homeless members of the LGBTQ are still national issues.

“This only scratches the surface,” Santoli said.

Santoli, who is gay, said although he found it interesting Justice Clarence Thomas was a dissenter, it wasn’t a shock to him.

“I wasn’t surprised that a person from an oppressed group would be against it,” he said of the only African-American judge who sits on the dais. “You think he would have a little perspective.”

Gisela Vega, associate director of LGBTQ Initiatives for Multicultural Programs and Services, said for topics like this some dissent is to be expected.

“When we think about issues like this, that have different sides of a coin, progress takes times,” Vega said.

But Vega was filled with emotions about the ruling itself.

“This is a momentous historic day and this is a huge leap for equality,” she said from MPAS’ office at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

To read the complete story go to fiusm.com. Additional reporting by the McClatchy Washington Bureau.

Open Mic Nights at BBC

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Outside the Ballrooms in the Wolfe University Center, a small crowd gathered last Thursday, June 25, with the purpose of performing. The Open Mic Night was organized by CREFO, a club at the Biscayne Bay Campus dedicated to exploring and developing skills in photography and video.

These open mics have been taking place regularly since 2013 and allow the audience to experience many different performers. The club will keep organizing the open mics throughout the

summer and fall semester on a monthly basis.

Artists can go on stage and perform their talent, whether it is singing, spoken word or playing an instrument. The open mics have a laid back atmosphere where artists encourage and support each other to present their work. Although the June 25 event had a positive outcome, CREFO hopes to see more students perform in future open mics.

“Spoken word artists were student alumni,” said Jefferson Joseph, one of the founders of CREFO. “Social media works, but we want to reach more students.”



NATALIE REYES/THE BEACON

Juan Pigurina (left) and Carlos Iglesias (right), both FSU students, perform at Open Mic Night.