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Overcrowded WRC calls for expansion

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Juliana Santos said there's a line of students who wait to use equipment at the Wellness and Recreation Center.

"Just coming here at certain hours of the day, you have to kind of schedule it out right so that it's not too full," said Santos, an FIU alumna.

With a new \$19 million expansion plan for the center, the University hopes to better accommodate a growing number of students at the gym. The center would upsize to 60,000+ square feet, more than double the size of its existing building.

"[There's] lots of things for people to do that they're not able to do now [because] it's very crowded," said Robert Frye, WRC director.

New additions include a third floor with a 1/10 mile indoor track, a new south entrance to the center, two outdoor basketball courts, a sand volleyball court and more lounge space. There will also be an additional 3-court basketball/volleyball gymnasium and a small-group

functional training fitness room.

There will be an expansion of both men's and women's locker rooms with two gender-neutral changing and shower rooms. The center will expand across parking lot 8 behind it, but some parking spaces will be left for the nearby Student Health Services.

Breaking ground begins at the end of this year and is expected to open Spring 2017.

"The entire center will remain open during renovations but there may be certain areas that are temporarily affected as they make the connection between the buildings," said Frye. "This building was always planned to expand. This was always going to be Phase One."

The University first worked with RDG Planning & Design, part of the original design team in 2009, to prepare a Phase Two. HKS Architects, Inc., the firm who designed Parkview Housing, Panther Hall, Lakeview Hall and other University housing, was then selected to design the new expansion. Moss & Associates was selected to do the construction of the expansion.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

A rendition of the future Wellness and Recreation Center, which includes a sand volleyball court, lounge space and an indoor 1/10 mile track.

The general contractor is led by the Moss brothers, with one of them being an FIU alumnus.

They led the construction of the University's Parkview Hall, the University of Miami Schwartz Center athletics facility and the UHealth and Fitness & Training Centers at Marlins Park. According to Frye, part of its funding will come from the student Activity & Service fee and Housing.

Frye said the biggest growth is going to be expanding the free weight area on the first floor.

FIU alumnus Carlos Hernandez said that he and his friends always avoid using the free weights between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. when it's the most crowded.

"Bigger would be better," said Hernandez. "Usually at 7 p.m. you get a big crowd here so anything that expands would be great so we don't get too much cluster."

Durant Harvin IV said students take to social media to show their complaints on the lack of space. "You walk in, people are lifting. It's kind of

like a maze trying to get stuff," said Harvin, WRC marketing and public relations graduate assistant.

Harvin is in charge of the center's social media accounts. He said students mostly protest through Twitter and Instagram.

"Most people enjoy working out here but it's just not as comfortable as it could be," Harvin said.

Frye said for Spinning, staff have to move bikes in and out all day. With the addition of a room exclusive to Spinning, the center will be able to

provide more Spinning classes.

There will also be a racquetball/squash convertible court.

"There are currently two racquetball courts at the University arena, but Athletics has had their designs on those spaces for offices," Frye said. "Squash is becoming much more popular, especially with our international students and faculty members."

There will also be a Fitness Assessment Office for personal trainers and a matted room for martial arts, yoga and other fitness activities. "Our clubs are going to be able to have a bigger opportunity to practice," said Michael Prociuk, WRC Intramural and Club Sports assistant director.

"The extra space will offer more times for the clubs to come in and practice and use the facilities," Prociuk said. "We'll be able to close off different parts for different clubs so that they can have more opportunity," he said. "A lot of our club leaders run their clubs from start to finish and to see them grow their program and let them grow individually as leaders is great to see."

University launches United Way campaign, goal of \$200,000

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The University's partnership with Miami's largest non-profit organization, United Way, is launching this year's campaign, with a goal of \$200,000 dollars.

The non-profit organization focuses on improving education, financial stability and health in the community. According to the organization's website, they believe that these three areas are the building blocks for a good life.

"FIU is about being a solution for the community," said Alexis Calatayud, president of the Student Government Association. "We are our community, so [United Way] is a service to us."

This year's campaign video focuses on Miami-Dade's poverty statistics, stating that, out of half of the Miami-Dade community, 29 percent are "one emergency" away from falling into poverty and 21 percent are already living in poverty.

"We basically fund programs in the community to help those people who need that little

boost," said Norie Del Valle, vice president overseeing the organization's fundraising efforts.

United Way has been a part of the Miami community for nine decades, claiming that their story is the story of Miami—as stated on their website. United Way has been involved in the community in different events, including the 1926 "Great Miami Hurricane," the 1940 war efforts, the Cuban migration and Hurricane Andrew.

The University's fundraising goals are reached with the help of students, faculty and staff, said Del Valle.

Faculty and staff have the option of donating through payroll deduction, but the options for pledging also include credit card, e-check, cash and check.

"We do a number of events," said Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, External Relations senior vice president and co-chair of the FIU United Way campaign. "We would like students to actually participate more and [SGA] is planning a number of events to get students to participate."

These events will be going on throughout the year -- from Sept. 17 and through Dec. 11, the

date of the United Way Auction and conclusion of the year's campaign.

Some events include the passing of a donation bucket at the Homecoming Game on Saturday, Oct. 24, where a bucket will be passed around the audience and everyone pitches in as much as they'd like, said Del Valle.

All the money goes to United Way.

According to Calatayud the campaign will include a dunk tank, with student leaders and administrators and a Halloween-themed event.

The Homecoming Council will also be participating in this year's campaign. All donations made for viewer's choice during the "Unleash The Crown" pageant will be granted to United Way, said Robert Borgmann, Homecoming Council advisor.

The campaign will conclude with the United Way Auction, which is planned by the staff and open to everyone.

According to Del Valle, the celebration that closes the campaign is worth attending

SEE WAY, PAGE 2

New dean for Robert Stempel College

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A new dean for the Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work was announced by Provost Kenneth G. Furton at a Board of Trustees meeting September 10. Tomas Guilarte, who is currently an administrator at Columbia University, will assume the role as dean January 2016. The Robert Stempel College has been without a dean since September 2014.

Guilarte was a Leon Hess professor and chairman of the Department of Environmental Health at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

According to a University-wide email by Furton, Guilarte will focus on engaging faculty and expanding

research opportunities. Another of his mandates is to improve student success as the college seeks to enroll 200 doctoral students by 2020.

Guilarte is also a scientist in the fields of mechanism-based neurotoxicology and neuroscience. His approaches to neuroscience research has used behavioral, cellular and molecular testing and the application of brain imaging technology.

Guilarte has also done research on the effects of environmental chemicals on the central nervous system and on diseases that break down neurons.

He has worldwide recognition for his revelations of the effects of low-level lead exposure on the central nervous system during development and for the therapies he developed to reverse



TOMAS GUILARTE

them.

He provided his expertise to the New York Daily News when, in April 2015, tests showed a 2-year-old had dangerous levels of toxic lead in her blood.

"Even scientists think that exposure to lead in children was a thing of the past. It isn't," Guilarte said to the New York Daily News. "It continues to be a very significant issue here in the United States because those homes, people continued to live in them. It is a problem of today. It is a problem of the future."

Guilarte was not available for comment by Student Media press time.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

FAMU settles hazing lawsuit with drum major’s family

Florida A&M University on Friday settled a wrongful death lawsuit with the family of Robert Champion over the fatal hazing of the drum major for \$1.1 million and an apology, according to documents obtained by the Orlando Sentinel. An insurance

company will pay \$800,000 to the drum major’s estate and the university will pay \$300,000 through the Florida Department of Financial Services, the maximum allowed without a claims bill that would have required the Legislature’s approval.

Seven years later, Obama still mum on Keystone

When TransCanada applied to build the Keystone XL pipeline, John McCain had just picked a little-known Alaska governor as his running mate in a desperate attempt to stop the presidential campaign juggernaut of a freshman senator named Barack Obama. Saturday

marks seven years since the day TransCanada applied for its permit to build the pipeline from the Canadian oil sands, through the United States’ midsection and on to refineries in Texas. As Obama prepares to leave office in a year, there is still no sign of a decision from him on the pipeline.

Munich, beer festival near, glad to be at center of refugee crisis

The central rail station here these days is a maze of eager but confused young men with backpacks and plastic bags, and exhausted families with overstuffed luggage holding what’s left of their worldly possessions. They collapse against walls, squat on benches, or pace, trying to figure out how to navigate new lives in this medieval city.

Walking under banners proclaiming “Willkommen zum Oktoberfest” (Welcome to Oktoberfest) and a McDonald’s ad that proclaims “Your hunger ends here,” they represent but a small piece of what has been called the European refugee crisis. But that is seen in Munich and much of Germany as a chance to reinvent a nation.

Taiwan-China tensions on the rise as elections draw near

The Presidential Office Building in Taipei isn’t easily mistaken for other buildings - it’s an ornate Baroque-style structure that dates back to 1919 and is capped by a 200-foot-tall tower. In July, China held a military exercise that included an assault

on a building that based on video from the mainland closely resembled the presidential offices in Taipei. Overnight, the anxiety thermostat in Taiwan spiked. Many saw it as evidence that a real military invasion of their island could be in the works.

I-SHIP IT



NICOLE MEZA/THE BEACON

At the Internship Fair, which was located at the Graham Center Ballrooms on Sept. 16, students were able to sign up for internship information.

University to hold event promoting safe sex

GUETHSHINA ALTENA
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Jonathan Lopera said college is a great place to mingle, and that makes it more important for students to check for sexually transmitted diseases.

“With so much interaction, it’s necessary for us to take the necessary precautions to stay healthy,” said Lopera, a freshman finance major.

Student Health Services Healthy Living Program will host its third annual two-day free STD testing to promote safe sex. Students can test for Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia and human immunodeficiency virus.

According to Stephanie Caceres, University Health Services health educator and event coordinator, participants can call to find out their results within two weeks to a month. On a normal day, testing on campus can cost from \$6.50 to \$40.

Miami-Dade County ranks No. 1 in the state of Florida for new number of HIV and AIDS cases, according to Care Resource. Nearly half of the 20 million new STDs diagnosed each year are commonly found

in people between the ages of 15 and 24, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The program will host the event in collaboration with the Florida Department of Health and Union Positiva, a non-profit organization that fights against HIV/AIDS epidemic in Latino communities. Caceres said testing will be provided for students, non-students and faculty alike.

The number of Hispanics or Latinos with HIV was more than three times as high as that of whites in 2010, according to CDCP.

The event has seen an increase in almost double the number of participants in the last two years, according to Caceres. 172 people attended in September 2013 and 313 people in February 2015.

“The numbers are expected to grow as more people become aware of the benefits of STD testing,” said Caceres. “The event provides education on safe sex practice, besides testing.”

“STD is very important, especially for people in relationships,” said Sherley Joseph, a freshman nursing major.

“It’s a great way for people to protect their bodies and their partner’s

as well. This event will make sure that students who attend learn more about safe sex practices,” said Joseph.

For those who would rather not know their status or are too afraid of what their results would be, Caceres said it’s better to be informed and prevent the spread of a disease. She said that if a disease is detected early, some STDs can be completely eliminated.

Bacterial STDs such as Syphilis, Gonorrhea and Chlamydia can often be cured with antibiotics. Even though diseases like HIV cannot, it can be alleviated with treatments.

Lopera said he appreciates the University providing free STD testing for students, which not only benefits them, but also the community as a whole.

“Personally, I believe remaining healthy should be a priority for everyone. It’s our job to protect not only ourselves but others of these diseases,” said Lopera.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21 and Tuesday, Sept. 22 at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus in parking lot 8, which is located in front of the Student Health Center.

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United Way kicks off at the University

WAY, PAGE 1

because all funds collected will go straight to United Way and the community.

Previously, the auctions have included roundtrip airline tickets, restaurant gift certificates, electronics, jewelry and gift baskets, among other things.

“Different departments donate [gift] baskets,” said Del Valle. “Local businesses donate as well for a live auction.”

There is an entrance fee of five dollars for the closing ceremony auction, which will include drinks and complimentary hors d’oeuvres.

The auction will be held on Friday, Dec. 11 at in the GC Ballrooms from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

“FIU is unique because of the student participation,” said Del Valle. “As the university has grown we’ve been working hard to get the students more engaged.”

Technology is taking over our world

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Every day, people walk through life not paying attention to the majority of what is going on around them.

Everyone is focused on his or her smartphones, texting and looking at Instagram posts, browsing through Facebook and getting in some online shopping. When they have free time during the day, it's all about procrastinating their to-do lists with Netflix and Hulu.

Hours upon hours are spent with their attention glued to some technological device but is this a healthy way to live though?

Every hour spent on technology for leisure time is an hour that is lost to seeing friends, going to the gym, being social or enjoying the natural world we live in. Without even realizing what they're doing, people isolate themselves into a world of

virtual everything.

Watching Netflix and Hulu, you see the relationships other people form and how others deal with it, when you could be out there forming your own relationships and friendships.

Talking to someone over text, it's difficult to tell what the emotion and meaning is behind some of what that person might be saying in his or her message.

Words and comments can have such a different meaning when you can physically hear the comment being made. This enables you to have a more productive and higher quality conversation when you can hear them out face-to-face.

Society as a whole has become more and more comfortable in talking to others over a text than they do over the phone or in person. If we stop texting so much and allow ourselves to meet up in person more often our levels of comfort in talking

to others face-to-face will improve drastically.

Not only do they miss out on having fun with friends but they miss out on gaining social skills that can take them much farther than an invite to a party or night out.

When people put away their technology they are much more likely to meet new faces and make new friends. This calls for becoming more outgoing, leading to feeling more comfortable in talking to strangers in general.

When it comes to Instagram and Facebook, it's safe to say that people lose sleep at night to scroll through pictures, posts and tweets that are much less essential to life than sleep.

If you add up all the minutes per week you lay in bed before finally agreeing with your phone to go to sleep, it turns into hours, which will eventually start to take a toll on your body and health.

Then there is the toll technology takes on learning. Not every class

you take is all fun and games, and there probably hasn't been a class any student has taken since elementary school that has been all fun and games.

So how do students deal with boredom in class? They resort to technology. Every ounce of attention they may have had towards the professor and the material being taught now goes straight to their phones and laptops.

This is a serious issue because instead of keeping up with the material and understanding the concepts while being taught, they must learn it on their own time, which is also spent being distracted by their technology.

The technological world is by far one of the most beneficial and impressive worlds humans have created. However, we need to be careful that we're not making the technological world our whole world.

Working in groups is easier

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Whenever you hear the teacher or professor say the words 'group' and 'work' together or even 'team' and 'work' together, you know your day just got worse.

Even though most businesses have teams or groups and some law enforcement organizations have groups of two or more to help with investigations, there are just days where you don't want to work in a group but you have to show up with a smile on your face anyway.

Group members usually receive more complaints than the actual group itself. Some members assume the group needs a leader and voluntarily become the group leader without asking anyone else if they want to be the person in charge. Other times, you have one group member who just does all the work because no one else wants to organize and manage the group's information. In most cases, you have that one group member who is completely ignored and isn't involved with the group's decision making until the approaching deadline.

Why do people assume working in groups makes everything easier than working alone? Some businesses assume that by working in a group, the paperwork is done faster. In other businesses, the

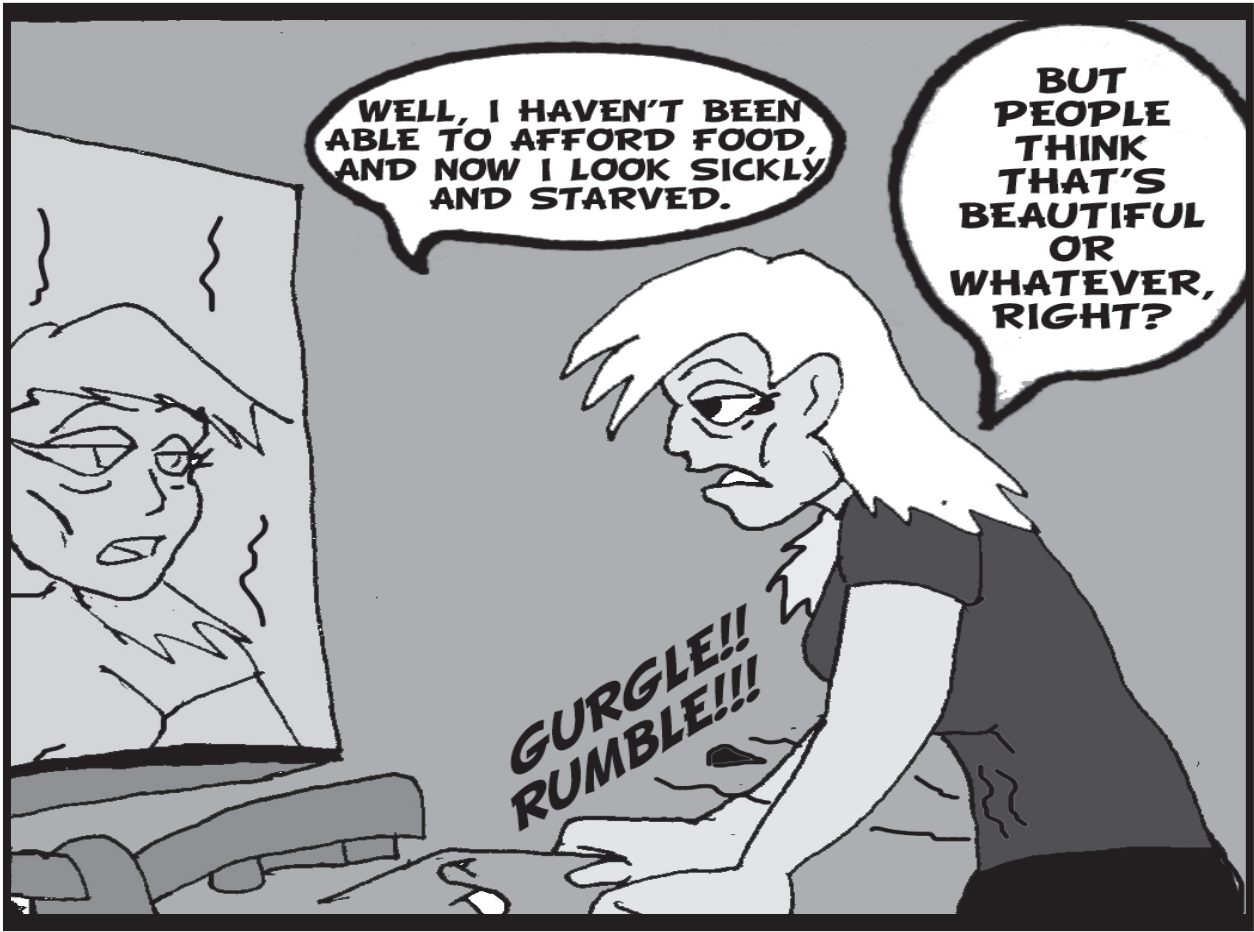
paperwork is completed and delivered on time by the individual. Not all businesses and corporations follow the same general guidelines about group work; they just do it so there is no mess and no fuss about the job and getting everything done in a timely fashion.

Groups are even used in educational facilities. Teachers who enforce group work often believe that it helps students with their managing abilities and enhances their skills in both communication and problem solving. But there are exceptions to this rule and usually those who do not wish to participate in groups often become the lone wolf.

The lone wolf will be singled out by other members because of the lack of effort on the individual's behalf. Being a lone wolf isn't a problem if you're in a career position that doesn't involve group work but for those career paths that require a team of people it can be pretty challenging to get along with anyone.

Whether you are a lone wolf or an avid group person, working with someone else won't kill you because friends are yet to be made and relationships are yet to be discovered. You can be for or against group work, but eventually you will have to deal with having professional working partnerships in the long run.

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Brightest Minds Lighting

2015 Faculty Convocation Banquet & Awards Cere

Excellence in Advising and Mentorship



Krishnaswamy Jayachandran, Ph.D.
*Earth and the Environment
College of Arts & Sciences
Professor*

Krishnaswamy Jayachandran is a noted soil microbiologist. In addition to actively contributing to his field of study, he has mentored 200 undergraduate and graduate students toward their research projects and promotes STEM experiential and experimental learning. In addition, he fosters collaboration among graduate students and undergraduate students through a mentoring program. His efforts speak to his belief that today's students are tomorrow's decision-makers and natural stewards.



Steven F. Oberbauer, Ph.D.
*Biological Sciences
College of Arts & Sciences
Professor*

Steven Oberbauer is the graduate program director of biological sciences. As a researcher, scientist and scholar, he adapts his mentoring style to meet the needs of his students, displaying a genuine interest for the scholarly pursuits of FIU students. By encouraging students to take ownership of their projects and providing them with the necessary support, he continues with his mission to transition advisees "from students to colleagues."



Jiuhua George Chen, Ph.D.
*Mechanical and Materials Engineering
College of Engineering & Computing
Professor*

A renowned international scholar, Jiuhua Chen is an active contributor of new research. In the past five years, he has also graduated three doctoral and two master's degree students. He encourages FIU students to present their research at national and international conferences so that these emerging scholars can gain confidence. He believes that the presence of FIU graduate students at major conferences not only raises FIU's reputation but also showcases the university's strength.

Excellence in Engagement



Luther G. Brewster Jr., Ph.D.
*Humanities, Health and Society
Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine
Assistant Professor*

In addition to being a dedicated Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine professor, Luther Brewster is actively involved in finding solutions to problems affecting underserved communities across South Florida. His three-tier community engagement structure has received tremendous support and is credited with bringing together a range of organizations such as governmental entities, community leaders, non-profits and foundations to respond to the health disparities of client populations.

Excellence in Librarianship



Marisol Florén-Romero, Ph.D.
*Law Library
College of Law
Assistant Director, Librarian*

Marisol Florén-Romero is adept at conducting research and locating legal scholarship (no matter how elusive the text or material) as the College of Law's international reference librarian. While her specialty is investigating information pertaining to foreign and international law, she also provides assistance to faculty and students researching U.S. state and federal laws. In 2011, she began digitizing special foreign law collections and providing this content to Digital Library of the Caribbean.

Excellence in Research and Creative Activities



Kenneth J. Feeley, Ph.D.
*Biological Sciences
College of Arts & Sciences
Associate Professor*

A respected U.S. tropical biologist, Kenneth Feeley has 71 peer-reviewed publications. His research is at the leading edge of studies concerning the role of climate change and deforestation on the persistence and distribution of Amazonian forest species. In 2014, he was awarded the National Science Foundation's prestigious Career Grant. An active member of FIU's Biology department, he has headed a successful lab of graduate students.



Eric Bishop-von Wettberg, Ph.D.
*Biological Sciences
College of Arts & Sciences
Assistant Professor*

Eric Bishop-von Wettberg is a noted plant evolutionary biologist and ecologist. He develops new varieties of crops that have the stress tolerance of wild plants and the cultural characteristics favored by small farmers in the developing world. His interdisciplinary approach to ecological studies has inspired significant collaborations among FIU scholars. His understanding of the issues in modern plant breeding and conservation have earned him acclaim in the scientific and agricultural communities.



Kevin E. O'Shea, Ph.D.
*Chemistry and Biochemistry
College of Arts & Sciences
Professor*

Kevin O'Shea, a pioneer in the field of environmental chemistry, is an expert in the development of innovative technologies for drinking water purification. He has written more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and his papers have been cited a total of 2,678 times. Five of his papers have been published in Environmental Science and Technology, the No. 1-ranked journal for environmental sciences. Most recently, one of his 2014 papers was downloaded more than 20,000 times.



Orlando Jacinto Garcia, Ph.D.
*Music
College of Architecture + The Arts
Professor*

Orlando Jacinto Garcia is a professor of music composition and composer in residence with FIU's College of Architecture + The Arts. One of the most important composers of his generation, he has earned three Latin Grammy nominations. Garcia embraces new technology and innovation in his field. In 2009, he collaborated with FIU colleagues Jacek Kolasinski, John Stuart and Campbell McGrath to present the interdisciplinary video opera Transcending Time at the Biennale in Zagreb, Croatia.



Erik Camayd-Freixas, Ph.D.
*Modern Languages
College of Arts & Sciences/Steven J.
Green School of International
and Public Affairs
Professor*

Camayd-Freixas is a specialist in socio-anthropological approaches to Latin American/Latino literature and cultural studies. He is also a leading specialist in translation and interpretation. His training in the analysis of texts and speeches coupled with years of experience as a forensic linguist for federal state courts have afforded him an in-depth knowledge of evidentiary procedures, establishing him as a national voice on immigration policy.



Martha Pelaez, Ph.D.
*Leadership and Professional Studies
College of Education
Frost Professor*

Martha Pelaez is a Frost Professor in the College of Education and one of the recognized founders of the field of behavioral development. She is also the founder of the Behavioral Development Bulletin, a publication that informs the field of developmental psychology by taking a behavioral analytical approach. In addition to her research, Pelaez has been developing intervention protocols since 1994 for infants at risk of developing behavioral problems.

Excellence in Service



Victor M. Uribe-Uran, Ph.D.
*History
College of Arts & Sciences/ Steven J.
Green School of International and Public
Affairs and College of Law
Associate Professor*

Victor Uribe-Uran holds joint appointments in history and law. His most distinguished accomplishment has been his field efforts to implement the \$20.5 million Justice Reform and Modernization Program to overhaul Colombia's justice system. Led by FIU's Luis Salas, the program has resulted in the construction of several houses of justice in Colombia to strengthen the resolution of local disputes. Uribe-Uran serves on the FIU Faculty Senate and he is also chair of the History department.

g the Way

emony Commemorating FIU's 50th Anniversary

Excellence in Teaching



Uma Swamy, Ph.D.
*Chemistry and Biochemistry
College of Arts & Sciences
Senior Lecturer*

For Uma Swamy, being a great teacher means being a lifelong scholar – constantly learning and innovating. To make chemistry engaging, Swamy designs courses with simple explanations and examples for difficult concepts; she links concepts to phenomena or applications from everyday life. David Chatfield, chair and associate professor of chemistry, says the department is leading the way in the university-wide effort to promote active learning thanks to her endeavors.



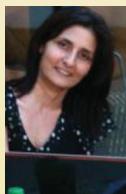
Gagani Athauda, M.D.
*Cellular Biology and Pharmacology
Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine
Assistant Professor*

Dr. Gagani Athauda designs lessons to meet her students' individual needs even though some classes can be as big as 120 students. She also supports her students outside of the classroom, serving as a mentor to many of them. For Athauda, minimizing the gap between students and faculty creates a comfortable environment that is conducive to active learning and student engagement. Her students say her courses are of the highest quality.



Hector Huerta, OTD, MS, OTR/L
*Occupational Therapy
Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing
& Health Sciences
Assistant Professor*

Hector Huerta creates learning environments where students are energized and invested as drivers of their own education. He creates a supportive learning atmosphere where errors are transformed from being perceived as negative to being valued as essential opportunities for professional development. His students describe him as knowledgeable, creative and generous and consider him one of those professors who will leave an indelible mark on their lives.



Ebru Özer, Ph.D.
*Landscape Architecture,
College of Architecture + The Arts
Associate Professor*

Ebru Özer's students have won many competitive design awards and prestigious scholarships, bringing national recognition to the landscape architecture program at FIU. She keeps her students up to date on cutting-edge research, teaching ecological sustainability in landscape as well as addressing some of the most important issues facing society - climate change and economic disparity. Many of Özer's students have gone on to successful careers in top design firms.



Joanne Sanders-Reio, Ph.D.
*Leadership and
Professional Studies
College of Education
Senior Instructor*

Joanne Sanders-Reio gives students practical tools for the real world and the knowledge to understand when it is appropriate to use them. Her effective teaching methods empower students to achieve their academic and professional goals. As a former writer and editor, she focuses on communication skills, recognizing how a lack of writing skills can jeopardize careers.



Jill Weiss, MS
*Computing and Information Sciences
College of Engineering & Computing
Senior Instructor*

Jill Weiss is an in-demand instructor. Weiss makes her courses engaging by connecting with her students through humor and lively interactions. She shares her extensive knowledge of the field with 700-800 students per semester, and, remarkably, takes the time to support and mentor many of them. Weiss is also a strong advocate of Panther Life, a program designed for students with intellectual disabilities.

Excellence in Adjunct Teaching



Ivanessa Arostegui, MS
*Religious Studies
College of Arts & Sciences/Steven J.
Green School of International
and Public Affairs
Lecturer*

Ivanessa Arostegui encourages students to open their minds, explore possibilities and break down walls. Arostegui uses active learning methods to foster critical thinking in the courses she designs. She also creates learning environments built on mutual respect; her students are motivated to ask challenging questions about complex topics. Because she believes learning is a two-way street, she asks her students to discuss their own personal and lived religious experiences.



Jeffrey H. Greenfield, Ph.D., PE
*Civil and Environmental Engineering
College of Engineering & Computing
Lecturer*

For Jeffrey Greenfield, the most successful engineers build systems combining technological acumen with innovative thinking. Mirroring that dynamic, he strives to bring a technological and creative approach to all his courses. Greenfield's students say his lessons are transferrable to real-world situations. Greenfield says every classroom presents a unique community of learners who will build on the concepts learned in his classroom to make society more vital.



**Marcos Alan Kerbel, MBA,
CPA/CFP,CPAML**
*Finance
College of Business
Lecturer*

Marcos Kerbel has been engaging students in the study of finance for 35 years. As the chair of the Education and Training Committee of the Florida International Bankers Association, he stays informed of proposed banking legislation and regulation. He challenges his students to present and debate related topics from a variety of perspectives, including cross-cultural and global viewpoints, inspiring them to participate in dynamic discussions about important finance and business issues.

President's Council Worlds Ahead Faculty Award Finalists (in alpha order)



Luther G. Brewster Jr., Ph.D.
*Humanities, Health and Society
Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine
Assistant Professor*

Luther Brewster takes the less-beaten path to find solutions to society's most pressing issues. Brewster is an innovative problem solver who is on a mission to provide vital health care to the community. As the community director for the Green Family Foundation Neighborhood HELP(TM) – the College of Medicine's flagship service-learning program, Brewster helps better prepare students to serve diverse populations in underserved areas of Miami-Dade County.



Stavros V. Georgakopoulos, Ph.D.
*Electrical and Computer Engineering
College of Engineering & Computing
Associate Professor*

Stavros V. Georgakopoulos is a visionary conducting groundbreaking research. Georgakopoulos has developed wireless powering technologies that are expected to enable next-generation applications for biomonitoring, pacemakers, drug delivery, artificial organs and bionics. His work on origami antennas is projected to have a significant impact on space communication systems. He also leads a grant-funded program that engages female and minority elementary school students in STEM fields.



Aileen M. Marty, M.D., FCAP
*Medicine
Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine
Professor*

Dr. Aileen Marty inspires FIU medical students to explore unconventional problem solving. Last year, Marty proposed a 21st century solution to the issue of quarantining travelers and health care workers arriving from Ebola-affected countries, suggesting the use of fitness bracelets with GPS that record vital signs. She also responded quickly to the need for laws governing burials in cases of contagious diseases by collaborating with FIU Law Professor Eloisa Rodriguez-Dod.

VOLLEYBALL

Panthers split first day of FIU Invite

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The women’s volleyball team played its first home game since Aug. 29, as they hosted the FIU Invite. The event began on Thursday, Sept. 17, which saw the Panthers play two games. The first, was a 1 p.m. match against Bethune-Cookman University, the second was a 7 p.m. match against the University of Central Florida.

The team came into this double-header fresh off a sweep in the Stetson Invitational, beating Stetson University and Mercer University.

The team got started on a hot note, as they defeated Bethune-

Cookman 4-1, with a score of 25-19, 19-25, 25-23, and 25-19. After splitting the first two sets, the Panthers took the third set and held the Wildcats to a .116 hitting percentage. In the final set, the Panthers used a .303 hitting percentage to finish the match.

The team was led by seniors Lucia Castro and Gloria Levorin. Castro finished with 14 kills and 10 digs, collecting her fifth double-double of the season. Levorin also finished with 14 kills and added with a hitting percentage of .565 and 7 blocks, giving her 37 for the season.

Senior Adriana McLamb and freshman Maria McLamb managed to combine for 25 digs throughout the match to help the Panthers defensively. This victory marked the fourth straight win

for the Panthers and improved their record to 24-0 versus the Wildcats. The team improved to 7-2 for the season.

The Panthers looked to bring their momentum into the match against UCF for the 7 p.m. start. However, the team fell short, losing in straight sets 12-25, 15-25, and 22-25 and snapping their four-game win streak.

During the match, the Panthers committed 17 errors, while only having 25 kills and a .071 hitting percentage. The Knights totalled 50 kills and managed to finish with a .309 hitting percentage and 5 aces.

After two sets being one-sided affairs, the Panthers kept up with the Knights in the third set but fell short to what ended up being the deciding set.

Castro finished with 8 kills and 11 digs, MaLamb had a team-high 15 digs, and junior Katie Hogan finished with a .333 hitting percentage along with 5 kills. The team falls to 7-3 overall.

Up next for the Panthers is a matchup against Seattle University on Friday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m., concluding the FIU Invite. The Redhawks are 6-5 this season, and just like the Panthers, have gone 1-1 in their past two games.

Seattle defeated UCF 3-1 with a score of 25-21, 14-25, 25-22, and 25-20. However, they fell to the University of Miami 0-3 with a score of 14-25, 20-25, and 21-25.

The Redhawks will face off against Bethune-Cookman before the game against the Panthers.

The team needs to win this final game of the FIU Invite in order to have a shot at winning this weekend’s event.

With the series of Invites, Challenges, and Classics the Panthers have participated in coming to an end, the team is set for its Conference USA home opener on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 1 p.m. The team will face off against Florida Atlantic University, which has a current record of 8-3. The Owls recently defeated Florida Gulf Coast University 3-1 and is set to take on Ohio University before traveling to FIU.

The Panthers, 7-3 (1-0 C-USA), have tied last year’s win total, and a win against their rival, FAU, would be a spark to what has already been an impressive season so far.

RUGBY CLUB

Strong bond forms leaders on rugby team

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With the fall season quickly approaching, Rugby team captain and President Mateo Velazquez leads his team at practice in the scorching Miami heat in order to prepare for the tough season ahead. Velazquez, who’s pursuing an electrical engineering degree at Florida International University, is extremely excited to play alongside his teammates in hopes of continuing the success the team experienced this past summer when the Panthers played with men’s club in 7s.

Velazquez has been following his father’s footsteps since he began playing rugby for Southwest Miami High School. His father, Carlos Velazquez, also played rugby in their homeland of Uruguay. The rugby team captain admits to looking up to his father for guidance on and off the field. Over time, he has begun to feel the drive of a leader.

“It’s the nature of the sport. When you’re out there on the field it’s hard not to,” said Velazquez.

Since this past summer, the team is a lot more focused and driven towards winning and playing at a competitive level.

“Playing with men’s club this summer helped us improve a lot. Our improvement is definitely beginning to show now,” said Velazquez.

In order to create a stronger bond among teammates, Coach Ron Suarez decided to create leadership roles in order to help the team communicate on and off the field. Teammates were able to vote for the team captain, back’s captain and forward’s captain.

“Taking this leadership role as team captain has given me a better sense of confidence to take up more challenges,” said Velazquez.

“We make sure the team is able to communicate and has no problems on the field or off the field, in school and even life. We’re able to help with whatever it is the student or player needs,” said Jose Laphitzondo, back’s captain.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RUGBY IN FLORIDA - USA

Coach Ron Suarez looks to lead FIU’s rugby team from last year’s tough loss at the regional finals against Charlotte.

Laphitzondo, who’s currently completing his last semester and earning a degree in finance and international business, not only plays Rugby for FIU, but has also showed much talent on the field as a punter for the football team. However, backs’ captain confesses that his love for rugby began long before he picked up a ball for the Panthers.

Laphitzondo and his family, who immigrated to the U.S. five years ago, created a bond through rugby in their native country of Argentina. Fortunately, Laphitzondo confesses that he’s found a new family and home at FIU.

“We share camaraderie, this team is like

a brotherhood,” he said. The back’s captain not only holds this level of respect for his team but also for the game.

“Rugby transmits values of friendship and respect for every player, even the opposing team. This sport is one of a kind,” said Laphitzondo.

Accompanied by team captain Velazquez, forward’s captain Barrington McNutt and the rest of his teammates, the backs’ captain hopes the team continues the success they shared this summer in 7s as they go into the fall and spring seasons.

“Hopefully we can bring the success we had this summer in 7s to 15s. That’s our

plan,” he said.

Despite the fact that the Panthers suffered a tough loss at regional finals against Charlotte and missed out on a spot at Nationals, the team is proud of the victories they have achieved. “Although we lost the finals, we were happy. Our skills helped us make it far and hopefully we’ll continue to go far this season,” said Jose Laphitzondo.

With Ron Suarez coaching the Panthers, there’s no doubt that this team will be able to continue the success they experienced this past summer. This group of leaders share a bond that will lead them straight to victory.

Everglades, Frost exhibit both works of art



There is an unprecedented beauty about the Everglades that makes it one of the most magnificent natural ecosystems in the world. There is a freshness to it. An atmosphere that shouldn't be tampered with by the hands of man. Within it, you will find splendors hidden about the area that harbor a brilliance that hasn't been regarded by the eyes of many.

However, the Everglades is only a glimpse, a remnant of a pure land that stands firm amongst the litter and pollution that plagues the very ground we walk on.

Jim Couper, founding director of the Art Museum at Florida International University, has recognized the decline of the once pure

natural ecosystem.

"My work is a humble acknowledgement of the wonder that has been taken from us," Couper said.

He has honed his artistic abilities to properly convey the beauty of the Everglades through the eyes of a witness who has stood before its elegance, and has witnessed its slow deterioration. It is for this reason that his paintings do not feature people, but rather a first person depiction of the spectacles that are visible within the national park. Therefore, it is amongst the freshwater, amid the untouched wilderness of the Everglades that Couper is able to craft his astonishing works of art. They act as a sanctuary from a world that lacks the care necessary to preserve an ecosystem that is often taken for granted.

One aspect of Couper's painting that he successfully accentuates is his surreal and pristine use of color. When visiting the Everglades, one's eyes may venture off into the

setting of the sun, when the sky releases hues of navy and crimson that seem to envelop the atmosphere.

If you have witnessed such occurrences, then many of Couper's works may seem vaguely familiar. This comes to show the sheer prowess of Couper's skills. His paintings accurately capture the utter beauty that one may recognize as a result of their own experiences in the national park.

When perusing the exhibition, one is not simply viewing a painting etched onto a canvass. Instead, one is looking through a window that offered a remarkable view of unblemished nature. Couper's painting "Night Sky" displayed a unique view of the heavens that can only be witnessed in an atmosphere where lights are absent. It was by far the largest and most detailed portrait in all of the exhibition.

Although Couper's paintings are truly breathtaking, they are not

merely an idea placed in a museum to be witnessed and glorified. These paintings portray a natural beauty that is in need of preservation and protection.

The Everglades is in need of our assistance, for we are the only ones who can purify its soiled waters, littered grounds, and the endangered wildlife

that depend on its wide expanse. This is what Couper encourages us to dwell on as we examine his incredible exhibition.



JASMINE ROMERO/ THE BEACON

Michael Mason, a 46-year-old auditor, visits the Everglades Exhibit which features work by Jim Couper, founding director of the Art Museum at FIU.



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Shaun T brings Insanity to BBC during expo

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Students determined to work up a sweat met their match when the creator of popular exercise videos visited the WUC Ballrooms.

“Insanity” creator Shaun Thompson led students, staff and even community members into shape on Sept. 16 as part of 2015 Rec Expo.

The 2015 Rec Expo took place this past Wednesday, Sept. 16 opening up with a vendor fair where students could buy anything to satisfy their exercising needs but the main event was the workout session with Shaun T.

The fitness guru came out clapping and jumping from a door behind the crowd. The mob quickly turned and cheers filled the ballroom.

“People, this is not about looking good in the mirror or to others,” said Thompson. “It’s about coming out better than when you came in.”

Then it was workout time, starting with a simple warm up that gradually augmented in intensity. Half an hour passed and the first



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

Shaun T, creator of the Insanity workout, leads a workout session at Biscayne Bay Campus on Sept. 16, where he participated in a Q&A session and gave speeches about self-empowerment.

signs of dismay started to appear amongst those that were giving their all to keep up with Thompson.

But Thompson noticed the whining strength of the class and jumped from the stage to join the

crowd hoping to renew their energy.

“Come on people! There is always a reserve! Build up your energy to be the best that you can be,” said Thompson.

The minutes turned into hours

and the crowd refused to give up, jumping higher and higher, punching faster and faster. Thompson walked around the crowd correcting and mentoring those that needed it and giving

words of encouragement to the ones that were falling behind.

“He does all of his work out without any equipment, and in my PE class we don’t have the resources to get any equipment either so I draw most of my workouts from him,” said Caron Schiffman, a 60-year-old physical education teacher at Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School.

Schiffman brought her Insanity videos to the workout expecting Thompson to sign them. She even brought with her a video of a mass workout session in where almost 150 high school students could be seen working out to Thompson’s rhythm in a big screen in the school gymnasium.

“He is so down to earth. Not like other celebrities that think that they’re better than others,” said Michelle Perez, an Insanity instructor who works for a company called Core Fitness that works with Thompson. She was more than excited to see Shaun T in person again.

“Believe in yourselves, and if you do that you will succeed in whatever you set your mind into,” said Thompson, ending the 2015 Rec Expo.

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