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WE'RE NUMBER ONE!

College of Law has highest passage rate in Florida Bar

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The University's College of Law had the highest bar passage rate in Florida, with 89 percent of its students passing the exam.

The University is ranked above the University of Florida, who had an 87.3 percent passing rate and Florida State University, who passed with 80.3 percent, according to the Florida Board of Bar Examiners.

But, overall, Florida declined by eight points, with a 72 percent passing rate in 2014 and a 64 percent passing rate in 2015, according to Excess of Democracy.

"I don't think this is a pressure for incoming bar takers," said R Alexander Acosta, dean of the COL. "Our students do well and [are] well prepared. As long as they're our graduates, we're going to take care of them."

Law schools among the state

of Florida each aim to rank first in the bar passage rate.

Raul Ruiz, assistant professor and director of bar preparation, said it shows the kind of work the students and professors do.

"The high Bar passing rates reflect on a combination of FIU Law's professors and students," said Elise Barimo, third year law student. "We have a balance between extremely intelligent professors who do an incredible job of teaching us the law and studious and hardworking students who want to succeed."

Acosta said this accomplishment reflects the hard work and dedication of their students and their capabilities, as well as the outstanding teaching, improvement and remodeling of their academic excellence program.

Ruiz works with each student and individualizes a study program for them.

"I'd like to thank him and I'd like to thank our students,"



NICOLE MEZA/THE BEACON

FIU College of Law graduates Lauren Bengochea, and Audrey Salbo gather at the Induction Ceremony for individuals who passed the Bar test on Thursday, Sept. 24 inside the College of Law Building.

said Acosta.

The academic excellence bar program is led by Ruiz and Louis Schulze, assistant dean of the COL. The program helps students from their first day of law school to their last day taking the Bar.

According to Ruiz, it teaches them to be great attorneys and great test-takers. The program was established approximately two years ago by Schulze and has already had a positive effect, he said.

Barimo said that many law school graduates think of the bar as a nerve-wracking experience, studying more hours than they ever have before.

"The bar exam is a different beast than any type of test

you've ever taken in school," said Ruiz. "It's the hardest test you'll take in your life."

But Barimo said she doesn't have to worry about not feeling prepared for the bar exam. She thinks that the education her and her peers have received is invaluable and more than enough to prepare them for their futures.

Ruiz thinks it's a big achievement for the students and faculty of the college.

"It really shows the quality of education that they're getting from a public university," he said.

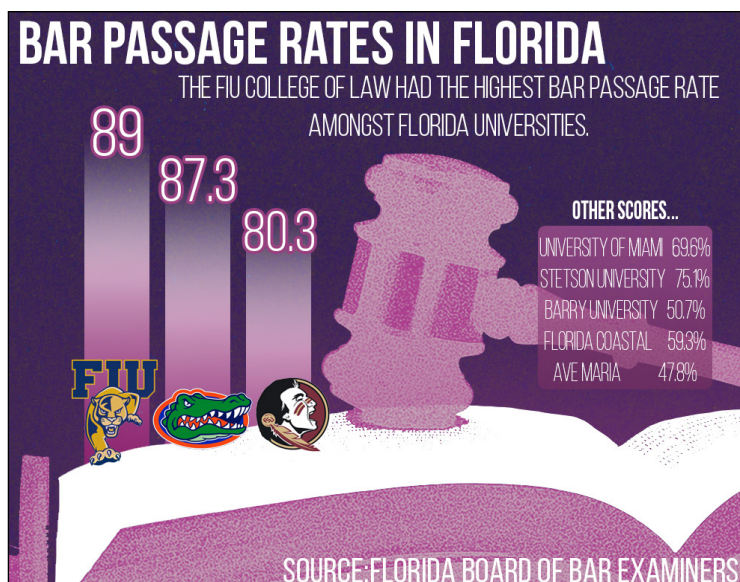
Barimo and Gail Walsh, a first year law student, said the released numbers have only strengthened their confidence

in something that they already knew: that FIU Law is preparing them and their peers for success.

"I am so proud to be part of an institution that achieved the highest bar passing rate in Florida," said Walsh. "FIU Law is an up-and-coming law school and I know that we will go very far."

Barimo agrees.

"Being a student at the Florida school with the highest bar passing rate not only excites me for my successful future, but makes me even more proud to be an FIU law student," Barimo said.



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

Car count system to reach all garages by next fall

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Maria Pelegrin spends over 45 minutes every morning looking for available parking. During her four years at the University, she wished there was a way to know about parking availability before driving into a garage.

Now with the expansion of a virtual car counting system at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, she'll be able to know how many student parking spots are available before driving in to look for a spot.

"If this actually works, it's going to be amazing," said Pelegrin, a senior information technology major. "I can't tell you how much time I waste trying to find parking in a garage that is already full."

The roughly \$400,000 system, introduced by the Department of Parking and Transportation, will tell drivers which garages have available parking spots, similar to what Parking Garage 6 offers.

"When you drive into the University and you go into Gold Garage, you don't know if it's full or not," said Thomas Hartley, executive director of the department. "You drive all the way to the top and to the bottom. This way, we can just direct people ahead of time."

The system will have sensors that count when cars come in and out of garages by reading each vehicle's license plate.

It'll be released sometime this fall in conjunction with a mobile app.

The Parking App, for both iOS and Android devices, will feature permit purchases, citation

appeals, citation payments, information about where to park and Pay by Cell functions for visitors, as well as a place to report parking violators on campus.

App approval for iOS devices is a longer process so the car count system may be finished first, said Hartley.

In the meantime, the department plans to have signage outside the garages.

"We're going to have signs that'll change the car count as cars are driving in and out of the garages," said Hartley. "We'll know because we'll have cameras set up that look at each car's virtual license plate permit."

The University recently went from having physical decals and stickers to virtual permits, which helps the department use license

plate recognition to identify who's parking where.

With the LPR technology, the department will know the availability for both student and nonstudent parking spots.

"When you drive through the garage, it'll stamp your plate and that's know it'll know if you're a student, rather than a staff or other," said Hartley.

The new system includes cameras in all garages and will be able to tell how long each person stays at the University.

"We'll be able to start making some good predictive modeling and direct people in advance," he said. "If we know, for example, that Gold fills at a particular time, we'll be able to communicate this to folks."

Alejandro Hernandez, a sophomore math major, thinks this is big step for the University

as a "technologically-savvy college".

"I can see what's available beforehand," he said. "It's a huge plus for FIU."

Hernandez also thinks the new system will make everything easier.

"PG6 has it and I'm glad they'll be implementing this in every garage," he said. "You know where to go and it's convenient. It's about damn time they have something like this."

The system is set to be finished in November, depending on construction.

Construction will start with PG1 and PG2 and then continue with the remaining garages.

"I think being able to direct people to the closest available parking is a huge win for everybody," said Hartley.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Obama, Putin to meet next week in New York to discuss Ukraine, Syria

President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet next week in New York for the first time in nearly a year to discuss the war in Syria, where the Kremlin is building up a military force, and consolidating a peace deal in Ukraine, the White House announced Friday.

The White House sought to tamp down expectations that the talks _ the Kremlin said they would take place on Monday _ would bring any major breakthroughs toward reversing the worst downturn in relations between Washington and Moscow since the collapse of the former Soviet Union in 1991.

Pope Francis to the powerful: Serve humanity better

Pope Francis spoke to Washington’s political power and comforted it’s powerless on his final day in the nation’s capital, delivering the same message at two stops: Those with the most must do more to help those who have the least. The populist pope straddled this city’s political and economic divide Thursday, making history in the process as the first Vatican leader to address a joint meeting of the House of Representatives and Senate before meeting nearby with some of the city’s homeless.

Apple’s new iPhones hit store shelves

The new iPhones hit store shelves Friday morning. Consumers were able to buy the latest models of Apple’s smartphone, the iPhone 6s and the jumbo-sized iPhone 6s Plus, at the company’s retail stores. They were also able to find them at the stores of the major wireless carriers and some other major electronics retailers. The key feature of the new models, which share the same size and shape as last year’s versions, is something Apple calls 3D Touch.

O’Brien kicks off ‘I am Latino in America’ tour

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An award-winning journalist spoke to FIU about police brutality and African-American civil rights in February. Now she is back with a different twist.

A CNN correspondent, philanthropist and executive producer, Soledad O’Brien will talk to University students about pressing issues like voting, the economy and education amongst the Latino community.

O’Brien was first invited by the Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council as part of her Black in America tour earlier this year. She talked about racial profiling using different clips from her documentary, “Black & Blue.”

O’Brien will kickoff her I am Latino in America tour at the University Monday, Sept. 28, which is also during National Hispanic Heritage Month. She will also stop at the University of Texas Rio Grande Oct. 5 and at the Los Angeles Occidental College Oct. 15.

There will be a panel with local artists and University faculty. There will also be a meet and greet with O’Brien for those who attend.

“Latinos are 54 million strong, make up a quarter of the children in this country and include 25 million voters with \$1.5 trillion in buying power,” said O’Brien.

Jose Toscano said O’Brien’s presence on campus is a great opportunity for the University.

Toscano, Campus Life director at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, said that her tour will bring up controversial questions. “Where do Latinos in America fit into the mainframe of the American society, and what is the next step for the Hispanic population?,” Toscano said.

“It’s an important conversation. We don’t think about the community issues that affect us every day.”

He said she will bring into focus education in the Hispanic community, healthcare access and their engagement in political movements.

48 percent of Hispanic eligible voters voted in 2012, which was a decrease from

49.9 percent in 2008, according to the Pew Research Center. This rate is significantly low compared to 66.6 percent of black voters and 64.1 percent of white voters in 2012.

O’Brien’s first stop will be in Miami-Dade County, where 66.2 percent of its population is of Hispanic descent, according to the United States Census Bureau.

Jorge Parellada, a history graduate teaching assistant, said Hispanics don’t have a strong tradition of voting. They prefer other forms of political participation like going to rallies and engaging in protests.

Latinos in America should be compared to Jews in Germany, said Parellada. He said Jews are blamed for Germany’s problems, just like Latinos are blamed for the reason “America isn’t great.”

“It’s the same discourse being utilized in order to scapegoat certain people,” he said.

Parellada also said that there are enough conversations on Latin America and not enough on the reason behind Latino immigration.

“[Immigrants] can go anywhere in Latin America, but the fundamental question is, ‘Why are they coming here?’ Is it political instabilities throughout the region, is it a good path to citizenship or family, [is it to] evade an aggressor?”

“This could be like Pandora’s box in immigrants [being] tossed out.”

Marissa Rodriguez said O’Brien could increase the Hispanic voter turnout rate and highlight the importance of the Latino community.

“We don’t know the statistics, and if we’re being informed, it would make us feel more empowered,” said Rodriguez, a freshman dietetics and nutrition major.

O’Brien is chief executive officer of Starfish Media Group, a multimedia production and distribution company. She works to approach pressing social issues in American minority groups featuring real-life stories.

The I am Latino in America tour will start at 7 p.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms. Registration is required for the event through OrgSync.

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Planned Parenthood cuts affect students

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In a 241-187 Legislative vote on Sept. 18, the House passed legislation to freeze Planned Parenthood’s funding for the next year due to alleged fetal tissue uses.

The controversy stems from a series of heavily edited videos made by The Center for Medical Progress, a California anti-abortion group, in which Planned Parenthood is made to seem as though it alters abortion procedures in order to sell fetal tissue. Dr. Deborah Nucatola, senior director of medical services at Planned Parenthood, said the tissue she was discussing was that of women who donate tissue legally and voluntarily for scientific research. It may just be the media’s popular scandals that promote opinions and concerns reflecting the false accuracy of Planned Parenthood’s mission but when there are representatives in powerful positions who agree with the media’s depiction, public funding for the nation-wide clinic’s

health services are at risk, and so are those who utilize the company for more than abortions.

Abortions account for only 3% of services offered by the company per year; most of Planned Parenthood’s provisions are within the aim of affordable, general healthcare for both men and women. These provisions include but are not limited to physicals, counseling, screenings, STD testing, assistance in pregnancies and even overcoming infertility. Furthermore, no government financial aid is permitted to be awarded to the abortion services.

Rachel Coalburn, President of the Voices for Planned Parenthood Chapter at FIU, said that she is not too worried about funding being frozen; she expects that if it makes its way onto Obama’s desk, he will veto. “Florida’s [Planned Parenthood clinics] have been defunded for about 2 years now, but no one really knew about it.” She said that even in the off chance that national funding is frozen, “if it’s publicized, well marketed, people will up rise.”

I recently took a small survey on Planned Parenthood around FIU’s Modesto Maidique campus and online. Although it wasn’t a large enough selection to use for scientific purposes, I think it shed light on how those between the ages of 17 to 23 understand Planned Parenthood. Most participants either identified as Democrat or did not identify with any party. When asked, “What is the first word that comes to mind when you hear ‘Planned Parenthood?’”, the answers were mostly “birth control” and “healthcare” instead of “abortion,” which I expected to overwhelmingly take the lead. Coalburn suspects this is because this age group is still forming its opinions and is less involved in politics than the older generations. More importantly, she said healthcare can be difficult to access for college students and these students turn to Planned Parenthood for their birth control prescriptions, exams and so much more because Planned Parenthood’s services are inexpensive and accessible.

Freezing or completely cutting off funds for Planned Parenthood is not only an “attempted erosion of women’s rights” as one survey participant commented, it is an attack on available healthcare and education for everyone, because Planned Parenthood does not only lend itself to the aid of women with unwanted pregnancies. Planned Parenthood provides extensive care for men and women alike; those with no specific concern for their reproductive decisions as well as those who wish to correct their infertility.

Planned Parenthood is about safety, choice, education and rights. It is about providing help for a young adult or low-income American who finds him or herself in a difficult situation and cannot access safe, geographically reachable and economic health services. Defunding Planned Parenthood turns into less about ridding the world of abortion and more about restricting the rights of and services for fully developed humans.

Letter to the Editor

Letters to the Editor are not written by FIUSM Staff. They are submitted by readers of The Beacon.

Problems with football gating

I was happy to attend the FIU Panthers’ first home game of the year against N.C. Central, which was a great victory for the team but I was unfortunate enough to discover a major logistical flaw following the victory which led to a very unsafe situation for many of the people attending the game. My group entered the stadium through Gate 7 on the north side of the stadium after parking in the Tamiami Park area just east of the stadium and south of Lot 6 near the Cuban memorial. Upon exiting, we exited through Gate 7 and were told that the access road leading back to the parking area was blocked off and that we’d have to go around Lot 6. Several dozen people were told this and began walking to the far end of Lot 6. The length of Lot 6 is longer than the entire length of the stadium, and along the way, there are two gates on the south side of the fence which lead to the parking area, but these were closed and chained with locks.

At the far end of Lot 6 right near the Performing Arts Center, we discovered all the gates and access ways to the park were similarly locked and there was no way to get around Lot 6 to our vehicles. Several people on the other side of the gates were also trying to get around to our side for similar reasons including one very elderly lady who had walked the entire distance on unpaved terrain. There was a police officer in a golf cart at this end but he was unable to help because he did not have the key to open the gates, so the only solution seemed to be to either climb the fence or walk all the way back to the stadium to try to cross again.

At this point, several people began trying to climb the fences, and I personally witnessed one young man climb over the south gate of Lot 6 in an extremely unsafe manner to get into Lot 6 from the other side. When a group of us walked back to the west end of Lot 6 near the stadium, we were again told that we could not cross because of the buses that were parked there. We were again told that we’d have to go around Lot 6, but when we pointed out that those gates were all locked and that some people attempted to climb the fence, I was referred to Jose, a supervisor with the Andy Frain Company who simply reiterated that the access road was closed.

Read the full version of this article at fiusm.com

Cesar A. Vasquez
FIU Student

THE FALL



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

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We are living in the information era. As technology continues to be improved and developed, it enraptures people with all the perks and benefits it has to offer. Today, one practically needs a smartphone to survive in the first world. If you look around, you may notice that nearly everyone is face-down staring at a screen. Smartphones today can track fitness, sleep and nutrition, and now they may be able to track and warn their users of depression too.

Many of us are more attached to our iPhones and Androids than to our human counterparts. Like a good partner, our smartphones should know us better than we think. It was found in a study that the more time spent using a phone and the fewer places you visit the more likely you are to be depressed. However, with accurate self-assessment, a smartphone can help

determine whether one may suffer from depression or not.

Through an app called Purple Robot, a small sample size of individuals were tracked by their location, movement, moods and feelings, phone usage and other relevant activities. For two weeks, Purple Robot collected information every five minutes and sent it back to researchers at Northwestern University for analysis. When the data was compared against a PHQ-9, a nine-question test used to survey signs of depression, it was found that the app successfully identified 87 percent of individuals at risk for depression.

In addition, the study was able to reveal some interesting behavior. Participants who identified as depressed spent an average of 68 minutes on their phones each day, while non-depressed individuals spent an average of 17 minutes. When people are depressed, they tend to withdraw and feel like they have no motivation or energy to do things. Data

reveals that they are prone to moodiness, materialism and temperamental behavior.

However, this is not to say that spending a lot of time on your smartphone means you’re depressed. The study was only over a small population during a short period of time, leaving plenty of room for error. Also, people can be stereotyped as being introverts for sitting in a corner fiddling with their phones, and introversion is one quality researchers found not to be associated with smartphone addiction.

It could be that constant checking of emails, texting, checking Facebook and playing games acts as pacifiers for an unstable individual - distracting them from any worries and providing temporary solace. While being addicted to anything is not good, we should stray away from constantly being plugged in and logged on. It’s better for our health and well-being to physically interact with others and do things that make us happy.

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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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Forum opens platform for black women

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Black women make less money, receive less education and are more likely to suffer and die from sickness and disease than anyone else, according to the Center for American Progress.

In 2014 and 2015 nine black women were among those killed by police and named in a report by the African American Policy Forum, a think tank hosted as part of the Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies at Columbia Law School.

To give voice to the challenges black women face, Esi Fynn-Obeng, Alexis Hyatt, Amber Clark, Cleophina Raymond and Terrika Faison put their issues into context for University students and generate ideas about what can be done, the affiliate chapter of the National Organization for Women hosted their first forum of the fall semester on Thursday, Sept. 24.

“We’re here to show you why we matter,” said

Fynn-Obeng, president and co-founder of the African Student Association. “The narrative of violence against black women is getting erased.”

The forum provided a platform to Fynn-Obeng and a panel of four other black women who represented the Black Student Union and Dream Defenders.

Hyatt, Clark, Raymond, Faison and Fynn-Obeng critiqued the University’s diversity, gave suggestions of how black men can support black women and set requirements for the 2016 presidential candidates.

Fynn-Obeng, a senior sociology and communication arts major, said the University is a replica of the status quo.

“It’s fake progression,” Fynn-Obeng said.

She asked the audience to think about the University’s faculty and staff in regards to its diversity.

“Be Worlds Ahead on all issues,” Fynn-Obeng said.

People in the audience pointed out that there are scholarships available and

that it’s up to young black students to seek out and make the effort to become eligible for them.

However, the Florida Legislature has reduced the amount of money available for the Bright Futures scholarship and raised the academic requirements in the last

to 30 percent of white women, according to CAP, an independent nonpartisan policy institute that is dedicated to improving the lives of Americans.

Raymond, a BSU member and senior biology major, said the University is 13 percent black but

“We’re here to show you why we matter. The narrative of violence against black women is getting erased.”

Esi Fynn-Obeng
President
African Student Association

three years.

Funding has gone from \$436 million in 2009 to an estimated \$239 million this year. A Senate bill to reduce the minimum SAT and ACT scores required for students to be eligible and increased the minimum weighted GPA during a committee in May.

Only 21.4 percent of African American women had a college degree or higher in 2010, compared

involvement among them is only about 1 percent.

Fynn-Obeng, other panel members, and students in the audience acknowledged that the University is in Miami-Dade County, the predominantly Hispanic piece of South Florida.

But despite the ethnic makeup of the county Fynn-Obeng said the University should promote its Black History Month events just as much as

Hispanic Heritage Month.

To help black women push through blocks that are hardest on them, the panel said there has to be more support from black men and an end to the rebuttal of “all lives matter.”

“It is a black man’s duty to support black women,” said Hyatt, a sociology major.

Hyatt said “‘all lives matter’ erases the black experience in America” and stressed that “Black lives matter” does not mean the lives of black people matter more.

While white women are more likely to have breast cancer, black women have higher overall mortality rates from breast cancer. They also have higher rates of human papillomavirus and cervical cancer, with mortality rates double those of white women, according to CAP.

The five women were the focal point but the discussion included an audience of students, more than 100 strong, who were as diverse as their various hair styles and colors.

Faison, a senior criminal justice major,

sports a blonde mohawk and said she would not change her hair for a job interview and is only questioned by her father.

“If anyone told me I had to change my hair, then that’s not the job for me,” Faison said.

For women in the workforce, after getting their foot in the door, the next challenge is equal pay.

The most current available data from CAP show that black women only made 64 cents to the dollar compared to white, non-Hispanic men in 2010. White women made 78.1 cents to the same dollar.

Fynn-Obeng said to Student Media before the forum began that the “scripts black people” play in America and the stereotype of black women as “strong, overbearing and bitter has oppressed us.”

“I believe there has to be a new way for black women to feel empowered and empower themselves,” she said.

SPC Noche Latina event celebrates Hispanic identity

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The University, known for its global initiatives and diverse cultural community, continues its celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Nationally recognized from Sep. 15 to Oct. 15, Hispanic Heritage Month brings to light the history and culture from countries in Central and South America along with the Caribbean, Spain and Mexico.

Ranking number one in the nation in awarding bachelor’s and master’s degrees to Hispanic students, the University is sure to continue the festivities.

The Student Programming Council held events such as the Comedy Show featuring Erik Rivera and the Hispanic Heritage Pit Event earlier this month.

On Tuesday, Sep.22, SPC hosted their annual Noche Latina event at the GC ballrooms, where they served a variety of Latin foods including Catering by Les and empanadas from Half Moon that is now open in PG6.

Along with the food and live entertainment from the Continental Brass Band, Por Colombia, the University joined in to represent and celebrate at the event.

“I was born in New York and my parents are both from Colombia,” said Alejandro Ospina, a junior majoring in Broadcast

Media and President of Por Colombia FIU. The organization focuses on providing opportunities of growth to its members through academics, cultural, social and philanthropy projects while expressing love for their Hispanic heritage.

“Your roots are very important because that’s where you come from and what you grew up with. It shapes who you are and who you will become in the future,” said Ospina.

Before entering the event, students were able to pick up some SPC goodies including coffee mugs, notepads, water bottles and Hispanic heritage t-shirts.

Latin students and students with other ethnic backgrounds participated on the dance floor as the band played baladas, salsa, and cha-cha.

“My favorite part of the event has to be the tango lessons because I love to dance,” said Andrea Viejo, a junior majoring in Health Science Administration with a minor in Psychology. Viejo expressed that “Noche Latina” is an event that represents the various countries that make up our Latin culture.

Boanerges Grande, a junior majoring in Accounting, comes from a Nicaraguan family and attended the night of the event and said, “This is Hispanic Heritage Month and I’m a proud Latino. The live music and the energy it brings made people want to dance and I loved that.”

The creative hands behind The Muppets

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After decades of reaching different generations, The Muppets have made their return to primetime television. There have been a select few minds behind these characters that know what makes these characters work at their core.

Guy Gilchrist is a cartoonist that created “The Muppets” comic strip with his brother and Jim Henson in 1981. He’s currently on tour for his twentieth anniversary for another long running comic strip called “Nancy” and took some time out to talk.

Gilchrist commented on why The Muppets have such a long lasting appeal. “Humor and great works of art is based on love. The Muppets actually care about each other. Never ever once do the characters humiliate, degrade or are mean to any of the other characters. They like each other, even Stalter and Waldorf,” said

Gilchrist.

The fortieth anniversary of the franchise is coming up next year and there’s bound to be a roll out of announcements with the young and old glued to their screens in anticipation.

“Everyone always looks forward to the next Muppet project and that’s been since Jim passed away, which I can’t believe it’s been 25 years now. It’s also been the way that Brian (Henson) Cheryl (Henson) and the guardians of the Muppets have taken care of them. There’s a great anticipation for this new show, so it’s still working,” said Gilchrist.

After working with Henson’s company a whole year for free Gilchrist got a call from head writer Jerry Juhl offering him the job and the rest is history.

On the process behind working on “The Muppets,” Gilchrist described it as creatively freeing as Henson didn’t want to restrict the people he worked with.

“He (Jim Henson)

would motivate you and he wouldn’t give you your exact assignment. You knew what you were supposed to do, what the destination was, in this case it was 365 days a year do something wonderful for Jim that the whole world would like,” said Gilchrist.

Gilchrist has won multiple awards over his career and was even invited to the White House by President Reagan, but the important thing to him is the fans as they’re what really keeps him going.

“The awards are great for having a good dinner and being able to dress in a tux that night, hang with a pretty girl. It’s meeting people and the getting letters, finding out that you meant something,” said Gilchrist.

Gilchrist has taken his assistant Anna Guthrie under his wings to pass on his teachings to the next generation and left a simple message of “don’t quit” to aspiring cartoonists.

It's on us, each and every one of us

FIU CARES



CATHY AKENS

From the Dean of Students

The Dean of Students Office, in the Division of Student Affairs, creates a culture of care for students, their families, faculty and staff by providing proactive education consultation, resources, and response to distressed students or students in crisis. The Dean of Students will provide a monthly column in the Beacon, to acquaint students with some of the important campus resources in place to support their success.

It's On Us. Each and Every One of Us.

College can be the best of times, but for too many it can be the worst of times. According to a recent Association of American

Universities (AAU) Campus Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct 2015, just over 23 percent of female undergraduate respondents reported being sexually assaulted since they started college. That is about 1 out of every 5 undergraduate women. These numbers should make us all very uncomfortable.

To address the alarming numbers of students impacted by sexual assault, FIU joined the ongoing educational campaign launched why the White House last year to raise awareness on campus. You have probably seen the banners, signs and t-shirts around campus reminding everyone that IT'S ON US to stop sexual assault. The message of the campaign speaks for itself.

Each and every one of us are responsible to watch out for our friends, to step in and intervene in a situation when a sexual assault may occur, and get our

friends help if they have been sexually assaulted.

The difficulty we face with responding to incidents of sexual assault and sexual misconduct is that so many incidents are never reported. Perpetrators frequently use physical force, the threat of force or shame, or incapacitation with alcohol and other drugs to sexually assault their victims.

According to the AAU Campus Survey, most students who have been sexually assaulted are "embarrassed, ashamed or that it would be too emotionally difficult," and because they "did not think anything would be done about it." Perpetrators rely on our collective silence not to speak out, not to report and not to intervene. IT'S ON US to end this silence and this inaction.

The IT'S ON US campaign also seeks to expand common misunderstandings about sexual assault. For example, most victims of sexual assault know

their attacker. And although the majority of sexual assault victims are women, men may also be victims of sexual assault.

FIU has many departments that support students who have been sexually assaulted, which include the Dean of Students, Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, University Police Department and Equal Opportunity Programs and Diversity/Title IX Coordinator.

However, the only resource available that can offer confidential assistance is our Victim Empowerment Program through our Counseling and Psychological Services office. FIU Victim Advocate Counselors are trained to assist with crisis intervention and trauma recovery. They assist clients by providing information and options for action available to them if and when they are ready. They help students with safety planning and problems that may arise as a

result of the crime.

For example, some students may need help requesting extra time for an assignment; or may need help with emergency relocation for safety. Some students may need a restraining order or desire accompaniment to the Rape Treatment Center. A police report is not required to receive services from the Victim Empowerment Program. Anyone can access the 24-Hour Crisis Line at (305) 348-3000.

If you are interested in reading the full report, you may access the AAU Campus Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct (2015) at <http://www.aau.edu/Climate-Survey.aspx?id=16525>. For more information on the IT'S ON US campaign and list of recourses, visit <http://itsonus.fiu.edu>.

'Go Set a Watchman' lacks 'classic' feel

BOOKMARKED



CAYLA BUSH

More than half a century after "To Kill a Mockingbird" was released, "Go Set a Watchman," Harper Lee's previously unreleased novel saw the public light.

While "Mockingbird" was written after "Watchman," it was the first released, and introduced the fictional town of Maycomb, Ala. along with Jean Louise "Scout" Finch, the novel's protagonist, Atticus, her father, and the rest of her family who were dealing with racial tensions that affected the South.

"Watchman" follows Scout as a woman in her twenties, on her annual visit home from New York. As before, racial tensions plague Scout's family and home life, and she must grapple with her own views and emotions, as well as the expected views of her community.

I waited months for the book, and was overjoyed when I finally bought it at the campus bookstore. "Mockingbird" is one of my all-time favorite books and I knew that Lee's writing style would keep me captivated and make its position on my bookshelf permanent.

At first, the book was slow, and difficult to get into. The exposition of the novel took more than 60 pages, and it took a bit to get to the rising action and

climax. Although this was a bit of a drag, I did appreciate Lee's description of Scout and the set-up of her as a freethinker and someone who goes against the grain.

Once the conflict is introduced, which includes Scout's love-interest, Atticus and the racial tensions that were present during the 1950s, the rest of the novel moves pretty quickly, and it can be difficult to pick up on the subtle messages that Lee is attempting to convey until they're spelled out for the reader.

My favorite aspect of Lee's writing style is her ability to cause readers to question their morals without blatantly choosing the answer for them. It's especially useful in "Watchman," as readers have to grapple with Atticus' views and actions.

Taking idols and making them human, standing up to societal expectations and underlying feminist tones have given the novel a space on my bookshelf; unfortunately, I don't see that space being permanent. It's a rather slow read, and doesn't hold the "classic" feel that it's predecessor does. *Bookmarked is a biweekly book review column, to suggest books email Cayla at cayla.bush@fiusm.com*

Cayla's rating: 3/5
Good reads rating: 3.45/5

SPC sponsors 'Friday Night Movie' events

COLLIN SIMPSON
Contributing Writer
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Friday at the University is perhaps the most hectic day of the week. After a strenuous week of study, some students choose to head straight back to their homes or dorms, while others find a quiet spot on campus and either dive into their homework or prepare for upcoming exams. And of course, there are the students who spend their Friday afternoons and evenings relaxing.

For students who have a free evening, the Student Programming Council of FIU plans special events including "Friday Night Movies," in which films are presented in a theater-format free for each University student and one accompanying guest.

At 8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 18, 2015, Disney's TomorrowLand, a science-fiction film based off Disney's Tomorrowland theme park, was shown in the Housing Quad, planned in collaboration with RHA. The stars of this movie were George Clooney and Britt Robertson.

"It was a pleasure working with the SPC to bring the movies to residents," said Tyler Friedman, a representative of the Residence Hall Association.

The evening event was very enjoyable. Admission was free, simply a swipe of your student ID to

confirm that you were a student. Free refreshments were served, including beverages and freshly made mouth-watering popcorn.

The movie was quite entertaining, as the chemistry between

to be quite enjoyable.

The SPC was very pleased with the full house attendance. Natalie Sarracini, one of the directors of SPC, explained how they came up with "Friday Night Movies."

"Our organization puts on a variety of events. It's a great way to just have something to do on a Friday night. You're on campus, you don't have anything to do or you really like the movie we're showing. It's a great way for people to come out and enjoy themselves," explained Sarracini.

The SPC has an exciting repertoire planned out for each Friday evening through Dec. 4, 2015. Sept. will close out with the comedy, "Instructions Not Included." Upcoming flicks for Oct. are "Jurassic World," "Pitch Perfect 2," "Inside Out," and "Insidious: Chapter 3." November's entertainment includes "The Social Network," "Dirty Dancing," and "The Mask." The slapstick "Ted 2" will be SPC's Friday, Dec. 4 movie.

Most movie show times are 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. in GC140 unless specified. For a listing of dates, upcoming movies and locations, check spc.fiu.edu for their "Friday Night Movies."

Movie Madness is a weekly column that focuses on the movies being shown at the University.

“

It was a pleasure working with the SPC to bring the movies to residents.

Tyler Friedman
Residence Hall Association

”

Clooney and Robertson was hilarious, and kept the audience roaring with laughter. I also was amused at the numerous Star Wars references in the movie, a likely connection to Disney's acquisition of the franchise, and possibly an allusion to Disney's new Star Wars movie, which will be released in December. Containing the usual amount of Disney magic, the clear moral of this story was to never give up on your dreams and always keep working for a better, more clear future. I also appreciated how the movie highlighted all the real-world issues we're experiencing, and what our future might be if we don't make a better one. Many of the students attending found the movie

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FOOTBALL

Get to know Thomas Owens, the go-to player

PETE'S PICK



PETER HOLLAND JR.

Is it a coincidence that the Panthers have a T.O. on their roster that happens to play wide receiver and happens to wear a number 81 jersey? No his name is not Terrell Owens nor has family relations to the former NFL player and future hall of famer, however, when you see the sophomore receiver, Thomas Owens, in the last three games, you might think it's Terrell Owens taking his talents to Tamiami Trail. Owens, at 6'1" 198 pounds, has been the go-to receiver for the Panthers in the last three

games. With the Panthers 2-1, Owens has contributed the offense so far with the total of 22 catches for 286 yards and three touchdowns. He averages 13.00 yards per game. Week one against UCF, he was one shy away of breaking T.Y. Hilton's record for most catches in a game. Week two, despite a loss against Indiana, he broke out with nine catches for 166 yards and two touchdowns. That makes Owens the fourth receiver in school history to have more than 150 yards in a single game. Just last week against North Carolina Central, he finished with three catches for 42 yards and one touchdown. It has been a while since the Panthers have a receiver who can not only put up productive numbers but can also make a difference for the Panther's young and explosive offense. "This

year they gave me the opportunity and I'm just trying to take advantage of it," Owens said. The only word that he described his

well. The combination of a dual athlete gave him the advantage of being a wide receiver. "Basketball helped me a lot with the

has been kept comfortable this season. It's great to know that if I throw it to him, he's going to make a play."

Owens, who's a sports management major, doesn't necessarily have a favorite NFL player, but he is willing to learn from current NFL players and try to imitate their abilities on the field. When Owens was asked about FIU, he thought about T.Y. Hilton and what he accomplished. Inspiring him to do great no matter what the future holds him. "T.Y. is a great player," Owens said. "It's a great experience knowing that an NFL player came from your school and is making a big difference out of it."

What's important for Owens when he is getting ready to take the field is thinking about his family, including his mother. "Before a game

I think about my mom a lot," Owens said. "It just pushes me. Sometimes I pray on it before practice. It just pushes me to keep going. It gives me a good grind." Every time T.O. steps on the field whether it's practice or a game, it's always family first and it's enough for the sophomore to motivate him and jostle his elevation as the number one receiver. Whenever Owens is not on the field, he is on the basketball court shooting hoops for fun.

Despite being considered an underdog team, Thomas Owens, with a lot of confidence, believes that the Panthers will succeed in C-USA. "We just need to stick with the game plan and if we excel and play hard, we should accomplish our goal and that's to win," Owens said. sports@fiusm.com

“Before a game I think about my mom a lot. It just pushes me. Sometimes I pray on it before practice. It just pushes me to keep going. It gives me a good grind.”

Thomas Owens
Wide Receiver
FIU Football

first season as a starter was "better."

Owens came to FIU recruited as an athlete coming out of high school. The Delray Beach native played multiple positions back in Atlantic Community High School. He was a solid basketball player as

rebounds, blocks and defense," Owens said. With his basketball background and his 6'1" 198 pound frame, it's not surprising for him to fight for the ball against the secondary. "He has been the safety blanket," starting QB Alex McGough said. "Thomas

GOLF

Golf stumbles in first tournament of the season

REINALDO LLERENA
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The women's golf team struggled in its first tournament of the year, the Golfweek Conference Challenge. The challenge was held from Monday, Sept. 21 to Wednesday, Sept. 23 at the Fazio Course at the Red Sky Golf Club in Wolcott, Colorado. FIU placed 12 out of 17 schools and finished the week with a team total of 56 over par across its three rounds of play.

Meghan MacLaren

placed well in the individual portion of the tournament, finishing at seven over par to tie for 17th place in the challenge. After a disappointing 5-over-par first round, MacLaren bounced back in her subsequent rounds. Over her final two rounds, MacLaren shot a combined 2-over par to close out the tournament at 7-over par.

If there was an award for the most consistent player of the week, then the award would go to Camila Serrano. The junior from Colombia shot three consecutive four-over par rounds and finished tied

for 36th place at 12-over par.

Sophie Godley, the number five starter, had the lowest round of the weekend for the Panthers. The senior from the United Kingdom shot a 1-under par 71 in the final round of competition. However, Godley struggled in her first two rounds. In her first round, Godley came in with a 10-over par 82. She improved on day two, but the senior shot a 9-over par 81. So, even though Godley had the lowest round of the week for the team, her inconsistencies in the first two rounds

offset her impressive final round. As a result, Godley finished in a tie for 57th place at 18-over par.

Katerina Krasova struggled in the Conference Challenge. The sophomore from the Czech Republic, who averaged a 76.14 scoring average last year, was unable to score lower than a 6-over par 78 over the course of the tournament. Krasova's below-average performance in the challenge netted her an 83rd place finish at 29 over par. Expect Krasova to bounce back in the next tournament.

Carla Jane could not

get into a rhythm, either. The senior from Chile, who posted a 76.50 scoring average last year, tied for 69th place at 22 over par. Like Krasova, expect Jane to bounce back in the next tournament after posting below-average scores in last week's competition.

Notably absent from the tournament was Coralia Arias. FIU's second-best golfer from a year ago did not make the trip to Colorado.

The women's golf team hopes to rebound at the 8th annual Johnie Imes Invitational in Columbia, Missouri on Monday,

Sept. 28. The Club at Old Hawthorne will host the invitational. In last year's invitational, the Panthers tied for third as a team with a combined score of 2-under par. Last year, MacLaren and Serrano paced the team with individual scores of 4-under par and 2-under par, respectively. If there is one tournament to look forward to after a struggling, the Johnie Imes Invitational is that tournament for the Panthers.



FOOTBALL

Pac-12 football make an impact for programs

GARY KLEIN
Los Angeles Times
TNS

Todd Graham imprinted his philosophy on Arizona State's football program from the moment he arrived on campus.

Graham took over a program that in 2011 led major college football in penalties and, arguably, undisciplined play. A year later, the Sun Devils were the least penalized team in the Pac-12 Conference and had built the foundation for consecutive 10-win seasons.

“We conformed the culture quickly,” Graham said this week. “I think now, after three years, it’s transformed.”

Arizona State will attempt to take another step in its evolution when the Sun Devils host 19th-ranked USC on Saturday night at Sun Devil Stadium in a key South Division game. And USC Coach Steve Sarkisian, who is in his second season with the

Trojans, will try to calm a roiling fan base after last week's loss to Stanford.

Graham is one of several Pac-12 coaches who have either reversed the fortunes of their predecessors or maintained the program's winning ways.

In a sport that features such long-tenured coaches as Alabama's Nick Saban, Louisiana State's Les Miles, Georgia's Marc Richt and South Carolina's Steve Spurrier in the Southeastern Conference, Michigan State's Mark Dantonio in the Big Ten and Oklahoma's Bob Stoops and Texas Christian's Gary Patterson in the Big 12, the Pac-12 features a majority of relative newcomers.

Eleven of the Pac-12's coaches started at their schools in 2011 or later. Only Utah's Kyle Whittingham, who took over the Utes in 2005, has been entrenched longer than five years.

But Graham, UCLA's Jim Mora and Arizona's Rich Rodriguez have

developed programs that are regularly ranked in the top 25. Oregon's Mark Helfrich, who led the Ducks to the College Football Playoff title game last season, and Stanford's David Shaw have built on the winning foundations laid by Chip Kelly and Jim Harbaugh.

Sarkisian raised Washington's then-winless program to respectability before taking over at USC, which finished 9-4 in his first season and is a shaky 2-1 going into Saturday's game in Tempe, Ariz.

California's Sonny Dykes is off to a 3-0 start in his third season, and Washington State's Mike Leach and Colorado's Mike MacIntyre are 2-1 in their fourth and third seasons, respectively.

Chris Petersen, who succeeded Sarkisian at Washington, is in his second season, Oregon State's Gary Andersen his first.

“Everybody’s been different,” Sarkisian said. “Everybody’s doing it their own way, but they do

what they believe in and they're having success."

Mora succeeded Rick Neuheisel at UCLA before the 2012 season. Like several coaches interviewed for this story, he said that instilling a new culture was paramount.

“You just always want to go into a place and create a culture that you believe in,” Mora said. “For me, that’s a culture of toughness, discipline, accountability. And when I say toughness, I mean mental, physical, emotional tough.”

Mora began instilling that mind-set in December of 2011. The former NFL coach was keeping his distance as UCLA went through bowl practice under an interim coach. One day, players went “over the wall,” a then-Bruins tradition of ditching practice for one day.

"I hope they had fun going over the wall because it is the last time it is going happen," Mora told reporters. "It might happen again, but you

won't see those guys on the field the next day."

The Bruins finished 9-5 in Mora's first season and 10-3 the last two. They are off to a 3-0 start and are ranked ninth heading into Saturday's game at No. 16 Arizona.

The process of maintaining a culture, he said, is ongoing.

"If you feel like you've done it, then you stop," he said. "I feel like we're always on a mission to improve it. But I feel like there is very little resistance from anybody to buy into what we're trying to establish."

Sarkisian was USC's offensive coordinator before he succeeded Tyrone Willingham after the Huskies finished 0-12 in 2008.

In his third game, Sarkisian coached the Huskies to an upset victory over mentor Pete Carroll and the third-ranked Trojans. He compiled a 34-29 record in Seattle before he was hired at USC to replace the fired Lane Kiffin.


"It's a work in progress," Sarkisian said of the Trojans' transition. "We're just getting over the hump here after a year and (some) time into it, but that's the part that's fun. That's the part that kind of excites you every day when you see one guy kind of buy into what you're doing. That's why we do what we do."

Petersen, who annually produced winning teams at Boise State before succeeding Sarkisian, said “getting everybody on the same page” in a short period of time is “really, really hard” because older players are accustomed to different schemes and different ways.

"As a coach, you know there's other ways out there, but you believe in your way," he said.

Petersen estimated an 18-to-24 month process for a full culture change.

"And I think it never stops," he said.

The background of the advertisement is a grayscale photograph of a modern building with large glass windows, viewed from a low angle looking up. The sky is filled with dramatic, white clouds. The FIU logo is centered at the top, with a horizontal line underneath it. The word 'Law' is centered below the line. The large '#1' is on the left side, and the text 'Bar Pass Rate in Florida' is to its right. The bottom section is a solid dark gray with white text.

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University hosts flashmob for banned books

CEYLIN ARIAS
Contributing Writer
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No one will bust a random dance or a song, but FIU libraries will celebrate Banned Books Week with a flashmob.

Banned Books Week is an international campaign that honors the freedom to read, draws attention to banned and challenged books and highlights persecuted people. The week starts on Sunday, Sept. 27 and ends on Saturday, Oct. 3.

More than 11,300 books have been challenged since it was first sponsored in 1982, according to the American Library Association. One of the most challenged books in 2014 was, “The Perks of Being a Wallflower,” by Stephen Chbosky for its themes involving homosexuality and drugs.

“Banned Books Week is an annual event supporting the freedom to seek and express ideas, even those that some may consider unorthodox or unpopular,” said Anne Prestamo, Dean of University Libraries.

The University will celebrate

its 15th annual Banned Books Read Out event with a different twist. Unlike a common flashmob, Ashley Garcia, Library Operations junior account manager, said that students should grab any banned books and read them out loud with their friends.

“This flashmob will be informal in that students do not have to RSVP or sign up. Grab a book, grab some friends or if you do not want to deal with your friends, you can do it by yourself,” said Garcia.

Garcia said the flashmob is less structured in a sense that no one will need to attend anything, but instead it is something students can decide to do at any given time. It has been deliberately done that way so that everyone can participate at the gym, at their dorm or at work.

“Librarians have a long history supporting the free exchange of ideas, and nowhere is that more important than it is at a university like FIU,” Prestamo said.

“After all, learning and inspiration are spurred when students are challenged with the unfamiliar.”

Certain titles have been

banned over the years due to their sensitive content, according to ALA. Banned books include, “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,” by Mark Twain, “Beloved,” by Toni Morrison, “The Catcher in the Rye,” by J.D. Salinger and “Native Son,” by Richard Wright among others.

“Banned Books Week is an annual event supporting the freedom to seek and express ideas, even those that some may consider unorthodox or unpopular.

Anne Prestamo
Dean of University Libraries
Department

These novels have been banned for racial issues, violence, sexual content, the presence of witchcraft and even for being inappropriate for certain age groups.

Library materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background or views of those who contributed to their

creation, according to the Library Bill of Rights. However, Garcia said that not everyone actually has that right.

“Of course we can go to the library and read what we want. Why not? Actually, you can because it is written in the Constitution, but not everyone has that right,” said Garcia.

The Bill also says that libraries should be provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of the community the library serves.

“With the busy daily to daily work we have to do, we take our basic rights for granted,” she said.

Lauren Christos, a librarian at the Glenn Hubert Library at the Biscayne Bay Campus, worked closely with Garcia at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus Green Library in the preparation for the event.

During the flashmob, library staff members will walk around the campuses to see how people react to the idea and to see if whether or not people decide to participate. The event will consist of students going outside and taking a few minutes to read.

“I think students should take

advantage of the fact that this censorship is being broken for this event,” said Michelle Sola.

“It’s healthy to open our minds to opposing views that may be seen as taboo. It’s kind of like literary rebellion, but it’s being allowed!” said Sola, an English and communication arts double major.

The flash mob will take place Monday, September 28. At the end of the week, the Hubert Library at the north campus will host an event to celebrate Banned Books Read Out. Faculty and students will go to the library, sign up to choose a banned title, read a passage and talk about the book.

The event will take place Thursday, Oct. 1 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in room 175 of the library. Mark Rosenberg, president of the University and Prestamo have participated in the event in the past.

“We hope that many will join us for the event, which will shine a light on literature that has been challenged through the years,” Prestamo said.

Possible gun threat leaves students afraid

ERICA SANTIAGO
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On Wednesday, Sept. 2, a frightening disturbance occurred at the Wolfe University Center that still leaves students shaken to this day.

After a heated exchange between a student and someone in the WUC game room, said student irritably left the room after threatening to come back “with a strap” – also known as a firearm.

The University police were alerted of the incident and evacuated the room shortly after. The doors to the game room were then locked as a safety measure.

Later that evening, the student returned and unsuccessfully demanded to be let in. He was gone by the time campus authorities arrived; as a precautionary measure, all students and faculty were escorted into their vehicles.

The student was eventually identified and later apprehended by Miami-Dade police. As of right now there are conflicting stories as to whether or not a gun was ever actually involved. Though the situation seems to be resolved, there are

still some lingering issues that need to be addressed.

Many students are distraught by the fact that an FIU Alert was never sent out to students or faculty. In the past, FIU Alert has warned students about cases of sexual harassment, dangerous trespassers and many other important occurrences – all with the purpose of keeping students informed and to ensure their safety. The lack of notifications in reference to the WUC incident has led to some speculation as to what disturbances qualify for an alert. It also begs the question as to whether or not the system has failed to alert students of other potential dangers on campus.

Despite the shortcomings of the FIU Alert system, one notion remains unwavering – student safety is and must continue to be the University’s main priority.

This brings us to the second lingering issue in the wake of the incident – many students who witnessed the altercation in the game room first hand are too afraid to speak out because they fear that doing so will jeopardize their safety.

Those fears are completely understandable but potentially dangerous situations like the one at WUC give even more cause for students to speak out. By speaking out as a student, you are not only helping your fellow scholars in staying informed but you are also giving the University a major incentive to take these issues more seriously.

Like every university, FIU knows that a major key in maintaining this institution is maintaining the comfort and well-being of its students. This is because more students are likely to want to stay enrolled at a University that prioritizes the safety of its scholars. If students don’t feel safe, they will most likely not want to stay enrolled. This means fewer students enrolled at FIU will lead to a monetary loss for the University.

If students are vocal about potential dangers on campus the University will have no choice but to take note and do everything in its power to avoid a similar incident in the future.

As students we owe it to ourselves and to our colleagues to speak up when there is danger on campus. Our voices have

the power to inform, to ensure the safety of our community and, most

importantly, to implement change. To not speak up is to remain passive. To

remain passive is to further jeopardize our own safety.

