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University students stand with Missouri



BLANCA MARTINEZ/THE BEACON

Students from Black Student Union and Dream Defenders as well as around campus unite to stand in support for the University of Missouri black student body at the Graham Center Ballrooms Wednesday, Nov. 11.

ERICA SANTIAGO

Opinion Director

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After several racial incidents at the University of Missouri, University students held a demonstration to showcase their support for the black student population.

The incidents at the University of Missouri, better known as Mizzou, included white students yelling racial slurs at students of color, swastikas drawn in feces on dorms and threats to kill Mizzou's black students.

The series of racial tensions resulted in the resignation of both the university's president and chancellor, as well as the continued harassment of black students. Mizzou's black students have reported via social media that they are still being threatened and fear they will be harmed if they go to class.

The demonstration, FIU2Mizzou, was based on the hostile treatment of students of color at Mizzou, wrote TruLe'sia Newberry, the president of Dream Defenders, in her Youtube page.

The demonstration, hosted on Wednesday, Nov. 11 in the GC Lawns, was planned hours in advance.

Newberry said that members of Dream Defenders and the Black Student Union reached out to University organizations at the last minute.

"I researched the organizations that both FIU and Mizzou share, such as the fraternities and sororities that are on both campuses," said Newberry.

Participating organizations included the Black Student Union, African Student Organization, Haitian Student Organization, Dream Defenders, members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated and four members of the University's football team.

Participants were standing in a circle, singing and dancing while introducing each demonstrator. Once the introductions were over, the rally took a more serious tone.

One by one, black students stepped into the middle of the circle and explained the importance of the Mizzou controversy. They also shared their own experiences with racial discrimination.

Dashaah Shirley, member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and president of the National Panhellenic Council,

read aloud the letters that Mizzou's black organizations sent to its former president, Tim Wolfe.

As a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, Shirley has a special connection to the Mizzou controversy.

"I found out that one of my frat brothers at Mizzou is actually the president of the student body and also an athlete on [Mizzou's] football team," said Shirley. "Within my fraternity, we are one brotherhood...his issue is my issue as well."

Demonstrators marched to the front of the library, chanting, "I'm fired up and I can't take it no more," and, "No justice, no peace."

Once the demonstration reached the front of the library, students lined up, linked arms and started chanting, "I am Mizzou. FIU to Mizzou."

The rally concluded when organizations, like BSU, HSO, ASO and Dream Defenders, recorded videos stating their support for Mizzou's black population.

Some videos are available on YouTube and other social media platforms.

Throughout the demonstration, students expressed their anger and frustration toward the harassment of Mizzou's

black student body.

But there were also moments of laughter as the organizations united in solidarity.

"A laugh is like a pause [to] breathe," said Nykeema Radway, a member of BSU and Dream Defenders and one of the lead organizers of the event.

She said that laughter in the face of adversity is a way of being unstoppable.

"We're still here," she said.

Larry Lunsford, vice president of Student Affairs, released a statement proclaiming diversity to be FIU's strength. He also wanted students to know that there is space for an open dialogue on these issues.

"The Division of Student Affairs has several resources available to support students and provide forums for ongoing dialogue. In addition, any student who ever feels threatened or intimidated should share their concerns with us," he said.

Students can learn their options for reporting concerns or seek support services by visiting www.PanthersCare.edu or by contacting the Dean of Students office at 305-348-2797.

University hosts Transgender Week of Awareness

YURIELLE MENARD

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"There's more violence, homelessness and diseases within the transgender community," said Daniel Capote.

"They are a very vulnerable community," said Capote, the president of Stonewall Pride Alliance.

Stonewall Pride Alliance is a campus organization dedicated to fostering a safe environment and personal growth for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning.

There were 1,791 transgender deaths from January 2008 to December 2014, according to the Transgender Murder Monitoring Project.

This month, the University is hosting Transgender Week of Awareness to highlight issues faced by the transgender community.

Events throughout the week include a film screening of "Just Gender," presentations and a nationally-recognized day of remembrance.

The film screening will take place Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 11 a.m. at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

"The film, "Just Gender," will be shown during the LGBT and Beyond course, where students will learn more about gender and the ideologies behind gender," said Mario Lara, a graduate assistant in the Office of Multicultural Programs at BBC.

Capote said it's important that people understand the terminology for LGBTQ.

"A trans individual is someone that is designated a certain gender at birth but associates with another gender," Capote said.

Though many individuals may not agree or understand the transgender community, Lara said the event can help people to understand.

"This [event] is to bring awareness to the transgender community, to those who may not agree or may not understand and help them become an ally to the community," said Lara.

The University has made efforts this year to accommodate the transgender community with the creation of gender-neutral restrooms in residential housing and in the Graham Center.

The office of LGBTQ recently started a pronoun campaign. Through the campaign, trans individuals and trans allies are introduced by pronouns they associate with, such as he, him

and his for an individual that associates as a male.

Capote uses "they" to refer to any individual.

"It does a lot more harm to misgender a person and use the wrong pronoun if you're not sure than to just use they," he said.

According to Capote, there are more people that are very open and successful about being transgender, like Laverne Cox and Caitlyn Jenner.

"Transgender individuals have to face the challenge of validating their gender because people think they're lying," Capote said.

Akeela Keys, a junior psychology and education double major, said she would be upset if she were dating a transgender male to find out later that he was born a girl.

"I would be upset because I think that is something you should tell your partner before things get that far," said Keys. "It kind of breaks trust. It would be hard to trust them, or trust anybody, after that."

Trans individuals lie to protect themselves from the reality they know will destroy them, according to The Gender Centre.

The reality that trans individuals face are similar to Keys' statement of mistrust. The Centre's website states that lying to their loved ones was one of the hardest decisions trans individuals had to face.

Lying is the single tool that allows a transsexual to reach the point where they can finally take control of their lives, according to the Centre's website.

The cost of gender change surgery can cost anywhere from \$7,000 to \$50,000, while necessary hormones cost about \$100 a month.

According a 2011 report by the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, 41 percent of transgenders that participated in the survey had attempted suicide some time in their life.

Rates were higher for those who lost employment due to bias, were harassed or bullied in school, had low household incomes or were victims of physical and sexual assault.

The week of awareness will commence on Nov. 16 and will conclude on Nov. 19 with a day of remembrance, where students will enter a candlelit vigil that recognizes victims of suicides and other deaths.

It's free and open to the public.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Vandalism strikes University of Missouri's black culture center

A sign for the University of Missouri's black culture center was vandalized early Thursday morning, one day after a death threat against black students rattled the entire campus.

The sign at the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center appeared to be spray-painted to cover up the word

“black,” hours after black student demonstrators held a march at the building to protest racist threats at the university.

The sign was spray painted about 12:50 a.m., and police are reviewing surveillance footage from the area, university police said in a statement.

China's use of torture increasingly targets lawyers

Over the past five years, China contends it has made significant advances in protecting the rights of suspected criminals, including a crackdown on confessions extracted by torture.

But a new report by Amnesty International says torture remains pervasive in China's

legal system, and not just against alleged criminals and political activists. Increasingly, the report says, Chinese police and their operatives are torturing lawyers who defend people who come into the crosshairs of China's Communist Party.

EU issues new ruling on labeling of Israeli products

The European Union on Wednesday issued new guidelines requiring labeling of imported goods made in Israeli settlements, drawing a strong rebuke from Israel, which called the move discriminatory.

Under the guidelines, products made in settlements in the West

Bank, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, lands captured by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War, would be marked differently from goods made in Israel and will have to carry the word “settlement” on the label.

Poll: 4 in 10 think Clinton acted unethically on emails

A plurality of voters, including big blocs of Democrats and independents, think Hillary Clinton did something unethical in her use of a private email system for government business, according to a new McClatchy-Marist Poll.

At the same time, voters are closely divided over whether she's answered all the questions about the

Benghazi attacks.

The results suggest that even as Clinton builds her lead for the Democratic presidential nomination over rival Bernie Sanders, a sizable number of voters have lingering questions about her behavior as secretary of state that would follow her through a general election campaign.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

White House honors engineering professor

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Atorod Azizinamini said it's a challenge to keep his students in class, while companies are already offering them jobs.

“These consulting offices try to hire them before they graduate,” said Azizinamini, chair of the University's civil and environmental engineering department. “I'm trying to encourage [them] to finish [their] degree and then go and get the job.”

Azizinamini was recently named a 2015 White House Transportation Champion of Change.

He has focused his resources on bringing exposure to the University by starting conferences and creating a network within the bridge engineering industry. He said his strategy is appealing to his students, and it allows them to have a “well-rounded” education.

Azizinamini said that his graduate students work very close with the Department of Transportation and consultants. He said that his graduate students are at a very high demand.

“Some of my graduate students have been very influential in the way we design and build bridges in the U.S.,” said Azizinamini.

Jawad Gull is a bridge designer in Miami and one of Azizinamini's graduate students.

“Azizinamini had a significant influence on my career. He involved me in a variety of research projects [that are] not conventional for [doctoral] students,” said Gull.

Graduate students usually work on only one research project, but Azizinamini allowed him to work on a “variety of topics [in bridge engineering].”

Gull worked on advances in steel bridge design. He focused on developing theories explaining their behaviors during construction.

He analyzed the “fit-up force” and simplified the method of calculating it to reduce construction delays. Fit-up is the measure of the closeness or degree of contact between mechanical parts.

Gull worked with a variety of consulting companies during his time with Azizinamini such as High Steel Structures Inc., Hirschfeld Industries, LP, Olson Engineering, Tampa Steel Erecting Company, and Quakewrap.

Gull said he was able to create a unified theory that explains the behavior of skewed steel bridges during

construction.

This December, Azizinamini is hosting the National Accelerated Bridge Construction Conference in the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Miami. It is scheduled to have workshops, networking and keynote speakers such as Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart and the Federal Highway Administration's administrator Gregory Nadeau.

“Azizinamini brought visibility to the department,” said Berrin Tansel, CEE undergraduate program director.

Hansel has worked at FIU since 1990 and has seen Azizinamini expand the faculty in structural engineering, “especially in the Accelerated Bridge Construction area.” Azizinamini is the director of the Center for Accelerated Bridge Construction at the University.

The center is made up of a group of U.S. bridge engineering professionals gathered in Miami. It focuses on bridge replacements due to the need to replace substandard bridges in existence while maintaining traffic flows, according to its website.

The center also hosts a free monthly webinar that attracts an average of 4,000 participants, according to Azizinamini. He said he continues his research for personal curiosity and to create a more effective teaching method.

Azizinamini is not hesitant in involving his students into his research. He said that keeping up with research while educating his students is important, so that they get the most recent information on bridge engineering, rather than just what they find in textbooks.

“[It's] going to take 10 years from now to get [some material] into the textbooks,” said Azizinamini.

“I believe the greatest lesson I learned from him was to criticize previous works and look at them with the eyes to improve them or create a better theory,” said Reza Ferimani, a University alumnus whom Azizinamini was an advisor for.

Originally, Azizinamini's research was focused on earthquake and seismic engineering, which led him to chase earthquakes, like the Kobe earthquake of 1995.

Azizinamini's focus on bridges came from an interest in structures. He said he felt the need to narrow his research to bridge engineering and lead his students by example.

“As you mature as a faculty, at some point in

your life, you have to give it focus,” he said. “That's the only way you're going to make a contribution.”

Azizinamini said he found urgency in bridge reconstruction because of the closing gap of a bridge's design life and the current life.

The U.S. is home to about 600,000 bridges and, out of those, 24 percent need replacement or renovation, according to the ABC center.

Azizinamini produced a possible solution for bridges under 60 feet long that need renovation called the, “Folded Plate Steel Bridge System.” The cost-efficient system uses steel plates bent into hollow tube sections.

The system provides the durability of steel in a lightweight form as a framework to incorporate concrete, the cheaper alternative for bridges. It is also one of the options described in the document, “Design Guide for Bridges for Service Life.”

Azizinamini was the principal investigator in the creation of the document. It is a guideline that provides different options and steps to create new bridges that have a longer span of service and that extend the life of the older ones. It has been implemented in Iowa, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Hawaii.

Azizinamini said the FPSBS is one system that incorporates the ABC philosophy by building a large component of the bridge off traffic site and piecing it together “like a puzzle” on site. He said this system can cut construction time to two days.

He also said it is an option for a “safe and cost-effective” way of building or rebuilding bridges.

“We are paying attention to the details but maintaining the same quality as if you build them the normal way,” Azizinamini said. “Our hope is that in 10 or 15 years, this technology will be the normal way bridges are built.”

He believes that the strategy is effective for both the public and agencies in preventing accidents and litigations.

“The number one reason why we need to shorten [the time] is not to shorten construction time, but to prevent accidents [caused by traffic changes],” Azizinamini said.

“The key to success is that we work as a team,” he said. “We are probably one of the top ten programs for bridge engineering in the U.S. FIU is the future face of what higher education is going to look like in the next 10 years.”

THE BEACON

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Mizzou protests highlight the power of student activism

STUDENTS UNITED



KAAN OCBE

A maelstrom has swept through the University of Missouri campus, culminating in the resignation of university President Tim Wolfe on Monday morning. Wolfe's resignation was followed shortly by the resignation of Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

These high profile resignations came after a firestorm of student activity over the weekend taking place on a campus that has been simmering with tension for months. This past weekend saw the announcement by the black players of the University of Missouri football team that they would be going on strike.

The strike included abstaining from all games, trainings and practices until the President tendered his resignation. The announcement by the Mizzou football players soon triggered the announcement of a faculty walkout in solidarity with the football players.

This chain of events came as a result of the president's lack

of response to a string of racial problems, including an incident of racial abuse reported by Mizzou's Student Government President.

There was also an incident where racial slurs were shouted at the Mizzou chapter of the Legion of Black Collegians as they rehearsed for a play. Later, an episode of racist vandalism occurred involving a swastika drawn in feces in one of the dorms.

In response, students at the University of Missouri organized a protest campaign called Concerned Student 1950, which subsequently demanded the president of the university's resignation. The president of the student government went on hunger strike to call for the president's resignation as well.

This pervasive racial tension comes amid numerous other concerns for the Mizzou community. Grad students have organized themselves in opposition to healthcare cuts and have staged a walkout. In addition, a fight around the university's recent restriction of abortion rights has flared up.

These tensions combined with the ongoing and historic racial tension at the University of Missouri

produced one of the most audacious environments for student activism in the country. All of this occurred in a place that is only a two hour car ride away from Ferguson.

What the students at the University of Missouri have done, particularly the striking football players, is re-teach students around the country one of history's oldest lessons in fighting injustice and addressing those in power.

They taught us this lesson through the withdrawal of labor. What the striking players of the Mizzou football team did was realize that they were positioned within the university power structure, at the heart of its economic engine. They realized that at any moment they could turn that engine off.

Though universities are public institutions and are supposed to operate with the public benefit as their primary purpose, let's not delude ourselves into thinking there isn't a lot of money being made. Universities have become these strange Dickensian enclaves where top administrators make six to seven figure salaries while the grad students and adjuncts on the front lines apply for food stamps.

This exploitative dynamic is even more pronounced at schools that have strong sports brands, like the University of Missouri, where something like a football team can be a multi-million dollar industry but the actual football player goes uncompensated. It probably doesn't need to be pointed out, but in most cases, the people making the money are white and the ones working for low wages, or even free, are black.

The Mizzou players reasoned that if this university and its power structure wasn't going to respect black bodies and black identities, then they could also do without the black labor that was keeping the entire thing running.

The experience at the University of Missouri further showed what can happen when the disparate strands of struggle involving race, gender, education and labor begin interacting and people mobilize around them at once. It creates a heady mix and produces an atmosphere where new things become possible; even the sacking of a university president.

It's also telling that the student government president decided to engage in a hunger strike to attempt to bring about actual change in the

structure of university power. The head of the body that is supposed to be the vehicle for addressing student concerns needed to engage in direct action to have an impact. The strike was a demonstration of the effectiveness of direct action and the power of student organizing.

This whole episode should be thought of as a lesson for students all over the country and show them their power as students. Typically, commands in a university system are top down and one way communications: the administrators make a decision and the students abide by it.

What the events on the University of Missouri campus should illuminate for everyone is that sometimes this process can be reversed. In addition, the students can make a command of their university if they're willing to think outside of the box that the status quo has built for them.

Students United is a column on the importance of student activism on campus. For suggestions or commentary email opinion@fiusm.com

Mobile app could help student safety

M TALK



MICHELLE MARCHANTE

Have you ever walked alone late at night on campus and have passed by a suspicious person or heard a strange noise that sends warning bells through your mind? How many times have you thought someone should have accompanied you while walking at night?

With the invention of Companion, a free iOS and Android app, you may never have to think that again.

It's common knowledge that one of the easiest safety measures someone can take to protect themselves at night is to use the "buddy" system. Unfortunately, it's not always possible to be accompanied everywhere you go; that's where Companion comes in.

Created by five University of Michigan students, the Companion app allows friends and family members to virtually walk you to your destination. After inputting your destination, you're asked to select one or more people from your contacts to be your "companion."

The app, whether your friend has the app or not, will send them a text message with a link to a live map of your route so they can watch you every step of the way. During use, the app will tap into your phone's sensors to catch possible signs of danger, such as if you suddenly start running, drop your phone or get pushed down. Your friends will then be notified to

check up on you.

The app's most notable security feature is the "Call 911" button, which is specifically tailored to work with the universities that are part of the Companion Monitoring Service program, but can still be used wherever you are.

If you press the button while on a campus that is participating in the program, it'll immediately share your location and information with the dispatcher. This will save you time from having to explain where you are.

If you happen to be in an area that's not subscribed to their program, the app will automatically connect you to a dispatcher in your area. The app will also send a notification to your companions, alerting them that you have called the police and require assistance.

According to David Navas, FIUPD's Public Information Officer, while the University is not participating in the Companion program, they have looked into this app and other similar ones to see which one is most suitable for our university's community. They have also spoken with UTS to better understand the different features each app offers.

"Although we believe personal safety applications are a great tool for safety and definitely have a place in a university setting, we still encourage all to continue to practice basic fundamental safety techniques like the 'buddy' system, walking in well-lit areas, and to take advantage of the services offered by the University," Navas said.

These services, such as the panther trams, are provided by the department of Parking and Transportation. The panther tram escorts students to various locations on campus. The UPD also provides escorts, mainly during late hours when panther trams or other services by Parking and Transportation are unavailable.

"We encourage everyone to remember these services can be obtained by calling the department of Parking and Transportation at (305) 348-6173 or the UPD at (305) 348-2626," Navas said.

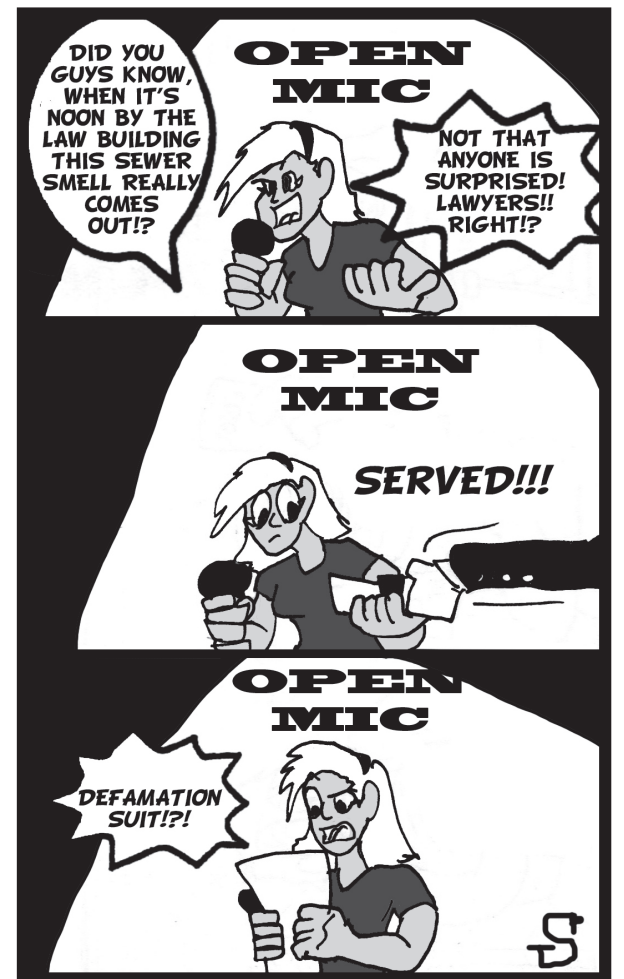
The Companion app may not meet all of our university's needs, but it could still be a useful tool in a student's arsenal; whether for on-campus or off-campus use. It's important to remember though that this app isn't meant to replace the buddy system and it doesn't mean that you shouldn't be aware of your surroundings.

Like all apps, it has some inherent risks. Issues with privacy could arise from using it. These include having your companions inherently develop a stalking mindset towards you or even causing anxiety in them as they watch their screens for an emergency notification.

Though this app definitely has its benefits, nothing is better than simply being aware of your surroundings. At the end of the day, Companion is merely an app made from code.

M Talk is a column that covers innovative events and topics. For suggestions or commentary email michelle.marchante@fiusm.com

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SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

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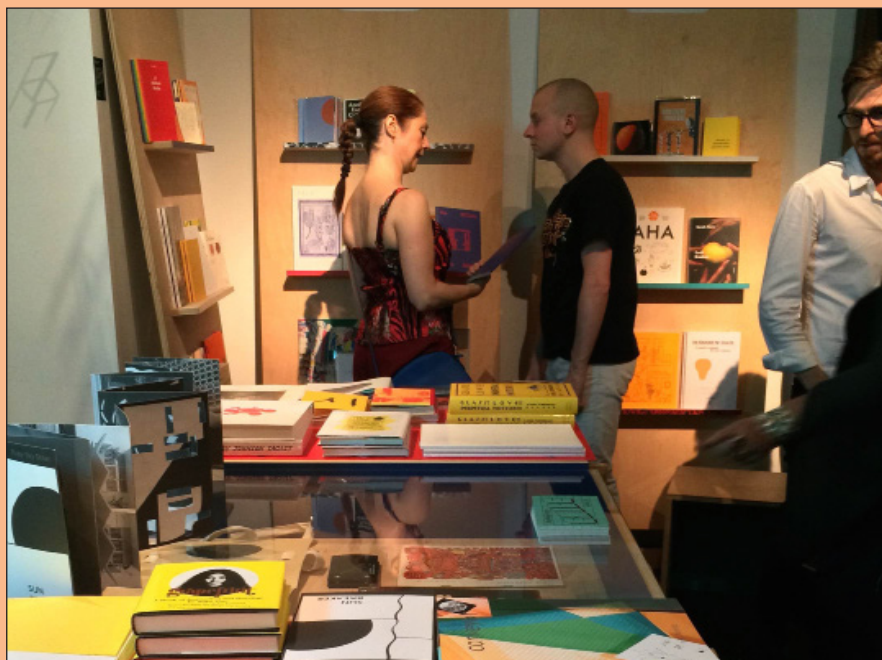
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Orange Oratory exhibits new artists



RAISA CHAUCA/THE BEACON

Artist books featured by Exile Book's The Orange Oratory at FIU's Wolfsonian Museum, Miami Beach.

RAISA CHAUCA
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Accomplished Miami artist Amanda Keeley founded Exile Books in 2014, which is a traveling bookstore that supports, features and sells books by artists who wish to share their creations with the world through a unique medium.

For the past year, Exile Books has had their traveling bookstore hosted at more than six different venues and in each venue there was a different theme. Keeley and the University partnered to bring the exciting bookstore to FIU's Wolfsonian museum in Miami Beach, where it will remain for the next two months.

As she does with every location, Keeley created a unique theme for the Wolfsonian titled "The Orange Oratory."

The idea for the theme comes from a 1939 Miami Herald article about the opening of the 27th Avenue Bridge over the Miami River. The story features the decision by the event's organizers to use fresh-squeezed orange juice to toast the opening of the bridge at the official inaugural ceremony.

The Oratory focuses on what the Miami society looked like back then, how Florida's oranges were advertised and how the orange industry affected life in south Florida.

The Oratory does not stop at reviving South Florida's history, but it also wants Miami residents

to explore the creative medium of artists books. Exile Books has over 400 artists book titles in its shelves. All the books are either independent publications or self-printed books hand picked by Keeley.

The books featured in the Oratory are very diverse and unique in their own way. One look at the them will make it evident that these books are a far cry from just being art books. They are artists books, which makes each one of them an original work of art.

Unlike traditional art books, artists books are created by an artist who conceives the book as a medium to express themselves and make the books personal expressions of their inner feelings and thoughts. Artists choose books as a platform for their art themselves because it gives them freedom of expression not found in other mediums.

Something that has helped artist books gain popularity is the fact that they are, in fact, books. Unlike a painting or a sculpture, a book can be conveniently taken on a bus ride or flight and can be shared and studied practically anywhere.

Exile Books and FIU's the Wolfsonian through the Orange Oratory, in a creative exposition of art and history, are giving FIU students and Miami residents a golden opportunity to learn about an exciting and innovative form of art, as well as an opportunity to learn about South Florida's unique history.

HUMANS OF FIU



ROMINA ANGELELLI/THE BEACON

Fiorella Cantero, Class of 2016, Journalism major

"Don't get me wrong. It's good to stay informed, especially with everything that's going on in the world. I'm kind of glad the Internet is taking over though. News is great, but we don't need to waste all this paper. Hard to believe coming from a journalism major, but having no newspapers doesn't mean we can't have journalists."

Climbing the ladder of real life success

CINDY RAYS
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For those of us in our junior and senior years, entering the "real world" can be a scary thing. Even with a worlds ahead education there is no guarantee we will land that dream job and start a triumphant career.

The Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen Center invited back three alumni who are successful in their respected fields of journalism, advertisement and public relations to share with current students how they thrived after graduating.

They spoke about their careers, how they got there and gave insights about how their education was the base that took them where they wanted to go.

Joelle Parra, communications and social media manager of the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation started her career with dreams of becoming a reporter.

For three years she worked for Channel 7 and made her way up to the associate editor position. "What happens when you get that dream job but you decide you want to try something different?" Parra wanted to make a move to public relations.

"There are three needs you need to do," she said, "One: be open-minded.

Two: learn to create opportunities for yourself and three: never stop learning."

One thing that Parra stressed is that there is no linear path. You might have to go out and start in an unexpected position, but as long as it is in your field, any skill you gain will be beneficial in the future.

Barbara Corbellini Duarte of the Sun Sentinel says she wouldn't have gotten her job if it wasn't for Professor Pinto. "Your connections are everything" Duarte said.

She advises students to look for an internship. In the real world, showing you have a 4.0 GPA will not get you a job. Employers need to see what you can do.

Have a personal blog, learn how to write well, create a portfolio, brand yourself and most importantly have a positive attitude. "Before you go into the job search, take time to really get to learn about yourself and what makes you happy."

Lily Saviñon, founder and creative director of LD Creative, graduated in spring 2010. A short month after she was already working as a bilingual copywriter.

After working for one year, she decided to go to Boston University to pursue her masters in advertising. She came back to Miami looking for a job

and applied for what she thought was "the longest shot ever," creative and marketing director of the luxury real estate company The Jills.

"You'll never know if you don't apply" Saviñon said. It was working at The Jills where she discovered that her passion was being creative. Two and a half years ago she founded LD Creative.

"Knowledge is never going to go to waste," says Saviñon on majoring in public relations but ending up in advertising. Saviñon also runs the student-driven Bold Agency at FIU.

Parra invites students to "hire themselves." For example, this includes reach out to small businesses in the community who don't have the means or knowledge to brand their company. "Create their social media profiles, help them get the word out about their products." This will not only be beneficial for the business, but it will give students something they can put in their resumes and portfolios.

For more information on the Leadership Seminar series contact Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication at kcenter@fiu.edu or stop by BBC Academic II 1 Room 251.

Patrick Kennedy addresses mental illness at event

COLLIN SIMPSON
Staff Writer
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On Sunday, Nov. 1, Books and Books hosted Patrick J. Kennedy; a famous face in the political world. Patrick Kennedy is the son of the late senator Ted Kennedy as well as nephew of famous U.S. President John F. Kennedy, and was also a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Rhode Island.

Kennedy came to Books and Books with a mission. He has taken on the challenge to be a leading political voice on mental illness, addiction and other brain diseases. He left Congress in 2011 to take on a new role.

of Journalism.

Although some of Kennedy's family members were not pleased with the publication of private family secrets, he felt the need to break the silence and talk openly about what he and his family have suffered due to mental illness and substance abuse.

In addition to his own addictions, Kennedy discussed his mother's addiction to alcohol; stressing how it was a non-discussion item when he was young. He also stressed that the need for discussion is imperative in the treatment of addiction and mental illness, as these subjects cannot be taboo. Kennedy emphasized that addiction and mental health

care, research, and policy both in and out of Congress.

Through this endeavor, Kennedy sponsored the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) in Congress. He left Congress in 2011 and founded the Kennedy Forum, which brings together the community of mental health.

He co-founded "The One Mind for Research Campaign," which brings together researchers, policymakers and philanthropists to promote brain research through a collaborative effort. Kennedy advocates the need for excellence in mental health services, the importance in working with existing mental health organizations and the need for new tools, standards and laws to bring about change in the American Health Care System to provide more support to the mental health community.

He also advocates the need for a coordinated national effort to support private and public research as a means of bringing more awareness, understanding, and discovering cures for all mental illnesses.

Many people were moved by his presentation, including Books and Books owner/founder Mitchell Kaplan.

"I think tonight's event was certainly one of the most important events that we've had here at the bookstore. It meant so much to so many people to hear Patrick's story, and also to hear the story of other people in the

audience," said Kaplan.

After his presentation, Kennedy signed copies of his novel for attendees. He was very kind; signing everything that people brought, as well as pausing to take photos with them. During the signing, Kennedy was joined by his young daughter Nora, a happy

surprise for all.

Kennedy also had some kind words for the FIU community. "It's great that you're all interested in subjects like this, and studying is the best way is to pursue that interest. I hope you read the back of my book, and you'll get lots of suggestions in ways to get

more involved, even here in your own community. You all have a lot happening here in Miami Dade. You're all definitely in the right place, that's all I can say."

Kennedy is boldly trying to make a difference in the world. His endeavors and book is truly a call to action.



COLIN SIMPSON/THE BEACON

Patrick Kennedy signs copies of his new novel with his daughter Nora.

He has become an advocate for the treatment and research of brain diseases. On this Sunday afternoon, he stood before a packed audience and disclosed the events of his life to strangers whom he hoped to impact.

Patrick has recently written the book, "A Common Struggle, A Personal Journey Through the Past and Future of Mental Illness and Addiction," in which he reveals his journey through mental illness and addiction and weaved his story through an array of private and professional narratives. Kennedy wrote his story in conjunction with Stephen Fried, an award-winning healthcare journalist and an adjunct professor at Columbia University Graduate School

illnesses must be treated as medical issues, not personal failures.

For Kennedy, this road has truly been a struggle. In May of 2006, Kennedy crashed his car into a Capitol Hill barrier due to a prescription drug-induced haze. This was his turning point. Hours after the incident, he publicly disclosed his addiction to prescription painkillers and his struggle with bipolar, depression and anxiety disorders.

Kennedy had been in and out of treatment centers since the age of 17, but this time was different. This incident could have ended Kennedy's political career, yet instead it was the beginning of a realization that change had to occur. Kennedy became an advocate for mental health and substance abuse

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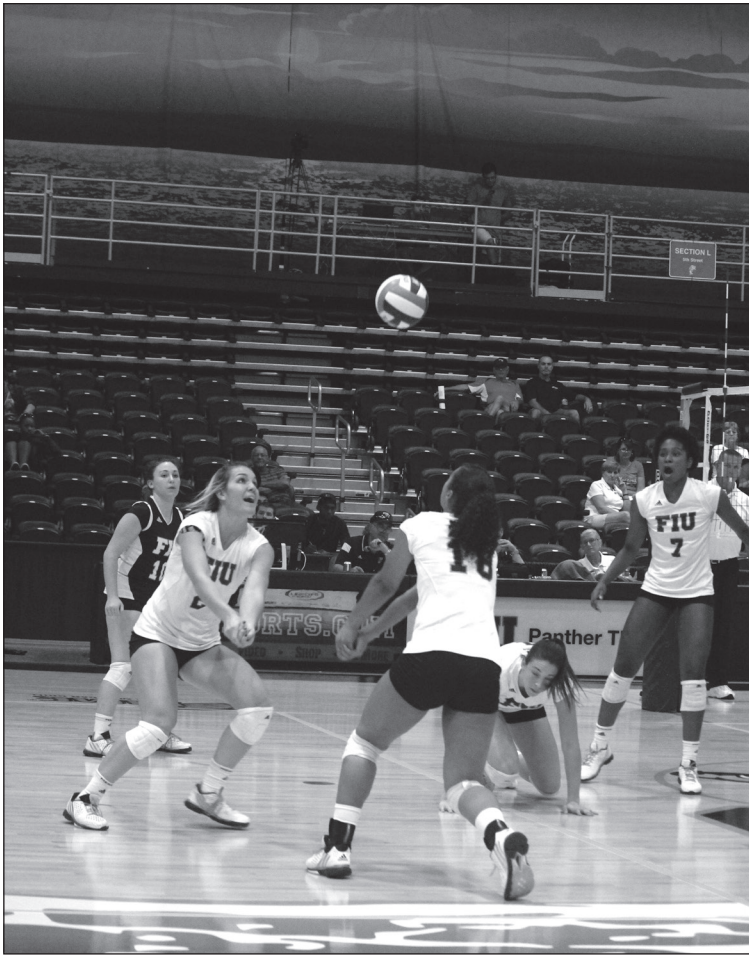
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WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Panthers scheduled to enter conference tournament



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Outside Hitter Lucia Castro (left) and Right Side Outside Hitter Tia Clay (right) both prepare to strike the ball at the game against the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers Friday, Nov. 6 at the FIU Arena.

STEFANO RIVERA
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The University's women's volleyball team (14-12, 8-7 in Conference USA) faced off against Louisiana Tech University (10-19, 3-12 in C-USA) Thursday, Nov. 12.

With the regular season winding down and having lost four-straight games, the Panthers found themselves in dire need of a victory in order to clinch a spot in the conference tournament.

The team responded with a dominant effort, defeating LA Tech in straight sets with final scores of 25-14, 25-17 and 25-15.

The Panthers controlled the game, and with their win, punched their ticket into the C-USA tournament.

In the first set, the Panthers came out with an early 8-2 lead and never slowed down.

The team finished the set hitting .429 and held the Lady Techsters to a hitting percentage of .129.

Junior middle blocker, Katie Hogan, led the Panthers with three kills, as six different players had at least one kill.

The Panthers didn't look back in the second set as they took the 2-0 lead. Sophomore middle blocker, Jennifer Ene, controlled the pace for the Panthers as she tallied four kills.

In the final set, the Panthers hit at an impressive rate once again. They finished the set with a hitting percentage of .364 and sealed the deal, winning the match and clinching a spot in the conference tournament.

Senior outside hitter, Lucia Castro, accounted for four kills and five digs in the set.

The team had one of its most efficient games offensively. It finished with 41 kills with only eight errors, for a final hitting percentage of .308.

Defensively, the Panthers held the Lady Techsters to a hitting percentage of .109, only allowing 29 kills and forcing 17 errors.

Ene finished the match with 12 kills and three blocks while senior middle blocker, Gloria Levorin, added 9 kills, as she surpassed the 750 kill mark for her career.

Castro and Hogan combined for 13 kills as this Panther attack showed balance for one of the

few times this season. Freshman setter, Katie Friesen, led the team with 18 assists.

“The Panthers controlled the game, and with their win, punched their ticket into the C-USA tournament.”

The Panthers have clinched at least a seventh seed in the C-USA tournament.

They can move up to sixth with a win against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a loss by Florida Atlantic University against LA Tech Saturday, Nov. 14. Both games are scheduled to start at 7 p.m.

Earlier this season, the Panthers defeated the 49ers of Charlotte in straight sets at home and will look to do the same for a chance at a higher seed in the upcoming tournament next week.

FOOTBALL

Wakefield named Conference-USA Player of the Week

PETE'S PICKS



PETER HOLLAND JR.

After having a ferocious game last Saturday during their victory against the Charlotte 49ers, starting defensive end, Michael Wakefield, has

earned Conference-USA Player of the Week days after putting up big time defensive numbers.

The senior had a career high of seven tackles, four sacks and five tackles for loss.

Adding with a 48-31 victory, Wakefield tied a school record for most sacks and tackles for loss in a game. Also, his four sacks tied fifth of all-time in Conference USA history.

He also has one pass deflection and contributed on the pick six by starting safety, Nikko Gonzalez, when the Georgia native pressured Charlotte's quarterback.

Despite an aggressive game, he may have been overly aggressive when he was penalized and ejected for targeting Charlotte's

quarterback.

According to NCAA, if a player is penalized for targeting and gets ejected, they receive a half game suspension. It's confirmed that the Panthers accepted the penalty and Wakefield sat out for the first half of their game against Marshall University Saturday, Nov. 14.

Wakefield now leads the conference in sacks with 7.5 and number 26 nationally in sacks and tackle for loss.

He has 38 total tackles (22 solo) and four forced fumbles, which is number one in C-USA and nationally, number 6.

Wakefield is currently number three of all time at the University for tackles for loss (34.5), tackles for loss yardage (148 yards), sacks (17.5) and sack yardage (105). He is also the all-time leader in forced fumbles.

“Pete's Picks” offers commentary on the University's football team. For suggestions or commentary, email sports@fiusm.com.

LB Anthony Wint exhibits maturity of a veteran player

DAVID J. NEAL
The Miami Herald
TNS Staff

FIU's youngest linebacker in age might be its oldest every other way.

As in the way 20-year-old sophomore Anthony Wint assumed the role of defensive bellwether even as a freshman and buck-stops-here leader as a sophomore (and leads the team in tackles). As in the way Wint treats his body with a seriousness rarely seen in college athletes. As in the way Wint spends his Thursdays playing the ancient strategic game of chess with other FIU students on campus.

As in Wint being FIU's oldest linebacker in game experience most of this season after injuries took out senior outside linebacker Davison Colimon and junior middle linebacker Treyvon Williams by the fourth game. (Williams is back at practice, but still walks with a noticeable limp.)

So, Wint is lined up with senior Jephete Matilus, who had played limited middle linebacker snaps at Minnesota, and converted defensive back Vontarius West. Maybe that's why if you ask Wint about any troubles with the overall defense, he'll assign himself sole blame or seemingly take at least half the team blame on his own shoulders.

No wonder FIU coach Ron Turner likens Wint to two of the favorite players he coached at Illinois, 11-year NFL offensive lineman Tony Pashos and 10-year offensive lineman Brandon Moore.

“Tony was one of my all-time favorite people,” Turner said. “I talk to him every day through text or Twitter or something. I love him. That's why he played 12 years in the NFL, because he was a professional and he had an edge about him. Wint is the same guy just without that obnoxious edge.”

“Brandon never said a word. Total opposite to Tony. Extremely serious. Quiet. Intelligent. So, similar [to Wint] in that way.”

The thoroughness with which Wint approaches football left Turner unsurprised that Wint plays chess.

“I'm here to play football so I'm going to put my maximum effort toward it for these 12 weeks or more,” Wint said.

Turner said, “I told him a few weeks ago, ‘You're like a 10-year NFL vet.’ He said, ‘How's that?’ I said, ‘The way you take care of your body, how smart you are, what you do, the way you prepare. The way you come in and watch film, the way you study the game, the way you're in the training room.’”

Wint said he learned quickly about

proper self-maintenance from FIU's upperclassmen last year, especially safety Demarkus Perkins.

“He told me you only get one [body] and I'm only going to play this game for so long so as much as I take care of my body,” Wint said.

“Usually rookies come in [to the NFL], they don't take care of their bodies in college, they don't do it the first couple of years in the league and they learn from the guys who have been around eight to 10 years,” Turner continued. “The ones who don't learn from them are there two or three years. They learn from the true professionals.”

“Anthony Wint, he doesn't have to learn from anybody. He's already a true professional.”

McGough on Record Pace

Perhaps overlooked in the many team records set during Saturday's 48-31 win against Charlotte was sophomore quarterback Alex McGough resetting FIU's single season record for pass completions.

McGough's 27 completions gave him 241 for the season, zooming by the 226 completed in 2010 by current FIU radio color analyst Wes Carroll. McGough enters this Saturday's game 94 passing yards from Carroll's season record of 2,623, also set in 2010.

BODYBUILDING

The man, 'The Myth,' the legend

M TALK



MICHELLE MARCHANTE

"Only his sight beat me," Arnold Schwarzenegger said in the Mr. Olympia bodybuilding competition of 1969, when Sergio Oliva first stepped onto the stage. With a 27" waist, 58" chest and 22" arms, Oliva was a force to be reckoned with, being the only man in the world to ever defeat Schwarzenegger.

It's been three years after his death on November 12, 2012, and not only has the bodybuilding world failed to find another man who could even come close to Oliva's legendary status, but he continues to appear and be discussed in bodybuilding magazines, newspapers and websites all around the world. The reason for this is not because he's a bodybuilding legend but because he continues to be an inspiration for people everywhere. He's a prime example of what

it means to follow the American dream.

Born in Cuba in July 1941, Oliva was born into a tough life, working by the age of 13 but it wasn't until after the Cuban Revolution that he was introduced to the world of bodybuilding. Call it luck or call it destiny but after months of training, Oliva was chosen to represent Cuba in the 1962 Pan American games that were being hosted in Kingston, Jamaica. The night before the competition, he escaped his quarters, out ran Castro's secret police and the Jamaican police and made it to the American embassy where he was granted political asylum and came to live right here in Miami.

A year later, Oliva moved to Chicago after the FBI recommended he should get farther away from Cuba because Castro was sending continuous threats to him. He eventually became a police officer and used any free time he had to workout at the gym, and it wasn't long until rumors began to circulate in the bodybuilding world about a Cuban Powerhouse who could lift more than any of the champions. Even with all the discrimination Oliva

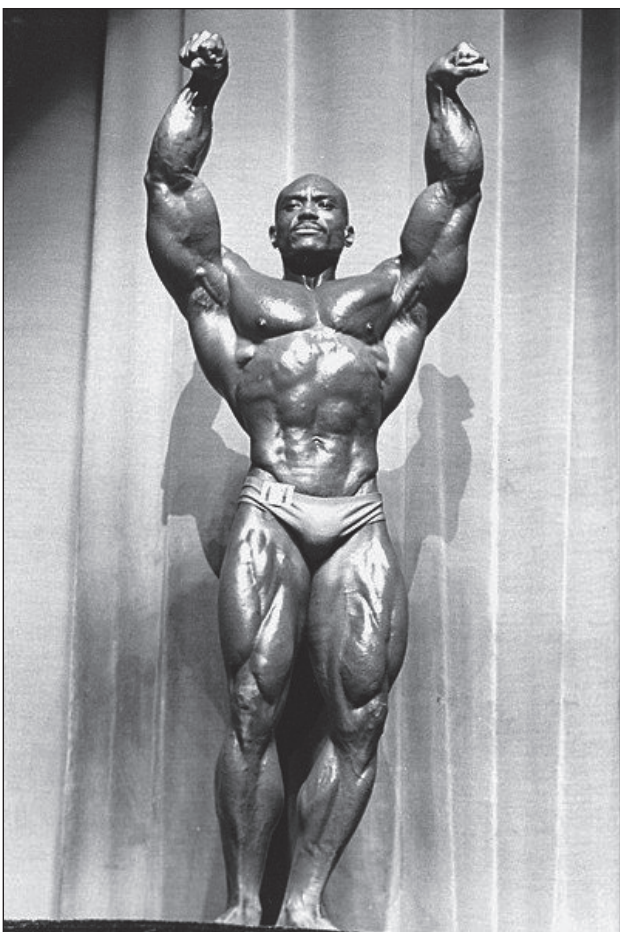


PHOTO COURTESY OF GRAS PUBLISHING

Sergio Oliva, also known as "The Myth", posing in his internationally famous Victory Pose, which no other bodybuilder has been able to duplicate. He remains the only Hispanic to have won the Mr. Olympia title.

faced at the time, as civil rights issues were very intense in the United States, he proved the

rumors were true as he went on to win first place in over 20 bodybuilding championships,

even entering the Book of World Records twice, once for winning Mr. Olympia uncontested, and for being the first ever bodybuilder to win and hold the top standings titles in four competitive bodybuilding federations-IFBB, AAU, NABBA, WBBG- a record that he still holds today. It was through all these accomplishments and the size of his physique, with his arms being bigger than his head and his thighs bigger than his waist, that he gained the nickname, "The Myth."

While the nickname is fitting, he wasn't just a myth that people talked about. He was real. He was the first black man to have won the top titles in bodybuilding and still today is the only Hispanic to have won Mr. Olympia. Experts in the bodybuilding world have agreed that his body is not only one in a million but he's the most genetic champion in the entire history of bodybuilding. He's still an international sensation and was inducted into fourteen different Halls of Fame during his life.

Yes, he was a legend and yes, he was no regular man, like Denie, another legend in the bodybuilding industry, has

said, "Greeks had Hercules, bodybuilding has Sergio."

He's proof. He's proof that the American Dream can be accomplished. If he was able to escape communism, find success during a time when discrimination was at its peak and still ignite passion in the hearts of many today, then it means you can as well, no matter where you come from.

We're lucky to be here in America, in a country where countless opportunities to make yourself what you want to be exists, and we're lucky to be in a university that is continuously growing and offering us different opportunities to better ourselves. Struggle, fall down, but always get back up, as long as you love your passion, whether it's a sport or something else, as long as you try, you won't have regrets. If Sergio Oliva hadn't tried to get to the American embassy, he never would have been the legend people still know today. So take the risk, and don't look back.

"M Talk" is a column that covers innovative events and topics. For suggestions or commentary email michelle.marchante@fusm.com.

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Comics Club to host third annual Comic-Con

YOVELYN RODRIGUEZ

Staff Writer

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The Comics Club at Biscayne Bay Campus will be bringing their third installment of its annual comics convention.

Convention goers will be able to buy comics and collectibles from local vendors and independent artists, showcasing popular superheroes in their original works and participating in cosplay contests -- the practice of dressing up as characters of movies, books or video games.

"We open the floor [for] everyone to bring their best costumes," said Michel-ange Germain, the vice president of the University's Comics Club.

According to Germain, the event will feature a video game station and artists from DC and Marvel Comics to give fans the opportunity to meet well-established comic creators in person.

"Last year we had Jose Delbo, the creator of Wonder Woman, at one of our events," said Javier Diaz, the president of the club.

The artists for this year's event will not be revealed until the actual event date.

"It's all a surprise," said Germain.

The convention will be held during the same week the University will be hosting its International Education Week.

Diaz said that the Comics Club's contribution to the International Education Week comes in the form of a presentation highlighting the collaboration of American superheroes with superheroes from other parts of the world, like The Flash joining forces with Argentinian Salamanca in one of its comic book's issues, released during the '80s.

"We are going to have a board with different superheroes," said Diaz. "We'll have some from Europe, [and] we'll have some from Asia."

Diaz thinks the Comic-Con could

BRA-PONG 4 LIFE



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

Daniela Hernandez, a junior political science and journalism double major, and Alexandra Ramirez, a junior psychology major, play "Bra-pong" at the Kick Off Relay For Life event at Panther Square on Nov. 10.

serve as a gateway to expose people to comic book traditions from other parts of the world. He said that events like these are meant to entertain and educate people about the "wide-reach" that comics have in the "adult world."

"I overhear all the time, when people stop at the tables, 'I'll get

something for my little brother,'" said Diaz. "It's not only about little kids, you can also find something interesting [for yourself]."

Alexandra Rodriguez, a sophomore journalism major at the University, likes comic books and is excited about attending the event.

"I hope to see a lot of people

there," she said. "I hope to find some original artwork or discounted comic books."

The Comic-Con will be held Thursday, Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the BBC's Panther Square.

For more information, contact the Comics Club at comics@fiu.edu.

Students discuss discriminatory thinking and behavior

KAYLA JOHNSON

Contributing Writer

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On Thursday, Nov. 10, the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services held their fifth and final "A Love Movement" discussion of the Fall Semester. The discussion focused on how regional stereotypes are forms of discrimination that people may use to define others based on preconceived notions of behavior. Jeffrey McNamee, Associate Director of MPAS, guided the conversation.

Participants were given a map of the United States and wrote down the stereotypes that each state might be known for, shedding light on the

judgment calls made about a group of people simply based on where they live.

As the conversation led to racial discrimination, students of various ethnic backgrounds sat in a circle and shared anecdotes of uncomfortable situations they've faced.

One of the participants, Jephthe Laguerre, a Haitian-American junior majoring in health administration, recalled working in retail and how his boss asked him to only follow African-American shoppers to make sure they weren't stealing anything.

"To be honest, African Americans were not the main ones stealing from the store," Laguerre said. "We ended up losing over \$5,000 because there was too much focus on

one particular race instead of looking at people as a whole."

Laguerre's story is a reflection on the harmful generalizations that are used to define a community without actually knowing who people are on a unique level.

"The way we process faster is to group things," McNamee said. "But people aren't things. They're very unique and multi-layered."

Laguerre is a part of MPAS and finds value in the ALM discussions because it brings attention to problematic social structures that continue to persist when these issues are ignored or only addressed behind closed doors.

"These discussions give people a more informed way of how to approach a

situation instead of jumping to conclusions," Laguerre said.

"Many of the problems with our current generation and generations to come is ignorance, and it has become more and more prominent," said Vianca Crawford, a hospitality management junior.

Crawford works with MPAS as part of her work-study program and is also a part of Upward Bound. She loves being a part of such groundbreaking discussions every year because it helps to break social barriers in a time of intense racial tension.

"It's important to have discussions like this so we can educate people," said Crawford.

She has faith that people who once held discriminatory

beliefs based on stereotypes can realize where they went wrong and change for the better.

Such meaningful debates help students open a dialogue about controversial issues and progress as human beings instead of only going online. McNamee is proud to facilitate these annual discussions because they bring forth awareness.

"You have to check yourself on discrimination," McNamee said. "I find the best thing to do is speak about it because when you keep it quiet, it becomes something that you don't recognize. It becomes a trait that you think is normal."

ALM discussions allow college students to address the taboo issues in a face-to-face

environment in which nothing can be misinterpreted or taken out of context.

"The more you talk about something and critically think about it, the better you will be able to develop as a person," McNamee said. "It's about sharing their experiences and how those things can impact your thoughts and how you treat others."

McNamee hopes that participants realize that people are mostly individualistic despite the fact that they may have similarities with stereotypes that often apply their ethnicities and cultures.

The next discussion is on February 3, 2016 and will cover institutional racism.

Can the world's coral be saved from extinction?

DAVID HELVARG

Los Angeles Times

TNS

Two Steps is a perfect snorkeling spot on the Big Island of Hawaii. Black lava rocks step down twice into the clear waters of a small bay where, on a good day, you're guaranteed to see brightly colored fish and green sea turtles shoaling through myriad forms of coral in shades of brown, green, yellow, pink and purple.

But if you happened to visit last month, you would have found about 30 percent of the corals bleached wedding-cake white.

It's a sure sign that the ocean is heating

up. Overly warm water causes living coral polyps to expel the photosynthetic algae, called zooxanthellae, that give them their varied colors and about 70 percent of their nutrients. If the bleaching lasts too long, the corals starve to death.

All of Hawaii's coral reefs are bleaching this year, a "really serious problem," says Sheila McKenna, a marine ecologist at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. And a problem that seems to be accelerating.

With the return of a strong El Nino in the Pacific Ocean and the continued effects of global warming, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has just declared the third global

coral bleaching event in history (the first two took place in 1998 during an earlier El Nino and in 2010). Ninety-five percent of U.S. corals, which are mostly concentrated off the coasts of Hawaii and Florida, are likely to be exposed to conditions that can cause bleaching.

Tropical coral reefs cover less than 1 percent of the ocean, but they are home and nursery to 25 percent of all marine species; billions of fish, mollusks and other creatures rely on reefs for their food and shelter. Their beauty generates tourism dollars, and they act as barriers providing storm protection for millions of coastal residents.

Unfortunately, they are especially fragile in the face of pollution, ocean acidification,

overfishing and climate change. Most are not expected to survive this century.

There is some hope. Emerging science suggests coral reefs that are fully protected from pollution and overfishing are more resilient to the impact of climate change. That's one reason a coalition of Hawaii-based groups is calling for an emergency moratorium on the collection of aquarium-trade fish off their reefs.

At the same time, those who care about coral are looking at triage — not every reef will survive.