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WHOLE LOTTA ZEROES



MICHAEL SLOAN/THE BEACON

Senior guard Taylor Shade steps onto the Lime Court at FIU Arena Thursday, Feb. 21 against the University of North Texas. Though the Panthers fell to the Mean Green 58-40, Shade became the 23rd woman in the history of the program to surpass 1,000 points.

Student faces DUI manslaughter charge for killing federal agent

SOPHIE HERBUT
Staff Writer
sophie.herbut@fiusm.com

Feb. 16, Jordana Rosales, an FIU junior, admitted to driving into a federal agent on a South Beach sidewalk prior to her arrest hours later. Prosecutors then charged Rosales with DUI manslaughter, as reported by the Miami Herald.

The Herald reported that on Jan. 15 around 2 a.m., Rosales was making a wide U-turn in a Mercedes E250, when she saw a taxi on the road. She drove onto the curb to avoid a collision but slammed into two homeland security agents and sped away.

Rosales was tracked down to a luxury building in downtown Miami. She left her rear-view mirror on the scene which served as a key piece of evidence. Once they found her car, the windshield had been notably

damaged, according to the Miami Herald.

Scott McGuire, one of the agents hit by Rosales, died on Jan. 25, ten days after the incident. The second agent escaped with a broken leg.

On Jan. 16, Rosales, 21, confronted a judge in bond court and was posted on a \$100,000 bond, raised from \$7,500, with an ankle bracelet and a confiscation of her passport.

The prosecution feared Rosales leaving to Honduras, because her parents were born there. If she returns to Honduras, where she could possibly be considered a citizen, there's a chance she would not be extradited to the U.S., according to CBS.

Rosales is currently under house arrest awaiting trial. She is not allowed to drive, but she is allowed to continue her schooling. Her punishment became more severe after McGuire's death.

Rosales "shows a certain lack

of responsibility and willingness to step forward when one is involved in a collision," according to the prosecution.

Rosales' ability to pay the bond was discussed as the defense claimed she was on financial aid for school. The judge pointed out her 2015 Mercedes as sufficient evidence that she should be able to bond out and the prosecution said Rosales has a wealthy uncle.

FIU Student Conduct Committee refused to comment on Rosales' fate as a student.

Homeland Security released a statement on McGuire, an organ donor, claiming a small comfort in giving the opportunity for others to live.

Rosales now faces a minimum of four years in prison for the DUI manslaughter charge, and the charge of leaving the scene of an accident involving death.

Identities of Cuban-American youth

NAPHTALI ROSENBERG
Contributing Writer
news@fiusm.com

Friday, Feb. 12, in GL 220, FIU hosted a panel of Cuban-American specialists to discuss the cultural identities of Cuban-American youth. Iraida H. Lopez, Phillip M Carter, Eva Silot Bravo, Ana Menendez and Elizabeth Crejido served as the five panelists and explored the topics of

language, literature, music and the arts.

Carter, an FIU professor and linguistics specialist, focused on the dialects specific to Miami.

Carter is originally from California but as a linguist "absolutely loves" being in Miami. "The richness of the linguistic scene in Miami is almost overwhelming," he said.

Carter broke down topics like

Miami's speech communities, phrases that belong uniquely to Miami, identity and its relation to language and the vilification of slang in the Cuban-American community.

In regards to Cuban-American slang and speech, Carter said, "We know in situations of sustained language contact, people mix their languages."

He said, "This is a very, very

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New bridge to benefit student pedestrians

AMANDA DELGADO
Contributing Writer
news@fiusm.com

In attempt to make transportation not only easier to students, but to the community, a new pedestrian bridge, sidewalks and plazas will connect the City of Sweetwater with Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

Set to be built by 2018, the bridge was first proposed in 2011.

"We had submitted twice but were turned down, not because it was a bad project, but because there was limited funding," said Kenneth Jessell, FIU senior vice president for Finance and Administration and chief financial officer.

A partnership between MMC, who completed the FIU Football Stadium Expansion, and FIGG Bridge Engineers will finalize the designs of the bridge. The bridge will link Sweetwater with the northern entrance of FIU over Southwest Eighth Street.

Improvements will also be made to the entrances of MMC and to the 109 Avenue area in Sweetwater.

The \$15 million project will receive a \$11.4 million U.S. Department of Transportation grant (also known as the TIGER Grant), with additional funding coming from the Florida Department of Transportation, City of Sweetwater and FIU.

However, the bridge is just one part of a three part project.

"The bridge is a big part because it is so visual, but the other parts – the Informed Travel Program and Applications and the community transit, are equally as important," said Jessell.

Construction of the bridge will cause Eighth Street to be closed for one night. Aside from that, traffic will face minimal

impact. The 300 foot long bridge will also feature panther shaped benches, security cameras and a lighting system. A plaza will be constructed on the Sweetwater side of the bridge, where it is hoped will feature festivals and vending carts, among other things.

"I'm personally down for the idea," said Esteban Ortega, a psychology major at FIU.

He said, "University of Miami had one built to help the students reach the school without having to worry about the traffic and I remember hearing positive feedback from the students. For busy streets, like Eighth Street, I believe it would be a big help as it allows students to reach the campus and avoid any possible accidents. It's safe."

The bridge itself will cost approximately \$12 million. The community transit will cost about \$350,000 and will include one new transit vehicle; ten transit vehicles will be going between FIU, Sweetwater and other areas.

Transit services are to be extended from FIU to Dolphin Mall and, potentially, to some government buildings or close-by areas that students, faculty, staff and the residents of Sweetwater may need to go to.

Ideally, the community transit portion of the project will create a quality program for the community that will tie with Miami-Dade Transit. This means that there are attempts to bring local buses that are currently on the east-side of campus on 107th to PG 6.

"I think the new additions will be rad for commuting. I would like that," said Stephanie Ojeda, a criminal justice major at FIU. "It's

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NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Will California pot legalization survive the presidential election?

Californians are likely to vote this fall on legalizing marijuana for recreation but whether Golden State residents can break out the bongos could depend on what happens at the top of the ballot. The next president has the power to shut down marijuana sales in the states that have legalized it, and two of the candidates, Republicans Marco Rubio and Ben Carson, have

suggested they would. While marijuana remains forbidden under federal law, President Barack Obama has allowed pot sales in states such as Colorado, Oregon and Washington that have legalized recreational marijuana under state law. Weed advocates are watching the presidential race closely and hoping the next president follows Obama's path on pot.

Analysts see business benefit in Apple's battle with FBI

Apple's decision to refuse the FBI's demand to unlock the iPhone of San Bernardino, California, shooter Syed Farook, which Apple CEO Tim Cook has portrayed as a principled stand to protest the data of all iPhone users, is also likely to be good for business, analysts of the hotly competitive cellphone market said Thursday.

While none of the analysts questioned Cook's sincerity in challenging a federal magistrate's

order that Apple help the FBI access encrypted data on Farook's phone, they noted that the refusal neatly aligns with Apple's current business strategy.

"They're basically making a big push on privacy, and it benefits them financially," Alvaro Bedoya, executive director of the Center on Privacy and Technology at Georgetown University Law Center, said of the challenge.

Trump, Bush, Kasich offer a gentler approach in town hall chats

Donald Trump, Jeb Bush and John Kasich made final pitches to South Carolina voters in a mostly gentle, issue-filled town hall meeting.

The CNN-sponsored forum Thursday night at the University of South Carolina Law School had a very different tone from the pointed, even vicious exchanges on the campaign trail. People in the town hall audience wanted to

know where the candidates stood on health care, military strategy and other issues.

There was some intrigue. Trump, the New York-based real estate magnate, dominated the political dialogue Thursday before the CNN session. His tiff with Pope Francis had dominated media coverage of the South Carolina campaign 48 hours before voters go to the polls.

Panel discusses Cuban identities

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normal thing to do. We can have conversations about when it is appropriate to mix and when it's not, but to vilify, officiate or demonize an entire community on how to use their language [is] not a very good thing to do."

He continued on the topic saying, "There are a lot of, for me, heart wrenching moments in my data where Cuban-American youths say 'I really wish I could speak Spanish better or speak Spanish with my siblings. I should be doing more I should download all these tapes, I should be studying more... I, I, I.'"

Carter continued "And what's not on people's radar is that the maintenance of a language is the responsibility of the community, not just the individual."

He argued that there is nothing to be ashamed of in the Cuban "Spanglish" one hears so often in Miami.

"Language can never be lazy, language is language. What I've come to learn about many of my

fabulous FIU students is that they feel embarrassed about their Spanish," he said. "Many of them walk around with shame about their Spanish, that they don't speak it well enough, and they believe it is their fault. From the perspective of a linguist I think Cuban-Americans have a lot to celebrate."

The next speakers focused primarily on the different arts that the Cuban-American youth has been participating in.

Cerejido, a specialist on post-1980s Cuban-American artists, gave a thorough summary of the different influential Cuban-American artist currently fostering the scene.

She also delved into the relationship between second generation Cuban-Americans that have never been to Cuba and the artist currently living in Cuba.

"Cuban-American artist, who have grown up here, are now beginning to go 'back' to Cuba, and Cuban artist from Havanah are coming to Miami. So there is this sort of flow that is taking place," she said.

Whether it was literature, music or visual arts, a similar sentiment was shared while comparing the modern generation of Cuban-Americans with its predecessor; the idea that the youth are now much less politically focused, less concerned with Castro, and the economic sphere and more focused on the individual and its social existence.

"They are less political. It is less about politics and more about putting family first," said Lopez.

The panel ended with a Q&A. When an audience member asked about the real meaning of "Cuban-identity," Lopez responded, "Identity is just a game we play in public. It is so contextual."

She then described an idea her mother had told her. Her Cuban mother had lived all around the world and told Lopez "In India I was a westerner, in Pakistan I was a woman."

Lopez explained that should someone ask her mother "When did you feel Cuban?" her mother's response would be "When I moved to Miami."

New pedestrian bridge more than just a bridge

BRIDGE, PAGE 1

actually really beneficial for me since there's no easy way – other than driving – that I know of to get to those places from campus. It also means I have more a variety of places to go."

Attempts to create an air-conditioned area near the bus stop at PG6 will be made, and the possibility of creating a convenience store, newspaper stand or food venue are also in the works.

The third part of the project consists of an ITPA system, which will cost about \$2.4 million. This includes "smart transit opportunity traffic." This system could save users time, giving them suggestions on when to get off on their bus route to join an alternative one.

From FIU, the system can be used to tell those using the bus the time their bus will get there.

ITPA started to be implemented when FIU parking decals were replaced with a system that recognizes license plates. The parking count system is also receiving some tweaking.

"The counts that we have by spaces, eventually that technology is going to

be an extent that you would be able to actually know where the space is, or where spaces are," said Jessell.

"So you can get an update on your phone, that would be verbal so you're not looking at it while you're driving, [that says] there are 15 spots in over in [PG] 6 or there are 15 spots in Red Garage. So you now know where to go for parking," he said.

The official groundbreaking of the project will occur next month, with construction beginning in the next three months; however, construction of the bridge will probably not occur until the end of the year since there are still issues related to soil testing, power lines as well as drawings and planning of the bridge.

Right now, only 30 percent of the drawings have been made. Getting to 100 percent takes time because drawings are under constant review by the U.S. Department of Transportation and FDOT.

"We wanted it to be from the very beginning a signature bridge, because we could've easily put in a box bridge... just to get across. We wanted it to be a continuation of the City of Sweetwater and FIU," said Jessell. "I'm pretty excited about it."

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.
(305) 348-2709
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus:
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Fax:
(305) 348-2712

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
sam.smith@fiusm.com

Advertising:
(305) 348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

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Media holds influence on voters

ON THE SCENE



GABRIELLE GARCIA

With the primary election just around the corner, voters are tuning in to debates, local and national broadcasts and are looking to the internet to learn more about the standing presidential candidates. However, it seems to be the case that voters also favor information published on social

media sites.

With technology and access to the web at the fingertips of most Americans' fingers, social media serves as a virtual gateway to the very core of election season. Most social media sites are designed to allow users to easily share links, videos, photos and memes, which seem to be among the more popular modes of communication on the internet—especially when it comes to politics.

Because memes are easy to create and to publish, they continue to be an increasingly popular trend

among social media and Internet users. Today, the Internet and social media are plagued with memes of all kinds. Now, memes are more politically aimed, given that voting season has already begun.

As a social media user, I cannot begin to count how many videos, memes, photos and links are circulating the internet, many of which condemn politicians from all ends of the spectrum for being unfit candidates, but for also falsely interpreting their platforms by using derogatory language.

While everyone is entitled to their own opinions and perspectives, many simply do not comprehend the power that media has on the public.

What you watch on television, what you hear on the radio or what you see and share online has a significant influence on the public that can lead people to understand and believe or confuse and mislead others with information that may not be credible

Exercising one's right to vote is an important civil duty and should not be taken lightly. Many

voters - especially young voters - hold the impression that their ideas and votes do not matter, when in reality, they do. Making informed decisions is just as important as making the decision to vote.

While social media trends appear quirky, funny, outrageous and appealing, they're most likely not the most accurate sources to rely on. Rather than making a blind decision, voters should do their research, which means yes - expose yourself to all ends of the spectrum.

With information constantly circulating on the web and other media platforms, voters of all ages should do their best to be as informed as possible. When the time comes, get out there and vote! Your decision counts!

On the Scene is a commentary in the hottest pop culture topics. For further commentary, contact Gabrielle Garcia at gabrielle.garcia@fiusm.com

Meditation and exercise for depression

PANTHER HEALTH



MAYTINEE KRAMER

College is an exciting time, but it can also be very challenging and demanding, so Panthers are bound to feel stressed throughout the semester. Stress

can be good as it keeps you alert, motivated and primed to respond to danger. However, too much stress or chronic stress could lead to depression.

Depression comes in many different forms. In a 2013 survey conducted by the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors, 36.4 percent of college students reported to have experienced some level of depression. Depression can leave a student feeling detached from everyone and helpless, making it

difficult to work, sleep, study and eat.

While there are treatments and medicine to fight depression, sometimes, the best way to get back in gear is to go back to the basics.

Two natural ways to combat stress and depression are meditation and exercise. Meditation allows one to embrace their natural capacity in order to heal, while exercising has many benefits from weight loss to improving mood and a boost in energy. A new study from Rutgers University in New Jersey revealed that when meditation and exercise are combined, they can act as an active weapon to fight depression.

Two groups of students, one mentally healthy and one suffering from depression, went through an eight-week training course in Rutgers University's study that included a fitness routine of focused attention meditation for 30

minutes and 30 minutes of aerobic exercise. By the end of two months, researchers found a 40 percent drop in depressive symptoms among the group suffering from depression while all of the participants were reported to spend less time having negative thoughts.

The researchers found that the secret behind the success of combining exercise and meditation to combat depression was in practicing the ability to manipulate attention. The meditation part of the routine had the participants focus on their breathing and redirecting their focus to the present moment when their thoughts would wander. This process encourages people to make a conscious effort to move away from their feelings and experiences, enabling those suffering with depression to learn and control present changes in attention.

The aerobic exercise encouraged the growth of new brain cells while increasing the brain-derived neurotrophic factor. Sometimes called a "fertilizer for the brain," BDNF is a protein that promotes the survival of nerve cells and neurons by aiding in growth, differentiation and maintenance of these cells. Clinical psychologist, Alicia H. Clark, explained that this protein promoted

neural growth and new learning.

"This is important when combating depression, or any mental health problem, since building coping strategies requires new learning and new habits," said Clark.

While some drugs have established their place in the management options for depression, it's better to find natural ways to fight depression because it reinforces self-awareness and a deeper understanding of what is going on.

Students need to recognize that life comes with obstacles, but rather than succumbing to the pressure and emotions that in excess can lead to depression, Panthers should find a healthy approach to manage their mental health. Along with meditation and exercise, students should also maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle.

Everything from spending some time outdoors, writing in a journal or listening to music can help students relieve themselves. In addition, the Student Health Center offers many programs including Counseling and Psychological Services. This program facilitates and enhances students' personal learning, emotional well-being and academic skills development. Good health is essential to a student's success.

Panther Health is a commentary on college health in nutrition. Maytinee Kramer is a staff writer for FIU Student Media. For more commentary, please contact Maytinee at opinion@fiusm.com.

Letter to the Editor; Understanding your right to protest on campus

The October 28 edition of the Beacon included a story about FIU's free speech policy. We are writing to explain FIU's regulation on protests.

Universities have competing responsibilities and values when it comes to protests on campus.

We cherish the right of free speech and understand the great benefit to our community when everyone can express themselves. One of FIU's values is "Freedom--of thought and expression," regardless of the content of that thought and expression.

At the same time, there is a responsibility to preserve the continuity of university operations where students, faculty and staff can go about their regular business when protests are occurring.

We serve a diverse student body seeking degrees in higher education. Our top priority is offering a world-class education and graduating all of our students. Two of FIU's other values --"Excellence-in intellectual, personal and operational endeavors" and "Respect--for the diversity and the dignity of the individual," among our other values, speak to these aims.

We hope all students who desire to exercise their right to protest feel free to do so.

We are at our best as a university when we are able to harmonize these competing values. However, when these values conflict we must make choices. Our choices may not be popular.

We recognize the belief that individuals or groups exercising their first amendment rights should be able to do so unfettered. We do not hold that view and our Constitution does not require this view. Likewise, respect for the dignity of the individual does not mean that speech which some or many find disrespectful is not permitted.

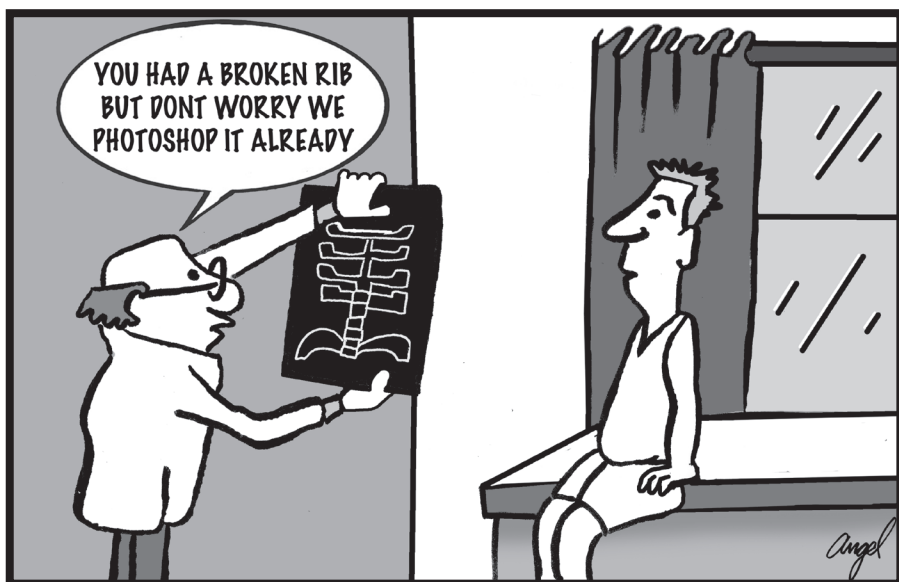
FIU's student affairs administrators and our police are trained in responding to protests to ensure the interests of the FIU community and the University's values are considered in our actions and our obligations under the law are met.

Our Student Affairs professionals are here to assist students in understanding their rights and responsibilities regarding demonstrations on our campuses. Students should contact the Dean of Students Office at 305-348-2797. Information is available on the Student Affairs website explaining the first amendment and providing guidance regarding students' right to protests.

Cathy Akens, Dean of Students
Kristina Raattama, General Counsel
For the full letter to the editor, visit fiusm.com

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

A DIFFERENT KIND OF DOCTOR



ANGEL BANEGAS/THE BEACON

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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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Monday Motivation: get spring break ready

MONDAY MOTIVATION



NIHAT STRIDER

It is that time of the year again, spring break is coming up! Everyone has the same question: how do I get spring break ready? Miami, being the nation's hub of the spring break events, we all want that beach body. This week's fitness model is Amina Daoud, a junior majoring in marketing. Daoud is a proud FIU Golden Dazzler and a sister of Alpha Xi Delta.

The reason that the United States has one of the strongest militaries in the world is because of their powerful discipline. Similar to that, we need to maintain a strong discipline to achieve that beach body.

One healthy meal and one good workout will not transform your body. It is the day in and day out of solid work you put in the gym that makes a difference.

Treat your body like a machine. Imagine if we

the next few weeks. There are three major factors you need to concentrate on: discipline, diet and determination to work out.

Every single day counts and there should not be a single cheat meal.

Abs are made in the kitchen. You can live in the gym but if your nutrition intake is not correct, you will not see any results.

In a fitness lifestyle, you can get away with cheat meals here and there but as it is crunch time, you should change the menu in your kitchen. I always hear eating healthy is expensive. That does not

have to be true; eating out is expensive. Start making use of the kitchen.

As we are occupied with jobs and school, we might not have time to cook every day. Try simple cooking methods. You can also meal prep: take one day out of the week and prepare large portions of meals which will last throughout the week. As for snacking, the best options are natural foods such as fruits and nuts.

You can also consume nutritional bars. There are many types, like protein and fiber bars. Be careful, though, a lot of these bars might claim to be healthy but are filled with sugar.

Maintaining a healthy diet will help you lose the extra weight in your

body but will not create the beach body you want. Bodybuilding is a complete program. You must lift proper safe weights with correct form and technique. As spring break is near, try to work out six times a week. A solid one hour of workout, six days a week can truly transform your body.

Our body is important just like our schoolwork and day jobs.

Your body is the only temple you live in. Prioritize your preferences. Never miss school or procrastinate, but have the determination to work out.

Your one hour of workout should not be spent socializing or scrolling through social media. In

that case, you are barely get 20 minutes of a one hour workout.

Determination is what makes you win the race. NFL football players win championships because they are determined during the game and their preparation.

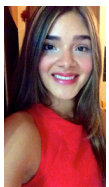
Be determined to eat healthy and workout regularly. Doing so, you will achieve positive results. Do not get in the habit of crash dieting.

After spring break is over, try to maintain your amazing fitness lifestyle.

Motivation Monday is a weekly column covering fitness and health. Nihat is a certified personal trainer, for comments or questions email life@fiusm.com

Decoding food labels made easy

SDA HEALTH



VANESSA SANCHEZ

If you're like me, you tend to go to the supermarket and spend hours reading food labels before you buy a particular food item.

It's important to know what we are eating. However, this can be difficult if we don't know exactly what a food label really means.

Some food labels may say very little about the product and others contain information that is irrelevant. For example, some statements made on food labels are required by law.

Knowing what a food label is telling you will help you pick the best product for yourself and others. "Raised without added hormones" is common statement seen on poultry and pork products. This is misleading.

However, statements such as this are what allows items to be overpriced even though it is just like any other brand. It is prohibited by law for poultry and pork to be raised with added hormones.

A meat or poultry product labeled as natural is vague and leads to different interpretations by the consumer. However, natural, as stated by the USDA, means meat and poultry products cannot contain artificial colors, flavors, preservatives or other artificial ingredients.

It also means that the meat and poultry should be minimally processed.

"Naturally raised" is another vague term. According to the USDA, a food product with such a label must meet such criteria: the animal should not have been given any growth enhancers or antibiotics and the animal should not have consumed food containing animal by-products.

"Naturally raised" has nothing to do with animal welfare, such as environmental and conservation issues that may be occurring on the farm, or if any animal cruelty is in practice.

Poultry labeled as "fresh" signifies that the poultry was not cooled below 26 degrees Fahrenheit.

This could mislead consumers who believe that fresh means the

meat was never frozen, processed or preserved.

The label "free range," as seen on poultry produced for meat and eggs, is only regulated by the USDA for poultry produced for meat. This label is not regulated for pigs, cattle or egg-producing chickens.

Animal products could be labeled "free range" if the animal had some access to the outdoors each day for a certain amount of time.

This amount of time could even be as little as a few minutes each day.

Knowing what we are putting into our body is critical. You must always remember to read the label and do your research before you buy a particular product.

You might be picking up a product that is not what you expected and could seriously damage your body without the knowledge that you are even doing so.

SDA health is a weekly column written by members of the Student Dietitian Association. The column focuses on healthy eating and living. For more commentary or to suggest a topic, email life@fiusm.com

Deadpool demystified

LIFESTYLE POINTS



JOSEPH CARDENAS

Over the years, Deadpool has become a staple Marvel character big enough to fuel a cult fanbase.

A fanbase powerful enough to push the superhero's first ever solo-film to have the biggest opening weekend for a superhero's first film.

Whether or not you see the appeal for the superhero genre, a \$130 million figure is still impressive for the first film in any franchise. What makes it even more impressive is that the film was appropriately given an R rating.

Deadpool's titular screen adaptation introduces us to the "Merc with a Mouth" after undergoing intense experimenting to trigger a mutant reaction. Mr. Pool exists in the X-Men filmverse, whose mutant reaction is shown as the result of experimenting.

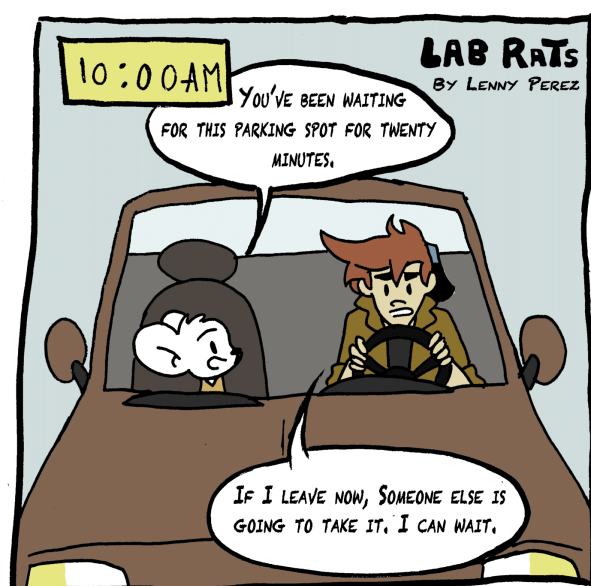
Unfortunately, the experiments disfigure him and Wade Wilson - Deadpool's true identity - doesn't

take kindly to it. Fueled by his desire to fix his scarred state and reunite with his girlfriend, Wilson teams up with a pair of less-important X-Men, which Deadpool doesn't skip a beat mentioning, to kill the man who did him in.

Deadpool being a hit wasn't exactly a question. The question was what a hit the Deadpool movie would mean for the future. The superhero genre seems to be toeing the line between action and graphic content, and "Deadpool" is really the first in the superhero cinematic universe to cross it.

By far, it is not the first comic book franchise to get an R rating, but there's a reason movies like the "Blade" series, "Watchmen" and "Red" aren't normally marketed with the bigger-name supes in suits.

LifeStyle points is a weekly column covering films and pop culture by Joseph Cardenas. For suggestions and comments email joseph.cardenas@fiusm.com. For full story visit fiusm.com



Practicing safe sex helps avoid the Zika virus

SAMANTHA BRANCA
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

If you haven't been paying attention to the news lately, there's a Vector Borne Disease known as the Zika virus that has been going around.

Although it's been a problem in many other countries for quite some time now, there's a sudden panic due to it making its way to the United States.

The virus is most commonly transmitted by infected mosquitoes in tropical regions of the world, but it can also be transmitted through sexual contact whether it's vaginal, anal or oral.

Because of the rapid rate at which the virus is spreading, scientists and medical experts are trying to create a vaccine to prevent the contraction. As of right now, there is no known treatment for the virus.

As of Feb. 8 there were sixteen Zika virus cases in Florida reported by the Surgeon General. Just 10 days later, there were eight more cases reported.

According to Mariella Gabaroni, the associate director of the FIU Health Promotion Services, there are many ways to stay safe.

First things first: protect yourself from mosquitoes and areas in which they are heavy populated. Wearing

long sleeved shirts and pants as well as spraying yourself with mosquito repellent containing "DEET" regularly can help.

Gabaroni suggests "If you have traveled to an area with reported Zika virus cases you should refrain from donating blood for at least four weeks."

There are ways to stay safe from contracting the Zika virus sexually, too. Abstinence is the best way to avoid any STD and a deterrent from contracting Zika. Because our urges take precedence over rationality, there are other ways to avoid the virus. Using a condom when performing vaginal, anal and oral sex can reduce the chances of the virus being transferred from one partner to the other.

Evidence from other cases shows that the virus can stay in semen for at least two weeks after being contracted, therefore it is recommended to avoid direct contact with semen until more information is learned about the virus.

Also, ask your partner about their travel history to see if they have traveled to areas that have had a Zika virus outbreak.

If you are currently pregnant and you or your partner have traveled somewhere recently that has reported Zika cases in its area, you should schedule an appointment with your doctor.

How can you tell if you are

infected? Gabaroni categorizes this virus as an asymptomatic disease, in which you can have it in your system but have no knowledge due to a lack of symptoms for some time.

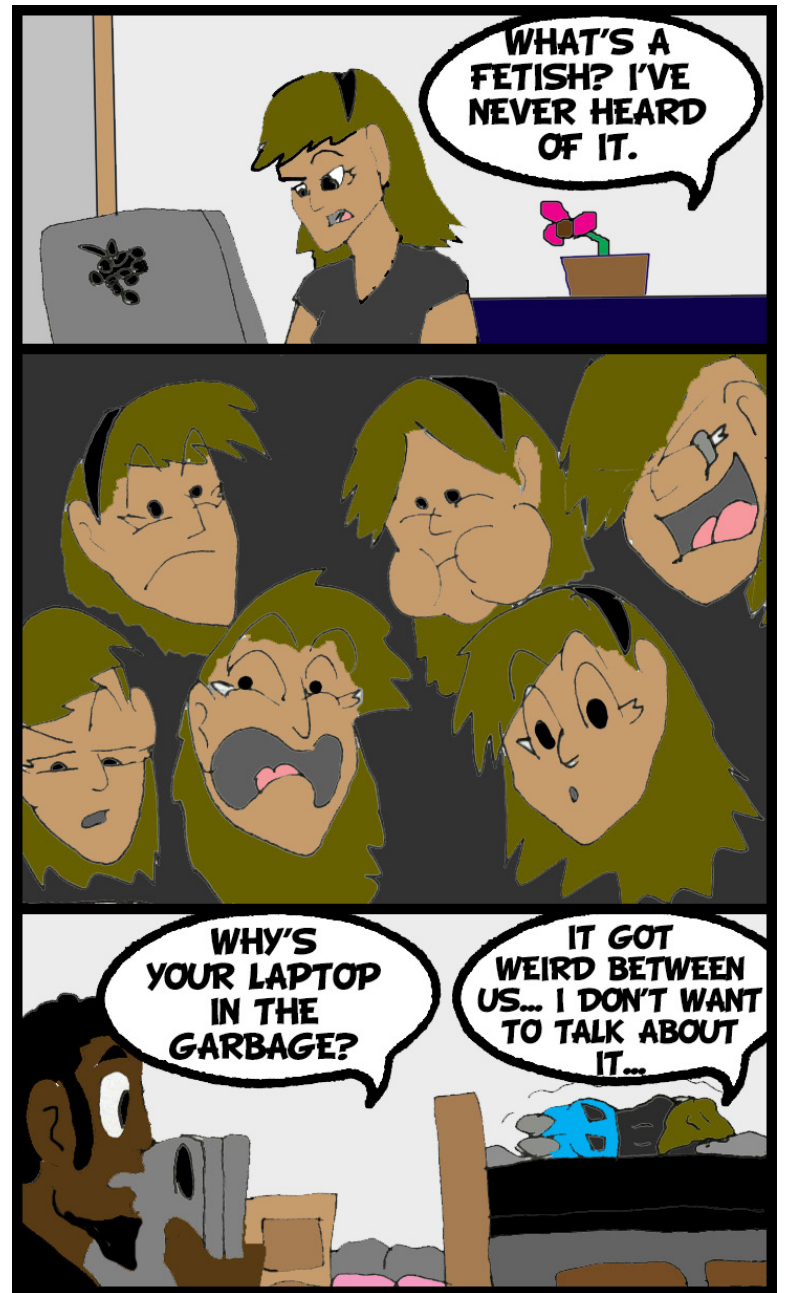
The World Health Organization states the symptoms that begin to become noticeable later include fever, skin rashes, muscle pain, joint pain and headaches. If you begin to experience these symptoms, seek medical attention immediately.

There are many ways to stay informed about the Zika virus. Jonathan Day, a professor of medical entomology at the University of Florida's Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory, will be giving a presentation and discussion on "What is Zika Virus" during a free webinar Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. at <https://connect.fiu.edu/lssfebruary2016/>.

There's also a video on FIU's YouTube channel titled "Zika Watch: FIU panel of experts" in which several experts in our panther community have reached out to the public informing them on what they know so far about this virus that's sweeping the nation.

If you have a personal question you want answered, you can call the Florida Zika virus information hotline at 1-855-622-6735 or use your resources here on campus by stopping by Student Health Services or the College of Medicine.

DON'T GOOGLE IT



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

FIU STUDENT & EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY

Wednesday, March 30

Bring your current FIU ID to any of the Main Gate Ticket Booths at the 2016 Youth Fair to receive your **FREE** admission ticket. **VALID ONLY MARCH 30, 2016.**

★ Youth Fair opens at 3 pm

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

FIGHT TO THE FINISH

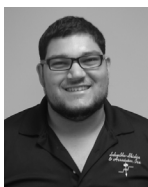
Panthers' team performance on a steady rise



MICHAEL SLOAN/THE BEACON

Junior guard Nikolina Todorovic and senior forward Brianna Wright fight to gain possession of a rebound against the University of North Texas Mean Green Thursday, Feb. 21.

T-TIME



GIANCARLO NAVAS

Piled upon a mountain of bad losses and a hopeless season is some small, small hope for the FIU women's basketball team.

The hope of player improvement lies under the direction of first-year Head Coach Marlin Chinn.

More than X's and O's, I think the value in a coaching staff is helping young players improve. In the NBA the San Antonio Spurs are renown for their growth of young players. From David Robinson to Tim Duncan and then to players who didn't enter the NBA with high expectations like Tony Parker or Manu Ginobili. All the aforementioned players are probably going to be Hall-of-Fame players by any reasonable measure.

While FIU doesn't have a Tim Duncan or a Tony Parker, they do have Kristian Hudson and a Tianah Alvarado. While admittedly not the same, it's all we have.

Those are two big pieces moving forward in FIU women's basketball, and what is most promising is how much better they can get. Let's take a look at senior Taylor Shade's

improvement under Chinn.

Most notable are Shade's improvements from an efficiency standpoint. Shade is shooting 38 percent from three, which is terrific, as well 42 percent from the field. Considering she has taken 94 threes this season (almost half her total field goal attempts), her scoring is incredibly efficient.

Because 3-pointers are more difficult than any other shot and are worth more points they should be looked at as such. So despite Shade only shooting 42 percent from the field, it's okay because almost half of them are 3-pointers which she is shooting at a 38 percent clip.

Shade is scoring more points on fewer shots than her opponents, despite having a low field goal percentage. Shade has improved each year she has been at FIU, but it's been most notable in her senior campaign next to Chinn.

In her junior season, Shade scored 339 points and needed 314 field goals to do so. This season, she has 345 points on 272 field goals. She has scored more points with 42 fewer shots, not to mention 71 fewer minutes and five fewer games.

Her strides as a shooter and scorer are encouraging to the future of FIU women's

basketball.

Going back to the prospect of Alvarado and Hudson, if Chinn can have them make a similar jump that Shade made in terms of shooting efficiency, then this team coupled with players that Chinn recruits could be on the road to rebuilding a program that could have been left for dead.

A 4-21 record will do that to you, and the 3-26 record from the season before is somehow worse.

While FIU women's basketball hasn't been a flagship program for the NCAA, it has been a rather good one.

Under former Head Coach Cindy Russo, FIU had a 22 consecutive win season and it is the home of the fifth all time leading scorer in NCAA history, Jerica Coley.

So while the program hasn't been University of Connecticut or Baylor University in terms of championship success, they have been a team that has competed and posted results. It's on Chinn to bring the program back up.

T-Time is a weekly FIU women's basketball column. For commentary or suggestions email Giancarlo Navas at giancarlo.navas@fiusm.com



MICHAEL SLOAN/THE BEACON

Freshman guard Kristian Hudson attempts a jumpshot against the UNT Mean Green, Thursday, Feb. 21. The women's team fell to the Mean Green, 58-40. Their next game is Saturday, Feb. 27 against Rice University.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers come close, lose in final stretch

DAVID DRUCKER
Staff Writer
david.drucker@fiusm.com

The Panthers (12-15, 6-8 in C-USA) dropped their sixth game of their last seven contests Thursday, Feb. 18 in a 75-77 loss to the University of North Texas. Deckie Johnson scored a game-high 32 points to lead a UNT comeback and claim the upset win.

It would be difficult to tell why FIU struggled from the stats sheet.

The Panthers

shot 52 percent from the field and 47 percent from three point range while allowing UNT 40 percent shooting from the field.

What doomed FIU was a 20-7 run in the final 5:36 of the game in which they allowed Johnson to play the hero as he scored 16 points in the final stretch.

Junior guard Donte McGill and senior center Adrian Diaz led the way for FIU in the first half; together, they combined for 12-13 shooting from the field.

FIU dominated the latter end of the first 20 minutes, outpacing the Mean Green 14-4 to close it out and gain a 37-35 advantage at the intermission.

FIU lost its lead with 13:46 left in the game on a Mean Green dunk to put them up 49-48.

The Panthers answered with a 12-0 run, however, with six of those points coming from senior forward Daviyon Draper. With 6:04 left to play, FIU had a commanding 68-56 lead.

The Panthers absorbed a

massive 20-7 run in the final minutes by UNT to close the lead.

With FIU up 75-73 with 43 seconds left to play, senior forward Daviyon Draper was called for a charge and gave possession back to the Mean Green.

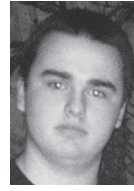
UNT's Johnson then hit a game-winning three with 19 seconds left to down the Panthers 76-75.

Up next for FIU is their final leg of their second Texas road trip when they take on Rice University on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m.

WRESTLING

Audience misconceptions of professional wrestling

JAKE'S TAKES



JACOB SPIWAK

When the average person thinks of professional wrestling, almost all of them think of something related to the WWE. Whether it's The Rock's immense stardom, John Cena's theme song randomly playing in the middle of a video on Vine, or Randy Orton hitting an RKO out of nowhere, Vince McMahon's World Wrestling Entertainment has a near-monopolistic hold of the wrestling industry.

It's only natural, then, that the brand that people are familiar with is the one that everybody thinks is the best in the business. However, just because public perception says otherwise, many people who have taken the time to actually watch professional wrestling will tell you there are countless wrestling promotions around the globe that are more entertaining than WWE.

Myself included. It kind of frustrates me as somebody who has watched professional wrestling since I was a young kid that people believe WWE to be the highest quality product in the industry without ever even watching a match.

The list of alternatives are never ending, with the highest profile promotions including Total Nonstop Action wrestling, New Japan Pro Wrestling and, my personal favorite, Ring Of Honor wrestling.

It's no secret that WWE

has higher ratings and more well-known stars than the aforementioned alternatives, but that doesn't mean their matches are of a higher quality at all. WWE's budget is through the roof, so they can put on a great show with fireworks and light shows, but that doesn't hide the fact that the quality of wrestling is often times not up to par.

Even though their budget is nowhere near that of WWE, ROH consistently puts out the best product in the entire industry. Instead of focusing on scripted, PG promos and watered down storylines like the WWE, ROH gives their athletes freedom to say what they want and wrestle to the best of their ability.

I recently had the opportunity to attend both a WWE show and an ROH show, and even though WWE's budget allows them to put on an unmatched spectacle, the ROH show was much more enjoyable. The matches were better, the smaller crowd was a lot more invested in the show, and it was just overall a better pro wrestling atmosphere.

Another factor to consider is that WWE will often poach talent from ROH and other independent companies to beef up their roster. Many of the stars that have made millions in the WWE were developed in ROH. That list includes, but isn't limited to, CM Punk, Daniel Bryan (a former WWE World Heavyweight Champion who recently retired due to head injuries), Seth Rollins (had a 220-day reign as WWE champion before vacating the title due to injuries), and most recently "The Phenomenal One" AJ Styles, who has made a name for himself as

arguably the best wrestler on the planet today.

All of these wrestlers either already became or are in the process of becoming megastars for WWE, but their extensive background in independent wrestling laid the foundation for them to perfect their craft. Very few wrestlers get their start in the WWE; they have to start somewhere, and while the average spectator may not realize it, the WWE wouldn't be close to what it is today without taking established stars away from ROH and NJPW.

Even with WWE taking many of their top talents seemingly all the time, ROH still has a world class roster. ROH world champion Jay Lethal, former NFL offensive lineman Moose, "Big Mike" Elgin, the most exciting tag team on the planet known as the Young Bucks, etc. are just a few of the incredible athletes that call ROH home and make the product as good as it is.

So while WWE has the most money and the fanciest shows, ROH (and many other promotions around the globe) often times offer a much better product. To me, seeing some of the best athletes on the planet given creative freedom without being held back by corporate demands and a PG rating is a heck of a lot more entertaining than a fancy soap opera with boring promos and spotty matches.

Jake's Takes is a monthly column about professional wrestling. For commentary and suggestions email Jacob Spiwak at jacob.spiwak@fiusm.com

BASEBALL

Beginning line up for new baseball season

JOHN L. PITTS

Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal
TNS Staff

It's warming up around here just in time for college baseball season to begin.

Ole Miss got started at 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19 in Oxford, opening a three-game weekend series against Florida International. Mississippi State's first pitch against Florida Atlantic is set for 4:30 p.m.

Last season, Ole Miss went 30-28 and was swept out in the first round of the NCAA regionals, a year after reaching the College World Series. Mike Bianco is beginning his 16th season as the Rebels' coach.

MSU, three years removed from its last CWS trip, went 24-30 and failed to reach the NCAA's last season. This will be John Cohen's ninth season as Bulldogs' coach.

Florida was favored to win the SEC

championship, over last year's national runner-up Vanderbilt, in voting by league coaches released Thursday, with Texas A&M favored to win the SEC West. MSU was picked to finish fourth and Ole Miss fifth in the division.

The only player from either team on the preseason All-SEC team was Ole Miss shortstop Errol Robinson, voted to the second team.

Ole Miss and FIU will play Saturday, Feb. 20 at 1:30 p.m. and Sunday at noon. MSU plays twice on Saturday, against South Dakota State and FAU, starting at noon, then against S.D. State at 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

SEC play begins in mid-March.

Southern Miss: The Golden Eagles, 36-18-1 last season, opened on Friday, Feb. 19 against Murray State. They will play Ole Miss twice and MSU once this season.



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Career Services preps students for jobs

ERICA SANTIAGO
News Director
erica.santiago@fiusm.com

Career Services at BBC will be hosting numerous events for students and alumni looking to prepare themselves for life after graduation.

Events for the remainder of February include programs focusing on strategies for procuring internships.

In March, Career Services' Career Readiness series will focus on various aspects of the career prep process. Career Readiness will teach students the skills relating to critical thinking and problem solving in the workplace,

networking and branding using LinkedIn, leadership and professionalism in the office.

One particular event, the Professional Dining Etiquette Dinner, will be hosted in the WUC Ballrooms from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The purpose of this free dinner is to prepare students for interviews that include a luncheon.

The event includes a three course meal and covers dining etiquette such as napkin use, use of silverware and basic table manners.

Space is limited and students must register prior to attending.

Job search strategies for internships Feb. 22 2-3 p.m. WUC 225	Career Services on the go Feb. 29 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Academic One	Career Readiness What Skills do I need? March 2 12 - 2 p.m. WUC 255	Career Readiness: Critical Thinking/Problem Solving March 3 1 - 2:30 p.m. WUC 255
Networking/Branding with LinkedIn March 9 12 - 1 p.m. WUC 225	Professional Dining Etiquette Dinner March 10 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. WUC Ballrooms	Resume/Job Search Strategies March 23 12 - 1 p.m. WUC 255	Career Readiness: Critical Teamwork/Collaboration March 23 1 - 1:30 p.m. WUC 255
Career Readiness: Technology March 24 1 - 1:30 p.m. WUC 225	Professional Dining Etiquette Dinner March 28 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Panther Square	Career Readiness: Leadership March 28 1 - 1:30 p.m. WUC 255	Career Readiness: Professionalism/Work ethic March 29 1 - 1:30 p.m. WUC 255
How to prepare for the Career Expo March 30 12 - 1 p.m. WUC 255	Interviewing/Salary Negotiation March 30 12 p.m.-1 p.m. WUC 255	Resume Fest March 31 3 - 6 p.m. WUC 255	

CAYLA BUSH/THE BEACON

Sexual orientation shouldn't be a job factor

POLITICBUZZ



FABIENNE FLEURANTIN

Sexual orientation is not at the forefront of my mind when I apply for a job. If I don't get hired, my initial assumption is that maybe my handshake wasn't firm enough or maybe my posture was a little off. I never worried that being myself could be a reason I would be denied a job.

The fight for LGBTQA rights has been an uphill battle, riddled with conflict and injustice. In an effort to combat this and further educate individuals, BBC hosted the LGBTQA 3-D Series to "Discuss, Dine and Deliberate" issues affecting the LGBTQA community's chances of being hired in the workforce as well as the developments in Florida law that may hinder the community's

quality of life.

Cindy Brown, a development officer from Equality Florida and a widely admired figure in the LGBTQA community of Miami-Dade County, came to FIU to address these concerns and how she is working to fight for the protection of their rights.

Her efforts began in 1992, when she organized a Miami AIDS walk. Today, she works with Equality Florida to organize events, educate and advocate for the rights of LGBTQA individuals.

Eighteen states have adopted a ban of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. Three states have laws against discrimination based on sexual orientation alone. Florida is in neither one of these categories.

Florida was in the process of passing the Florida Workforce Act, a bill that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and

gender identity or expression in employment, housing and public accommodations. Yet, it failed to pass

“The founding fathers didn't give us freedom of religion. They gave us freedom from religion.”

Cindy Brown
Development Officer
Equality Florida

for one reason—bathrooms.

The opposition came from those who believe that if transgender women were permitted to enter the women's restroom, it would “allow

sexual predators a loophole giving them access to women's facilities” as stated by the Herald-Tribune.

Brown also spoke about another recent bill, the Pastor Protection Act, which is being presented to both houses in the Florida legislature. This bill gives anyone who has a strong religious conviction the choice of serving whoever they please.

In other words, this act has the potential of interfering with LGBTQA rights.

Brown made great emphasis on why the birth of our nation has been so successful and how the separation of church and state allows it to continue to be a success.

“The founding fathers didn't give us freedom of religion. They gave us freedom from religion,” Brown said.

“The reality is that if we want to effect change, if we want to see the type of community that we want to live in, it doesn't just happen by itself.

And if we want to make a change, we have to change the world,” she said.

The process of hiring should be an objective one where biases of subjective opinions are excluded as a factor in employment. Sexual orientation has no correlation with skills nor does it determine one's work ethic.

Equality is a right that should be granted to every human being, especially with something so basic to a quality life, such as bathrooms and unprejudiced job interviews. We've come a long way with some human rights, but we still have quite a ways to go.

PoliticoBuzz is a commentary that raises awareness about political issues in the US and worldwide. Fabienne Fleurantin is a contributing writer for FIU Student Media. For more commentary, contact her at opinion@fiusm.com

Rosenbergs announce \$1 million scholarship donation

ERICA SANTIAGO
News Director
erica.santiago@fiusm.com

Prior to obtaining a position as the University president, President Mark Rosenberg was the first in his family to go to college. As a student, Rosenberg drove a bus and worked on a road crew to pay his tuition bills.

On Wednesday, Rosenberg and his wife Rosalie announced a \$1 million donation toward scholarships for first-generation college students so they won't have to work quite as hard.

“I identify with our students,” Rosenberg said. “Neither of my parents had a college degree. They both believed deeply in education.”

At FIU, 53 percent of undergraduates are

the first in their families to go to college. Almost all - 90 percent - rely on financial aid to pay for tuition.

“I have the privilege of working with FIU students since 1976,” Rosenberg said. “The quality that I admire most is their determination to succeed against all odds.”

The president has shown his passions for providing scholarships to students before, during the most recent Town Hall meeting held at WUC.

During a Q-and-A with the audience, a student who has Asperger's Syndrome said his family has faced difficulties with integrating him into the University; however, with his disorder he has not been granted a full scholarship despite his involvement in school and having graduated as the valedictorian of his high school class.

He demanded to know what the University

has done to solve the problem.

President Rosenberg responded by offering his time on finding scholarships that may be provided to the student according to his disorder.

Rosenberg said his parents insisted that their four children go to college, something they were never able to do themselves. At the time, his father was serving in the army during World War II, fighting in the D-Day invasion of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge. His mother was held in the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp during what should have been her college-going years. The two met after Rosenberg's father helped liberate the camp.

Rosenberg's donation is the largest gift given by an FIU president to the university. Hired in 2009, his net worth is \$5.8 million, according to his most recent financial

disclosure filed with the state.

His donation was made to launch this year's Ignite Campaign, which asks university staff and faculty to give back. So far, 23 percent of employees have donated almost \$230,000.

Fund raising, one of the top jobs for university presidents, has been lackluster under Rosenberg. The university launched a campaign with a \$750-million goal in 2010. Rosenberg said \$310 million has been raised in an effort set to end in 2020.

“It has been a process. In part because we're a public institution, there's a sense that because we have public support, the private support is not so important,” Rosenberg said. “We're very grateful to all of our donors but I have high expectations for myself. I want to find a way to accelerate the support for FIU, and I have to do my part.”
Additional reporting by TNS Staff