Animal Planet star brings his work, insight to FIU

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO  Staff Writer

Jeff Corwin, wildlife biologist and host of Animal Planet’s “The Jeff Corwin Experience,” will take over FIU with an entourage of crawling and slithering friends on Feb. 19.

Corwin’s lecture, “Tales from the Fields,” will discuss the importance of environmental conservation by showcasing various animals and bringing audience members on stage in an interactive program that will begin at 7 p.m. in the Graham Center ballrooms.

“We are trying to showcase this environmental message but we don’t only want professors talking,” said Anthony Rionda, lectures coordinator of the Student Government Council at University Park.

The Student Government Association has organized an entire Green Day on campus. Activities will be held between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the GC pit and will bring attention to environmental issues.

Most importantly, however, the day will provide information on the University’s initiatives to become more green-friendly, according to Rionda.

DeEtta Mills, biology professor and Honors College fellow, applauds SGA’s attempts to bring environmental awareness on campus because of the human tendency to ignore it.

“I think we get enmeshed in our own little worlds and forget about the environment we live in,” Mills said. “We take the environment for granted and we don’t realize the impact we have on it.”

“We learn about the environment in class but this is the actual application of that in real life,” Mills said, referring to Corwin’s lecture.

In “Tales from the Fields,” Corwin will discuss his various experiences during his tapings and, in the process, will bring light on the many challenges the animal kingdom faces.

The lecture is free and open to the public.
Radio system fixes slowly progress

“Radio system fixes slowly progress due to the difficulty in replacing the old system with a new one.”

Charlie Grau, Editor in Chief

FAFSA help available on campus

“The system that we have right not is adequate for what we are doing.”

Bill King, Chief of Public Safety

Charlie Grau, Editor in Chief

“It’s that time of year again: time to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, more commonly known as the FAFSA. The Financial Aid Office will be hosting its second annual FAFSA event on Feb. 18 in the Graham Center computer lab in room 1201 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Staff members will be available to help students obtain their electronic Personal Identification Number which is crucial in completing a FAFSA. This is the first year students can receive their PIN immediately.

According to Sandra Caprioli, assistant director of the Financial Aid Office, it is vital for students to meet the March 1 priority deadline to receive aid from the University. “Funds become more limited after March 1,” said Caprioli. “If they get in before the deadline, it gives them time to maximize the amount of institutional funds they receive to supplement the federal funds they receive.”

Caprioli noted financial aid is slowly becoming a limited resource since the amount of students applying for aid increases every year. “About 60 percent of more of students at FIU are on some kind of grant, loan or scholarship,” Caprioli said.

Without financial aid, Alexandre Hernandez, a senior majoring in psychology would not be able to attend FIU. “A lot of students are afraid they are going to fill out the wrong information, but now that we are going to be in the GC computer lab, students will be able to put their worries aside,” said Hernandez.

Students interested in receiving assistance in filling out their FAFSA or obtaining their PIN are encouraged to bring their completed 2007 tax returns and W-2 forms or the last paycheck statement listing earned in 2007. Those unable to attend the registration event can stop by the Financial Aid Office at University Park in Primera Casa room 125 or Academic One room 100 at Biscayne Bay Campus. Students can also log into Panther Chat at http://finaid.fiu.edu to have their questions answered by Financial Aid staff members through instant messages.
This is part three of a three part series leading up to the wine and food festival

MARCELO GORENSTEIN
Staff Writer

Biscayne Bay Campus Hospitality Management students partnered with Schnebly’s Redlands Winery to make their own wine to serve at the South Beach Wine and Food Festival.

“The wines have been processed in [Schnebly’s] facilities and some FIU students have been involved in the bottling, tasting and evaluation of our wines,” said Barry Gump, the HM professor responsible for the new “FIU-made” wine, in an email interview.

According to Gump, FIU is pioneering wine education by taking students beyond the classroom, thus engineering wine education by taking students into the wine making process.

“The role of FIU in the wine industry is that of providing education to hospitality students so that they understand more about wine, how it’s made and how it is marketed,” Gump said.

Americans are consuming more wine every year. Winemaking across the heartland is now a $26 billion business, according to a 2002 USDA agricultural census. Growers in various states produce their own local wines such as pineapple wine in Hawaii and honey wine in North Dakota.

And of course, there’s all that wine made from grapes.

“Our FIU wine is made from California Merlot grapes. The grapes come from a vineyard in Lake County. The fruit was processed through a good friend at Schnebly in Sebastopol, CA, was frozen and shipped to Florida,” said Gump, who will be at the festival Feb. 23 and 24 at the FIU tent alongside some of the students involved in the project.

Carolina Cemborain, a student in the HM masters program, is one of 15 students in Gump’s wine class.

“Working in the Solfie Wine and Food Festival is a great opportunity to meet people who work in the industry and get a good job,” Cemborain said.

Cemborain, who currently works at the Four Seasons Hotel, was elated to receive the opportunity to be involved in the wine’s development.

“We think it has great potential. It’s different because we’re not just Asian people - but everyone should be able to come together and have some kind of origin to talk and a connected point of conversation and I believe BSA is that point,” Murray said.

The association’s mission is to promote student body awareness of the past, present and future achievement of the African American community and to bring people together.

“I believe that we need to unite together as a people - not just black people, not just Hispanic people, not just Asian people - but everyone should be able to come together and have some kind of origin to talk and a connected point of conversation and I believe BSA is that point,” Murray said.

For more information, visit www.sobewineandfoodfest.com.

Students make their own wine for festival


“Working in the Solfie Wine and Food Festival is a great opportunity to meet people who work in the industry and get a good job,” Cemborain said.

When asked about the wine’s commercial prospects, Cemborain hoped for its success.

“I think it has great potential. The professor told us the wine is not under license to be sold commercially, but it tastes incredibly good, especially the Merlot,” Cemborain said.

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Second fee increase is breaking the bank

The budget cuts are causing desperation for a lot of depart-
ments and offices, and sometimes the alternative means of
funding, but in the case of Athletics, they had to look no
further than the Athletics fee and the student’s wallet.

Is it ethical for the Athletics to charge students—who may or may not actually use the facility—to utilize the fee for their fiscal shortcomings, but also an addi-
tional increase within the same semester?

Ultimately, the decision to raise the fee is approved by
President Modesto A. Maedaigue, and the fee increase at the expense of the students: 13 percent tuition increases, multiple fee increases, uses of student
Athletic fees for amenities for SCCU, low interest rates.

Moreover, Athletics has been seeking additional funding from
SOC-UC, which again requires more fees paid to SCC-U to
cover the costs from the students.

A good question is where are our fees going anyway? To an
unsuccessful athletics program? To fund facilities that
students can’t utilize?

It’s absolutely disgusting how students are expected to
pay these exorbitant fees and essentially receive nothing more
than the service of having their wallets emptied. Instead of seek-
ing funding elsewhere, Athletics has done the simplest and most
irresponsible thing in asking for a fee increase, despite their protests
to accusations of attempting to recoup their losses.

Fortunately, Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) systems
are propelling themselves onto the law enforcement scene, should
welcome it. ALPR is able to take a photograph of every car that
passes by and use optical character recognition to isolate the plate
numbers on the tag. It can drive past several stolen cars
and not “aberrant and sinful” homosexuals? Mike Huckabee also said
something to the effect of “aberrant” and “sinful.”

According to Avert.org, an inter-
national HIV and AIDS charity, 33,950 Floridians are living with
HIV and 45,246 alive with AIDS. These results are from a 2005
census. Out of all Florida counties, Miami-Dade and Broward share
43 percent of the state’s HIV cases.

According to Care Resource it’s
clear: not “aberrant and sinful.”

What’s most interesting is that African American women are being
most affected by HIV/AIDS. At least they’re reporting it, or their children
are carrying the disease, which brings a jump in pediatric AIDS.
Seventy-nine percent of all pediatric AIDS cases in Florida through 2004
involve African-American children. The Hispanic community follows
closely as the second most infected.

In Miami, the median income
for a household was $23,483, with
a price would be acceptable if
Athletics was putting the funds
to good use and especially if
there were few who could pass
the opportunity to hop on; includ-
ing myself. Huckabee believed that
AIDS research received an unfair
amount of funding, but in the case of
Athletics, they had to look no
further than the Athletics fee and the student’s wallet.

The increase, full-time
students will be paying an aver-
age of $340 per hour for their
Athletic fees and the University of South Florida is at
about $310, but decreasing despite this budget crisis.

What is unsettling about this increase is that FIU currently
charges a $1.90 per credit hour for their services.

Athletics fees. Such increases to fi nd alternative means
to fi nd funding, but in the case of
Athletics, they had to look no
further than the Athletics fee that
students can’t utilize?

Instead of seeking
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Fortunately, Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) systems
are propelling themselves onto the law enforcement scene, should
welcome it. ALPR is able to take a photograph of every car that
passes by and use optical character recognition to isolate the plate
numbers on the tag. Is this what’s behind his no immi-
gration policy? Or any candidates remembered HIV/AIDS,
even in such a misinformed manner?

According to The Associated Press, Huckabee said, “If the federal gov-
ernment is truly serious... we need to take steps that would isolate the
carriers of this plague.”

Is this what’s behind his no immi-
gration policy? Or any candidates
remembered that it’s true, the Carib-
bean has the highest prevalence of
HIV/AIDS after Sub-Saharan Africa, according to Avert.org.

As part of the global commu-
nity, unless in seceded somewhere
between Britney Spears panty-
less frolicking and war, where was
America? Instead of placing barriers,
there should be a massive overhaul
in research. But the screams of “global
pandemic” were left behind at the
end of the 90s and now every
time one can live with a disease that kills
you much slower, and if that doesn’t get you, the medical side effects
or infections will.

Live in moderate comfort for a few
years and prosper. Didn’t Dr.
Kevorkian do something similar?
Festival brings foreign films to Miami

KASSANDRA POOL  
Staff Writer

When one thinks of film festivals, distant and vibrant cultural centers like Cannes, France and New York likely come to mind. Soon the Sundance, Cannes and Tribeca film festivals may need to make room for another world class cinematic event in another international center for the arts: Miami, Fla.

The Miami International Film Festival is kicking off Feb. 28, celebrating its 25th anniversary at various theater throughout the Miami area.

MIFF is the only major festival hosted at an institution of higher learning. In 2007, more than 70,000 people attended the festival to enjoy 120 films from all over the world.

South Beach, Coral Gables and Little Havana are just some of the places chosen to showcase the 166 films selected for screening during the 2008 festival.

The Colony Theatre is located at the heart of South Beach’s Art Deco District, making it a perfect location to attract tourists, as well as the Miami community.

Little Havana’s Tower Theater is surrounded by cultural diversity and the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts is tailored for major red carpet events, according to the MIFF event Web site.

Films will be from almost every genre: thrillers to romance, sci-fi, documentaries, family and short films.

There are enough choices to satisfy everyone’s taste with foreign films from countries including Mexico, Portugal, Scotland, Germany and others.

This year there are some aspects of the festival that are different such as the focus on educating students through master classes, panels and REEL seminars.

In partnership with Miami-Dade College and the University of Miami, the REEL seminars program offers entertaining panels and workshops on topics such as film production, funding, distribution and new technologies.

Educational workshops are ongoing throughout the year and during the festival the price for students is $5 as long as they have a student I.D. Regular price is usually $15-$35.

“We welcome students to come and learn,” said REEL Seminar Coordinator Jennifer Orta. “We want to nurture our audience [who] will be the filmmakers of the future.”

Films are chosen based on a wide range of criteria.

“For me, I’m interested in the quality and education of the making of the film,” said Festival Director Patrick de Bokay. “It deserves to be seen if they worked hard throughout the film, if it has the right actors and design.”

“They also have to be relevant to the Miami community and make sure it is a film people will enjoy.”

“You have to know your community the best way possible,” de Bokay said.

This year the goal for MIFF is to become a global entertainment event. Orta’s goal is to motivate the local film community and give them as much access to the highest levels of the film industry as possible.

“We are lucky that the community is really supportive about the festival,” she said. “We will do everything we can to bring that to the forefront.”

The festival will also consist of an award night where, in previous years, emerging contemporary and renowned filmmakers were awarded.

Distributors participating in the festival have included Sony Pictures Classics, HBO, Fox Searchlight, ThinkFilm, Latido Films and Miramax, among others.

Tickets are now on sale.

General admission is $12 but prices vary on what film a person is interested in attending.

The festival will come to a close in March.

For more information on prices and tickets visit www.miamifilmfestival.com or call (305) 237-3456.
**When partying with friends in a club, an individual catches your attention.**

*Your eyes turn into scanners that analyze every inch, angle and side of the individual.*

*Ultimately, regular care of the teeth is essential for good health and may save you from potentially embarrassing situations.*

---

**The game can be enjoyable at the start, “Circle of Doom” does nothing else to expand or go further with the game play.**

*The game does, however, offer online multiplayer, which requires careful planning.*

**When partying with friends in a club, an individual catches your attention.**

*Your eyes turn into scanners that analyze every inch, angle and side of the individual.*

*Ultimately, regular care of the teeth is essential for good health and may save you from potentially embarrassing situations.*
FIU MEN 75, UALR 62

MEN’S BASKETBALL STANDING

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*All records up to date as of Feb. 15

**FIU MEN 75, UALR 62**

**FIU WOMEN 61, UALR 55**

**Father to be leads team to victory**

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Editor

Senior guard Chris Fuller had a little extra motivation for the Feb. 13 game against Arkansas-Little Rock. Fuller had a competitive edge that none of his teammates can relate to – something only a father can feel.

“I want to go public and say it: He’s a kid who is going to be a father in the next 48 hours,” said coach Sergio Rouco. “His focus is unbelievable, and it’s been great.”

For Fuller, the pressure of a basketball game cannot compare to what he will feel when he has his child. That motivation helps him on the court.

“It’s a big motivation before the game because I know the better I play, the better chance I have of getting paid,” Fuller said.

“But it is a great motivation too because at the end of the day, I want [my son] to say, ‘Yea, my dad was good.'”

The newborn would be proud to see how his dad played basketball, as his father can feel.

As good as the third consecutive winning streak must feel for everyone associated with the Golden Panthers, nobody has satisfi ed Rouco as much as anybody.

“I’m so happy for him because he’s stuck through a lot,” Rouco said. “Hopefully, we can continue the roll for him because he’s our only senior that has stuck through a lot.”

Even though Fuller’s work contributed to the win, it was the Golden Panther defense that told the story. FIU held UALR to 45 points on 33 percent shooting for the game. It is the first time in the regular season that the Golden Panthers have held an opponent under 50 points. Rouco thinks the team’s ability to hold on to the ball helped the defensive cause.

“When were better every game, if you look at the numbers,” Rouco said. “What happens is you defend well all the time, but when your offense turns it over, it’s almost like football. There’s only so much your defense can do.”

The Golden Panthers hit the glass as hard as they have all season, as they combined for a season high 51 rebounds. They were able to do it against UALR, who was ranked 36th in the NCAA in the rebounding department. FIU held the Trojans to 26 rebounds in the game, which is the second lowest total the Golden Panthers have held an opponent to all year.

**ON POINT**

Rouco knows that the efficiency at the point guard position led to a great defensive effort overall. He credits freshman Nick Taylor, who slowly has grown into a consistent floor leader and ball protector.

“Trubute Nick Taylor. He looks like he’s on remote control, and he doesn’t go very fast. He’s not very strong, but he’s strong with the basketball. He gets it to where we need to get it,” Rouco said.

Taylor predicted he and back-up point guard Tremayne Russell would get better as the season rounded out before the team embarked on its current two game winning streak. Taylor, a redshirt freshman, proved how valuable he can be and managed the game well despite the team’s bad shooting overall.

**STAR SCHOLAR**

The Golden Panthers needed Nikola Gacesa’s first double-double and Fuller’s offensive spark to make up for a subpar game on offense. The team shot 32 percent from the field overall and dealt with the struggles of the second leading scorer Alex Galindo, who had one of the worst games of his career, going 0-for-11 from the field, but FIU’s defense bailed him out.

Rouco said that although Galindo endured a bad game, the junior forward excelled in the classroom, which is just as important.

“Alex wasn’t at his best,” Rouco said. “Alex had a quiz today at 1 p.m., a CLAST test for graduation, and he passed it, but we talked about it. He was bad, but he’s entitled to a bad game.”

As good as the third consecutive winning streak must feel for everyone associated with the Golden Panthers, nobody can feel what Fuller felt. The future father has already equipped his son with what he needs.

“He already has a ball,” Fuller said. He hopes he can teach his son what he has learned playing for FIU.

**A WORLD FREE FROM NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS POSSIBLE. ABOLITION IS NECESSARY.**

Please come and see why.

Hiroshima-Nagasaki
Atomic Bomb Exhibition

The A-Bomb Survivor (Hibakusha)’s Seminar
February 25 (Monday) 2008 and February, 26 (Tuesday) 2008
Venue: GC Ballroom East (Graham Center)
Time: 2:00 – 4:00 pm

The Scholarly Presentations
February 29 (Friday) 2008
Venue: GC 243 (Graham Center)
Time: 11:00 - 1:00 pm

Panel Displays
February 25 (Monday) to March 8 (Saturday)
(except Sunday March 2)
Venue: GC Panther Suite (Graham Center)
Time: 9:00 – 5:00 pm
A game after the women’s basketball team found out it lost its leading scorer for the rest of the season, the Golden Panthers responded with a concerted offensive effort to defeat Arkansas Little-Rock on Feb. 13 at Pharmed Arena.

The Golden Panthers (12-13, 8-6 Sun Belt) added a fifth game to their winning streak at UALR’s expense (17-7, 9-4) after losing LaQuetta Ferguson, who suffered a season-ending ACL injury against Middle Tennessee Feb. 9.

UALR came into the game leading the Sun Belt’s Western Conference and already having beaten FIU earlier this season in Little Rock, Ark., 65-45. FIU started the game strong and built a 10-3 lead in the first five minutes of play. However, UALR responded with a 13-0 run led by sophomore guard Anshel Cooper, who scored nine points during the run. FIU trailed 16-10 with 7:36 left in the first half.

The Golden Panthers have been able to turn on their 3-point shooting at any given point. Freshman guard Tabitha Drake, junior guard Iva Ciglar, sophomore Monika Bosilj and freshman forward Fanni Hutlassa connected on 3-pointers during a 14-2 run that took place in a span of less than three minutes and put FIU ahead 24-18. UALR responded with a pair of baskets from Cooper. The teams would go into halftime with FIU up 26-23.

“We did not start how we were supposed to,” Bosilj said. “We should have started better on defense. We did not rebound well and at halftime we were winning, but it was not good enough. Coach said we need to rebound, box-out and run our offense to win.”

The Golden Panthers came out of the locker room not only ready to close out the game, but wearing pink T-shirts, rather then their normal warm-ups.

This was the team’s way of showing support for “Think Pink” week, a NCAA promotion to raise awareness for breast cancer.

In the second half, both teams remained close.

Five minutes into the half, Bosilj tied the score at 33 with a long distance strike. Hoflack hit her second 3-pointer of the game, which was quickly followed by a jump shot from Cooper. FIU led by one point with 12:10 left in the game.

Bosilj scored the Golden Panthers’ next points as she connected on a lay-up while being fouled.

By sophomore guard Anshel Cooper, who scored nine points during the run. FIU trailed 16-10 with 7:36 left in the first half.

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“Thanks to back-to-back 3-pointers by Hutlassa, FIU broke UALR’s momentum. Her 3-pointers came within seconds of each other and put FIU up by six, the team’s largest lead since the start of the game.”

Cooper chipped away at FIU’s lead, but Bosilj established herself as FIU’s new scoring force by scoring four of FIU’s next six points. With 3:37 left in the game, the Golden Panthers went up 55-49 on a pair of free throws by Neal.

UALR would only score six more points in the game. Free throws from Hutlassa and jumps shots from Ciglar and Bosilj would cap a 61-55 Golden Panthers win.

Cooper led all scorers with a game-high 29 points. Bosilj led the Golden Panthers with a team-high 19 points.

Hutlassa had 14 points and matched UALR senior forward Nikya Hughes with a game-high nine rebounds. Ciglar had 13 points and a game-high six assists.

“It was a really tough game,” Hutlassa said. “We just kept going and everyone did their job. We helped each other. We played good team defense and had good rebounding. So, I think that was the key.”