Personality disorders linked to drug addiction, alcohol abuse

LINDSEY TANNER
AP Wire

Almost one in five young American adults has a personality disorder that interferes with everyday life, and even more abuse alcohol or drugs, researchers reported Monday in the most extensive study of its kind.

The disorders include problems such as obsessive or compulsive tendencies and anti-social behavior that can sometimes lead to violence. The study also found that fewer than 25 percent of college-aged Americans with mental problems get treatment.

One expert said personality disorders may be underdiagnosed. But others said the results were not surprising since previous, less rigorous evidence has suggested mental problems are common on college campuses and elsewhere.

Experts praised the study’s scope — face-to-face interviews about numerous disorders with more than 5,000 young people ages 19 to 25 — and said it spotlights a problem college administrators need to address.

Study co-author Dr. Mark Olfson of Columbia University and New York State Psychiatric Institute called the widespread lack of treatment particularly worrisome. He said it should alert not only “students and parents, but also deans and people who run colleges and other student workers in the University.”

According to the researchers, the optical scanner would have a better resolution than ultrasound tests currently used to detect breast cancer. The optical scanner also varies from other imaging systems in that it does not give off harmful radiation.

The new scanner costs less than a conventional MRI machine. Gadavarty claimed she was currently restricted from giving specific details about the price of the machine due to the fact that the University is assessing the commercialization of a patent, however, she contends that while an MRI is priced in the millions for hospitals, the new device is not extensively used because it is very expensive,” Gadavarty said.

However, Gadavarty insists the new device is not meant to replace existing methods of detecting breast cancer. The handheld device would be used alongside other methods, such as X-rays and MRI scans.

“Basically, the whole concept here is that we are trying to use light to make an image of what is inside the tissue,” Gadavarty said.

One of the reasons Gadavarty and her team are focused on diagnosing breast cancer is because it is the largest soft tissue without any bone structure.

“X-rays tend to fail in the early stages of cancer because the cancer tissue is still soft tissue. Once the cancer tissue starts calcifying [hardening],” the tumor becomes much larger, “so the ultimate goal of this project is to improve the survival rate of breast cancer patients by performing early-stage diagnosis.”

Inside the optical imaging lab, amidst the loud humming sound of the air conditioner and posters plastered on the wall explaining how the optical imager works, were Dr. Jia Ge and Sarah Erickson, a Ph.D student in biomedical engineering, working on the imager. The two graduates are among a group of five graduate students who play a crucial role in making the imager work. According to Ge, the project follows a series of steps starting with working on instrumentation, then laboratory studies and finally human studies.

“Before the machine works, a great deal of preliminary studies must be done,” said Ge, whose primary role is to build up the optical and electrical equipment.

Both women are also in charge of laboratory studies using “phantoms” — substances designed to mimic human tissue — such as lipo-syn and chicken breast.

The project has recently begun to move toward the final stages, which involve human testing.

“We just started our human subjects studies and later on we will lead toward clinical studies, in which we will work with patients from Sylvester Cancer Center,” Erickson said.

Aside from Ge and Erickson, the other three graduate students who helped in the project were Dr. Banghe Zhu, graduate research assistant Steven Regalado and Bhavani Jayachandran, who was the first master’s student to graduate under Dr. Gadavarty.
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USM

The Beacon – December 3, 2008

NEWS

FIU

T.Y. Hilton sets single season receiving yards record

Freshman wide receiver T.Y. Hilton became the program’s all-time single season leader in yards against Florida Atlantic University on Nov. 29. He caught four passes for 99 yards and two touch- downs to give him a total of 969 yards surpassing former Golden Panther Cory McKenny for the top spot. McKenny finished the football team’s inaugural season with 890 yards.

There is one game left on the Golden Panthers’ schedule against the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers on Dec. 6.

LOCAL

Man shot in Dadeland Mall

A man was shot in Dadeland Mall in Kendall on Dec. 1 during an armored car robbery, according to The Miami Herald.

Men dressed in black clothing and boots rushed through the closed Limited and Express stores. They then ran through the mall and escaped out the north side, witnesses said. A red Dunbar armored car was waiting outside the store surrounded by police. This may be the vehicle targeted by the robbers.

Police reported they saw two men fleeing holding a money bag. The shooting occurred at approximately 11:15 a.m.

The man was airlifted to the Ryder Trauma Center in Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Gay rights group to protest Gov. Crist’s wedding

Gay rights group, Impact Florida said the demonstration will be held on Dec. 6.

Crist plans to marry his fiancé Carole Rome on Dec. 12 at the First United Methodist Church in St. Petersburg.

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New journalism course focuses on environment

BRITON ALONSO
Contributing Writer

This spring semester, students will be able to explore the M other Nature and her relationship with the media.

The School of Journalism and Mass Communications will start offering environmental journalism, a course focusing on environmental issues faced by both the local and global ecosystem.

The class will be taught by Juliet Pinto, SJMC assistant professor with a master’s degree from the University of Miami.

“I have always been passionate about this subject and wondered how we could bring it to the SJMC,” said Pinto. “The school is beginning to focus on special topics such as health and new media, so I thought this would be a great time to start.”

The course is listed in Pantheon as Media and Mass Communication “Special” (MMC 3014C). Its prerequisites are Writing Strategies (MMC 3104C), but it can be waived for students outside SJMC who wish to enroll.

Although there will only be one section of the class, which will take place Mondays from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., more sections will be offered in the future if interest grows.

The course is currently not a graduation requirement for journalism majors, and students from different areas within SJMC can benefit from the information this three-credit elective will offer.

“A dvertisers will be selling green products, and public relations specialists will be dealing with eco-companies and interested organizations,” said Pinto. “And of course, it will be imperative that journalists have an understanding of this subject.”

Various environment-related issues will be discussed, beginning with those topics closest to home such as the preservation of the Everglades, the sugar company buyouts and beach access. The course will also tackle international issues such as energy conservation, natural resource consumption, species preservation, green products and eco-friendly companies, among others.

“The course” would be great for anyone who is interested in being informative on environmental issues,” Pinto said.

Marine Science will also participate in the course’s offering, although according to Pinto, their specific involvement has yet to be determined.

“The (Marine Science Program) focuses on the coastal environment, and we will too,” said Pinto. “It is all combined.”

The course is also meant to bring the two departments closer together, according to Allan Richards, SJMC associate dean.

“Science students don’t particularly know how to write, and journalists do not know much about science, so it should help everyone,” Richards said.

Pinto also stated that nobody will be left behind. Both SJMC students and students from other schools within the University will be able to take the class.

“We are definitely going to find a middle ground between the students outside SJMC without writing experience and the writers with no science background,” Pinto said.

A Na Alvarez, a journalism major minor- ing in environmental science, plans to take the course.

“I want to take from the class a better understanding of our local ecology, which will help me understand all environmental issues better,” Alvarez said. “I also really care about problems such as the deforestation going on in Southern Asia. The people there do not have a voice and nobody def- ends them.”

Pinto plans on bringing several guest speakers and using multimedia to enhance the class experience.

“Environmental conservation is one of the biggest issues facing us all,” Pinto said.

Taking the stress out of gift-giving with homemade treats

The end of the semester is here and it’s time to celebrate. We celebrate being able to sleep in late and on eat what we want without any guilt.

But then reality sets in. We are broke college students – broke college students who have no homework, but there are other celebrations happening. It is, of course, the most wonderful time of the year: the holidays.

It is the time of the year that we look forward to, whether we begin mourning or Miswischiz doesn’t matter. It is the time to relax in winter’s glory and, of course, everyone’s favorite part: the gift-giving.

But then reality sets in. We are college students – broke college students. Gift-giving falls upon us, not as snow-capped majesty but as a heavy cloud, making us turn to anxiety, stress and the constant check of bank accounts to make sure we didn’t overspend.

We do it every year. We take the credit card bills and run up our credit cards. But this year, maybe we can screen the blow and turn gift-giving into our normal self. Here are some of my tricks of the trade.

Make your gifts. Chances are that the foodie gifts you make in your kitchen will be perceived as thoughtful, as opposed to the Best Buy gift card you usually get your niece or nephew. Also, when you make something for someone you love during the holidays, you pack a ses- sion ingredient in there that goodies from Godiva just don’t have – love.

This year, I am treating all my loved ones to special holiday treats. It’s the most wonderful time of the year, mostly because we stop counting calories and gorge ourselves on all the bad (good) stuff.

My favorite homemade treats that always capture “ohhs and ahs” are chocolate-dipped macaroons. Take the person you are making the gift for – know your weakness, their favor- ite sweet treat. Take the treat and dip it in chocolate. There is no way you can go wrong.

My best friend, for example, is an Oreo-aholic. These cookies are her favorite throughout the year. So during the holidays, I take her favorite Oreo and cut it in half; I say quickly because that deliciousness that is the creamy center tends to melt when introduced to hot chocolate. So during this time, I take half the Oreo and avoid the mess, just dip half of the cookie in and pull it out. This will give you a neat, more visually pleasing look, with half of the cookie coated in tasty chocolate and the other half exposed.

After dipping, place the cookie on a baking sheet covered with parch- ment paper, and let the cookie sit until the chocolate has hardened. Do not put the goods in the refrigerator to cool because it will cause them to sweat once you take them out to pack- age. The same goes for anything else you want to dip: strawberries, candy canes, homemade chocolate chip cookies, pretzels, macarons, etc.

The ultimate chocoholic gift is when you make your friends a vari- ety box, dipping each different item in different types of chocolate from white to milk to dark.

For an artful effect, once the first dipping of chocolate has hardened, take melted white chocolate and tap into your inner Jackson Pollock by creating swirl designs on the cookies or fruit of choice. It will take your friends and family members back to the day they wandered through a museum of modern art, maybe with you.

Another fun thing to do is mix to- gether all the dry ingredients to your favorite recipe. I personally give a killer stuffed mushroom appetizer that everyone raves about. I take most of the ingredients, like bread crumbs and grated Pecorino Romano, and package them in a stylish, maybe even festive, jar. Inside, I place the directions on how to finish making my delectable treats.

This present only really works when the person you give it to is con- stantly bugging you for your culinary secrets. When they open your secret dry mix for grandma’s chocolate chip cookies, or your famous jalepeno bread, these epicureans will jump for joy.

In the end, anything you’re good at in the kitchen can be made into a great holiday present. When you think about it, getting someone a gift card or a body wash set really only says, “I don’t know you.” But surprising them with your homemade and handmade treats will be a hit. It says, “I listen to you,” and “I put my time into this because I care.”

This season is for celebrating, not for a competition over who can spend the most money or for worrying about spending it.

Don’t stress yourself out with the gift-giving process. Make something full of love for those people who sup- port you throughout the year. The hol- idays are supposed to be fun – don’t sweet it.

So when someone asks you what you’re getting your aunt, cousin, sis- ter, boss, teacher or nephew, just tell them – you are getting them food- gams. Happy holidays! See you next term.

Need help with a recipe or find- ing a place to eat? Bianca is here to help! Send any questions, comments or foodgasm ideas to bianca.rojas@fiusm.com

YULE TIME: Cedric Margron, senior broadcast journalism major, assists in decorating the upper part of the Christmas tree in Panther Square on Nov. 26. A tree trimming ceremony was scheduled for Dec. 2.
Learning English vital, should be required for citizens

NEDA GHOMESHI
Staff Writer

It has been widely debated lately whether or not American citizenship tests and drivers license exams should be administered solely in English.

Not only should these tests be given in English, but all other exams and applications should be as well. In addition, the policy of knowing the most commonly spoken language in a given country is outdated.

"We had to learn the language before we moved there," said Jarod Mancini, a freshman majoring in Business. "It is no secret that over the last few years, text messaging has surpassed voice communication for a unique group of people, namely teenagers and college students.

It has changed our lives and how we communicate with one another. It is easy to use and it’s discrete. When we see or hear something exciting, we text our friends immediately to let them share in the excitement.

However, text messaging does have its downsides as well. It affects our grammar and vocabulary. It distracts us from class lectures and meetings, and sometimes makes us forget to put aside our text message lingo to write in formal English.

I'm constantly texting to my friends and family. It's the best and easiest form of communication.

Text messaging has even become more convenient for parents because they are able to stay connected with their kids without being an annoyance, which we all know our parents can be at times. It's simple, and right to the point.

"Text messaging allows me to let my parents know where I am and what I'm doing. This way, I don't have to call them," said Andrea Magnusdottir, a freshman majoring in Business.

Another benefit of text messaging is that it is discrete and does not add to the noise pollution. It is far less annoying than having to listen to the "New MSG!"

"Students need to recognize it is a genre that requires a certain mode of writing," Lauren said.

English Professor Ben Lauren describes text messaging as a new genre of writing.

"Students need to recognize it is a genre that requires a certain mode of communicating," Lauren said.

He explained that many students use abbreviations within their papers.

"A big part of the style of texting is to emphasize speed of response over proper grammar or syntax," Lauren said.

We need to make sure that the convenience of text messaging does not negatively impact our ability to communicate in proper English when using other mediums.

"Sometimes when I’m writing a research paper, I forget to be formal and catch myself using a lot of abbreviations," said freshman and marketing major Kristina Magnusdottir.

Like any other technology, text messaging must find its comfortable place in our lives without unduly affecting our other behaviors. It keeps households informed of each other’s activities and whereabouts.

A few adjustments are needed in how we use text messaging in order to make it a respectable social tool. In addition to it being an extraordinary communication medium.

THE SOAPBOX:
An Op-Ed Column

SGC-UP prioritizes FIU reputation

JENNI FUENTES
Staff Writer

In the few decades FIU has been around, it has managed to grow into one of the finest research universities in the country. With few exceptions, the credibility of FIU and its students is above reproach. That is until the emergence of Juicycampus.com, a malicious Web site designed to spread falsehoods.

On Nov. 24, the Student Government Council-UUniversity Park voted on a resolution to help protect our prestigious University; a recommendation to the administration to ban Juicycampus.com from our online network. (Meaning that the site could not be accessed while logged on to the Internet from FIU.) We recognize that asking the University to ban a Web site is an extreme measure. However, it is a representation of how extreme the situation with the site has become. It started off as a matter of concerns by the students but has become a cesspool of lies and accusations. Some of which are as extreme as rape.

The university's editorial denouncing our final decision makes several strong arguments. However, we do not feel that the banning of the site would infringe on anyone's First Amendment Rights.

We are free to set and apply their own standards of speech in matters of free speech and intolerance. So in accordance with student wishes, these demonstrations are no longer permitted. Even when they were, they were only allowed in specifically designated areas.

Furthermore while on FIU grounds, everyone's Second Amendment Rights are negated as clearly stated in the Student Code of Conduct. Only police officers are allowed to carry firearms while on campus.

Even housing students aged 21 and over are not allowed to possess alcohol in their dorms.

The reason for these restrictions is simple; safety is our hope that the FIU administration will follow our recommendation. After all, other prestigious Universities such as Yale University, Duke University and Ball State University have taken similar actions toward the site.

We are confident the actions taken by the Senate will help maintain the integrity of our University and most importantly, that of our student body.

Lasty the SGC-UP calls for all students and individuals to boycott the site. Even if FIU follows our recommendation, the Internet is accessible from countless coffee shops, malls and bedrooms. Only by a joint effort can the site ever be stopped.

Jenni Fuentes is Senator-at-Large for SGC-UP
Pledged: The Secret Life of Sororities,” a novel by ALEXANDRA ROBBINS, is the talk of the town every semester when new girls interested in going Greek start looking at potential sororities. Robbins goes undercover at certain southern universities to discover issues such as hazing, where pledges have to lie on the floor in their bra and panties and let fraternity men come in and draw circles with a sharpie around the areas that these girls need to work on: where they are out of shape.

Robbins also mentions eating disorders and issues where some of the sorority houses have to change their pipes every year because the acid from the vomit eats away at the pipes. Robbins also mentions date rapes and, in short, every negative stereotype that comes with the term “sorority.” So why are so many girls at the University worried about what is mentioned in this book? I guess because it’s true. No matter what we sorority girls say to defend ourselves, we cannot ignore the fact that these things happen. Maybe it doesn’t happen with our own particular chapter at FIU, but maybe it happens in another chapter of our organization in another state. To my understanding, nothing has ever happened here that is the extreme of what has happened in the book “Pledged,” but the most important thing to always remember is that nobody can ever force you to do anything that you are uncomfortable doing.

If you are pledging a sorority and are considering something you do not want to do, or feel uncomfortable doing, say no. And if your so-called “sisters” want you to do something that would make you uneasy, is that really sisterhood? That is not an organization you really want to be a part of.

And for those out there who think some forms of hazing is okay because it teaches discipline, remember, you are not mothers, or fathers for the fraternities out there. You are sisters or brothers, and sisters do not stand by while their brothers abuse other sisters. If you are pledged and you do not want to do something, tell them. If you are not comfortable, you do not have to do it. This is your life, your body, and you have the right to control what happens to it.
Now that temperatures are dropping into the sixties, the Floridian winter dons its sunglasses and two-inch-wide scarf to safeguard the approaching holiday and gift-giving season.

Shopping for friends and family may have earned you a truancy or two from fielding black Friday mobs, but at least it's done. The real question is what do you get the techfolks in your life?

Chances are, the techies on your lists probably have all the latest gadgets on the market. But before you do your bandage your mall madness bruises, we've got some gift ideas that'll save you from facing the war tom shops again.

So pull on your lab coats and goggles (it helps get into the spirit) and go shopping online for the techies you love.

Cure a beloved’s loneliness, snobbery, or germaphobia with a robot girlfriend.

Designed by WowWee Robotics, their girl-bot, Femispam, can walk, dance, sing, respond to hand gestures and even nuzzle up for a kiss. She'll even hand out your business card to passers by, and, at fifteen inches tall, will go almost anywhere with you.

She makes a great companion for those who like their loving made of cold steel and plastic. You can pick her up for $99 at www.WorldFemispamOnline.com.

A ROBOT GIRLFRIEND

WED DEC 3

WHAT: Art Miami WHERE: Miami Beach Convention Center, 1901 Convention Dr, South Beach.
WHERE: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
WHAT: First semester’s reflections

By Andrew Julian

WINTER IS COMING

To me, you're never going to have a more exciting, stressful, and most exciting season of college.

For my last article I wanted to fully express my opinions on my first semester of college.

It’s kind of hard to sum it all up in a couple of words.

This semester has been the most stressful, most exciting and most memorable in my life, and I know that it will not be the last.

There are several things that I have learned as a freshman here at the University.

For one, the transition from high school to college is not exactly an easy one but it can be if you do it the right way.

The best part about the University is that there are so many activities and organizations that one will never be bored, that is, if one knows how to correctly manage time.

With the fraternities and sororities, football games and parties, student government and programming councils, there is always something to do on campus, all of which are beneficial to all one’s development as a student and as a leader.

Of course, there are always a few things that we do not like about school.

Some things never change. I hate waking up in the morning to go to school.

Trust me when I say that next semester, I will not be picking classes at the crack of dawn.

Next semester I will be waking up to warm coffee and a decent breakfast, as opposed to the ringing of my alarm clock and a pop tart on the way out.

One thing that did change was the workload.

Back in high school, I never had to study.

I was able to balance five Advanced Placement classes, varsity sports, and several honor societies, and still manage to pull off a great GPA.

However, that’s what college is all about.

In order to be involved on campus and pull off a decent GPA, you have to put in the hours, even if some of your efforts into studying.

I learned the hard way.

That’s one thing that will never be able to adapt to school, which is kind of disappointing because, in my opinion, school would be so much better without the going to class part.

As for myself, I’m in it for the campus activities.

That’s where I think one can learn the most about oneself and how to do things in life.

I don’t think one can gain any life skills by sitting in a classroom and listening to the teacher.

This first semester at the University has taught me a lot.

I have learned how to study, the hard way. I have learned not to exceed my workload unless I want to pull my hair out by the end of the week, and I have learned to try to balance social activities with school work.

That’s the key, I’ll be able to have a life but not be falling all of my classes at the same time.

I will most definitely apply these techniques for the next semester, although I know that I am not done learning.

FLU still has much to teach me.
Mighty Gators and Crimson Tide in tilt for SEC

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**SPORTS**

**MEN'S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK**

Team back from west coast trip; Hicks injured

**BIG MAN DOWN**

Starting center and pre-season Sun Belt conference 1st-teamer Russell Hicks fell to a stress fracture in his right ankle versus the Bruins and is expected to be out of action for 8-10 weeks.

The senior, who set an FFU record for blocks last season, is the latest of injuries that head coach Sergio Rouco has had to deal with. GuardJose Soto(wrist), forwards Alex Galindo (ankle) and J.C. Otero (knee), and center Badara Diaye (knee) have been out all season and will not be on the court in the foreseeable future.

The Niagara Falls native felt discomfort during practice before the game and played just 19 minutes against UCLA. Hicks is averaging 8.1 points and nearly five rebounds per game this season.

**COLDEST WINTER**

Michael Dominguez has gone from being 10-17 from three-point territory his first two games in a Golden Panther uniform to hitting just three of his next 28 attempts. The junior swingman has managed to keep his scoring average at 10 points, but has endured a tough slump in part because of opponents’ awareness of his ability. Rouco believes Dominguez is getting extra attention from foes.

“Guys being in your face all game,” Rouco said. “Opponents are keying in on him.”

Dominguez is shooting 37 percent from the field and 88 percent from the foul line.

**NOT AGAIN:**

Russell Hicks became the fifth Golden Panther to miss time this season. He leaves a big hole in the front court depth chart.
**TOURNAMENT TIME**

Panthers selected to compete in NCAA championship

**JONATHAN ALPERT**
Asst. Sports Director

Following a school record 28-win season, the FIU volleyball team will make its first trip to the NCAA Volleyball Championship since 2002, when FIU won the Sun Belt tournament and earned the automatic berth.

FIU won the Sun Belt eastern division, and was the top-seeded team in the conference tournament before falling in the semifinals to New Orleans.

“It’s a thrilling feeling,” said Head Coach Danijela Tomic, with a hint of excitement in her voice. “I feel satisfied because I feel like we were selected among the 64 teams. You know, the season that we had, we broke all kinds of school records. We didn’t really have bad losses. Our only bad loss (was) against Memphis and Middle [Tennessee].”

The Golden Panthers (28-6, 15-2 SBC) were buoyed by a top-25 RPI ranking (21st) and a season-high 28-game win streak. They also entered the tournament ranked No. 22 in the nation.

“We have the chance to go to the NCAA and do our best, and now we don’t have any pressure,” said two-time All-American Yarimar Rosa. Coach Tomic echoed these comments.

“Falling to the Rams is good, I like to be underdogs. In addition to the records and awards, the Golden Panthers have the opportunity to hang an NCAA banner in the U.S. Century Bank Arena, something that the volleyball squad hasn’t done since 2002.”

The Golden Panthers were selected to compete in the NCAA championship and earned the automatic berth.

FIU will open the tournament Dec. 5 at the O’Connell Center at the sub-regional host, the University of Florida, against the Colorado State Rams (22-6, 12-4 MWC) of the Mountain West Conference. The Rams were the MWC runner-up this year, finishing behind the Utah Utes.

“We know we’re playing a very good team, but I think when we are going, we’re unstoppable,” said Tomic. “We’re big, we play in a good conference, so it’s going to take a lot, but the beauty of sport is that anything is possible on any given day,” Tomic said about the Rams, who will bring in the U.S Century Bank Arena.

The Rams were the MWC runner-up this year, finishing behind the Utah Utes.

“We know we’re underdogs in this picture, which is good, I like to be underdog.”

Especially Mariana, since she’s been with us for four years, to be selected from all the players. Especially Mariana, since she’s been with us for four years, to be selected from all the players.

The Golden Panthers also have something to prove against an ACC opponent since the Golden Panthers held off Florida State in a 1998 affair.

The win is the first victory for the junior guard, and the nine points through the tournament result in 14 points for Auburn.

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FIU closed the game on a 12-2 run to seal the victory.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

**SHARPSHOOTER**
Monika Bosilj matched her career high of 32 points in the FIU loss. Bosilj hit six threes, one shy of the FIU single-game record.