Housing to add keycard access on all dorms

NATALIE ALATRISTE Staff Writer

University housing wants to become more high-tech and secure for students, and the key to the solution rests in the FIU OneCard.

The Department of Student Housing created an initiative to implement keycard access to all housing buildings, and used Parkview Hall as a test trial this past Spring semester. The trial period was only for that semester. The pilot was a success.

Nahshon Rollins, a junior majoring in sociology, has lived on campus for two years and resided in Parkview Hall during the trial period. He said the keycard system was a life-saver.

“I’ve lost my physical key plenty of times so I know it’s a hassle to deal with it,” he said. “[The keycard] is a great way to access your room.

Based on its successful performance, the department of housing chose to continue the project and plans to add keycard access as a feature to all on-campus housing by January 2015. There will be a total of 34 card readers.

John Tallon, assistant director of housing facilities, said the project was designed so students can use their current FIU OneCard. This will make it more convenient for students to have the necessary access to his or her room, as well as access to other features, such as the laundry rooms.

The biggest hurdle in this project, according to Tallon, was finding the right software that would be compatible with the FIU OneCard.

“We’re piggybacking off of an existing system, which is the OneCard. The Business Services office, which runs the OneCard, has really helped us get this set up,” Tallon said.

The office of business services helped the housing department with the manual processing of getting the 600 Parkview residents into the system for the test run.

Now that the system will be implemented in all other dorms, the housing department has to attend seminars to understand the programming to avoid manually inputting every single student living on campus.

The card readers won’t be up and running until this phase of the implementation is completed.

The card readers will be applied mainly for security purposes, Tallon said.

“We have thousands of students living on campus and everyone has a physical key to their room. When you have thousands of people, keys do get lost,” he said.

Unlike other social networks, Yik Yak has a specific lean towards college campuses, to the extent that it allows users to preview other colleges’ feeds with the designated peek category within the app. The University was included on the peek list just this week.

“The university included the University on their peek list just this week. The app borrows from who’s physically attractive around the area to musings about class happenings to memes created by students on campus.

These often can range from the most guarded secrets with the designated peek category within the app. The University was included on the peek list just this week.

The app borrows

It’s really funny and entertaining but distracts me in class. I’m sure I’ll lose interest in this, it’s like any other fad.

Katrina Akirmaian

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The app borrows

Yik Yak appears to be particularly popular to the freshman population of the University.

“I think Yik Yak is a great way to express one’s most guarded secrets with the FIU community,” says freshman management major Steven Daniel Aragundi who has amassed 4,259 Yakarma points on the platform.

People accumulate Yakarma points by the number of “upvotes,” or likes they receive for their yaks. They can also gain points for receiving replies or comments to their posts. Aragundi also adds that it can help students catch up on what’s happening on campus. “If you’re on it when something big on

See App, Page 2

Dog clears bomb threat on campus

REBECA PICCARDO News Director

A possible bomb threat on campus Sunday morning was cleared by the early afternoon.

University police received a tip about a bomb threat in the Charles Perry building, also known as Primera Casa, at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. As a precaution, police alerted Miami-Dade County Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to assist in checking out the threat and ensuring the safety of the University community.

The University community did not receive an alert about the possible threat in the morning, but later in the afternoon, when President Mark B. Rosenberg sent out a University-wide email to announce the threat had been cleared.

In the end, it was the help of FIU PD’s bomb sniffing dog, Robi, that allowed police to search and clear the building, according to the email.

PC is the first building ever built in the University, and it houses the offices of the president, provost, board of trustees, admissions and financial aid, among others.

“We thank FIU students, faculty and staff for being active participants in safety and working with police to resolve this matter,” said Rosenberg in his memorandum. “The PC building is safe and normal operations have resumed.”

This story will be updated as more information becomes available.
Alumni to expand tutoring company

ANDREA VIZCAINO
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Johnny Betancourt started private tutoring sessions, teaching organic chemistry to earn some extra cash while in school. Years later, the University alum has a start-up company in his hands: Clutch Tutoring.

One word got out about his private tutoring and how helpful it was, the demand for private tutoring sessions started adding up. This is when Betancourt came up with the idea of putting all the students into groups so he would be able to reach a bigger amount of students and teach it all at once. This is the concept behind Clutch, which caters to FIU students and coursework exclusively.

The reason why we do what we do is because we cater to the students who are learning in the classrooms,” said Marco Souza, CEO and physics tutor. “The closer we are to what exactly it is they are learning in the classrooms, the more relevant the content and the more the students here at FIU are interested in the program and learn from it.”

Jessica Justiz, a recent graduate with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry, at one point needed help with her physics and organic chemistry classes.

“I definitely would not have had physics without them and they helped me get a 100 on my first orgo exam. They are very helpful and just help in making sense of everything.”

Clutch Tutoring was created and is managed by FIU alumni. After Betancourt and Souza teamed up, they started to recruit other tutors who were able to teach other subjects. The subjects they teach include calculus, biology, statistics and even MCAT prep.

Michael Blanco, a senior biochemistry major, used Clutch when he needed help in chemistry class. He credits his tutor, Jules Bruno, for passing the class the first time. 

“Jules knows chemistry so well— it’s as if he invented the subject,” he said. “Without Jules, I would have failed chem.”

Clutch recently received recognition from Techstars, a start-up accelerator that helps find sponsors for them.

“I honestly think it’s a passing trend, but because it’s perpetuated by a college community, which gets new students every year that have tons of time on their hands,” said Santos, who has earned 3,800 Yakarma points. “I really wouldn’t be surprised either if FIU’s attention span drops Yik Yak for a new app.”

It is not only the critics of the app that agree Yik Yak’s days on campus as the social media darling of the moment are numbered. “There are a lot of students who are interested in learning more. To spread the program to other schools, Clutch is creating video tutorials. If students outside FIU enjoyed and learned from those videos, then will be able to expand their reach to more universities.

“We tutor, not teaching, making it less painful, being funny and personal as possible,” Souza said. “It’s part of our company culture, we are all kids from FIU. Let’s be serious, but yet again, not too serious.”

New app piques student interest

APP, PAGE 1

In Texas, Liberian Americans weary of Ebola stigma

The Ebola crisis that has killed almost 4,500 people across Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea has hit close to home for many West African immigrants living in communities from Minnesota to Rhode Island. But probably none has been hit more than in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The community of 10,000 Liberians heeded the call to help family and friends when the epidemic took hold overseas.

Now they’re immersed in their own battle of mind and facing probing questions from friends when the epidemic took hold overseas.

Liberians heeded the call to help family and friends when the epidemic took hold overseas.

“Ulla Adighibe, 52, several friends of whom home and being stigmatized over here,” said

“Ulla Adighibe, 52, several friends of whom home and being stigmatized over here,” said Ulla Adighibe, 52, a Liberian American who runs a Dallas-based nonprofit called Canaan. "It is the last thing that we want to deal with right now."

At the American Foreign Service Association’s headquarters in Washington, D.C., the Liberians, as they do for many other African immigrants living in communities across the country, are vigilantly tracking news about what they might have to expect once they get home.

“Africa has not been hit as hard as it has been in the rest of the world, but it has been hit,” said Jahrel Francis, the Liberian American who runs a Dallas-based nonprofit called Canaan. "It is the last thing that we want to deal with right now."

Along with the Liberian Americans, an estimated 4,500 people across Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea have died of Ebola in Liberia.

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The humanities have brought us some of history’s greatest literary compositions and ideas about how the world works and expression like art, English, history, theatre, music and philosophy among a myriad of others. Yet these humanities are often put on the back burner against the more favorable rational and logical studies of science and engineering. All it takes is for one to imagine how the removal of the humanities would leave the world barren, grey and dull, with no liveliness, peculiarity or expressed emotion, astonishment and perhaps even lesser equality and justice.

Stop trying to be a ‘cool kid’

JASMINE ROMERO
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Are you running around, trying to find the perfect skateboard or cowboy boots that will get you “in” with that crowd at your school or hangout? Buying a skateboard to make a “cool” impression? Are you pretending to know your best friend? Are you running around, trying to please others and you will never win. If you’re trying to earn something that your own self. When you try to please others, you will always be other people who like you. Don’t lie to yourself. You will never be happy. You won’t even learn to agree with something you don’t actu

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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Editing Policy

Editorials are the united voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.
Different University groups and organizations took part in the Homecoming Parade on Oct. 18 to build morale around campus before FIU faced Marshall University in the Homecoming game that evening. The parade began at 1:45 pm in Lot 9.

Gladys Ricart envisioned Sept. 26, 1999 to be one of the most special days of her life — it was her wedding day. However, that Sunday would be her last.

The excitement that consumed the day quickly became horror and sorrow. Agustin Garcia, Ricart’s ex-boyfriend, drove to Ricart’s New Jersey home that day brandishing a .38-caliber handgun. Garcia shot the bride to be three times in what the court called “emotional rage.”

Garcia's haneous act, an act of domestic violence, caused an uprising among Hispanic women in her community. Josie Ashton was one of the many people moved by the murder. As a demonstration, she walked for miles in her own wedding dress, commemorating the death of Ricart. These marches caused a new movement. A new awareness was launched in the streets, an awareness to promote peaceful relationship and bring to the eyes of the community that domestic violence is a serious matter.

Approximately 80 percent of female victims experienced their first rape before the age of 25 and almost half experienced the first rape before age 18. 28 percent of male victims of rape were first raped when they were 10 years old or younger.

Steps to take:

Stephanie Wong advises that if you are suffering domestic violence to approach a service like No More Tears or Women in Distress in order to receive aid. Also, No More Tears is a service for men, women and children, since women aren’t the only victims of domestic and dating violence.

Women against domestic violence on the rise

Approximately 80 percent of female victims experienced their first rape before the age of 25 and almost half experienced the first rape before age 18. 28 percent of male victims of rape were first raped when they were 10 years old or younger.”

The statistics can be troubling. Stephanie Wong who advises that if you are suffering domestic violence to approach a service like No More Tears or Women in Distress in order to receive aid. Also, No More Tears is a service for men, women and children, since women aren’t the only victims of domestic and dating violence.

Wong will participate in the College Brides Walk. She says that she will be, “wearing the beautiful gown and speaking up about such an ugly practice with a loved one. Unfortunately, domestic violence is a possibility and an unfortunate reality within some marriages. While also remembering the tragedy of Gladys Ricart.”
Rise to the head of the class.

Did you know the Coast Guard has a scholarship program that will cover tuition and fees, pay you a monthly salary, and guarantee you a career after graduation? Open to students at Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), the College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSP) Scholarship Program is giving college juniors and seniors hands-on training, leadership experience, and unparalleled benefits. After completing CSP, graduates are guaranteed careers in fields like humanitarianism, search and rescue, and many more.

Visit GoCoastGuard.com/CSPIScholarship to learn more.
Women’s soccer on their way to the top

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Top-tier talent in Conference USA toured Miami this past weekend, Oct. 17 through Oct. 19. Rice University fell to the women’s soccer team on Friday, Oct. 17, with overtime painting a thrilling narrative to begin the two-game weekend. North Texas University, now with 11 wins, strutted onto the field at the FIU Soccer Stadium on Sunday, Oct. 19, for a 1 p.m. match.

The implications of either losing or winning were dire for the Panthers. With Panthers and Rice University on Friday, Oct. 17. Coming into the late-night match, the Owls of Rice were ranked number three overall in Conference USA standings. The Panthers were sitting at eighth, making Chestnutt and his team the perfect choice for the underdogs. Throughout the entire 96 minutes, both sides had much at stake. Rice had the golden opportunity to further make their case for the number one spot. The Owls, with a win, would control their destiny.

“Again, two good teams that are swiss knives to play,” said Chestnutt. “It’s going to be back and forth.”

Before the game began, a brand new starter made her way into the lineup—freshman midfielder, Paula Quintero. Making her first appearance as a starter, Quintero fought off early jitters to bring a balance to the midfield.

Assistant Coach Lauren Singer, mentioned pre-game that Quintero was “nervous at first,” but handled the pressure well by having great “on-ball moves (including with assists).”

The “iron-core” of the Panther defense proved solid once more, allowing zero goals through the first 45 minutes to a Rice team used to scoring quite often (23 goals on season). Redshirt junior defender Nikki Rios helped lead her teammates in stifling the early pressure put on by the Owls.

“The defense’s mentality is always let’s go out and not concede any goals,” said Rios. “Not let the other team get a sniff at the goal.”

There were four sniffs in the first half for Rice versus the Panther’s three, although the Owls’ struggles to find smooth lanes to work within all night. Senior midfielder Johanna Volz and her band of midfielders for the Panthers rallied behind one another and set an aggressive, but smart, tone. Said for advanced forwards, Chelsea Leiva and Ashleigh Shim, to lead and support on breaks toward the goal.

Not more than 20 minutes passed before Rice started picking the brains of each defender with cheeky balls played through the backline of the Panther defense. A few offsides called hindered the Owls’ attack, but kept the Panthers honest all night.

“I think this last week of training—we all really pushed ourselves to put in as much effort as possible and do the little things correctly,” said redshirt sophomore defender Shelby Bowden. “I think the little things helped us get this win tonight.”

As the first half’s end crept closer, so did the anticipation for a goal from both sides. Rice saw themselves in a corner kick set piece at the 36th minute. An Owl found contact with the ball and in the midst of all the chaos in the box, the ball found the back of the net.

The scoreboard didn’t change though, and the referee waved off the goal due to offsides. Freshman goalkeeper Nevena Stoja kovic was shaken up after heavy contact. No matter, though, as the Serbian native refocused and added five key saves on the night.

“It’s my job to stop shots,” said Stojakovic. “A big part of stopping [Rice] was [due to] my teammates—I’m proud of them. They showed big effort and were willing to win.”

Owls fight back

At halftime, one could slice a knife through the thin air and deep breaths each fan was taking. Going into halftime 0-0 presented a fresh slate for the Panthers and more confident mindset knowing the game was in their hands.

“We were controlling the whole game and [a goal] was coming,” said Leiva. A goal, indeed, presented itself to the Panthers. At the 54th minute, a rather unlikely candidate, but always a likely factor, found the first goal on the night and her career. Bowden seemingly made the best chance of her positioning off a wonderfully executed set piece (Leiva and junior midfielder Madlen Weinhardt credited with assists). “Madlen put in a beautiful ball and Chelsea got a head on it,” said Bowden, smiling from ear-to-ear while holding a congratulatory plant in her hands. “It just kinda skid off her head, went back-post and I volleyed it in.”

The narrative quickly became defense, defense while Rice’s became desperation. Chestnutt and his team have witnessed and felt the frustration of late goal equalizers after a score. Those feelings were revisited in the final 40 seconds.

The Owls’ Quincy Truong, orchestrated a strong attack and launched a prayer into the box, which found fellow teammate Lauren Hughes. Stojakovic made her only mistake of the night in this sequence by coming out too far, allowing Hughes to softly head in an equalizer.

“We let our minds kind of wander in the last 40 seconds,” said Rios. “From there, we [said], ‘Alright, we just have to win in overtime. There’s no other option.’”

Finding gold

As everyone in attendance began to prepare themselves for overtime, only one loud, booming voice was heard. The voice of sophomore midfielder, Alyssa Robinson, inserted herself into the middle of the Panther huddle, yelling motivational commands that quickly alerted every teammate of the fight left in the tank. Six minutes into the first 10 minute half of overtime, Shim continued her sharing (four assists on the season) and found a trailing Leiva on the left side of the box. Leiva faced Owl goalkeeper Amy Cray for the last time that night and struck gold—a golden goal for the win.

“Their mental focus was high tonight,” said Chestnutt. “It’s what we needed. We were happy to see that.”

Chestnutt also mentioned that the Panthers played to their level, to their roles. The 2-1 victory was one of the most complete games the University has played this season and has boosted them to a 7-6-1, 2-2-1 record. With seven points, the Panthers sit at 11th overall in C-USA.

When asked if the victory over Rice was a confidence boost in preparation for NTU, Rios provided the most colorful commentary of the night: “We hate North Texas, so I think this [win] is awesome. This definitely helps us and our main focus now is North Texas and beating them.”

SEE SOCCER, PAGE 7

STAMPEDE HITS HOME

Freshman quarterback Alex McGough dives on a scramble looking toward the sideline for the first down marker. McGough ran for the only rushing touchdown against Marshall University, losing 45-13, Saturday, Oct 18.

Brian TrujiLLo/The Beacon
Panthers look forward to climbing standings in final games of season

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This weekend’s matchups won’t get any easier as Western Kentucky is second in the Conference and North Texas is one spot above FIU at seventh in the standings.

Once again, the Panthers are under .500 and look to bounce back this weekend to even up their C-USA record and solidify their mark in the standings to have a spot in the C-USA tournament.

This Friday, Oct. 24, the Panthers first opponent on the road trip will be Western Kentucky. Mentioned previously, they are one of the top teams in the conference with a C-USA record of 8-1. They are also the first team in the conference to reach 20 wins. Their overall record is an impressive 20-5.

Going into the match against FIU, the Hilltoppers have won their last nine out of ten games. Earlier this season on Friday, Oct. 3, WKU played FIU here at home and easily swept the Panthers in three sets.

On the flipside coming into this match WKU will be facing a new and extremely improved FIU volleyball team. Since their first encounter, the Panthers were in the bottom of the standings and since then they are right in the thick of things and still climbing their way up in the standings. Still, this will be a difficult match for FIU because WKU is still undefeated at home this season with a 9-0 record.

Recently FIU has been able to play deep into matches and hasn’t been swept since playing WKU two weeks ago. The Panthers are on a roll.

Two days later on Sunday, Oct. 26, the team will travel from Kentucky to Denton, Texas to take on the Mean Green. North Texas is only one spot ahead of the Panthers and exactly one game ahead of them.

North Texas has been in a slump as of late losing six of their last ten games dropping them in the standings. Compared to WKU, North Texas has showed some problems lately when playing at home losing their last two matches. Still, their record at home is a solid 7-3.

This will be the first and only time these two teams will matchup in the regular season so FIU needs to get the win in this match to stay over them in the standings.

North Texas’ C-USA record is 4-5 but that should not fool anybody of their abilities because they have an overall winning record of 13-9 which shows they beat better talent outside of the conference as well.

This match and overall road trip is crucial for the Panthers but more importantly junior co-captain Lucia Castro who is on a hot streak right now leading the team in scoring. It is crucial that her play style spreads throughout the team as they are on the home stretch of the regular season.

One player can’t single handedly beat these teams especially WKU. In these upcoming games, the Panthers have to show what they are truly made of since the balance of the season could be determined in these two games, whether or not the Panthers have a spot in the playoffs.

Split weekend paves bumpy road for C-USA play

Early fate proves true again

Glancing at the lineups for both teams this past weekend, a physical attitude resonated from both schools. Not one North Texas was undersized, while the Panthers have proved to use their smaller size to their advantage. A whistle blew and an upset victory was immediately the goal of each Panther.

“I thought we came out a little flat in the first half,” said Chestnutt to FIU Athletics. “[North Texas was] opportunistic, that’s the way they are.”

In the first 45 minutes, the opportunities were flowing mainly towards the Panthers. In shots, NTU had all three of theirs on-goal, while the Panthers had five shots and four on-goal. The bar for the entire game was set early, though.

At the ninth minute, a two-on-one break formed for the Mean Green after a pass by senior defender, Marie Egan, was intercepted. One pass by NTU’s Karla Pineda to Rachel Holden and a quick 1-0 lead presented itself.

Pressure piled onto the Panthers.

“There wasn’t necessarily a lot of pressure on whether we were capable of winning,” said Montoya. “There was a lot of pressure because we needed to win.”

After facing an early deficit, the Panthers responded by cranking up the intensity and locking up top-end their offense and defense. Senior midfielder Johanna Volz lit the fuse for the Panthers offense by sending a loud screamer at Mean Green goalkeeper Jackie Kerestine (six saves). That was just one of her two shots, both of which came in the first half.

“The team always had their composure when we were down,” said Chestnutt.

Mean Green prevails

A level-headed composure that was needed for the full 90 minutes. North Texas defending for the full 90 minutes. North Texas held onto the lead on the road and never gave the ball up to the occasion.

“I thought we did really well,” said Montoya. “In the end, I thought we were always the better team.”

Lucia Castro who is on a hot streak this past weekend, a physical attitude resonated from both schools. Not one North Texas was undersized, while the Panthers have proved to use their smaller size to their advantage. A whistle blew and an upset victory was immediately the goal of each Panther.

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Mean Green prevails

A level-headed composure that was needed for the full 90 minutes. North Texas held onto the lead on the road and never gave the ball up to WKU.

The physicality of NTU didn’t go unmatched, as the Panthers chose to rise to the occasion.

“微生物组学 [the goal],” said Montoya. “The physical was just given me that space and I took it.”

Simple and to the point, akin to the orchestration of her second goal on the 2014 season.

A tie was imminent, as both sides kept sending balls to each others’ back lines. Four minutes after the equalizer for the Panthers, a questionable penalty kick was given to Mean Green’s Karla Pineda.

Freshman midfielder Courtney Phillips chased down Pineda at the top corner of the penalty box. Just as Phillips reached her mark, Pineda furiously turned, making hard contact with the Arlington, Texas, native.

“An unfortunate challenge in the box gifted [North Texas] a [penalty goal],” said Montoya. “And obviously they buried it.”

At the 87th minute, a 2-1 lead held true until the final whistle. The Panthers, now 7-7-4, 3-2-1, still sit outside the top eight at No. 11 in C-USA. North Texas moves to 11-4-1, 5-1-1 and maintained their top-spot in the conference.
Finding truth in Buddhism

By ALEXANDRA MOSQUERA NETZKARSCH

I never identified with a religion as a child. My family raised me a Catholic, but I chose a different path after questioning everything I learned in religion classes and in church. I took a couple religion classes in college and realized that I could choose my own belief system. It was not until I embarked on a year-long spiritual journey that I came across Buddhism.

Last year, I enrolled in a “History of Buddhism” course and it opened my eyes completely. I wanted to learn about the lessons taught by Buddha, known as Siddhattha Gautama or Shakyamuni. However, the takeaway lies practiced Buddhism. That’s when I learned there are several ways to practice Buddhism. However, the primary Buddhist practices are kindness, honesty, generosity and awareness of the world – which were some of the main aspects that attracted me to the religion. Beliefs are a choice for every person to make, either when they are young, in college or even later in life. But nobody should feel forced to belong or follow a religion that they don’t believe in.

Buddhism has given me sense of responsibility by teaching me there is no higher power controlling my destiny and that fate is not arbitrary, but rather, I create my own life path.

Another thing I admire about Buddhism is, historically, it has never been the center of war – which cannot be said for most other popular religions. Buddhism doesn’t degrade other religions. It doesn’t teach that one religion is right and the others are wrong. For Buddhists, there is no hell as is taught in many religions, because we are already damned by our egos that constantly desire happiness.

Meditation is also a tool used by Buddhists to transform the mind. After meditating several times, I have been able to develop a more positive and peaceful state of mind.

If students are not gung-ho about becoming Buddhist from this article, they could still benefit from Buddhist practices like meditation. The Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation Center offers free yoga classes for students and faculty, which have helped me release the tension in my muscles and relax my mind.

Two years now, but feel there is more to learn. I no longer find myself searching for happiness and peace because Buddhism has helped me find this.

However, the takeaway is not to practice or study Buddhism. Just remember to follow what gives you certainty in life. For some it’s science, for others it’s religion. What matters is that you feel comfortable with, and are true to, yourself and your beliefs.

If students are not comfortable with, and are true to, themselves and their beliefs.