Community efforts recognized with prestigious Carnegie Foundation award

NICOLE CASTRO  
Staff Writer

As the Spring semester unfolds, the University has already set an aura of success as the prestigious Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching recognizes the institution for its commitment to the local, national and international community.

Among the 154 institutions that applied for The Community Engagement Classification, 115 were approved based on evidence of an institution-community partnership for a “mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources.”

Other recipients for the 2010 classification include Florida State University, University of South Florida and Nova Southeastern University.

“Clearly there is a great deal of interest among colleges and universities in being recognized for their community engagement commitments,” said John Saltmarsh, the director of the Carnegie Foundation’s Administrative Partner for the classification on the Carnegie Foundation website.

Divina Grossman, vice president of the newly founded Office of Engagement at FIU, agrees with Saltmarsh’s statement and recognizes that it shares the same interests.

“We are a public university that is receiving funding from the state and the fact that we’re able to demonstrate not only internal impact but also in the community shows that we are an institution that has actual results,” said Grossman.

The work the University commits to is an actual application of the institution’s intellectual capital comprised not only of students, but faculty and staff. Grossman also feels that community engagement is a “very important statement to make especially in this day and age when public resources are diminishing.”

Institution-community partnerships at the University date back to when it was first founded in 1965.

Crime dramas boost interest in forensic studies majors

W. EARLE SIMPSON  
Contributing Writer

FIU’s graduate and undergraduate enrollments are increasing in biology, chemistry and biochemistry because of what some FIU professors are calling the “CSI Effect.”

During the past four years, the professors say they have observed an increase in the interests, applications and admitmates of students wanting to study forensics related to crime scene investigations.

Professor Lidia Kos, associate professor and director of the graduate program in biological sciences, said her attention was drawn to the phenomenon when she observed a spike in the number of emails about forensics studies.

“The number of inquiries that I receive every week is incredible,” Kos said. “About 60 percent of the emails I get asking questions about graduate programs are people interested in doing forensic work.”

The CSI Effect is a phenomenon that experts say largely affects the forensic evidence expectations of jurors in court cases.

Judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys believe that jurors, who on a regular basis, watch CSI - Crime Scene Investigation – and similar shows such as NCIS, Numbers, Crossing Jordan, Criminal Minds, Bones, 48 Hours, Cold Case and American Justice, have developed a higher level of expectation for the kind and quality of forensic evidence that must be produced to convict an accused, according to a report in USA Today.

But besides noticing the effect in courtrooms, people are beginning to see the CSI Effect in schools. At West Virginia University, forensic science catapulted to the most popular undergraduate major after the topic started to dominate network and cable television programming.

Professor Jose Almirall, director of the International Forensic Research Institute at FIU, said he noticed a similar trend at FIU.

“At FIU, we have had students who normally would not enter even science,” he said. “But because of these shows, they get turned on by science, pursue it and then find out that they like it.”

Almirall said before these shows began showing on TV, there was no student demand for forensic courses for freshmen and sophomores at FIU.

However, four years ago, the biology and chemistry departments responded to a need to offer these students a course called Survey of Forensic Science. Since that time, more than 200 freshmen and sophomores register for the course each semester.

But the most noticeable registration increases have been at the doctoral degree level, Almirall said.

Over the five-year period during which these shows have become increasingly popular, the number of students taking a forensic track in the doctoral degree in chemistry has grown from 2 percent to 30 percent.

FIU among best values schools

ANALIA FIESTAS  
Staff Writer

Despite consecutive years of tuition increases Kiplinger Personal Finance has ranked Florida International University ranked 97th on Kiplinger’s annual “Top 100 Best Values” list, joining five other Florida public universities which were also ranked best values.

The University of Florida ranked 2nd – surpassed only by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which placed first for the tenth year in a row –, the New College of Florida ranked 11th, Florida State University ranked 20th, the University of Central Florida ranked 33rd and the University of South Florida ranked 55th.

“I am pleased that FIU is among such well-regarded colleges on this list,” University President Mirtaboard said.

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University engaged in community

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but the Office of Engagement points out that they are more intentional about these partnerships and that the partnerships are mutually beneficial.

Within less than a year of its establishment, the Office of Engagement has demonstrated a rapid rise in progress.

The office opened Feb. 5, 2010 and in a matter of 8 months, it created the infrastructure of the office, established a budget, initiated a number of significant partnerships and most importantly submitted the application for the Community Engagement Classification.

In its most recent initiative, the Office of Engagement is taking public schools in Liberty City, such as Miami Northwestern, and establishing community schools in hopes to provide security, healthcare and social services.

Consequently, the number of high school graduates will increase due to those resources and, “The goal in liberty city is to increase the academic success of student, as well as their college transtorm,” said Grossman.

“The more successful they can be, the more likely they will graduate from high school and come to FIU.”

In the agenda of the Office of Engagement are plans to visit the University of Pennsylvania’s Netter Center for Community partnerships, a program that has nationally been held up as a model, in order to mirror their involvement.

An additional project is the life sciences quarter, an economic development initiative. The work group consists of the deans of all public and private universities in South Florida, including University President Mark Rosenberg. They have begun to meet in an attempt to attract more companies and venture capitalist to create more jobs in the area of the life sciences.

Grossman believes this is important because of the way the region has been affected by home foreclosures and unemployment. “It is important to create an economy that is more knowledge based [in the life sciences], to create jobs that are higher paying and that are not subject to the fluctuation of the real estate cycle,” said Grossman.

Tuition considered affordable when compared to other states’ schools

Although the schools’ academic quality is extremely important for Kiplinger’s deliberation on the rankings, the schools’ cost and financial aid, such as the price for tuition, mandatory fees, housing and books are also taken into major consideration.

For example, Kiplinger’s was extremely impressed by the New College of Florida, which offers strong academics at an affordable price of below 15,000 dollars.

Furthermore, the school lowers the amount by more than half to all the students that need financial aid. This means some students are paying only about 5,000 dollars.

This case is similar to many of the students at Florida International University who pay only a small percent, if any not, of the financial charges to attend college due to an academic scholarship or financial struggles—sometimes both.

“There is no gut call,” Kiplinger’s Senior Associate Editor, Jane Bennett Clark, told The Miami Herald. “We are very proud of our methodology.”

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Jan. 19, 2011, in the column titled ‘In Stitches’ by Estra Erdogan, the name Ashley Gardner is misspelled. The correct spelling of this name is Ashley Garner.

Also, the front page the headline titled “Moment of Silence” should be “Remembering Haiti.” The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

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Provost Douglas Wartzok told Student Media. “This ranking is further proof that FIU offers a Worlds Ahead education at an affordable price.”

Even though the public universities in Florida have had increases in tuition charges, they still remain “best values” and extremely affordable when compared to colleges from other states.

“We always strive to make higher education accessible while providing a high quality and healthy learning environment,” said Wartzok.

Kiplinger’s rankings depend on several factors which include academic quality measured through student SAT and/or ACT scores, admission and retention rates, student-faculty ratios and graduation rates.

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Gas explosion rocks Philadelphia neighborhood

An explosion in a gas main in Philadelphia sparked a three-alarm fire that left one person dead and five injured and prompted evacuation of several dozen residents.

Fire dispatchers said a gas and water main break was reported at the Tacony neighborhood and an explosion occurred around 8:30 p.m. The dramatic blast was caught on tape by an NBC Philadelphia videographer.

Dozens of people were evacuated from nearby homes and businesses. The cause of the blast was not immediately known. Authorities said the fire was brought under control just before 11 p.m.

Obama Hosts Hu as Powers Seek Common Ground

President Barack Obama welcomed Chinese President Hu Jintao to the White House Wednesday with a full honors, red carpet greeting, marking the start of daylong meetings to address trade, security and human rights issues that have been the cause of past strain between the two powers.

With many Americans blaming China at least in part for the high U.S. unemployment rate, both presidents will be looking to build trust in a relationship grounded in mutual interest but troubled by intractable disputes.

Obama and Hu held a private dinner Tuesday night, each accompanied by two of their top officials, in the White House residence.

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

NEWS FLASH
Second half struggles down Panthers

SPORTS

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

RICO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

"After a tough conference win at Denver, the Panthers looked to build a winning streak while hosting UALR on Wednesday night. Tough defense kept the game close, but the Panthers fell short to the Trojans in a game riddled with physical play and questionable calls. FIU kept up with UALR for an 18-1 run by the Trojans sealed their ninth consecutive win, 54-45, setting FIU back in the conference race.

The Trojans, known for their team defense, got under the skin of some of the FIU players, as play became more physical as the game went on. "There is a difference between being physical and just out-right fouling people," Rakia Rodgers said.

Elisa Carey scored the first six points for FIU (7-13, 2-4 SBC), all in the paint to give the Trojans an early lead. The Trojans’ defense, with DI-4 SBC) Chas- tity Reed would not be outdone as she scored six of her team’s first eight points as the teams went stunted up at eight with 11:41 left in the first half.

Rakia Rodgers scored off a running layup from the base- line to spark a 6-3 run for the Panthers. The score remained 16-11 for almost three minutes before UALR’s Sharmika Butler scored on a fast break opportunity to cut the lead to three.

FIU would only score one more time as the teams went into halftime with a 18-13 Panther lead. Neither team was able to manage an efficient offense, as FIU shot 34 percent in the first half, while the Trojans managed 18 percent from the field. Michelle Gonzalez contributed the low score to the defense both teams were playing.

"I think both teams were playing good defense. We were containing (Chastity Reed), who is there best scorer on their team. They were containing our penetration. That’s why it was a low score," Gonzalez said.

At the beginning of the second, Adriel Rolle scored a three-pointer for the Trojans. Jerica Coley responded right back with a jumper of her own to make it 20-16.

Every basket that the Trojans scored, the Panthers would respond to keep slight lead over UALR, as FIU led 30-28 with 12:04 left in the game. A couple of three pointers kept the game close until Chastity Reed intercepted a pass by Carmen Milagro to tie the score at 33.

"The Trojans grabbed their first lead of the game with 9:07 left, as Janette Merrix hit a three-pointer to make it 36-33. Rakia Rodgers was involved in an verbal altercation with Marius Kuch, for which Rodgers was given a technical foul. We were being molested out there," Rodgers said.

UALR would push their lead to six with a Merrix three to make it 40-34 with 6:10 left in the game. A six minute drought by the Panthers would help the Trojans build a 12 point lead before Michelle Gonzalez hit two free throws, making it 46-36 with 3:51 left in the game.

Frustration began to set into the Panthers, as Laipon on defensive and poor fouls allowed for the Trojans to pull ahead 51-46. The Trojans were forced to shoot three-point shots to make a comeback, but would eventually fall short 54-45.

"Sometimes we rush our shots and not let the offense develop," Carey said. "We started to rush shots and sometimes not everything goes.

"We still have a lot of growing up to do," Russo said. "I think the lack of experience at the end, to win games, playing together, is a big part of our break down." Elisa Carey and Michelle Gonzalez led the Panthers with 10 points each, with Rakia Rodgers adding 10 points. Jerica Coley had a game high 12 rebounds along with three steals.

The Panthers will look to improve as they look to build on their recent success against UALR.

RECRUITING ROUNDPUP

Elisa Carey [center] attempts to set herself up for a score in a home loss to UALR.

2011 COMMITMENTS - OFFENSE

Dylan Warner - QB
Ezekiel Turner - WR
Dominique Rhymes - TE
Richie Reay - OL

2011 COMMITMENTS - DEFENSE

Robert Boswell - LB
Brandon Bennett - DB
Paige Crosswell - DB

2011 COMMITMENTS - SPECIALISTS

Joel D. Delgado - Sports Director
Joel Delgado
Contact Us
Asst. Sports Director
Rico Albaracin

For the first time in 2010, FIU put an offense that was only noted as a running back, as FIU put a running back, as at wideout. With Carroll coming back for his senior season, the Panthers are comfortable with their starting situation in 2011, knowing that he can manage offensive coordinator Scott Satterfield’s system. Carroll has his limitations. His decision making is questionable, and he was either tentative or the staff didn’t have complete trust in him at times.

Despite not having an above-average arm, Carroll steadily improved as the season went on and showed underrated mobility in the pocket. Barring an unforeseen setback, Carroll will remain the starter.

Depth must be established at the position and the team must identify its future starting candidates, however.

The team wisely redshirted Jake Medlock last season after he was one of the team’s most prized recruits in the 2010 class. Medlock is a pro-style quarterback with an impressive skill set, and the team believes he can run the spread offense after seeing the quarterback position for two spots on the interior of the offensive line, re-stocking in the receiver department and acquiring quarterback depth are all impor-
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Submit your application in GC 210 in WUC 124
The Ruby Sunrise
TV’s genesis focal point of play

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

“There is truth..., and then there’s television,” or so says the tagline for The Ruby Sunrise, the latest production at the Theatre School. Though one might think the play’s all about television, it is not just a story about the birth of the tube. Rinne Groff’s drama aims to showcase how reality is often rewritten by the media.

The production of this play has been an ongoing effort by the Theater Department. The show, which was supposed to premier this last fall semester, suffered a setback and was pushed to the spring following the discovery of mold infestations in the Deuxieme Maison building.

In fact, according to Marylin Skow, the Theater Department Chairperson, “The Ruby Sunrise had already been in rehearsal for weeks, costumes were well on their way to being completed [and] set designs were done,” at the time of the mold discovery.

With the problems well behind it, the performance is set to debut on January 20. “We’ve been in a state of hibernation for the last six months, but now we’re awake and ready to show the audience a good time,” says David Gallegos who plays Martin Marcus, the producer of Studio 6 in the show. Though he talks about the show being pushed back as a challenge, Gallegos faced it with an optimistic perspective.

“It affected us as students and as actors. It did, however, make us strive to find a way to keep the show alive. Each one of us had to push harder and harder to make these characters real and bring truth to the audience,” Gallegos said.

Ruby, the play’s protagonist, is gifted in the field of science and sees technology as having incredible potential. She has big dreams, one being the invention of television. The script has been hailed as both funny and inventive. “The play focuses on young characters who want to make their mark on the world but find that it takes more than just being smart, ambitious, and driven,” says professor and director Michael Yawney.

“The first character we meet is a teenage physicist who invents television. If you do not know how a television works, she explains how in the play, and there is even a scene where she makes a cathode tube on stage. Then we meet other characters who decades later work in television production, who show us how decisions are made about what will end up on the small screen,” Yawney said.

The play will take place at The Black Box Theater in the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

“I like to think of that space [The Black Box Theater] as our holodeck, and you need that to do a play that jumps through time and space like this one does. The space is intimate but the story is huge,” Yawney said.

“The Ruby Sunrise will be of interest to so many different parts of the FIU community. The characters are scientists, writers, television producers, and the people impacted by the work of those people. It shows characters whose vision hangs up against reality. We like it when our plays can engage students and faculty from other colleges in the University, and this one certainly does.”

David Gallegos feels that the audience will be able to easily relate to The Ruby Sunrise.

Costume Designer, Giovanni Gonzalez, works on costumes for The Ruby Sunrise, the first production of the spring theater season.

“Everybody watches television, and this play takes you back to a time when it was being invented by a girl with big dreams to change the world. We all have dreams and hopes for a better tomorrow, and this play explores that idea that a certain device can bring a nation closer together. All the characters have a passion; they love and fear the future. The characters in this play represent not only a movement of a nation, but of the entire world,” said Gallegos.

The Ruby Sunrise runs Jan. 20- 25 and Jan. 27- 30. Tickets are $10 for students.

Hit show’s allure leads to increased forensic interest

CSI, page 1

“I am aware that it is a big influence in many in the field,” forensic science graduate student Joel LaSalvin said. “A lot of students go into it, get exposed to the real thing and if anything, drop it. But, CSI is one of the main attractions for a lot of people.”

One of those people is forensic science graduate student Michael Hyre. “I was exposed to the field of forensics through TV shows and that is what drew my interest toward it,” Hyre said. “I later did some research and found out that the TV shows are a little unrealistic but they are what initially led me to the field.”

Chemistry senior Nicole Metallo said she was also motivated by the crime scene shows.

“I got interested in forensics because of the influence of the crime scene shows on TV such as Criminal Minds, CSI and Ncis,” Metallo said. “I think forensic science is an interesting field and moreover, there are a lot of different things one can do with it.”

DeEtta Mills, director of FIU’s Forensics DNA Profiling Facility, said she receives many inquiries from people who watch CSI and want to get into forensic science but lack the requisite qualifications.

Still, the demand from qualified students is enough to warrant the introduction of a new master’s program.

“We are opening a combined degree in masters of forensic science and biology this fall,” Mills said. “That will probably increase the enrollment with those people who would be interested in both of those fields.”

Mills said because other universities are also noticing the trend of an increasing demand for forensic science degrees, the demand for professors to each such courses is increasing. She said FIU graduates have taken up some of those positions.

But while the CSI Effect is influencing many, some forensic science students said CSI did not motivate them.

“Definitely the CSI Effect does exist,” biology senior Jackie Zayas said. “But I was not one of the people motivated by it.”

Graduate students Krista John-Williams and Julian Mendel also said they were not influenced by the CSI Effect.

Stills said the CSI Effect could be a double-edge sword. On the one hand, it drives an increase of students to the forensic sciences because finally they can see a direct application of science. On the other hand, students may be deceived by an unreal, elaborated and exciting depiction of science.

However, Mills said, the CSI Effect can be a good thing if it helps to attract students to the idea that in the real world, science is filled with rigor, defined operating procedure, long days and hard work.

W. Earle Simpson, a December 2010 journalism graduate, produced this story in the JOU 3300 Advanced News Writing course taught by Dr. Fred Blevens.

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**Oscar-worthy flick does not make for first date fodder**

**The Beacon – Friday, January 21, 2011**

Cable-giant Comcast buying a majority stake in NBC Universal, the folks that bring big-name vehicles that are mangled in car wrecks between two vehicles that are involved in a car wreck between two vehicles. It is there in Dean’s (Ryan Gosling) rapidly receding hairline, and a beer belly that’s sure to come as he clings to a can of Budweiser. It’s in his wife Cindy’s (Michelle Williams) face as she stares from a window to the man she married. It’s in his voice as he pleads to her to just get out of the house for one night, if only for a night of drunken sex at a shoddy motel room.

It’s a film built on the naturalistic, mundane details. It has to be, especially with the seemingly inevitable outcome hanging over the movie from its first moments. It’s not about what happens, ultimately, but how it happens.

Arriving at a futuristic themed motel suite, Dean lets off a screech of laughter. “This is how they laugh in the future,” he tells his wife. She goes into the bathroom and closes the door behind her. She stares blankly for a moment, lost in a prevailing thought that remains unspoken.

Dean walks in to find her in the shower. Seeking a moment of intimacy, he enters, wanting to make love. As he kisses her, she remains more focused on rinsing her hair of any remaining shampoo. She spurns him. That same thought comes to his mind: “What happened?”

What makes these scenes of impending doom so searing are that they play throughout the movie as we also witness their love blossom. With a full head of hair and fit, Dean carries a rugged, roadworn air about with a deep sensitivity. He asks a coworker with the moving company if he believes in love at first sight. Cindy tells her grandmother that her biggest fear is ending up like her parents: in an unhappy relationship.

Cindy taps dances on a street corner as Dean plays the ukulele, singing through “You Always Hurt The One You Love,” sporting an admirable Elvis impression. She can sing all the last names of the U.S. presidents in order. The seeds of deception may already be sown on their first date. Claire mentions that she wants to go away and study medicine. Cindy laughs. “Girls can look like you don’t study medicine,” she says.

Six years later, Cindy is a nurse looking for new opportunities in advancement. Dean is content to be a home painter with the “luxury” of being able to drink at eight o’clock in the morning. Dean is better with their child, Frankie, who does on him, perhaps because he is indeed a child.

In many ways, it serves as an update of Richard Yates’ Revolutionary Road. Woody Allen said in Annie Hall, “A relationship, I think, is like a shark. You know? It has to constantly move forward or it dies!” The film also serves as a musings about the love itself. Does love fade? Do people settle in relationships? Are Dean and Cindy victims of their expectation for true love?

The film is honest, showing a great understanding of its characters and never seeking to make a villain of a character. Dean and Cindy are just victims of circumstance.

It is then up to Gosling and Williams to make this film work. Their spontaneity in scenes depicting the earlier portions of their relationship endures scenes to the older ones.

Late into their marriage, Gosling tipsoes between the pathetic, the loveable, and the dangerous tossing off his wedding ring in the middle of a parking lot in a fit of anger but then quickly going into the brush to find it. Williams, then, is given the seemingly thankless task of playing the “straight man,” with a part dignity.

One questioned stuck most in my mind: did they ever stand a chance? One thing’s for certain. You probably won’t want to take a date to this movie. May I suggest No Strings Attached?

*Rent to Reel is a weekly column on movies. Look for it every Friday.*

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**Disappointment the word of the day following merger**

The FCC, though admirably standing to defend consumer interests in this matter, is a toothless poodle chained to the White House porch of a president who has forgotten his promises.

Silver, in his piece, points out something Obama said during his campaign in 2008. “I strongly favor diversity of ownership of outlets and protection against the excessive concentration of power in the hands of any one corporation, interest or small group. I strongly believe that all citizens should be able to receive information from the broadest range of sources.”

I wish that Obama were around right now.
POALO RAMOS
Staff Writer

With the scantily clad female musicians in the industry today, the recently popular crooners like Trey Songz and the rampant promiscuity of the cast of "Jersey Shore", one would think that, as a culture, America has embraced its sexuality. This could not be further from the truth.

In reality, most people, especially those in the younger generation, are clueless as to how to adequately approach their own sexuality, let alone a socialized interpretation of it in the media.

While it is great that the media have embraced a true connection with the urges and pleasures the human body can experience, they fail to drive the point home in an effective and positive way.

The trend in current pop culture is leaning toward promiscuity and impulsive behavior rather than a more grounded and constructed attitude. There is no art or grace to it, only mindless and repetitive fluff that more often than not gets people into more trouble than they can handle.

The trained mind, it becomes less surprising to observe the rise in teen pregnancies and drunken accidents when today's pop culture encourages sex, drugs and alcohol in the excess.

There is an inelastic perspective that the media have formed and directed toward young people. They are expected to either be easy or fiercely independent while men are expected to be aggressive and disrespectful toward women. There is no middle ground, and those who fall out of the loop are left confused and anxious. This translates in a negative way across society as a whole.

On the other side of this flashy embodiment of perceived sexuality is a confused person struggling to form his or her own identity. This results in a skewed attitude toward sexuality that undercuts its value and importance.

There also is a counter problem to the oversexualized attitude in the media today, and that is the lack of education at home.

With the increasing availability of sexual content in the media, parents and other authority figures are at a loss to adequately tackle the problem before it gets out of control.

Anybody with a computer can access such content, and such technology is becoming increasingly available to younger and younger age groups.

The biggest problem, however, is the indifference most parents have toward the content to which their kids are exposed. Most parents let their children have free reign of their cell phones and laptops not knowing how simple it is for the children to come across content that is too mature for them to handle.

There is also a lack of discussion going on, not just within families but within society as well.

Schools tackle sexual education at the minimal level, barely touching upon the important issues that younger generations now face as a result of the increasing exposure to mature content. This is reflected in the poor decisions that many young people are now making, which result in teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

Ironically, and in spite of the wealth of information provided by the Internet, parents and authority figures lack the initiative to keep up with the already sexually charged younger generation.

Abstinence-only sex education is, unfortunately, the primary resource that most young people have, both at home and in society.

Most do not learn about the true impact of unsafe decisions either until college or until they are slapped with a pregnancy or a sexually transmitted disease of their own.

There is a definite distinction between what young people are exposed to and how they interpret it, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to reconcile the two. There is a need for more open forums of discussion, not just at home, but throughout society where sexuality is concerned as the media penetrate into the ever-shrinking sphere of childhood.

JAMES RICHARDSON

Despite all the arguments for, against, and indifferent regarding the recent smoking ban on campus, there's no smoke ban at all. It’s the priorities and principles the university chooses to employ in its mission to become "World’s Ahead." The consistent rhetoric of these objectives includes promoting a safe, inclusive, and healthy environment. Sadly, the university has failed on all accounts.

Safety is an issue that concerns all students. Despite a stabbing, cars being broken into, laptops stolen, and a recent armed robbery, I personally witnessed an FIU police officer chatting on Facebook in his patrol car on Tuesday rather than promoting a safe environment by doing his job.

Additionally, many students have expressed that notifications regarding the armed robbery didn’t occur until after it was "deemed" safe to be on campus.

The university continues to employ Target as a corporate sponsor for its Target Wednesday After Hours sessions at the Frost Art Museum (as well as other events on campus), yet Target continues to be targeted by the Human Rights Campaign (which began last summer) which includes a nation-wide boycott of the company for political donations to anti-LGBT rights candidates.

Despite ostracizing the LGBT community on campus with its continued relationship with Target, the university has additionally ostracized smokers by making them social outcasts on campus.

In terms of healthy, this has to be the biggest oxymoron the administration has employed. Despite the constant message of healthier choices on campus, the end result including dining additions such as Moe’s, Dunkin Donuts, Papa John’s, and Chili’s.

In addition, the university employs long-standing choices such as Starbucks and Burger King. I can’t forget Pepsi, whose sugary soda logo is promoted all over campus since they are a corporate sponsor of the university. The university also accepts alcohol consumption on campus.

The addition of Chili’s (complete with alcohol selections), paralleled by rampant alcohol consumption before, during, and after social events and football games on campus, leads me to believe that the underdressed shrieking hensans of SGA is merely a product of the principles and priorities the university employs.

The university put the icing on the cake by installing a "socially enforced" nanny state courtesy of the smoking ban. I find the hypocrisy of this most interesting as state & federal tax revenue from cigarette sales is a funding source of the university.

In becoming "World’s Ahead", it’s very plain to see that the priorities and principles of the university have nothing to do with fostering a safe, healthy, and inclusive learning environment.

It’s purely all about the revenue. I have drastically lost much of my pride as a Panther because I’m seen more as a dollar sign than a valued stakeholder.

I’ll expect the alumni solicitation to build the new FIU gambling casino after I graduate since the university gambles with the students safety, health, and sense of belonging at the priority of becoming world’s ahead of everyone else’s pocketbooks.

James Richardson, senior, is an interna-
tional business major.
TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE

First roundtable was a first amendment discussion

PNINIT COHEN
Contributing Writer

The topic at this semester’s first ever Tuesday Times Roundtable at the Biscayne Bay Campus was “Name that Freedom.” Students and faculty had the chance to openly discuss current events with each other in an open forum.

Vice Provost Steven Moll, an FIU-MDC Wesley intern and five students were among some of the attendees of the discussion dealing with the First Amendment and Americans’ basic freedoms. Librarian Lauren Christos moderated the roundtable.

“It’s important to know the freedoms the constitution gives us,” said Christos after citing a research poll which found that 52 percent of respondents believe the First Amendment declares our country a Christian nation. “Are you offended by that?”

Lelieka Murdoch, transfer student majoring in public relations eyed over the exact wording of the First Amendment. “It’s so vague - I can see why every person interprets it differently,” she said.

The conversation ranged from freedom of religion to the current war to Americans’ attitude toward censorship.

“Why is there a big fuss over 6,000 deaths in the war while almost 60,000 people die every year from car accidents and gun accidents?” Moll asked. The comment spurred a dialogue among the group.

Murdoch argued it was because of the way the media frames the different issues.

“We think of car crashes as accidents so we don’t bother to get angry about it the way we do about soldiers dying in a publicized war,” she said.

Faculty members were not the only ones provoking sensitive conversations.

“I want to know why everyone thinks the First Amendment would not pass in today’s government,” said Julie Walker, intern at FIU-MDC Wesley, a Methodist student ministry of both FIU and Miami-Dade College.

Walker asked question after question provoking a rich conversation, while Vice Provost Moll, Murdoch and Christos dominated the conversation.

“If we have freedom of speech, why do we have to have a designated free speech area on campus?” asked Walker. Moll insisted the entire campus is a free speech zone.

“If now you want to protest, we have a designated area by the flag pole,” Moll said. “Everyone has the right to protest, but we must do it in a way that allows everything else to continue as planned.”

The roundtables, which take place Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. in WUC 159, set a stage for a conversational debate among all levels of faculty and students.

WEEK OF WELCOME

Weekend AT THE BAY

GUATEMALA
Colom calls Menchu ‘a fabrication’

A newly leaked U.S. diplomatic cable says Guatemalan President Alvaro Colom described Nobel Peace Prize laureate Rigo- berta Menchu as a “fabrication” of a French anthropologist.

MEXICO
Hospital announced near capital

Partners in Health, a Boston-based organization, and Haitian health officials have announced plans for a $15 million teaching hospital north of the earthquake-battered capital.

First roundtable was a first amendment discussion

上周三的圆桌会议第一学期的首场圆桌会议在Biscayne Bay校区举行。上周五，学生和教职员工有机会在一个开放的论坛中讨论当前事件。

Vice Provost Steven Moll，曾是FIU-MDC Wesley的实习生，以及五名学生是讨论的参与者，讨论的焦点是“命名自由”。

在讨论中，参与者的身份涵盖了学生和教职员工，讨论的主题包括言论自由、宗教自由、反战等。

学生Lelieka Murdoch对公共关系专业的学生表示质疑：“它太模糊了，我可以看到每个人对它有不同的理解。”

Moll提出的观点是，媒体在呈现不同问题的方式上有所不同。

“我们把车祸视为事故，所以我们不为士兵的伤亡感到愤怒。”她说道。

教师成员并不是唯一被激发出敏感话题的人。

“I want to know why everyone thinks the First Amendment would not pass in today’s government,” said Julie Walker, an intern at FIU-MDC Wesley, a Methodist student ministry of both FIU and Miami-Dade College.

Walker问了一个又一个问题，引发了丰富的讨论，而Vice Provost Moll，Murdoch和Christos主导了这次讨论。

“If we have freedom of speech, why do we have to have a designated free speech area on campus?” asked Walker. Moll坚持全体校园是言论自由区。

“If now you want to protest, we have a designated area by the flag pole,” Moll said. “Everyone has the right to protest, but we must do it in a way that allows everything else to continue as planned.”

这些圆桌会议定于每个星期二在WUC 159举行，为全校师生提供了一个对话的平台，讨论范围包括学术、社会和政治等各个方面。

WEEK OF WELCOME

Welcome back to a lovely Spring semester, but most importantly to another session of Impromptu.

This bi-weekly column allows you, the average student reader, to hear about the underground musical events around our own city.

Events ranging from indie rockers, jazz beatniks, and hip-hop socialists lie right under our noses, so let me plan your weekend while you freakishly hit the books.

This issue kicks off with a new location that showcases local bands. Burdert, a downtown lounge, showcases ArtOfficial Saturday, Jan. 21 at 11 p.m.

Funk/jazz infused ArtOfficial even questions themselves, “What does a live band with two emcees sound like?”

All the Miami-based jazz members - Danny Perez on keys, Manny Patino on drums, Ralf Valencia on bass, and Keith Cooper on saxophone - are infused with hip-hop vocals. Newwave and Logics are the remnants of two previous bands, groove-based Defonce, and the hip-hop crew Soul-What. Imagine The Roots but with a jazzier edge to grasp exactly what this band is ready to offer you.

ArtOfficial has shared the stage with N.E.R.D., Pharaoh Monch, and even participated in the 2007 Rock The Bells festival headlined by both Wu Tang Clan and Nas.

In 2008, losing by a high-pitched whistle, the group was shy of the grand prize to perform at Lollapalooza Musical Festival featuring Radiohead and Rage Against The Machine, but came back hard to win the 2009 Florida Grammy Showcase.

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