Study shows Facebook can lead to lower GPA

ANALIA FIESTAS
Staff Writer

With wall posts and comments, tagged pictures, “poking” wars and birthday calendars, what began as an entertaining social networking website, is becoming a threat to the grade point average of many of its college users.

A recent pilot study by Ohio State University, presented at the American Education Research Association, has demonstrated that college students who have a Facebook account spend less time studying, and consequently, have a lower grade point average than the students who do not have a profile on the popular website.

Here at Florida International University, for example, students can be seen checking their Facebook profiles on their laptops or smart phones as they sit through class lectures, instead of paying close attention to what the professors explain.

“Facebook has some positive things, but I don’t think it should be done in class. However, if students want to waste their college dollar, and if that is their priority, that’s okay. People can make their own choices,” said Psychology Professor William Berry.

Berry believes that there is an “addictive aspect” to Facebook for some students that they “just can’t seem to get away from.”

“They check it compulsively,” said Berry. "I think maybe that is one of the reasons why students that have any sort of online network—whether it be Facebook, Twitter, Tumbler, or whatever—are getting lower grades. Technology is a distraction."

The results of the conducted study revealed that students who have a Facebook account have grade point averages ranging from 3.0-3.5. On the other hand, the students that do not have a profile on Facebook have grade point averages ranging from 3.5-4.0.

“I think that Facebook is extremely time consuming. It is logical to think that because students are spending time on Facebook, instead of working on an assignment, their grades will drop,” said Frances Gray, an English professor.

The study also concluded that Facebook users study about five hours a week, while non-Facebook users study about fifteen hours per week.

“I do believe Facebook causes students to study less because instead of doing their work, they log onto Facebook and they procrastinate,” said senior, Jessica Alchosst.

Accutane use can lead to harsh side effects

CHERYL MALONE
Contributing Writer

When Krystal Elizalde first began using Accutane to treat her cystic acne more than 10 years ago, she was willing to endure the harshest of side effects to clear her stubborn blemishes.

With lips beginning to peel to raw skin, lip balm was a quick solution to one side effect that lasted a few months until treatment was complete.

Elizalde’s skin would be perfectly clear for several years. But Elizalde is an exceptional patient, having mild, temporary side effects to Accutane.

Many other patients are not as lucky, with side effects including Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Cushing’s Disease, Lupus, Pancreatitis, emotional abnormalities, including depression and suicidal thoughts and birth defects while both using and after taking Accutane, according to the Food and Drug Administration’s listed side effects.

“At my age now, in the near future I do want to have children and I don’t want to have any sign of Accutane in my system,” Elizalde said.

With potentially fatal side effects and a fear for personal health by many patients, Accutane is still administered and advocated by dermatologists nationwide.

Roche Holding AG, the manufacturer of Accutane, is facing approximately 5,000 personal injury lawsuits with potential damage awards in excess of $33 million.

Isotretinoin, the key ingredient in Accutane, is normally administered to patients for a 15-20 week period. Before a female patient can begin treatment, the patient must first complete an isotretinoin Pregnancy Prevention Program form, or “iPLEDGE,” in which the patient agrees to use two forms of birth control while on Accutane, including the completion of a pregnancy test with negative results.

The urgency for pregnancy prevention is due to possible birth defects of the newborn, including “abnormalities of the face, eyes, ears, skull, central nervous system, cardiovascular system and thymus and parathyroid glands,” as listed on the Accutane iPLEDGE packet.

Elvira Velez, health administration director of Florida International University’s Health Services, refers students with severe acne to Jackson Memorial Hospital, where Accutane may be a treatment option. Due to the administration process of being prescribed Accutane and the close attention that follows its usage, a dermatologist is essential.

The patient must also undergo blood work...
Some students not satisfied with Biscayne Bay courses

The students who do have a Facebook profile,” argued freshman, Kelly Mayorga.

However, more than three quarters of those surveyed in the study claimed Facebook does nothing to interfere with their academic lives. Here at the University, some students also disagree. “I have a Facebook, and I do socialize online, but my GPA is above a 3.5. I do not comprehend how Face- book could be the reason why students are getting lower grades. How about the students that do not own a Facebook, and yet, have lower grades than the students who have a Facebook profile?”

If students have an online class, they are even more tempted to be on Facebook, “It was economically driven,” Moll said. “If you’re going to move a really huge money resources to locate it up here. If you move a smaller program up here, it doesn’t cost as much.”

Ultimately it comes down to a philosophical decision – is it better to offer upper level classes for nearly all majors at both campuses, or consolidate and offer different majors at each campus? To this point, the FIU administration has clearly chosen the latter. It is cost-efficient.

For students like Ustariz, it certainly was not Facebook, when there are more exciting things to do such as partying, hanging out with friends or even sleeping, said Llagas.

According to Aryn Kremen, a psychology professor in education at OSU and co-author of the study, although the study did not prove that Facebook use leads to lower grades and less studying, it confirmed that there is a solid relationship between Facebook usage and lower grades.

“May be that if it wasn’t for Facebook, some students would still find other ways to avoid studying, and would still get lower grades. But perhaps the lower GPAs could actually be there, because students are spending too much time socializing online,” declared Karpinski.

Moll believes that technology could be the solution to some students, the extra $200 fee for each online course makes it a challenging option.

“I can’t pay an extra $500 to take three classes online instead,” Ustariz said. “Even if I could, only two of my classes are offered online, so it doesn’t make sense to come all the way up here for one class.”

For students like Ustariz, it appears as though the trend to go to Facebook is one that they will have to continue to make if they are passionate about any of the Biscayne courses.

“We certainly don’t want to encourage students not to use Facebook,” said Moll.

“University students divided on the ‘Facebook effect’

To be honest, I do it too. I actually admit that Facebook is a major distraction to college students.”

Ivan Garcia, a non- Facebook user, agrees that Facebook can be addictive enough to affect someone’s academic performance.

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Wright’s late layup leads FIU past Troy

Jackson Wolek Staff Writer

DeJuan Wright’s layup with seven seconds to go in overtime brought FIU a thrilling 81-80 victory that finally ended their six-game losing streak on Feb. 3 at Troy.

In a game that brought upon all the intensity and emotion you could ask for, they almost gave it up as they are so accustomed to doing in close games this year. This time, they were able to preserve and grab their fourth win in conference play and second win on the road.

“I liked the intensity of the game and the way both teams were competing. No one was giving an inch and fortunately we were able to come out with the victory,” said Coach Thomas.

The first half the Trojans jumped out to a 9-0 lead over FIU just three minutes into action. The Golden Panthers would answer right back with a run of their own, as they scored 13 unanswered points to get a 15-11 lead at 3:11 remaining in the half.

They held Troy scoreless for five straight minutes thanks to their zone and press defense that gave the Trojans fits. Also, they were able to get leading scorer for the Trojans, Will Weathers, out of the game for early foul trouble and force him to sit out a majority of the first half.

At the end of the half, Domique Ferguson would get an easy dunk at the buzzer off a great pass from Phil Gary to give FIU the slight 33-34 lead.

The second half would go back and forth just like the first half, as the intensity of the game started to pick up as both teams battled against each other for each possession.

With the game tied at 72-72 and 54 seconds to go, both teams would finally reach their boiling points.

A mini skirmish broke out near the FIU bench when Gary missed a three and there was a battle for the loose ball. During the exchange, Eric Frederick, who was on the bench at the time, was involved.

The Sun Belt officials threw Frederick out of the game for leaving the bench. When it was all said and done, the Golden Panthers ended up with the ball after a jump ball was called with the possession arrow in their favor.

They could not take advantage of the opportunity of having the ball with 22 seconds left and the shot clock off and Jeremy Allen turned the ball right back over to Troy when he got called with a five-second violation while trying to inbound the ball.

The Trojans let the clock dwindle all the way down until three seconds when Gary committed a foul by tripping up Weathers. Luckily, they were not in the bonus at the time and did not send him to the line, where the Trojans were 14-15 on the night. They would then force Troy into a bad shot off the inbound, and proceeded to overtime.

In the overtime period, FIU would take control first by going on a 7-3 run to start out. At 1:27 left on the clock and Wright at the foul line with FIU up 79-75, it seemed as though they had the game won right there.

They would miss though and Troy would come back and take the lead as they went on a run of their own.

Then, with ten seconds to go and FIU down by one, they would have a chance to inbound the ball again, this time succeeding in doing so.

Wright came of a pick set by Gary and went right down the lane as Phil Taylor gave him the ball to put it in with seven seconds on the clock.

“Coach drew up the play during the timeout so I knew I was going to be rolling back to the basket and Phil Taylor gave me a good pass and position to make the shot,” explained Wright on his late game heroics.

Five Panthers scored in double figures, and Gary led the way with 21 points, due in large part to making five of seven from beyond the arc.

They were in a zone so I was just trying to take what the defense gave me,” said Gary.

He’s fresh off a Big East championship and looking to get some more,” said Cristobal, during his National Signing Day party.

It’s the first time in FIU history that the team has hired a coordinator from a Bowl Championship Series (BCS) school.

Orlando, a Pittsburgh native, spent 12 seasons at the University of Connecticut, where his defense was ranked 48th in the nation, good enough to conquer the Big East and earn a bid to the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

He’ll try to improve a defense that was ranked first in the Sun Belt Conference in total defense and scoring defense.

While at UConn, Orlando faced numerous amounts of teams that ran the spread offense, according to Cristobal, is a key reason why he was hired.

Hilton may play defense

During that press conference Cristobal entertained the idea of possibly playing wide receiver T.Y. Hilton on both sides of the field. In fact, Cristobal considered having Hilton on defense during the previous season.

“We thought about doing it with T.Y. [Hilton] this past year, but creating a package instead of having a whole package on offense and an entire package on defense,” Cristobal said. “I’m comfortable as long as they can handle it.”

Hilton, who already plays offense and special teams, caught five touchdowns as a receiver and ran for four touchdowns on the ground. Hilton also ran two kick returns back for a score.

“If a guy can handle it, then you’re recruiting some pretty special guys,” Cristobal said.

According to Cristobal, if Hilton does in fact play defense, he would be positioned at corner back. Hilton would only see the field on limited formations.

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Hilton could play defensive back next year

FOOTBALL, page 3

as well,” Cristobal said. “Definitely somewhere where he can run stride for stride with a guy. Hilton has had some experience at cornerback. While at Miami Springs high school, Hilton was a dual-threat player, playing offense and defense. Hilton played defensive back in his high school career. Despite standing at 5-10, 183 pounds, Cristobal claims he’s got the size to play both sides.

“T.Y. is a very strong individual. Don’t let his stature fool you. He’ll get in that weight room and put 290 pounds on the bar and power plant it in a snap,” Cristobal said.

NO COMBINE INVITATIONS

Despite having two Golden Panthers participate in collegiate all-star games (Anthony Gaitor and Brad Serini), none were selected to partake in the 2011 NFL Scouting Combine.

Five players from the Sun Belt were chosen to participate in the combine, but none were selected from FIU.

Rival school FAU, surprisingly, had three players selected to participate. Quarterly back Jeff Van Camp, tight end Robert Housler and wide receiver Lester Jean were among the players selected. Troy’s Jerrel Jernigan and Drek Newton out of Arkansas State were the other Sun Belt players chosen.

The scouting combine is on Feb. 24-31, in Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN.

SPRING DATES

According to Cristobal, the school has announced the spring practice schedule. Practices begin on Mar. 3, leading up to the annual spring game on April 1.

ING MARATHON

Students compete in annual downtown event

ANDRES LEON

Staff Writer

What started as a small idea in 2003, the ING Miami marathon has become Miami’s largest and, with over 15,000 companies and corporations funding the marathon, has become a key charity and athletic event in South Florida.

The event this year, which took place on Jan. 30, drew over 21,000 competitors, including a number of FIU students such as running enthusiast Andres Iglesias, who enjoys these types of marathon events and tries to get involved in any way he can.

“It’s a great experience getting involved, and even your if not interested in running, you can volunteer to help set up an event and all the other promotions that go along with it,” Iglesias said.

For Iglesias, it was the third time he had ran in the marathon although this year was the first time he took a shot at the full marathon. He believes that the FIU community should be more involved with running in marathons and being more active on campus.

“It would be great if FIU students can start a marathon group or club to participate in these types of community events in Miami,” Iglesias said.

It was an event that not only brought Miami together, but also people from around the nation and the globe.

Over 100 different countries were represented in the race, which also had at least one participant from each state in the U.S. Over 20 disease-based charity groups were represented as well and close to 100 Para-athletes came out to display their athleticism.

These athletes rode speed bikes propelled not by their feet but, by their hands. Diseases like autism, cancer, leukemia, breast cancer, lupus, and even HIV were represented in the 2010 Miami marathon.

Being active in the community is important for many who participate in the race, especially for student Andres Wu, who has ran in the annual event for the past several years.

“I do it for self motivation and to help the different causes. It keeps me active in shape.” Wu said.

“The half marathon I did the last couple of years is only 13.1 miles and I run in track in high school so I needed to step up this year and I ran the full Miami marathon.”

The full Miami Marathon is 26.2 miles and starts in downtown Miami. The course continues through Miami Beach and crosses over back to north downtown.

“The half marathon stops once you cross back into downtown Miami while the full is little more challenging, taking participants halfway into Key Biscayne by going up the Rickenbacker causeway. Then it doubles back through Coconut Grove as well as some of the northern beaches of Coral Gables.

At the end you finish at the same finish line as the half runners on Biscayne Boulevar right by the American Airlines Arena and Bayside mall.

TODD ORLANDO

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The reserves were selected in voting by the head coaches in each conference, who had to vote for two forwards, two guards, and a center and two players regardless of position.

Rajon Rondo, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen will accompany Boston Celtics teammate Kevin Garnett, who equaled Jerry West, Shaquille O’Neal and Karl Malone by being selected for the 14th straight year.

The other East reserves along with Bose are All-Star forwards Paul Pierce, Joe Johnson and Al Horford.

For the West, the reserves are Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili of the NBA-leading San Antonio Spurs; forwards Dirk Nowitzki of Dallas and Pau Gasol of the Los Angeles Lakers; and guards Deron Williams of Utah and Russell Westbrook of Oklahoma City, who joins Blake Griffin of the Los Angeles Clippers as the lone first-time selections.

The game is Feb. 20 at Los Angeles.

“It was a great honor,” Bose said. “But it was ironic that I’m in Miami in a long time ago.”

Bose was dealing with some lingering aftereffects of a high left ankle sprain sustained last month, and half-kiddingly talked about the notion that Celtics coach Doc Rivers who will lead the East side, and just so happens to coach the team Miami is playing in the conference standings T’Co might want to play the Heat trio for major minutes with hopes of wearing them down.

It won’t happen that way. In fact, even though Bose’s ankle perhaps could use some time off, the rest of him is thrilled to be All-Star bound.

“He feels good right now at this point of the year?” Spoelstra asked. “We have a lot of guys that are banged up… He’s good enough to play. Is he 100 percent? No, but he doesn’t want to miss any games right now.”

and Brad Serini), none of them were selected to partake in the 2011 NFL Scouting Combine.

TODD ORLANDO

No YouTube campaign. No lobbying for a spot.

This year, Chris Bosh let his numbers do the talking for his All-Star candidacy. And the voters listened.

Bosh is heading back to the All-Star game, named to Eastern Conference reserve and giving the Miami Heat along with starters Dwyane Wade and LeBron James three players in the league’s annual midseason showcase for the first time.

There was some speculation about whether Bosh would merit the All-Star nod, but the Heat power forward never worried.

“Once I set my mind to something, it’s there for me,” Bosh said Thursday night after the Heat beat the Orlando Magic 104-100.

“Anybody else in my position, they would have been raving and raving about my numbers.

Bosh will enter Friday’s game at Charlotte averaging 18.4 points and 8.1 rebounds, numbers easily worth All-Star consideration.

But his value to the Heat, who were just the third team in the league to hit the 35-win mark this season, goes far deeper than what shows up on stat sheets. To hear coach Erik Spoelstra tell it, James may be the league’s reigning MVP, but Bosh is perhaps more critical to Miami.

“He’s having a very efficient year and he’s playing on one of the winningest teams in the league and he’s had a major impact,” Spoelstra said. “You have to look to play the Heat trio for All-Star-bound.

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Collections on display in warehouse

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

Judging from the banal surroundings, a warehouse is among the last places you’d expect to find one of the most diverse, vintage and contemporary art collections in the South Florida area.

The Margulies Collection at the Warehouse is located on NW 27th St., near Downtown Miami.

It opened to the public in 1999 with Katherine Hinds as curator and holds works from Martin Z. Margulies’ ever-expanding collection. It is a place that promotes debate among visitors and fosters an appreciation of art.

The space offers a mixture of both new and old artworks, varying between sculptures, installations, videos, paintings, drawings, photographs and videos. Innovation and creativity resonate from within the warehouse.

A “warehouse in such a way was an interesting take on a gallery set-up. Everything paid mind to detail, from where and how it was placed to what it was placed next to,” says Khafla Salazar, a junior and Philosophy major who recently visited the collection. “You really don’t realize how much work is put in installing artworks because it becomes part of your world. Part of what you’re walking into. To me, that’s what makes an amazing exhibit.”

Between an alleyway lies a mirrored room with an Emerald City feel and twist. Constructed to take up the whole space, Mirror Alleyway features elevated walls, vivid green color and strategic mirror placement lining the walls. The goal was to impede basic human instinct to look at one’s reflection in the mirror. Even the tallest among visitors had a hard time catching a glance.

“In my case, my first instinct was to jump so I could see myself. It was a subconscious sort of thing. I didn’t really question it once I did it and that’s where the ingenuity of the piece comes in,” said Salazar. “By surrounding you and making it difficult to see yourself, it propels you to become part of the work by interacting with it. Once our tour guide told us so, it all made sense. It was pretty amazing.”

Currently included are the exhibitions Africa, featuring over 250 photography and video pieces by artists such as Peter Friedl, David Goldblatt and Kenndell Geers, and Contemporary Paintings 1980-2010, with selections that include Vincent Desiderio, Oliver Dorfer, Jonathan Meese, Tal R, Christian Eckart, John Torreano, Massimo Antonacci and Fabian Marcaccio. This will be the first time the Margulies collection will be exhibiting paintings. “Some of which have been in storage since we acquired the works, others of which we have added to the collection recently. One of the works is a gigantic 30’ dipthych from 1999 by the American painter Vincent Desiderio, which has never been seen since it was exhibited at the Denver Art Museum in 1990,” said Hinds in a press release.

Also featured are Jene Highstein’s Large Stone Carvings, Brian Alfred’s Digital Animation and Michelangelo Pistoletto’s Broken Mirror Painting.

The Margulies Collection at the Warehouse is free to students with a valid ID. Tours are available by appointment, and visiting hours are every Wednesday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

“I loved ‘L’Hospice’ by Gilles Barbier. This piece stood out the most to me. It portrayed American superheroes in a retirement home, age and their trade having taken a toll on their physical appearance. I have always loved comics, and it was cool to see how someone perceived these characters from an outside perspective,” said Salazar.

VIRTUOSO

Senior Michael Maniolfi, an environmental studies major, plays the Native American flute to entertain no one in particular. Maniolfi has been playing the flute for less than two years and was exposed to it through traditional Native American ceremonies.

Fashion Finds

One for One: TOMS do more than provide comfort

When I first saw one of my friends wearing TOMS shoes, I thought she was hungover and accidentally put on her grandma’s slippers.

Then she told me the message behind TOMS and the idea of a shoe that gives parts of what you’re walking into. To me, that’s what makes an amazing exhibit.”

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Currently included are the exhibitions A...
WHEN:
WHERE: BBC
WHEN: Renaissance Week!
First event of the Harlem nearby community college and very passionate about pursuing a music career.
He was 23-years-old, enrolled at a local college hangout we had gone to city's nightlife opportunities. I spent a lot of my free time exploring the power of Facebook. If you've never exper-
}
Egyptian uprising elicits global impact

The world economy is becoming more integrated and it is impossible to insulate ourselves from what is happening in Egypt and the rest of the world.

The economic impact of Egypt’s political turmoil should not be underestimated or ignored by investors and agents of the world. The current revolutionary uprising taking place in Egypt should trigger severe concerns about the already unstable global economy, which is going to be further destabilized.

Revoluting against the government and the act of protesting is like the flu—highly contagious. The contagion is already spreading across the region to Yemen, Jordan, Algeria and others. All of these nations are members of the global economy and, more importantly, are in the Middle East, where the majority of the world’s oil supply is located. Unstable governments in these countries mean an unstable Middle East. That is detrimental for both the Middle East and the world economy.

Mubarak made a statement on Egyptian State television announcing that he does not intend to run in September’s presidential election. No one knows who is going to win the mayoral contest. Although, his recently chosen vice president, Mr. Suleiman, has a stranglehold of the government does not fall apart altogether.

Under the Mubarak government, Egypt has been a strategic ally of the United States and other Western countries. If Mubarak is no longer in power, his replacement—except for Suleiman—can and may change the direction of Egyptian politics to a negative way. Obviously, this will have an impact on the world economy.

An indisputable impact is the rise in the price of oil. In fact, we are currently witnessing an increase in oil prices. According to The Washington Post, “The price of oil rose to $92.19 on Monday [Jan. 31, 2011], its highest level since October 2008.” This increase should come as a warning for everyone: the economy is going to be further suffered from these current political turmoil.

Although Egypt is not a major oil exporter, a disruption in oil delivery through the Suez Canal will cause gas prices to rise. The 120 mile canal is the key connector between Europe and Asia. According to the U.S. Energy Department. “Every day about 2.5 million barrels of oil — about 3.6 percent of the world’s crude production — moves through the Suez Canal or by overland pipelines in Egypt.” So far, the canal has remained open. However, I think that every nation should be concerned that the canal may be blocked, which will affect global trade.

Disruptions in shipping along the Suez Canal impact goods, too. Goods from Asia are shipped around the world via the Suez Canal. If the canal is closed to shipping, alternative, more expensive routes are going to have to be considered. Eventually, these costs will be passed on to consumers around the world. The combination of higher energy prices, plus higher prices for goods, will stifle the already depressed worldwide economy.

The world economy is becoming more integrated and it is impossible to insulate ourselves from what is happening in Egypt and the rest of the world. Citizens of the world should be concerned.

Econ with Neda is a weekly economics column. To submit story ideas, email neda.ghomeshi@fiu.edu.
A not-so-Common lecture will take place this week

DEBORAH SOUVERAIN
Staff Writer

"I met this girl, when I was 10 years old, and what I loved most, she had so much soul," are lyrics from Chicago-Born rapper Common’s critically acclaimed single “I used to love HER.”

It is an ode to hip-hop expressing his disappointment in the path that hip-hop had taken in the late 1980s and early 1990s during the fall of conscious rap, brought on by the rise of gangsta rap.

Two-time Grammy award winning hip-hop artist Common is scheduled to discuss “The Effects of Hip-Hop on American Society” on Feb. 9, 2011, on the Biscayne Bay Campus, as part of the ongoing Lecture Series coordinated by the Biscayne Bay Campus’ Student Government Council.

The discussion on hip-hop and its effect on American society will be held in the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms, on Wednesday, Feb. 9. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the event will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The event is free for students, faculty, staff and Alumni Association members, but seats are limited. It is encouraged tickets are picked up prior to the event. As of Feb. 1, over 300 tickets were given out at BBC and only three tickets remained at MMC. For non-FIU members, tickets are being sold for $5 pre-sale and $10 at the door.

As one of the most popular faces of the dwindling, less mainstream, sector of hip-hop referred to as “conscious rap,” Common rose from his roots in underground hip-hop to becoming one of the most beloved artists in hip-hop.