Japan teach-in discusses quake aftermath

Gabriel Arrarás
News Director

A panel of multidisciplinary experts came together March 23 to discuss the catastrophic events in Japan and the country’s road to recovery.

Hosted by the School of International and Public Affairs and co-sponsored by the Asian Studies Program, the Japan teach-in was held in the Graham Center Ballrooms at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

First panelist to speak was Professor Dean Whitman of the Department of Earth and Environmental Science, who provided audience members with a look at the magnitude 9.0 earthquake which struck off the Northeast coast of Japan. One aspect Whitman found interesting was the 7.2 foreshock which preceded the 9.0 quake on March 9.

“Not all earthquakes are preceded by foreshocks, so it can’t be used as a way to predict earthquakes,” Whitman told a nearly full crowd at the GC Ballrooms.

The 9.0 earthquake which struck the Tohoku region of Japan, is the fourth largest earthquake in recorded history, which spans from 1900 until present. The largest earthquake on record was the 9.5 magnitude Chile earthquake, followed by the 9.2 magnitude earthquake which struck Alaska in 1964.

Whitman refers to these three earthquakes, and the two others which exceed 9.0 magnitudes as the “major workhorses of geologic work on the earth.”

“Those five earthquakes of magnitude 9.0 or greater constitute over one half of all seismic energy released that has occurred over those 100 years,” said Whitman.

According to Whitman, Japan is no stranger to earthquakes, having experienced 27 different events of magnitude 7.5 or greater. Whitman also spoke about the aftershocks affecting Japan since the March 11 earthquake. Since the earthquake, there have been over 600 aftershocks, some exceeding over 4.5 in magnitude.

As of the latest estimates made by Japan’s national police, over 8,649 people across eighteen prefectures have been confirmed dead. Police officials also said they had still not accounted for around 13,262 people, many of which they fear to be dead.

JAPAN, page 2

New Student Media leaders announced

Joel Delgado
Sports Director

The University’s Student Media Board recently appointed the positions for the next editor in chief of The Beacon, FIUSM.com editor, and Radiate FM general manager.

Alexandra Camejo, the current assistant news director, was chosen for the position of editor in chief, while Gabriel Arrarás, existing news director, was tapped as the next FIUSM.com Editor. Sean Gonzalez will continue to serve as the radio station’s general manager.

Both Camejo and Arrarás will begin their duties in their respective positions in May after the current semester comes to an end.

The board, which ultimately made the decision, is made up of various members of local media and FIU faculty and staff.

“I’m very happy that the board had the confidence in me to take the job,” Camejo said. “The fact that I’m going to be able to take on the next level in the months ahead.”

Camejo will succeed Jorge Valero, the current editor in chief, whom is graduating at the end of this semester.

As FIUSM.com editor, Arrarás will oversee the FIU Student Media website, and take over for David Barrios, whom has held the position for the last year. Barrios supervised the launching of the websites latest version in May 2010.

“There is a lot I’m looking forward to,” Arrarás said. “I’ve seen the site go through growing pains and there are a lot of good things coming for FIUSM that I believe students will appreciate.”

Gonzalez, who has been with Radiate FM since 2007, will remain in the top spot at Radiate FM after the station was considered among the top 25 finalists for the country’s top radio stations in the 2011 mvU/Woodie Awards.

“I appreciate them choosing me again and I look forward to extending some of the great things that Radiate FM has been able to do in the last year,” Gonzalez said.

Gabor Kedves
Sports Director
Gov. Scott puts Florida’s public hospitals in crosshairs

JAPAN, page 1

Estimated damage for crisis projected close to $300 billion

Albert Dotson to leave position after serving two years

TRUSTEES, page 1

stations in the market while WAQI-AM and WQBA-AM rank number one and two among the AM stations. Pug is also Board Member to the City of Miami’s Art and Entertainment Council.

Armas, 52, is the chief executive officer and president of MCCi Group Holdings LLC, a family of medical centers that includes 33 modern facilities serving 50,000 patients throughout the South Florida region. Armas is appointed for a term beginning March 22, 2011, and ending January 6, 2016. He succeeds Albert Maury, who was appointed as a trustee by the Board of Governors in January and continues serving on the University’s Board of Trustees.

De La Vega, 56, is the founder and owner of ONE Sotheby International Realty, a high-end luxury property real estate firm. Founded two years ago, ONE Sotheby’s International Realty has quickly expanded to include four offices throughout South Florida with more than 200 full-time agents. De La Vega, whose profile consists of prestigious clientele, has formed partnerships with the Sotheby’s brand in Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Russia, Peru and soon Panama, expanding her portfolio to an international arena. Leaving his position after two years, Dotson, chairman and CEO of Taxpayer funded Hospital Districts, was appointed as a trustee by the Board of Trustees.

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Albert Dotson to leave position after serving two years

The Beacon - Friday, March 25, 2011

Gov. Rick Scott, who made millions running a private hospital company, took aim Wednesday at Florida’s public hospitals.

The Republican governor, a potential newcomer elected in November, signed an executive order creating the seven-member Commission on Review of Taxpayer Funded Hospital Districts to determine if it’s in the public’s best interest to continue having government-operated hospitals. The order says many taxing authorities in Florida and other states have sold or leased hospitals to private interests and that some facilities have thrived “while continuing to serve the poor at consistent levels and returning millions of dollars to the taxpayers.” Florida has 30 active public hospital districts.

Scott has given the commission until Jan. 1, 2012 to submit findings and recommendations to him and legislative leaders.

The governor writes in the order that he’s found little correlation between uncompensated admissions and emergency room visits and the amount of money public hospitals receive from the state’s Medicaid Low Income Pool to provide those services to the poor.

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FOOTBALL

Carroll, Medlock share snaps in spring practice

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

On the first day back to practice since spring break, and the annual spring game looming ahead, the Golden Panthers came out without missing a beat.

The practice consisted much of situational play with offense versus defense in first down, second down and third down scenarios. Jake Medlock and returning starter Wesley Carroll took most of the snaps and Willis Wright, who had limited playing time last year, looked impressive at the wide receiver spot.

Despite having taken off a week for spring break, the team did not look lackadaisical at all.

“It’s very hard having the week off and then coming back into it, but we picked it up with the fast tempo so we did well,” said T.Y Hilton.

Also, there has been no change in attitude from last year since they won their first bowl game in the fast tempo so we did well,” said T.Y Hilton.

“We have to find 22 guys on each side of the ball and 22 guys on special teams that will help us win,” Cristobal said. “The guys on our special teams have to find who will help us win the championship.”

The 25 freshmen and walk-ons that come later in the year will be added in the equation, but right now spring is all about what they have with them at the present time.

“Thank God we have four of them right here on campus who have done a good job and they’re all going to play,” Cristobal said.

“They have all proven there all going to play for us and play significant roles and potentially start.

One of the most difficult aspects that the team must get used to, specially the defense is our new defensive coordinator Todd Orlando’s playbook.

“I’m sure some things will look similar but some things will look very different as well,” said Cristobal.

“The best thing about it is that we’ve thrown a bunch of the new stuff at them over the course of the last 8 practices and they’ve picked it up very well, there haven’t been many mental busts and that’s a good sign because that means they have a very good football IQ.

Cristobal’s plan is to throw as much as they can from the playbook at his team the next four or five days in preparation for the Blue vs. Gold game, but will not use all the plays in the actual scrimmage.

The game will take place on Saturday, April 2 at 10:30 a.m. at the FIU football stadium. Admission is free, and the players and coaches will also be receiving SBC championship rings.

TENNIS

Liset Brito has emerged as a leader for the Golden Panthers

BRANDON WISE
Staff Writer

Liset Brito is a competitor with an ability to dominate her opponents with a slick ease.

But do not let that fool you; she is a humble and quiet person on and off the court.

Brito has played tennis since she was seven years old. She has loved and always enjoyed playing the sport. When she came to FIU in 2006, she struggled early on.

“When coach [Applebaum Dall’au] came in at first, everyone was very skeptical of her because she is young,” Brito said. “I didn’t care though. To me, as long as she could handle the job and manage the team, it wouldn’t bother me. We have a mutual respect between us that is great. There is no fear of confrontation between us. I can talk to her about anything.”

Coach Applebaum Dall’au has led the team to a 9-5 record on the season, winning eight matches in a row after starting 1-5 against top-ranked opponents.

The team is undefeated at home (8-0) and against Sun Belt opponents (6-0).

While coach Applebaum Dall’au has been a leader of the team, Brito has been considered the team captain.

“I have a great relationship with the team, but I am nobody’s best friend,” Brito said.

“In the tough moments, I know that they will listen to me, trust me, and follow me. It is what I have worked on for the past four years and it is a great feeling to have.”

While she is a leader and a great player, her future is uncertain as to where she is going from here.

“I am studying Recreation and Sports Management, but don’t ask me what I’m going to do after,” Brito said jokingly.

“I love sports and will definitely be trying to stay in it as long as I can.”

As for her career after tennis, that is just up in the air.

“I know that I would like to play some opens here in Florida, but I do not think I have any real desire to pursue a career in it,” Brito said.

“I don’t feel that energy to keep playing and working out. I am a little bit tired of the sun, I’d like to do something indoors with air conditioning, but you never know.”

She does love the sport with a passion and desire that will probably never go away.

“I love tennis and feel so comfortable on the court,” Brito said. “Teaching is something I think I could do. Teaching kids about tennis would be a great thing I think I can do.”

LISA JOHNSON
HONORED

LISA JOHNSON won Sun Belt Player of the Week honors on March 23 for her outstanding play last week.

Johnson went undefeated against opponents from North Texas and South Alabama. She also picked up two victories with her doubles partner Rita Maisak in the doubles portion against those same teams.

Brito has been a tenacious foe for opponents, winning her past four singles.

LISA JOHNSON is the Sun Belt Women’s Tennis Athlete of the Week.
Behar homer not enough to overcome early road deficit

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers looked to bounce back against North Florida after dropping a conference opening series to Florida Atlantic University.

Things did not turn out well for FIU as they dropped the game, losing 6-3 to the North Florida Ospreys on March 22.

The Ospreys took an early two-run lead on the Golden Panthers.

With an early walk and allowing two hits to put runners on the corners, freshman Mike Ellis took the loss for the Golden Panthers. Ellis pitched in the second inning after allowing five runs on five hits.

Logan Dodds, Jose Velasquez and D.J. Swatscheno relieved Ellis and between the three of them, they only allowed one run in a little over five innings pitched.

After a single from right fielder Tyler Marisco in the third inning,شعورت أن النتيجة ستكون في صالحنا. Marisco led off with fly ball that was caught at right field. Marisco went on to score on the sacrifice fly. The Ospreys continued to pour on runs throughout the inning.

After being walked, left-fielder Alex Bacon stole second, threatening to score. The Ospreys second baseman, Shane Kennedy, hit a ball deep into center field not only bringing Bacon home for the run, but earning the triple and putting himself in a scoring position.

On the very next play, designated hitter Andrew Hannon hit a single to bring Kennedy home to give North Florida a comfortable 5-0 lead over the Golden Panthers.

With the bats cold, FIU had to dig deep to find runs. In the sixth inning, Golden Panthers catcher Jose Behar hit his first home run of the season with two runners on base to give FIU some offensive presence and put them back in the game.

But just as quickly, North Florida scored in the bottom of the sixth to make it a three-run game, making it harder for FIU to achieve a comeback.

As the ninth inning got underway, the Golden Panthers attempted to rally back. After an early Pablo Bermudez single, Garret Wettles reached first off a fielder’s choice. With runners on the corners, FIU looked poised to shock the home crowd.

Off a costly out, Martinez reached first on a fielder’s choice only for Wittels to be snatched out to end the game. Tomeny Organ earned the win for North Florida (11-10).

FIU (13-9) will be coming home to continue conference play in a three-game series against Western Kentucky beginning on March 25. Game time is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Softball

FIU returns to Sun Belt play on road

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

At this point of the season, the Golden Panthers have grown accustomed to difficult road match-ups. This week will be another test as the Golden Panthers head to Waco, Texas to face-off against No. 15 Baylor in a doubleheader on March 24.

TOUGH SCHEDULE

The Golden Panthers have played 24 games against teams outside of the Sun Belt Conference compiling a 12-12 record against such teams. Thursday will also be the third time that FIU will face a ranked opponent this season.

The Golden Panthers are 2-1 vs. ranked teams with wins over Georgia Tech twice, and a loss to Ohio State.

After last Wednesday’s win over Middle Tennessee, coach Beth Torina spoke about the early difficulties her team has had this season.

“Our schedule has been tough and this week will be a good test for us,” Torina said. “I hope as we get into conference play and we face [teams] that are more like us, we will be able to go out and win [games].”

STREAKING ALONG

FIU is on a four-game winning streak after their sweep of MTSU. Kayser went 4-0-8 in the series versus MTSU and is on a six-game hitting streak. She’s currently batting .373 average with a .758 slugging percentage.

Jenn Gniadek and Mariah Dawson continue to be a solid one-two punch on the hill for FIU. Both have combined for 145 total strikeouts and both are holding opposing batters under .265 for the season. Gniadek and Dawson must pitch well to keep the Golden Panthers in both games.

SCOUTING THE BEARS

The Bears enter Thursday’s game against FIU with a 24-4 record. Whitney Canon anchors their pitching staff with a 12-3 record and an impressive ERA of 0.70.

Opposing teams are hitting .166 as she also leads the Bears in strikeouts with 131. Canon can also swing the bat as well as pitch. She has a .357 batting average.

Pitchers Liz Paul and Courtney Repka round out Baylor’s staff. Both have an ERA under two runs per outing. Paul and Repka have opposing batting averages of .195 and .224 respectively.

Offensively the Bears have six batters with an average over .300. Danil Leal leads the Bears with seven home runs, 17 runs batted in and a .596 slugging percentage. Holly Hall’s .373 average leads the Bears lineup.

COMMON FOES

Baylor has played against two teams that the Golden Panthers have also played against this season. New Mexico and Illinois. The Bears defeated the Fighting Illini twice and swept the Lobos in a three-game series last month. The Bears outscoored Illinois and New Mexico by 21-5 over five games. On the other hand, the Golden Panthers went 0-3 against both teams.

Miami Dolphins

Sparano stresses need to upgrade running back spot

MIAMI DOLPHINS

AP STAFF
Associated Press

Miami Dolphins coach Tony Sparano said Tuesday that his team needs to add a running back to upgrade an offense that finished second last to scoring in the AFC last season.

Such an addition likely will come from the outside. That’s because although running backs Ronnie Brown and Ricky Williams could re-sign with the team after becoming unrestricted free agents, both probably won’t be in Dolphins uniforms this season.

Brown led Miami in rushing last season with 734 yards but averaged just 3.7 yards per carry and scored five touchdowns. Although Williams had a better average at 4.2 yards per carry, he gained only 673 yards and scored just two touchdowns.

“It’s going to be a position we’re going to have to address one way or another,” Sparano said Tuesday after the NFL owners meetings concluded. “You need two guys because it’s such a physical position. Ideally, you’d like them to complement each other and be a little different. In a perfect world, one guy would be a big, downhill runner and the other would be a speedy runner who can catch the ball off the backfield.”

Sparano said he’s also like to see more stability on the offensive line, which featured multiple combinations last season.

“That’s something I’d prefer to avoid,” he said. “We need guys to settle in and not have questions about what we want to do because we’re not satisfied with the level of play.”

An improved running game should make it easier for the Dolphins to pass downfield, which is another of Sparano’s priorities.

“Where we haven’t done it is down the field with big plays,” he said of the passing game. “We need to advance the ball down the field better. That’s something we’ve been working on this season.”

He said creativity and speed will be instrumental toward accomplishing that. Creativity will fall on new offensive coordinator Brian Dabol, the former Cleveland Browns offensive coordinator hired to replace Dan Henning.

The speed part of the equation comes from the quickest man on the roster, Sparano’s undrafted free agent that Sparano says “might be the fastest guy we have.”

He said the Dolphins will continue to run the football “because that’s my nature.”

“That might not be popular with everybody but that’s what I like to do,” he said. “When it comes time to open some things up, I think we’ll be able to do some more things and challenge them. I think we’re going to be a little more vertical.”

Sparano continued their road trip at North Florida for a two-game series. FIU returns home on March 25 to begin a three-game series against Western Kentucky.
Students awarded cash prize in essay contest

ESRA ERDOGAN
Photo Editor

FIU Libraries awarded five freshmen for their participation in the Common Reading Essay Contest on March 22 during a reception for the finalists.

Every year, the library works with professors and students in their First Year Experience classes to promote the contest. The subject matter for the essay was the assigned novel “A Chant To Soothe Wild Elephants” by Jaed Coffin. First prize winner Jose Perez’s essay, a communications major, was titled “What are the right answers?” and discussed Coffin’s search for his own identity in the novel.

His essay was chosen by the University’s Common Reading Program committee because he demonstrated excellent writing skill and engaged the reader. Perez won a $200 award. The second and third place winners were Reilly Perez and Jeannette Bouda respectively, who also won cash prizes. Honorable mentions went to Ciro Trombeta and Shurrun Daniel.

“This contest is a great way for the FIU community to collaborate and it showcases the excellent writing skills of FIU students,” says Documents Library Lori Driver.

Visit our web site for more content, including the contest’s winning essay.

www.FIUSM.com

Jeannette Bouda (left) was the third place winner in the Common Reading Essay Contest hosted by FIU Libraries.

Katy Corrigan, a business librarian, admires Bouda’s work at the winner’s reception on March 22.
AT&T buy-out receives criticism from other carriers

Few things surprise me these days, but hearing that AT&T is moving to purchase competitor T-Mobile for $39 billion just blew me away.

The implications of this deal will have a lasting effect on the mobile industry here in the United States, and it’s not a good one.

T-Mobile would be the third largest mobile carrier in the US after this deal, AT&T/T-Mobile, or AT&T&T, and Verizon would lead the pack in users with Sprint trailing at a sort of distant third. Under them would be Metro PCS, Leap, Light Squared and other regional providers like US Cellular.

Since it began under the VoiceStream moniker, T-Mobile has always been the network of refuge for mobile phone users who value the reliability of a major carrier but the prices of a pay-as-you-go.

T-Mobile wasn’t the greatest option when it came to quality, but the phone selection was good, the customer service was decent, and you could place a phone call if you wanted to.

At the same time, T-Mobile’s size and market position allowed it to do a little. It was the first carrier to accept locked devices without a fee, including welcoming jail broken iPhone users over with open arms.

The company has experimented with VoIP and had a strong push to Google, who launched its first Android handset on the carrier and subsequently stuck with them through the Nexus S.

With AT&T’s move comes a bit of worry. If this deal goes through, there will be a complete monopoly over GSM service in the States. That means if you want a phone with a portable SIM card and overseas capability, AT&T is your only option.

Though that soon might change with Verizon, AT&T and even Sprint are planning on transitioning to Long Term Evolution technology. AT&T Mobile’s CEO Ralph De La Vega told AllThingsD that this move would actually help competition and continue benefiting customers but I disagree. Sprint, the nation’s third largest mobile carrier, delivered a sharp comment criticizing the deal.

“A combined AT&T and T-Mobile would be almost three times the size of Sprint, the third largest wireless competitor,” said Sprint in a statement to Engadget. “If approved, the merger would result in a wireless industry dominated overwhelmingly by two vertically-integrated companies that control almost 80% of the US wireless post-paid market…”

This move reeks of AT&T rebuilding its monopoly of yore, this time in the booming mobile market. Something that GigaOM’s Om Malik thinks is a losing scenario for everyone involved, especially consumers.

“The biggest losers of this deal are going to be the consumers. While AT&T and T-Mobile are going to try to spin it as a good deal to combine wireless spectrum assets, the fact is, T-Mobile USA is now out of the market,” he said.

It is clear that the Department of Justice and the Federal Communications Commission need to step up to the plate here and do one of two things: kill the deal or impose some serious conditions.

Should the deal go through, the FCC should mandate heavy conditions to ensure that the mobile market in the US stays competitive and should take advantage of their position and implement restrictions to ensure net neutrality in mobile.

AT&T wouldn’t risk the move if they didn’t think that they had a chance. So what’s the world to do when AT&T will rule the GSM bands? Verizon needs to do something or they are doing it. They are poised to steal some customers from this deal and should capitalize whenever possible.

Sprint needs to be the new T-Mobile. They need to take risks with the services that they provide and provide them at a reasonable cost to the consumer. In the past few years, Sprint has really tuned their image around by offering customers flexible rates, great handsets and technology selections that go far above what their competitors offer.

Though the carrier’s statement makes them sound worried, they shouldn’t be. Sprint can be the last hope for users who want the support of a major carrier but without the price of those major carriers.

*Futurists of Tech* is a weekly column on all things technology.
University must cultivate HIV prevention education

BROOKLYN MIDDLETON
Staff Writer

HIV/AIDS is a disease without borders. The collective understanding of HIV/AIDS and the demographics that the disease affects is shortsighted and flawed. It is essential to focus in more on the topic and look at the issue of race in regards to both prevention and healthcare for those infected. The disparities in diagnosis between races are stark. The need to promote understanding about the impact of HIV/AIDS on the masses, minorities and women in particular, is integral to eradicating this disease.

Among the myriad of statistics supporting the link between race and higher rates of HIV/AIDS, there is one staggering fact that is peculiarly concerning. According to Care Resource, an organization that seeks to promote understanding of HIV/AIDS and prevention, African Americans, while only accounting for 20 percent of the total population of Miami Dade county, comprise 51.5 percent of AIDS cases. This is a disproportionately high statistic and there need be social analysis as to why African Americans are suffering so much more from this disease. Furthermore, Care Resource reports that 77 percent of pediatric cases of AIDS were African-American children, the AIDS rate for African American women was double that of White women, and lastly, it is the leading cause of death for African American women between the ages of 25 to 44 and the third leading cause of death among African American men in the same age group.

The reason why African Americans are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS, as presented and explained by Avert, an international HIV/AIDS charity, points out that during the late 1980s African American media painted HIV/AIDS as a white, gay or bisexual man’s disease. The marginalization of African American men and women in the fight to prevent HIV/AIDS directly influenced and created an epidemic in the black community.

It is essential that an intellectual, compassionate environment surrounding HIV/AIDS education is cultivated at the University.

HIV/AIDS education is cultivated at the University and the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students in coalition with The Student National Medical Association is attempting to do just that. Jonathan Batson, president of MAPS writes, “We are interested in community involvement in the University’s Blue Print Student Union viewing the documentary ‘Out of Control: AIDS in Black America.’ This will be in AHC3-110 and would be from 7pm to 9pm.”

We recommend the student groups are attempting to cultivate a local environment of honest, inclusive HIV/AIDS prevention and research. With hope, this perspective of the movement that are, at the utmost, racially inclusive will transcend the University community and reach the Miami-Dade community at large.

Unemployment not a sign of laziness, can be advantageous

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

Unemployment has been a hot topic on campus as well as nationwide. The recession. Many people in the media and politics have a lot to say about the unemployment system and those taking advantage of it, but many times those words come from people who have not experienced a day of unemployment in their lives. It is infuriating to hear some individuals in the popular media actually insult fellow Americans simply because they have not found a job.

Popular media host and author, Glenn Beck, has been quoted saying that those who have been unemployed for more than two years “are un-American losers.” This doesn’t mean to insult to those who have been down on their luck in a tough time. Simply being unemployed does not equate to being lazy, socialist, un-American or anything else some individuals in the popular media insist upon.

Beck also states that those taking advantage of unemployment benefits are promoting socialism and wasting tax payer money, but this propaganda cannot be further from the truth. It is unethical for someone who claims to defend traditional American values to insult millions of Americans because of their economic situation. Attacks on the middle and lower class from upper class Americans simply promote a division of classes in our society.

There is a plethora of reasons why one would choose to remain on unemployment benefits. Many times, those benefits can amount to more than a minimum wage or part-time job that a potential employee may be qualified for. There will always be those who say “Any job is better than no job,” but sacrificing unemployment benefits for a minimum wage or part-time job can result in even less money coming into a household.

In a society based completely on how much money one has, one cannot be blamed for taking the option that will provide them with more of it.

KELLY MALALMIRI
Staff Writer

Not all speech is free in the realms of Facebook, Twitter and similar forms of social media. The consequences of posting questionable content by way of social media can be devastating to one’s reputation, and career. Students and professionals should be more wary of what is being posted under their name in social media, as questionable content will be scrutinized and can be made punishable.

According to the New York Times, trainee accountant Paul Chambers recently learned this the hard way. As he angrily “tweeted” in reference to Robin Hood Airport in the United Kingdom, stating: “You’ve got a week to get your [expletive] together, otherwise I’m blowing the airport sky high!” In consequence of posting such a hostile statement, Chambers was fined $4,800. Although his followers and free speech advocates rallied in his defense, Chambers’ defenses were to be reprimanded.

Social media users must realize menacing content, even when posted in jest, can have serious consequences. Since there is no way for one to hear a person’s tone of voice or intentions through their social media, all threats should be addressed in the same manner, rhetorical or not. Such threats can and should be punished by way of fines or, in more serious cases, hard time.

Threatening content is not the only type of material of which users of social media should refrain from posting. Any content that may damage one’s reputation should be avoided, as it is available for viewing by all. As reported by The New York Times, a recent survey found that 80 percent of college universities examine a student’s online activity, since the site is posted on the worldwide web for all to see, and in no way intrusive. While universities and employers should keep in mind that students and employees do have personal lives, they also should examine all aspects of a candidate’s personality, and rightfully expect professionalism from future prospects. Users must accept that information posted on these sites can be viewed by anyone at anytime, and should “tweet” or post to them accordingly by utilizing privacy features and simply refraining from posting outlandish content.

Universities and employers have the right to examine one’s social media exposure before accepting them into their establishment. Because content posted on social media sites is just a Google search away, students and professionals should be aware that whatever they would like to remain private to themselves, as it can and should result in serious consequences if it proves to be threatening.
Candidate brings SGA experience from China

MELODY REGALADO  
Staff Writer

Xin Zheng and Yiran “Jelly” Song, 2009 Hospitality Management majors, were both born in China and came to the United States in the fall 2010. Both have said that they love their experience on campus so far.

Zheng studied at the Tianjin University of Commerce before coming to FIU and is applying for a master’s degree in finance. “My career goal is to be a leader in a finance company,” he said.

He came to FIU to experience how foreign countries, particularly the U.S., operate and manage hotels and how to deal with interpersonal relationships.

Zheng likes numbers, computers and participating in sports, such as soccer and swimming, on his free time.

As a member of SGA, Zheng says he would “talk to students and collect the problems they meet in the college, pay attention to the students’ life in college to find out where they should be improved, then reflect these problems to the related departments to solve them as soon as possible.”

He was a member of SGA back in China and says he is an easygoing person who can handle relationships with others well.

“I’m from China, so the culture and the way people work are different. I want to be involved in the life and working environment here to gain more experience on my resume,” he said. “I’ll learn how to get along with people from different cultures and, on the other hand, I can also practice my English as well.”

He says that some of the biggest issues for students are professors, facilities, academic atmosphere, social environment and families.

“The professors are the most important part in the college and they decide the quality of teaching,” he said. “Good facilities make student feel comfortable in college and help them to study.”

He also said that a good academic atmosphere will help students focus on pursuing their academic goals, while their social environments and family life help to shape their decisions and their studying.

“I will try to get familiar with SGA and then help increase the influence of SGA among students,” he added. “I’ll do my best to work with others to achieve more achievements.”

He wants students to be able to freely talk to members of SGA or their professors about their concerns and feels that multimedia teaching will help improve the student experience.

“I enjoy the feeling of teamwork, and I think SGA is a big team where different departments work together to make plans and implement them,” he said.

Song, on the other hand, aspires to become the director of a hotel and hopes to someday own a bakery.

“I love the perfect food and comfortable rooms to relax,” she said about her love for hospitality.

Song loves Chinese food and reading and practicing yoga in her spare time.

As a member of SGA, she wants to learn more about how it works differently in the U.S. and help students who need guidance on campus.

“I want to learn the real American campus life,” she said. “I want to help the international students like me. When they just come to America, they need somebody help them.”

She feels qualified for this position because she is careful in doing things, patient and has the passion to do it.

Among the biggest issues affecting students, she feels, are quality of education, working opportunities, recreation, career planning and the language barrier.

“I will also help by encouraging international students to attend public activities to practice their English,” she said.

Another activity she suggests is having international students take a trip where they can open up about their experiences while practicing their English with others.

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One method she thinks would work well to address students’ concerns is to have baskets with notepads and pens where students can write down their feedback and encouraging them to participate.

If elected, she said she would take great pride in her role.

“I will try my best to accomplish my task. My goal is to improve the student’s life in the campus,” she said.

“I am a very careful student and I am good at dealing with numbers. I think SGA will never regret accepting me.”

FOODGASM

Simplicity of Italian sandwiches now appreciated as an adult

One of my favorite things to make and eat involves no cooking. It also involves one thing I could not stand as a child, inside another thing I would not eat. I’m not talking about broccoli in a salad.

In elementary school I would turn up my nose at all the kids eating their ham and cheese sandwiches at lunchtime. The concept of deli meat and cheese in between two slices of bread seemed like a sorry excuse for food to me. I could not stand cheese and would not eat sandwiches.

These days, my loathing of cheese has subsided, and sandwiches tend to tickle my fancy. basil and tomatoes with balsamic vinegar until it came to me in the form of a sandwich. All of these great things together inside of a loaf of crusty bread is incredible. I can’t remember when I first tried this sandwich before I ever tried it as a whole.

First, I was introduced to prosciutto. I could immediately dig it. Then, tomato slices with a sprinkle of salt and a drizzle of balsamic vinegar. That was delightful.

Later, a slice of fresh mozzarella and basil joined the tomato. Delicious.

So then I went on loving prosciutto, and tomatoes with fresh mozzarella, basil and balsamic vinegar until it came to me in the form of a sandwich. All of these great things together inside of a loaf of crusty bread is incredible. I can’t remember when I first tried this sandwich before I ever tried it as a whole.

If you have never tried this type of sandwich, I can tell you it’s a flavor orgy.

You have saltiness from the prosciutto, balanced out with creaminess from the mozzarella, sweetness of the juicy tomato, tartness of the balsamic vinegar, freshness of the aromatic basil, and crunch of the bread.

I’ve never been to Italy but I feel like I come close every time I eat this sandwich.