3-30-2011

The Beacon, March 30, 2011

Florida International University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper/615

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and University Archives at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon) by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.
**Student seeks unified world through poses**

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ  
Staff Editor

When thinking of ways to unify her world, Sara Conklin’s mind kept returning to the theme of Africa.

Conklin, a 21-year-old FIU student, had been assigned the world unity task as a project in her high school English literature course. Her teacher said to use a photo she took while vacationing with her family in New York City to create a template for the visual expression of happiness.

The pose was basic: “and a bit goofy,” she said, but since then, the activity in the picture has become known as “The Sara Pose.”

It has become very popular on the web as people all over replicate her pose, which is, in fact, quite simple: the subject of the photo stands in front of any landmark, back turned to the camera and arms stretched out in the air as if rejoicing.

“Anybody, anywhere in the world who speaks any language can look at that picture and just see that the person is sublimely happy,” Conklin said. “That person is so happy in that moment in time that they just want to freeze it. You don’t even have to see their face or their smile to know it.”

After the high school class assignment, the pose followed her through all her major high school events, including prom and graduation. The pose condoled the name “The Sara Pose” after Conklin’s friend picked up on her mission of uniting the world and wanted to share in the experience.

It all started with a Facebook album. Conklin created an album on the social media site chronicling her travels throughout her life where she got the chance to document the pose. The pose wasn’t just about a beautiful background to Conklin, it was about the significance of time and place. Friends would take a photo of them doing the pose and then tag Conklin’s name. Conklin would then take the photo and add it to her own album.

“The pose is so much more than a pretty background,” she said. “Wherever you take that picture, it doesn’t have to be in front of Mt. Kilimanjaro. It doesn’t have to be in front of the Eiffel Tower. It could be anywhere as long as it’s meaningful to the person in the picture.”

After high school, Conklin attended Boston University, where she studied directing in the university’s fine arts program. As an elective, she enrolled in a course in African Studies, focusing on a country she always wanted to learn more about.

“Ever since I was a little kid I wanted to go to Africa. I don’t know why,” she said. “I grew up in a community that didn’t teach me anything about Africa. It was just that one place I’ve always wanted to go to.”

Conklin got her first chance to visit Africa on an internship when she was just a sophomore in college and the experience changed her, she said.

The internship was with an organization called Support for International Change that takes volunteers to Tanzania to live in rural villages to educate people on HIV/AIDS prevention and to run mobile testing centers. The trip also gave her the opportunity to give back.

“We knew Sara was set out to help and care for others from an early age,” said Cheryl Conklin, Conklin’s mother. She also wasn’t surprised when Conklin decided to travel with the humanitarian group.

Conklin says she learned more from the villagers than she could have imagined teaching them. She even learned Swahili.

“We were living like real Tanzanians. It was what it was. I had to walk 10 minutes in the morning to get my water and then boil it. I loved it,” Conklin said.

**Science Café course now offered by Biology Department**

ANALIA FIESTAS  
Staff Writer

Attempting to attract non-science majors to the world of science, the Biology Department will now be offering a Science Café course. Headed by Ph.D. candidate Anya Goldina, this course is part of a new program within the Biology Department called “Quantifying Biology In the Classroom.”

“The QBIC takes multiple fields, such as biology, chemistry, physics, English and math, integrating them so that students can see how all these fields connect and have relevance to each other,” said Goldina.

Goldina feels that science is becoming more specialized with certain scientific terms that utilize complex interpretations of published findings. Scientific findings that have strong impacts on governmental policies, such as healthcare and energy bills, are often too difficult to interpret by the public. These findings can easily be misinterpreted, and the University’s Biology Department hopes that this new course can ease this confusion.

“Science Cafés” have been implemented in many countries such as England, Scotland, United States, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, Japan, Zambia and the Philippines.

“Science Café aims to lessen the gap in the public’s understanding of science and scientific research, and develop a culture of wanting to engage the non-scientist in talking about science with passion,” said Goldina.

As part of the QBIC program at the University, Dr. Ophelia Weeks and Dr. Martin Tracey, both professors in the Department of Biological Science, have developed a Science Café course.

“Dr. Ophelia Weeks was thinking of ways that she could challenge the science-major seniors to do something different and exciting with the material that they had been learning through their college career. This is how she came up with the Science Café idea,” said Goldina.

**Student demonstrates dedication, discipline in the ring**

CHRISTINA FLORES  
Contributing Writer

The arena erupted with cheers as the Brazilian-born super middle-weight boxer defeats his opponent in a unanimous decision at a crowded gym in Sao Paulo.

It was the 14th win for Michael Oliveira, 20-year-old physical therapy major at Florida International University, who has dubbed himself “The Chairman of the Ring.”

“My grandpa was a boxer,” Oliveira said. “With a glove size of 10 ounces, his footprints of his father and grandfather are in becoming a professional boxer.”

“Golden Gloves” have been learning through their college career.

His late grandfather, Joao Oliveira, was “The Brazilian Rocky” Oliveira, who has dubbed himself “The Chairman of the Board.”

The 20-year-old physical therapy major at Florida International University has 11 knockouts and no losses. His win last Friday night was against Ariel Adiel of Argentina, earning Oliveira the interim WBC Latino super-middleweight title.

With a glove size of 10 ounces, Oliveira is a force in the ring. Born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Oliveira’s lifelong passion and desire is to follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather in becoming a professional boxer.

“My grandpa was a boxer,” Oliveira said. “He and I would sit on his couch and watch the videotaped matches he had been in. I became obsessed. I started to love the sport and started to see myself in the ring more and more.”

His late grandfather, Joao Oliveira, was an amateur boxer in the military in Brazil. Oliveira’s brief amateur career began at the age of 17 and evolved into a profession within a year.

He attributes his success to his dedication and discipline. His daily workout routine consists of 6-hour days, including running, cardio, and strength training.

**BOXING, page 2**

**Science Café course now offered by Biology Department**

ANALIA FIESTAS  
Staff Writer

Attempting to attract non-science majors to the world of science, the Biology Department will now be offering a Science Café course. Headed by Ph.D. candidate Anya Goldina, this course is part of a new program within the Biology Department called “Quantifying Biology In the Classroom.”

“The QBIC takes multiple fields, such as biology, chemistry, physics, English and math, integrating them so that students can see how all these fields connect and have relevance to each other,” said Goldina.

Goldina feels that science is becoming more specialized with certain scientific terms that utilize complex interpretations of published findings. Scientific findings that have strong impacts on governmental policies, such as healthcare and energy bills, are often too difficult to interpret by the public. These findings can easily be misinterpreted, and the University’s Biology Department hopes that this new course can ease this confusion.

“Science Cafés” have been implemented in many countries such as England, Scotland, United States, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, Japan, Zambia and the Philippines.

“Science Café aims to lessen the gap in the public’s understanding of science and scientific research, and develop a culture of wanting to engage the non-scientist in talking about science with passion,” said Goldina.

As part of the QBIC program at the University, Dr. Ophelia Weeks and Dr. Martin Tracey, both professors in the Department of Biological Science, have developed a Science Café course.

“Dr. Ophelia Weeks was thinking of ways that she could challenge the science-major seniors to do something different and exciting with the material that they had been learning through their college career. This is how she came up with the Science Café idea,” said Goldina.

**SCIENCE, page 2**
**WEIRD NEWS**

‘OMG,’ and ‘LOL’ added to the dictionary

It’s difficult to avoid ‘OMG,’ and ‘LOL’ slip into our text messages and emails, but at least we can now excuse that by pointing out that these are in fact terms acknowledged by the authorities of the English language.

The experts at Oxford Dictionaries Online explain that the additions to the dictionary are “nontechnical” and even happen to be “found outside of electronic contexts.” How could they not add initialisms and words like this to the dictionary: ‘La la land,’ LOL, party-crashing, ‘OMG,’ and wassup.

‘That’s wassup’ with this month’s modifications of the Oxford English Dictionary. Let’s hope that next month brings us definitions for OMGWTF, LMAO, and KIT.

---

**CORRECTIONS**

In Vol. 22, Issue 29, the caption for the picture on the front page titled “Through the Wire” incorrectly attributes the artist’s work. The correct artist’s name is Karen Rivas.

Also in the same issue, the event discussed in the Article “Week dedicated to graduate students,” is Karen Rifas.

---

**Man dies trying to revive dead wife**

A man who called 911 to report that his wife had collapsed apparently suffered a heart attack and died as he was trying to revive her, authorities say.

The Clallam County sheriff’s office said when deputies and medics arrived eight minutes later on Wednesday night at the home near Joyce, they found the man slumped over her body. He apparently had been attempting CPR.

The deaths appear to be from natural causes and no crime is suspected, the Peninsula Daily News reported.

Sgt. John Keegan called the incident strange but said “usually events like this are not criminal” and that there was no foul play is suspected. “Usually events like this usually occur in the home,” Keegan said.

The Clallam County sheriff’s offi ce said when Wednesday night at the home near Joyce, they found the man slumped over her body. He apparently had been attempting CPR.

The deaths appear to be from natural causes and no crime is suspected, the Peninsula Daily News reported.

Sgt. John Keegan called the incident strange but said “usually events like this are not criminal” and that there was no foul play is suspected. “Usually events like this usually occur in the home,” Keegan said.

---

**Student boxer ranked tenth by USBA**

**BOXING, page 1**

sparring at the Normandy Gym on Miami Beach under the direction of his Cuban American trainer, Roberto Quesada.

“Fighting is the easiest part of boxing; training and self discipline are the hardest,” Oliveira said.

Oliveira is the youngest boxer in the middleweight division and is No. 10 in the United States Boxing Association ratings.

Twice (2009 and 2010), he’s been recognized as the Brazilian International Press Award’s Athlete of the Year.

Oliveira’s success is expected in his family. He lives with his immediate family in Miami.

His father, Carlos Eduardo Oliveira, is currently his manager and number one fan, and both of his brothers, Nick, 19, and Henrique, 16, are professional motorcycle racers.

His mother, Christina Degreese Oliveira, is the owner of a bathing suit company that has locations in Brazil, Greece and Italy. She is terrified of his profession and cries of fear during most of his fights.

Although his mother is fearful of injuries that may occur during his time in the ring, he says he has never been severely injured while on the job.

After he earns his degree from FIU, he hopes to open a combined boxing gym and physical therapy clinic in Miami and Brazil. He plans to box professionally for another five years.

Throughout his tenure at FIU, Oliveira has made many lifelong friends. Pablo Serp is Oliveira’s ‘big brother’ in his fraternity and has quickly become one of his closest friends.

“I went to Brazil in November for his last fight and it was such an incredible experience. I was able to live the life of a boxer for a week while I trained with Mike and kept up the best I could,” Serp says.

“Everything he does, he does 100 percent. Mike believes in the phrase ‘go big or go home’ and that is something I, as all of our brothers, admire about Mike.”

Oliveira leaves his opponents with a warning:

“If you think you can beat me, then you need to wake up and apologize.”

Christina Flores, a senior journalism major, produced this story in the JOU 3303 Advanced News Writing course taught by Dr. Fred Blastos.

---

**Course to attract non-science majors**

**SCIENCE, page 1**

As part of the courses, students create events geared at diverse, non-scientific audiences, to discuss various science topics in a fun, non-threatening manner.

“The course is new and it can still grow in many different ways. Right now we, students, are like guinea pigs. The persons in charge are trying a lot of different things with us to see what works best,” said senior and Biology major, Jasmin Qyym.

During the first three years of the QBIC program, biology majors learn to read and interpret research articles, while discussing scientifically complex ideas using information learned in their science, math and lab courses.

In their final year, seniors practice communi- cating scientifically complex concepts in an engaging, easy-to-understand manner to non-scientists.

“Scientific texts are usually very difficult for a non-scientist to comprehend. Sometimes even professors or graduate students need to reread the information to be able to understand it. This is exactly why the Science Café is so beneficial to everyone,” said Goldina.

This year, for example, seniors from the Science Café course have already scheduled three meetings. The meetings are open to the public and the audiences can range from elementary children to college students.

Science Cafes, as emphasized by Goldina, are primarily student organizations.

“The idea behind this class is for students to run it. The students decide what types of events they would like to hold, what topics they are interested in, and how they would like to obtain the public’s attention. I’m technically just there to facilitate the process, and help them with whatever they need,” said Goldina.

Goldina has found the course to already be a success at the University.

“We are having a lot of fun. We’re learning as we’re going and it’s not easy, but it is an amazing experience. As a teaching assistant, you picture things the way they should occur in the classroom, but sometimes things do not carry out the way you pictured them, and that is okay. We learn each and every day,” said Goldina.

Not only are the creators and teaching assistants of this course content with the result, but so are the students.

“I really like the course because it gives us a chance to apply everything we have learned throughout our four years in school. It also teaches us how to communi- cate in a simple way with the public about scien- tific matters,” said senior and Biology major, Giselle Perez.

All those involved are hoping that the Science Cafes continue to success- fully grow.

“This is their baby. This is what they’re responsible for. Through these Science Cafes, they’re living their own footprint on the world around them,” said Goldina.

---

**Friday, 3/1**

**Global Awareness Session, page 1**

Monday, 3/28

Scholarly Forum (posters and presentations); Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Health and Medicine Location: GC 243

Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Tuesday, 3/29

Scholarly Forum (posters and presentations); Social Science, Humanities, Law, Education Location: GC Ballrooms

Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Wednesday, 3/30

Graduate Student Resource Fair Location: Chapman Plaza

Time: 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

---

**Thursday, 3/31**

Recognition Reception (Scholarly Forum and UGS Provost Awards – by invite only)

Location: College of Law Atrium

Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

**GradSkeller @ Chiili’s Too, hosted by the Modern Languages GSO (MLGSO)**

Location: Chiili’s Too

Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

---
**SPORTS**

**MOVING FORWARD**

**SOFTBALL**

**Rojas blast sparks FIU in win**

MALCOM SHIELDS  
Staff Writer

After splitting the first two games in the weekend series against the Mean Green, the Golden Panthers jumped out to an early lead against North Texas and cruised to an 8-3 victory on March 27.

The Mean Green scored first in the bottom of the second inning, North Texas had runners on first and third with one out. Renee Bromley who reached base on a single stole second base. Short stop Kayla Burri allowed the runner from third base to score on an error, which gave North Texas a 1-0 lead.

The Golden Panthers took the lead back in the top of the third inning. With two outs, Ashley McClain was hit by a pitch and was followed by sophomore Brie Rojas, who crushed a two-run home run to center field on the first pitch she saw to give the Golden Panthers a 2-1 lead.

The Golden Panthers (17-15, 5-1 SBC) continued the pressure in the third inning, putting two more runners on with two outs. On a 0-2 pitch, Jessy Alfonso singled to right field scoring a run to extend the lead to 3-1. Beth Peller and McClain picked up RBI singles afterwards to push the lead to 5-1.

North Texas (14-17, 2-7 SBC) pitcher Brittany Simmons had a rough outing and after giving up a single to Burri in the fifth inning she was pulled. Simmons went four innings, surrendering seven hits and five earned runs and earned the loss.

Malory Cantler entered the game to pitch and FIU’s Jenny Welch doubled to right field and walked the next batter to load the bases.

After recording an out on a fielder’s choice, Cantler was called for an illegal pitch, which allowed a run to score. A sac fly by Alex Casals to center field scored the second run in the inning for the Golden Panthers.

The Golden Panthers added another run in the sixth inning to increase their lead to 5-1. A sac fl y by Alex Casals to center field scored the second run in the inning for the Golden Panthers.

**Golden Panthers ready for FGCU**

MALCOM SHIELDS  
Staff Writer

After completing a difficult road trip through Texas, the Golden Panthers (17-15, 5-1 SBC) will take a short trip across the state to Fort Myers, to take on the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles in a double-header on March 30.

**SCOUTING FLORIDA GULF COAST**

The Eagles enter the mid-week series versus the Golden Panthers with a 19-17 overall record and riding a four game winning streak. Florida Gulf Coast has played a difficult non-conference schedule. The Eagles have played against three top 25 teams; No. 5 Florida, No. 7 Arizona State and No. 18 Oklahoma State, losing all three games.

The Eagles are led offensively by Platt, Mariah Fernandez and Britney Garabedian. Platt’s .389 batting average and .560 slugging percentage leads the Eagles. Fernandez leads the Eagles with 19 RBI. Garabedian leads the Eagles with 7 home runs.

In the circle, McDaniel anchors the pitching staff for coach David Deeters. McDaniel has an 8-8 record with a solid 1.73 ERA in 101.1 innings pitched this season. Her 233 opposing batting average leads the Eagles. Breaux and Sullivan round out the pitching staff for the Eagles. Sullivan is 3-3 with a 2.45 ERA, Breaux has a 6-5 record with a 3.61 ERA.

**LAST MEETING**

The Golden Panthers are 3-3 in the last six meetings against Florida Gulf Coast. Last season, FIU defeated the Eagles in two of the three games. The last time the Golden Panthers faced off against the Eagles in Fort Myers was in the 2009 season. The Eagles are ready for FGCU, page 4

**LONG RUN PROVIDES TIME TO PREPARE FOR FINAL STRETCH**

BRANDON WISE  
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers women’s tennis team, ranked No. 64 nationally, is coming off of a much-needed lay off. The team is now 9-5, having won eight matches in a row, beating up on all their conferences foes.

The team has had twelve days to get back to the practices, rest and fine-tune their game. The players were excited for the time off, but are looking forward to getting back on the court.

“It was not even a break for us,” Coach Melissa Applebaum Dall’au said. “It was a time to put in the hard work to make ourselves even better than we have been before.”

That would be a scary thought, as the team is already on an eight-match win streak heading into the final stretch of the season. Most of the team’s wins have come by a score of 7-0 or 6-1.

**STEPPING UP**

Players such as Liset Brito, ranked No. 81 in the nation, and Lisa Johnson have played key roles in the success of the team over the past few weeks. They have combined to win eleven of their last twelve singles matches.

Freshman Guillietta Boha has been able to hold her own. She has stepped up and won four of her last five matches this season.

“We worked on points and playing more matches for experience,” said Lisa Johnson on how the team used their time off. “We got used to different patterns and where to hit certain shots.”

The team has been preparing for their next opponents, the Florida Gulf Coast University Eagles, who are 9-6 on the season and have won five of their last six matches in pretty decisive fashion.

“Every team we play is always an opportunity for us,” Coach Applebaum Dall’au said. “This is another opportunity for us to go out there and prove what we can do at a high level.”

Lisa Johnson added: “I feel confident with my team. We still have room for improvement, but were getting along great as a team right now.”

**IMPROVED FITNESS**

A key focus of the team’s break between matches was fitness. The team has gotten the chance to get more cardio work and an overall physical fitness level rose and Coach Applebaum was pleased with what she saw.

“We’re constantly working on fitness. Getting even stronger and faster is a key to our success,” Coach Applebaum said. “Getting more aggressive is what we have to do to keep winning.”

Confidence will be a key for the rest of the season. If the team can keep playing at the level they are now, they believe the sky is the limit for the success they could have.

With the Sun Belt Conference tournament looming in the next few weeks, Coach Applebaum Dall’au said: “This is another opportunity for us to go out there and prove what we can do at a high level.”

Lisa Johnson added: “I feel confident with my team. We still have room for improvement, but were getting along great as a team right now.”

Lisa Johnson (right) takes a break during a Golden Panther home meeting. Johnson has been instrumental in FIU’s eight-game winning streak.

The team will host those Florida Gulf Coast University Eagles on Wednesday March 30 at 1 p.m.
In a game that came down to the final at bat, the Golden Panthers took on the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers. The game had its ups and downs for both teams but in the end, Pablo Bermudez’s tenth inning single was the difference as the Golden Panthers edged WKU 9-8.

The Panthers had their struggles early on, starting out down 5-0, but when in came to crunch time, the bats were nothing but clutch.

“That was a pretty wild one. When you’re down to your last strike twice and you go base hit, that’s a pretty good job,” Coach Turtle Thomas said of his team’s play Sunday. “They showed resolve and good resiliency.”

In the top of the third, the lead off man, Vasquez, drew a walk. Following two consecutive line outs, Western Kentucky’s Ivan Hartle tripled to center to bring home the first run of the game.

After surrendering the lead in the bottom of the third, catcher Joel Capote led off with a double to center. But later on he would be caught trying to steal third.

After Kes Carter led off the inning with a single to center, Ryan Behar then grounded to Dykes, but he could not come up with it. Yoandy Barroso then came up clutch. Down to his last strike, he singled up the middle to bring in another run.

Bermudez then came up with possibly his biggest hit of the year, singling right to bring home Behar.

“The only reason he isn’t throwing is because he plays shortstop.”

Bermudez knocked in game-winning run in extra innings

In the seventh, the Hilltoppers managed to load the bases against the Golden Panthers. This forced a pitching change for the Panthers. Mason McVay came on to pick up a huge strike out to shut down the Hilltoppers to keep it 5-3.

In the top of the eighth, Hartle drove a home run deep over the left field wall to make it a 6-3 ballgame. It was the first that McVay has allowed all season long.

The FIU bats came to life in the bottom of the inning, Mike Martinez and TJ Shantz led off with back-to-back singles. Then Jose Behar homered to left to tie game at 6-6.

“That was the first time all year [Behar] hasn’t hit 9th in the lineup. I’m glad he hit in that spot today,” Thomas said jokingly.

The game was extended into extra innings, where in the tenth, Garrett Wittels came on to pitch for the Golden Panthers. It was the first time all season that he had taken the mound.

“He’s a good pitcher,” Thomas said. “The only reason he isn’t throwing is because he plays shortstop.”

He worked himself into a jam though, loading the bases. Ryan Hock then singled into left and brought home a run. An error by David Vasquez then allowed another run to score to make it 8-6 in the tenth.

Down two runs heading into what would be the last inning, Pablo Bermudez knew he would have to come up big.

“I knew I was the sixth batter, so I knew that if we were going to win or lose the game, I would have to come up big,” Bermudez said. “I was mentally prepared and ready to handle that situation.”

In FIU’s last chance at the plate, the lead off man, Vasquez, drew a walk. Behar then grounded to Dykes, but he could not come up with it. Yoandy Barroso then came up clutch. Down to his last strike, he singled up the middle to make it 8-7.

Bermudez then came up with possibly his biggest hit of the year, singling right to bring home Behar.

“This is our biggest win of the year,” Coach Thomas said. “This was bigger than our win out at Texas A&M. This is the most proud of the team I have been all year long.”

Eagles won both games of doubleheader last season

WINNING HOMER

The Eagles won both games of a double header.

Last year, Kayla Burri, Ashley McClain and Brie Rojas, had success offensively for the Golden Panthers against Florida Gulf Coast. Burri went 5-for-11 with four RBI in three games against the Eagles. McClain went 5-for-10, while Rojas went 4-for-11 against the Eagles.

Pitcher Jenn Gniadek struggled against the Eagles. In her lone start she went 2,2 innings, giving up seven earned runs in the loss. McClain also saw time against the Eagles. She pitched two scoreless innings in her appearance.

The game ended on a flyout by Courtney Bradshaw.

Jenn Gniadek for the Golden Panthers kept the Mean Green lineup off balance for most of the game and pitched a complete game, allowing only four hits and one earned run to collect her sixth win of the season.
While Conklin was helping out in a rural village, her mother was concerned about the differences in the availability of modern technology.

"Fortunately, modern technology of the cell phone kept me in touch with her," Cheryl Conklin said. "That may have been what got me through those months of her being so far away—I don't know if I could have handled it if I had no knowledge of where she was or if she was OK. I feel Sara's work in Tanzania basically 'cemented' the direction in life she has chosen."

After rethinking her future in the arts, Conklin decided to transfer to FIU to study international relations. At FIU she was given the opportunity to learn more about other cultures and The SaraPose really took off, she said.

Darren Shillingford, a fellow FIU student working with her in the executive branch of FIU's student government, encouraged Conklin to take the photos from a small Facebook album to a website archiving people's photos and experiences.

"He took his own SaraPose photo during a visit home in the Dominican Republic with his best friend of 15 years. He noticed people's interest in the idea after many people standing nearby started inquiring about the pose."

Those who submitted photos to www.sara-pose.com are asked to write a description of the setting and importance of the moment. Conklin found that some of her favorites were not about the place, but the meaning behind it.

Anamaria Arias had her SaraPose photographed in front of a cathedral in Toledo, Spain while on vacation with her grandmother and dedicated it to her. She said the religious landmark was "a testament to the importance of the spirituality to mankind, and the greatness that can be achieved through tolerance."

SaraPose participants have taken photos of the pose during monumental events such as their graduation, prom or family vacations. Some have just taken the photo in a local attraction to remember the time spent there and who they were with.

Hollis Bulba, a junior at FIU, took her SaraPose photo on a spontaneous trip to Sequoia National Park in California.

"The whole trip was one big spur of the moment after the next and I got to see some of the biggest trees in the world," Bulba said. "My pose conveys a beautifully overwhelming sense of being consumed by something so much bigger than myself. I couldn't believe where I was."

Those moments move Conklin.

"Sometimes I'll cry reading [the personal stories] because it's so beautiful to know that people really take part of this project on their own initiative and they really just like the idea," Conklin said.

The motto for the project is "uniting the world." Shillingford said if anyone can do it, Conklin can.

"Sara has enough passion for the world to unite the hearts of everyone. She sees beauty in even the smallest moments, and that is what she is trying to emphasize in the poses," he said.

"I work with the International Student and Scholars Services at FIU. I have already begun spreading the word to FIU's international community. I know that in the upcoming months, Sara is going to have a lot more poses from around the world. I hope the word keeps spreading."

Conklin hopes for the photo series to grow beyond her group of friends and their friends. The project has yet to receive a photo from a complete stranger. To date, the pose has reached 20 countries and six continents. Conklin says she hopes to one day reach all seven because to her it means she'd have a piece of herself and her mission all over the world.

"The SaraPose is Sara's scrapbook of life so far," Cheryl Conklin said. "Sometimes I feel it is just the tip of the iceberg."

Adriana Rodriguez, a senior journalism major, produced this story in the JOU 3303 Advanced News Writing course taught by Dr. Fred Blevens.

catch the action!

Save 5% on qualified AT&T monthly wireless plans.

Make a fast break for the HTC Inspire™ 4G.

How do your favorites rank? Share your picks among friends and colleagues with the new HTC device and quality service from AT&T. Never miss a moment, while you talk and surf the web at the same time.

HTC Inspire™ 4G

• 4G speeds
• Android OS with Mobile Hotspot support
• 8 MP camera with 720p HD Video Recording
• Phone finder – locate lost phone and lock or wipe data from the device remotely
• 4.3” WVGA super LCD display

Get into the savings game.

Florida International University Students save today!

FAN Code 2396093
For a store near you visit: att.com/storeLocator/ or go to att.com/wiseless/goldenpanthers

Visit our web page to get your discount. Download the FIRST AT&T Code Scanner at http://scan.mobi or appropriate handheld app store.

Rethink Possible

© 2011 AT&T Intellectual Property. All rights reserved. AT&T, the AT&T logo and all other AT&T marks contained herein are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property and/or AT&T affiliated companies.
In a sea of sushi, Akashi’s ‘Alex #2’ roll reigns supreme

My friend Zeysha and I have what I’d like to call a “foodie bucket list,” a collection of foods and restaurants that I must try to visit before we’re six feet under. I am happy to report that we have crossed one item off our list.

For months, Zeysha and I have been scheming to try Akashi’s Japanese sushi place with a great reputation. We had our hearts set on the location near Sunset Plaza, but time and circumstance took us, along with our friend Carly, to their little-known second location, 3444 Main Highway, Coconut Grove. The main dining room at Akashi’s Coconut Grove location is the size of a postage stamp, so we decided to sit on their patio. Though it’s not much larger, it’s surrounded by a low wall of plants, offering some privacy as you step from the street and a bit more elbow room.

Our waitress, though a bit slow between the three of us, our bill was not bad at all. We ordered a side of the tempura crumbles from the menu, which, surprisingly, were fluffy, flavorful rice balls wrapped in tempura. The tempura crumbles were a much-appreciated addition to the meal. Even now, as I type this, I am craving the Alex #2 roll.

Zeysha decided to order a side of chicken fried rice along with her sushi. With one bite, I was pleasantly surprised to taste fluffy, flavorful rice and to find that it was piping hot and freshly made instead of sitting under a heat lamp. While delicious on its own, the flavor factor was enhanced when dipped in the accompanying teriyaki sauce. Between the slight kick from the wasabi and the savory flavors of the fish, one bite and I was in heaven.

The tempura crumbles were a much-appreciated addition to the meal. Even now, as I type this, I am craving the Alex #2 roll. When I mentioned Akashi to a friend who has been there, she immediately commanded to try the Alex #2 roll.

In a sea of sushi, Akashi’s ‘Alex #2’ roll reigns supreme.
Reminder system is a necessity

PAULO RAMOS
Staff Writer

Students at the University live a fast-paced life. While education is one of the most important factors of a person’s well-being, it is not the only important aspect, and this fact should be taken into consideration by professors.

If student success is a driving factor of educators, then it should be kept in mind when considering the amount of resources made available to students.

Educators should provide moderate guidance and consideration when considering supplements to a course. A simple solution to this predicament could be to implement some sort of reminder system that could help students manage the several aspects of their lives better.

The majority of students at the University are commuters, spending several hours a week just driving to and from school. Furthermore, other aspects of life take up these students’ time when they are not studying, ranging from mundane activities such as socializing and spending time with family to working at a job to make ends meet. If student success is a driving factor of educators, then it should be kept in mind when considering the amount of resources made available to students.

Jacqueline Choowong is a senior studying pharmacology, a considerably challenging subject with an intense course load. “To most professors, I’m just another student. What they don’t know is that I work over 30 hours a week at a pharmacy, to support my seven-year old son. It’s not easy managing my time, and I’ve definitely missed assignments because of it. A reminder system would definitely help me keep track of things and prioritize,” she said.

There are countless circumstances when time management may be problematic when it comes to the lives of most of the student body. Course load alone may prove to be difficult, especially to those who have to take on more than they can handle due to scholarship or graduation requirements. In short, sometimes students do not have a choice in taking on more than they can handle.

When it comes to the actual reminder system, utilities exist today so that little effort would be required to implement it. From Facebook notifications to bank statement texts and emails, it has been exhibited that alert systems can be entirely autonomous, only requiring initial input in order to be put into use.

The University has implemented similarly structured alert systems. Using Panthermail, information about events both on and off campus is relayed as well as information from several student organizations and administration.

With technology available, the only consideration required by educators would be to synchronize information such as due dates and reminders at the beginning of the year, and setting up a delivery schedule at the discretion of the professor using students University or personal emails.

There is no legitimate excuse for doing poorly at school because of poor time management. In theory, everybody attending university is expected to have all of the necessary tools required to succeed in their course. Whether students take advantage of these resources is entirely up to them.

Some courses at the University lack an online component; however, at the beginning of the semester, professors provide only an online reminder to a student with a syllabus. Generally, a syllabus provides all of the critical dates, including exam dates. As college students, we should not use the syllabus as a reference.

With today’s technology, there are multiple ways to keep track of one’s classes and events, such as the University email calendar, and smart phone application.

Students should manage their time effectively to ensure success.

Basically, there is no excuse for missing a deadline.

After earning a bachelor’s degree at the University, I should be prepared for the real world and assuming responsibilities. With no professor to remind me, it will be my responsibility to be prepared at all times. Realistically, my employer is not going to send me messages reminding me of an upcoming deadline. Students at the University are fortunate to be constantly reminded of upcoming deadlines; in fact, these reminders are a hindering factor of success. Mattio Romero, a junior studying Economics supports my point. He said, “I think that professors need to spend less time reminding us about our responsibilities.”

The University is primarily a commuter school. Many students have other responsibilities such as a job. However, earning an education should be a student’s main focus and working on other activities should not be used as an excuse to neglect school.

Christopher Patron, junior, is about to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in Finance and International Business and a full-time sales and service position for Bank of America. He believes that his professors provide all of the necessary information for him to do well in his classes. He said, “Most of my classes have a Blackboard component, too. I rarely miss an assignment because the syllabus is always available.”

These reminders are luxurious, not necessities. We are in college, one step away from the working world. It’s time to take on a new role and be prepared to do what is needed in order to be successful. Keeping track of one’s obligations and assignments is just a small part of the world we face.

Time management is a skill that should be developed throughout college. Students use lack of time as an excuse to neglect their responsibilities. It is not the professor’s responsibility to remind us of upcoming due dates; rather, it is the student’s responsibility to keep track of their own classes and obligations.

Charlie Sheen in need of help, not media attention

JORGE VALENS
Editor in Chief

Charlie Sheen has gone from the highest-paid television actor around to one of the most successful Internet movements since Dramatic Chipmunk or Sad Keanu Reeves. But where the Chipmunk and Sad Keanu were hilariously funny, one of his netcasts it was clear he is suffering from a major problem, a problem that everyone is ignoring for the sake of ratings, readers and entertainment.

Viewers, listeners and followers of Sheen’s media blitz seem to glue their eyes to the screen, desperate for any shred of entertainment. When Sheen registered his Twitter account, it broke the Guinness World Record for the time it took to reach a million followers, 25 hours. Currently, Sheen’s account lists 2,869,128 followers. His UStream broadcast brought in hundreds of thousands of viewers as well.

Sheen has been quoted in a similarly worded conclusion: “Charlie Sheen is f**king hilarious, man! Winning!”

The fact Sheen is not hilarious, man. Sure, he says stupid things that are funny but the man behind those words is a troubled man with a drug problem. He has people who care for him, kids who love him; he is a human being suffering from a disease.

“He’s an extraordinary man. He’s had cancer, how would we treat him? The disease of addiction is a form of cancer, and you have to have an equal amount of concern and love and lift him up, so that’s what we do for him,” said the actor’s father, Martin Sheen in a Feb. 211 interview with Daily News.

The mainstream American press and the people who market products and benefit from this man’s misery seem to forget that point. His way or another, he seems to be in the middle of a diagnosis and diagnosis or another, Charlie Sheen is a sick man,” said Jeff Jarvis, journalism professor at the City University of New York on his blog, Buzzmachine.com. “News people are ill-servicing him and the issue of mental illness in this country by putting him on the air as if he were just another source, another celebrity. They are not informing the public. They are exploiting (Sheen).”

Even at the University, we cannot escape Sheen’s reach. The University has recently released t-shirts with Sheen’s popular “winning” phrase on them, and have prominently displayed them on Athletics’ main website.

Is there anyone in the University’s attention-seeking marketing department that thought it would be a bad idea to associate the school’s image with an actor who is well-known for not acting properly towards drugs, alcohol and sexual abuse? As soon as I finish writing this piece, I am going to unfollow Sheen on Twitter and so should you. Sheen doesn’t need our attention; he needs help.
11 troops killed in Pakistan attack

Islamist militants ambushed a convoy of Pakistani troops traveling close to the Afghan border on Monday, killing 11 in an unusually bloody attack, a government official said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Carter visits Cuba amid dispute

Former President Jimmy Carter arrived in Cuba Monday to discuss economic policies and ways to improve Washington-Havana relations, which are even more tense than usual over the imprisonment of a U.S. contractor on the island.

Carter was scheduled to meet with Jewish leaders — suggesting that his visit will deal at least partly with the case of Alan Gross, who was arrested in December 2009 while working for Bethesda, Maryland-based Alternatives Inc. on a USAID-funded democracy-building project.

Gross has said he was trying to improve internet access for Cuba’s small Jewish community. Jewish leaders there, however, have denied working with him.

If “he is able to help Alan in any way while he is there, we will be extraordinarily grateful,” Gross’s wife Judy E. Gross said in statement over the weekend. “Our family is desperate for Alan to return home, after nearly 16 months in prison. We continue to hope and pray that the Cuban authorities will release him immediately on humanitarian grounds."

Cuba calls Gross a mercenary working on a program paid for by Washington that aimed to bring down Cuba’s socialist system, and it has presented him as evidence of U.S. intentions to unleash a "cyberwar" to destabilize the island.

U.S. officials say no rapprochement between the Cold War enemies is possible while Gross remains jailed.

Washington and Havana have had not formal diplomatic relations since the 1960s, and the United States maintains economic and financial sanctions on the island. Carter visited Cuba in May 2002 on a six-day tour during which he met with then-President Fidel Castro and criticized both Washington’s embargo and the lack of political pluralism on the island.

Associated Press Writer Andrea Rodriguez; in Havana contributed to this report.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dominican president hints at another run

The Dominican Republic’s president hinted Sunday that he might seek a third consecutive presidency, despite constitutional term limits that seem to bar such a move.

Leaders of President Leonel Fernandez’s party have been promoting his candidacy while lobbying for constitutional reform allowing Fernandez to restart the clock.

Fernandez, who is serving his second consecutive term, said he might seek a third consecutive term if all the logistic are successfully completed in the next few weeks, but according to Walcott, it is more likely that it will become a once-a-month event next semester.

Associated Press

Farmer’s market visits, surveys campus interest

Students buying fruits from the Brothers Farmer’s Market stand which was located outside of Panther Square.

The idea is to have it every month but we need more sponsors," said Lissette Munoz, manager of Brother’s Farmers Market.

Unlike Biscayne Bay Campus, the Modesto Maidique Campus has a fresh-fruit vending machine and a farmer’s market that operates weekly.

“I think eating well is very important,” said Andrea Moreno, a graduate student. “We should have the fresh market [at BBC] every month.”

The vendors from Brothers Farmer’s Market were enthusiastic about coming back to BBC.

“We were invited this time,” said Lissette Munoz, manager of Brothers Farmers Market, “but we’d love to come every month.”

At their stand, cantaloupes sold for $2, corn three for $1, two boxes of strawberries sold for $3 and honeydews for $3 each.

Brother’s Farmers Market additionally offers a variety of organic fruits and vegetables. They have two locations on BBC and one in Hollywood, but they also specialized in bringing their produce to fairs and events.

According to Munoz, the sales at BBC were more than decent for being their first time there.

The continuity of the event will be determined within the next few weeks, but according to Walcott, it is more likely that it will become a once-a-month event next semester if all the logistic are successfully completed.

Associated Press

PALESTINE

Abbas would give up US aid for unity

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is making a heavy push for reconciliation with Hamas and is willing to give up hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. aid if that’s what it takes to forge Palestinian unity.

Associated Press

PAKISTAN

President wavers on crackdown or compromise

Syrian President Bashar Assad wavered between cracking down and compromising to incite of the Mid-East’s most authoritarian and anti-Western nations as protesters in a southern city defied security forces.

 chunk of data points. Some of these points are: "Agriculture is the heart of the economy", "The country needs to diversify its economy", "Prospects for growth in the next five years are promising".

The Analysis

The data points suggest that while the economy faces challenges, there is potential for growth in the near future if certain reforms are implemented. The government should focus on diversifying the economy and attracting foreign investment to boost growth and create jobs.

In conclusion, the data suggests that the country faces a number of challenges, but there is potential for growth in the near future if certain reforms are implemented. The government should prioritize economic reform and diversification to create a more stable and prosperous future for the people. The analysis highlights the need for continued focus on economic development and social welfare programs to improve the well-being of the population.

The Analysis

The data points suggest that while the economy faces challenges, there is potential for growth in the near future if certain reforms are implemented. The government should focus on diversifying the economy and attracting foreign investment to boost growth and create jobs.

In conclusion, the data suggests that the country faces a number of challenges, but there is potential for growth in the near future if certain reforms are implemented. The government should prioritize economic reform and diversification to create a more stable and prosperous future for the people. The analysis highlights the need for continued focus on economic development and social welfare programs to improve the well-being of the population.

The Analysis

The data points suggest that while the economy faces challenges, there is potential for growth in the near future if certain reforms are implemented. The government should focus on diversifying the economy and attracting foreign investment to boost growth and create jobs.

In conclusion, the data suggests that the country faces a number of challenges, but there is potential for growth in the near future if certain reforms are implemented. The government should prioritize economic reform and diversification to create a more stable and prosperous future for the people. The analysis highlights the need for continued focus on economic development and social welfare programs to improve the well-being of the population.

The Analysis

The data points suggest that while the economy faces challenges, there is potential for growth in the near future if certain reforms are implemented. The government should focus on diversifying the economy and attracting foreign investment to boost growth and create jobs.

In conclusion, the data suggests that the country faces a number of challenges, but there is potential for growth in the near future if certain reforms are implemented. The government should prioritize economic reform and diversification to create a more stable and prosperous future for the people. The analysis highlights the need for continued focus on economic development and social welfare programs to improve the well-being of the population.