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Behind the names, students learn about culture

TIFFANY HUETAS Contributing Writer

At the University, the game is in the name. Indeed, all across the University, students, professors and staff are finding unique ways to link a rich reservoir of individual names to nationalities, regions, culture and ancestry.

In some countries, people have only one name — also called a mononym — and in other countries people have more than three names.

But the mix of cultures in the American family has changed dramatically in how the letters of the last name indicate the family to which they belong. To fathom that change and the universality of family names, consider the U.S. Census Bureau which now lists Rodriguez as one of the 10 most popular last names in America.

University professors try to embrace different last names in many unique ways. Magdad Noveli Pearson, Italian instructor in the Department of Modern Languages, focuses on teaching students about not only the history of Italy, but also the history of last names.

“The first day of class I give my students Italian first names. I asked them to choose, and if they don’t know any, I write a lot of names on the board,” Pearson said. “For the whole semester, it sticks with them.”

Pearson’s passion and consistency has had a positive outcome.

“At the beginning it’s awkward and they smile and laugh, but then after a while they love their name,” she said. “If I call them by their real name, they get upset.”

Students are given names ending in “e” — like Alice, Alice, Matteo, or Clemente.

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Magdad Noveli Pearson, Italian instructor
Department of Modern Languages

Due to the high demand for learning Chinese, the University has signed an agreement with the Chinese Ministry of Education to become one of the 41 U.S. testing centers for the Hany Shuiping Kaoshi test, which is required for university scholarships and employment decisions for foreign nationals in China.

University lecturer Yunjuan He said culture of being Chinese.

He also gives students a Chinese last name at the beginning of class.

“I will translate their last name into a Chinese last name. I just take the first syllable of their last name and find a similar pronunciation in Chinese,” she said. “In China, everyone carries their father’s last name.”

As China continues to expand its markets, many students have relied on learning the language and names, too.

In addition, social media sites have targeted consumers to find their family and friends through last names. Websites like Myspace, Facebook, Twitter and Ancestry.com are helping people search for their families faster and easier.

Matthew Deighton, spokesman for Ancestry.com, believes it is more than a social site.

“Ancestry.com changes lives,” Deighton said. “How you view yourself, where you come from can explain who you are.”

All universities in the state will have Carne-gie’s Community Engagement Classification.

Increase the number of freshmen in the SUS who were in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating from 28 percent to 59 percent.

Currently seven of the 11 universities, including FIU, have the certification, which is a national indicator of a public

SUS, page 2

COMING UP | Life!
Check out the last issue of the semester on Dec. 2 for a feature by Sylvia Simioni on what seniors wish they knew when they were freshmen.

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UN conference to deal with carbon reductions

The U.N.’s top climate official said Sunday she expects governments to make a long-delayed decision on whether industrial countries should make further commitments to reduce emissions of climate-changing greenhouse gases.

Amid fresh warnings of climate-related disasters in the future, delegates from about 190 countries were gathering in Durban for a two-week conference beginning Monday. They hope to break deadlocks on how to curb emissions of carbon dioxide and other pollutants.

Christiana Figueres, head of the U.N. climate secretariat, said the stakes for the negotiations are high, underscored by new scientific studies.

Under discussion was “nothing short of the most compelling energy, industrial, behavioral revolution that humanity has ever seen,” she said.

Hopes were scrapped for an overall treaty governing global carbon emissions after the collapse of talks at a climate summit in Copenhagen two years ago. The “big bang” approach has been replaced by incremental efforts to build new institutions to help shift the global economy from carbon-intensive energy generation, industries and transportation to more climate-friendly technologies.

NAME, page 1

For example, the last name Rodriguez comes from Spain, Cuba, Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia or China, according to Ancestry.com, and it derives from the Portuguese name Rodrigo.

Some people may wonder why someone would pay money monthly to Ancestry.com to find out their family tree, but for others, it’s simple.

US sees greater diversity in names

“From lawyer to entrepreneur,” she said. “A large part of her efforts are empowering individuals; she recently visited the University to spread knowledge of her main endeavor. Kuznetsova strives to be a good example, spreading the message of self-determination.

“My sister-in-law has used it before,” said University student Adriana Gamboa. “I think it’s a great resource. She was able to contact someone from our family and they even sent her a book that was related to her ancestor from Ireland.”

“The above goals and the rest, which are in the full plan available on the SUS’ website, are necessary to ‘demonstrate to the legislature and other stakeholders the board is meeting its constitutional obligations and responsibilities to oversee a coordinated and accountable [SUS],’” according to Parker and Martin.

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Jackson Coley dropped 30 points, five rebounds and six assists in a win on Nov. 28.

The FIU Panthers bounce back with win over CSU Bakersfield

**FOOTBALL**

Season filled with surprises, disappointments

The season’s done. The FIU Panthers just completed their most successful season of all time, yet they could not win the Sun Belt title. The team won eight games, one more than their record setter of the previous year, but somehow it feels hollow, like they left us wanting more.

Even with that, certain players broke out this year and some left us scratching our heads. Here’s a look at a few of those:

**SURPRISES**

Kedrick Rhodes, RB

Coming into the year, there were four possible running backs that could see their fair share of touches. It seemed that head coach Mario Cristobal would have been just fine with doing that too. The only problem is nobody told Kedrick Rhodes that. Rhodes broke out early against North Texas when he had 16 carries for 76 yards and two touchdowns. That was only scratching the surface. He finished his sophomore season with 1,164 yards and eight touchdowns.

Kedrick Rhodes (right) rushed for 1,121 yards and eight touchdowns, only 12 yards shy of the school single-season record.

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The next game will be at U.S. Century Bank Arena against Lynn University on Nov. 30 at 6 p.m.

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

Panthers bounce back with win over CSU Bakersfield

The Panthers took the largest lead of the first half on a Kamika Idom layup to lead of the first half on 11 turnovers as well.

The FIU Panthers (3-3) reached .500 for the first time this season, as were the 20 assists.

**COMMENTS**

“Don’t break a sweat,” said Hutlassa on the defense a little flustered, making it easier to score for all of us.”

With the win, FIU (3-3) reached .500 for the first time this season and avoided a second game losing streak.

“We want to have a winning season, we don’t just want to break .500,” said Russo. It’s been a tough schedule, we’re on the road for some tough games and I think we grew up a lot tonight because this team [CSUB] is a good team if you let them do what you want them to do,” said Russo.

The lead was short lived though, and CSUB fought back and was able to end the half down by only four, 40-36, with 11 points from Tyonna Ourlands. The lead was short lived though, and CSUB fought back and was able to end the half down by only four, 40-36, with 11 points from Tyonna Ourlands.

“We were trying to deny them the ball so they couldn’t catch it and our rotation was very important,” said Hutlassa on the teams defense.

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FOOTBALL, page 3

Perry failed to live up to expectations, Halley rises

he was second on the team with two interceptions and a forced fumble.
The future is very bright for this secondary. Think of how much better he can get with three more years in the program.

Justin Halley, DB

When the secondary took a major hit after Chuck Grace suffered a season ending injury, it left a void that needed to be filled. For much of the season, defensive coordinator Todd Orlando attempted many different combinations until he found one that stuck.

Enter Justin Halley against Troy. The Trojans had an opportunity to drive down the field and score with little time left on the clock. On a huge third down, Halley broke up a pass that would have given them a first down.

Then, against rival FAU, Halley led the defense with two huge interceptions. The redshirt freshman has earned his playing time late in the season and will make it an interesting decision for Orlando to make come next fall as to who is the starter at safety.

Honorable Mention: Wayne Times, WR, Offensive line, Jake Medlock, QB, Greg Hickman, LB

BUSTS:
Darriet Perry, RB

Last season, Perry was the offense’s go-to-guy around the goal line. He pounded in 16 touchdowns along with 865 yards. There was no reason for him not to have that same kind of year. However, he was outplayed at his own game. Rhodes does everything Perry does and more. Perry managed only 469 yards and six touchdowns in his final season with the Panthers.

As a captain, that is just a sad way to close out his career, especially when he is leaving as the all time leading rusher at FIU.

Jonathan Cyprien, DB

Another captain of the team that had a disappointing year, Jonathan Cyprien, did not live up to the expectations. While he did not have the same guys that he did last year around him, the junior was expected to lead a very young secondary to great performances.

The secondary was exposed early and gave up many big plays. Cyprien could not stop anything, and when the secondary started to get it going late in the year, it was everyone but him making plays.

Only getting one interception and one sack are hardly good enough from a captain.

Honorable Mention: Willis Wright, WR, Jose Cheeseborough, DB

With all that being said, Wesley Carroll had a much better year than expected.

Only throwing four interceptions is a great difference from the 14 last year. His season was up and down that it is hard to say whether it was a surprise or a bust.

I lean to surprise only because of how efficiently he threw the ball early in the year and then picked it up again towards the end.

If this team goes to a bowl game, it could surpass last year’s team as the best in FIU football history.

PANTHER POINTS
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FALL RAFFLE
DRAWING FOR
HDTVs, LAPTOPS,
IPADS & IPODS

FIRST 100
STUDENTS
RECEIVE A FREE
T-SHIRT & CHEER STICK.
Students paint shoes for The Art of Giving project

ESSY DE LA MONEDA
Staff Writer

Shoes were lined up by the dozen, all freshly painted. What started off as a community service project turned into an artistic token of goodwill for Haitian children in need.

Earlier this year, The Art of Giving was introduced to the University by the Art and Art History Department. The project’s main goal was to help unfortunate children in Haiti. The project prompted students to honor other cultures and to give back to the needy.

Professor Jacek J. Kolansinski presented TAG to the department in hopes of making an impact. When the project was presented to students in Kolansinski’s art thesis class, they were told to brainstorm on ideas that would serve a greater purpose.

Kolansinski brought up the idea of shoes, decorating them and sending them to the children in Haiti. The art students were thrilled with the idea.

“IT’s cool because the kids in Haiti don’t have much, and now we have a chance to give back,” said sophomore Monica Talavera.

When the project first began, it received support from more than just the art students. Many University students donated shoes to the cause, including the University’s Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Professor Gretchen Scharnagl, Kolansinski’s colleague and friend, heard about the project and decided she would like to be a part of it as well. She, along with her other two colleagues, Professors Katherine Smith and David Mendosa, incorporated the project into their Artistic Expression in a Global Society class by centralizing the class on the project and grading students on their participation in the project.

“This has been more than just an assignment. The students are so passionate about it. They always want to do more,” added Scharnagl.

The art students supply their own materials and get creative as they decorate the shoes. The shoes are then collected, packed up and delivered to the kids in Haiti by Kolansinski.

Some students designed shoes with the colors of the Haitian flag while others made their own creative designs. Kolansinski had delivered shoes to the children once earlier this year, but he told Scharnagl that going once was not enough.

“He [Kolansinski] told me that once just wasn’t enough — they needed more. Haiti had been in bad conditions even before the earthquake, so imagine now,” said Scharnagl.

These thoughts prompted Scharnagl and her colleagues to join the cause. Kolansinski made his second shoe delivery to the children during the Thanksgiving break. This project helped the children in Haiti and created a sense of unity among the art students.

“The students supply their own materials, but they also share with each other,” said Scharnagl.

Other University students have also asked if they could participate and donate shoes they have decorated. When asked if this project will continue, Scharnagl said, “I don’t know, maybe. But I do hope this project will live on as a concept, it makes us better citizens.”

HAUTE TOPIC
Lessons learned post-ban

I did not think things through carefully when I decided not to shop during the month of November. Do not know how I forgot all about the Black Friday deals and free shipping until the end of the month that most online stores offer. I almost thought I would not make it. I came really, really close to changing to an impulsive action after impulsively wandering into J. Crew on Black Friday after seeing a movie.

I picked up a few things I would have never shopped for in the past. I was definitely not going to give in that night along with all the angry and aggressive shoppers.

However, I must confess that I have not stopped thinking about shopping. Even so, I have not scribbled “to buy” lists on the margins of my school notes. I do have a clearer idea of the things that my closet is missing, though. Oddly enough, it isn’t quantity that I realized I am missing but quality. Sure, it is great to buy a few trendy items here or there but the things I get the most use out of are not the things I buy on impulse, but things I have obsessed over for months.

I’m obsessed again, but the things I want are not a specific brand or a certain style at all. They are just things I know that I will wear to death. For example, through this no buying exercise I realized that I want a nice pair of black jeans. Instead of jeans, I have been resorting to black leggings through the month.

I was not even sure if I genuinely wanted the stuff or if I wanted the items because they were on sale. I left the store feeling more gratified than I would have ever felt if I had purchased anything at all.

For the rest of this column, go to our website and click Haute Topic under Life! columns.

RADIATE REVIEWS
"Take Care" is hollow

E motions do away with the façade and bring forth both the beautifully tender nature of people and also the bitter, ugly resentment. With that being said, it must not be truly exhausting to be Drake; his perpetual cross of sensibility yet appropriability, constantly hurt and self pity that draws away from what could have been a far stronger effort. Thematically speaking, the album feels hollow; it is an amalgam of bragadocio and self pity that draws away from what could have been a far stronger effort. Instead, he gives the listener an 80-minute long trip where he takes a position of superiority by means of affluence through a barely clever quip the tax code and a dismissive attitude toward everything other than record sales figures, cash stacks and all material matters as deterrent of what makes a person valuable.

Truth be told, Eminem outdid Drake when “Thank Me Later” was released, but it is ultimately a matter of hype more, which Drizzy took such liberties on his lines. As a result, we don’t know where to separate the precedent for the rest of the album. The song is a guilt trip where he takes a position of superiority by means of affluence through a barely clever quip the tax code and a dismissive attitude toward everything other than record sales figures, cash stacks and all material matters as deterrent of what makes a person valuable.

For the rest of this column, go to our website and click Radiate Reviews under Life! columns.
Nature preserve a security liability

The University’s nature preserve at the Modesto Maidique Campus is a valuable part of our community. It is a close place to conduct research, a favored place for nature surrounded by a concrete jungle. But, I think it is time to seriously address its security concerns.

Aside from a place of research, it has also become a dark, thorny refuge for criminals on the other side.

During my time at FIU Student Media, I remember a few instances where the preserve and its surrounding area played a role in criminal activity. The most recent incident happened on Oct. 7, where a suspect was able to elude police.

At night, the preserve is uncomfortably dark. It is a pitch-black mass without a well-defined entrance or any sort of lighting system. The light posts are far from the preserve, which is understandable, considering that they are intended to light the road and the path around it.

The preserve is located in the middle of a rather highly populated part of campus, though, surprisingly, it was abandoned being stuck in the Graham Center all day.

To the North, the College of Law, the U.S. Century Bank Arena, and the Recreation Center border the preserve, the latter being one of the most used buildings on campus. South of the preserve is the football stadium.

More importantly, Panther Hall sits to the east of the preserve. Students live here, they park their cars in the parking lot that faces the preserve. I have also seen a number of students jogging on the sidewalk and grassy areas that surround it.

A pretty brazen criminal can strike in any of these areas and disappear in the nature preserve, coming out on the other side.

Its proximity to high traffic areas would also test the response time of the University’s police. A criminal operating in this area could strike and get away very quickly.

The preserve has been a point of debate at the University for some time. Rumors circulated in late 2010 that it would be demolished as part of the University’s plan to expand its footprint. Those rumors resulted in students marching to University President Mark Rosenberg’s office on Dec. 1, 2010, upon hearing that the University allegedly hired inspectors to audit which parts could be torn down.

I am not saying that the nature preserve should be bulldozed in favor of new buildings or Greek housing. This place is still important to several departments and academic programs.

On the University’s online campus map, most everything is painstakingly pointed out, with the exception of the nature preserve. Students should know where it is and the hours of operation of the preserve.

The University needs to define the nature preserve’s boundaries and exit and entrance points. It needs walking paths that direct people around the preserve, rather than hindering research efforts.

Clearly defined entrances would allow University police to close it quickly, and students who wish to conduct research at night can do so with special permissions. Lighting the preserve would be difficult, considering the affect lights can have on the wildlife within. Proper security would do away with the need for a fully lit preserve.

In an effort to leave the patch of land to nature, we have forgotten that just as we have an affect on it, it can also have an affect on us.

I think with a little compromise and input from all those involved, the University can have a safe preserve.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Activity charge proposal must be clarified

The purpose of this letter to the editor is to address the content of an article regarding a Student Government Association University-Wide Committee Meeting that was released in the Wednesday, Nov. 9, 9th edition of The Beacon, and to clear up any misunderstanding surrounding the activity charge proposal from the Council of Student Organizations (CSO) to the Student Government Association (SGA).

As written, the November 9th article states: “The idea of a CSO activity charge was brought up and eventually tabled during the meeting. If passed it would require a fee from CSO club members to conduct events, but not to be a part of said club.”

This is inaccurate. CSO submitted a proposal to SGA that recommended changes to the University-wide Finance Policy that would allow student organizations the option of having an activity charge. There was absolutely no talk about having a required fee in any form.

Simply put, an activity charge would be a voluntary fee that student organizations could adopt for those members who choose to pay it. In doing so, organizations would have more financial freedom and extra funds to assist them with their programming and events.

Students would not be required to pay an activity charge in order to join a student organization nor would they have to pay in order to attend an organization’s events. Again, this is a proposal from CSO to SGA that if implemented would not require students to pay an activity fee to join a student organization or attend an organization’s events.

Student organizations would not be mandated to adopt the activity charge should the proposal be approved by SGA. It would merely be an option for student organizations and it would be up to their discretion as to whether or not to accept it.

This proposal is not geared towards hindering student involvement, nor is it an asinine ploy to swindle paying members to attend organization’s events. It is an attempt to provide a more financially sustainable structure for student organizations and allow organizations to run with more flexibility.

On Nov. 23, the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization said that there are three other options than the one chosen by the University that would run the path right through a nature preserve. The Beacon thanks that if the University chooses cost over nature, everyone loses; however, if indeed the only entrance truly sustainable and feasible is through the nature preserve, then it must be done.

VERBATIM

“Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.” - Benjamin Franklin

“Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.” - Mark Twain

“Fearlessness is like a muscle. I know from my own life that the more I exercise it the more natural it becomes.” - Arianna Huffington

“But innovation comes from people meeting up in the hallways or calling each other at 10:30 at night with a new idea, or because they realized something that shoots holes in how we’ve been thinking about a problem.” - Steve Jobs
Students struggle with Golden Panther Express schedule

ADRIANA MONTOYA
Contributing Writer

It’s 4:15 p.m. and Germaine Escobar, a journalism student at FIU, must quickly make a decision.

Does she stay in class and listen to her professor and classmates, but I walk out feeling as if I’ve just lost pertinent information in this course."

"Every time I have to get up and leave the class while my professor is still speaking, not only am I being disrespectful and disruptive to my professor and classmates, but I walk out feeling as if I’ve just lost pertinent information in this course."

"I don’t want to stay on north campus by myself in the dark," said Batista. "It’s so desolate on that campus. I wouldn’t mind being on south campus until late because there’s more people, but north campus is totally different."

Patrick O’Keefe, president of the SGC/MMC, said the issue is high on their agenda, but the association has yet to come up with a solution that pleases everyone.

In August 2010, SGA and the Department of Parking and Transportation were able to address some issues by adding three more trips to the schedule, which doubled the existing schedule, but that didn’t completely solve the problem, he said. He and a few other SGA members met with the directors of parking and transportation recently to discuss the shuttle schedule.

The meeting was not open to concerned students or the press because the student government members who were attending would be discussing several other private transportation-related proposals, O’Keefe said. "Parking and Transportation is a very underfunded department," O’Keefe said. "You can throw a lot of money at it and you’re still going to need more money."

William Foster, executive director of parking and transportation, said classes are an hour apart, but each shuttle runs on an 80-minute schedule. The 80 minutes takes traffic, loading time and travel time into account.

The department has compressed the schedule as much as possible, Foster said, but 80 minutes is the minimum that American Couch, the company contracted to provide shuttle service, requires per round trip.

"We’re meeting six of 10 classes right on time, but we’re not meeting four of them right on time," Foster said. "If I adjust and meet those four, then I don’t meet those six. This group that’s upset will now be happy, but now this group will be upset."

Another option might be to move the four classes to a time block that works for the bus would accommodate all students in need of the service.

These raccoons have become acclimated and dependent on humans. Leaving food out for them and other animals is illegal and amplifies the problem.

Kaloostian mentions that while the raccoons on campus are not a severe problem, they can be a nuisance because of the messes they cause as they forage in garbage cans, as well as the defection they leave behind.

He urges residents at the dorm to consider the harm they are doing to the environment by disrupting the natural rhythm of that ecosystem and supplying an easy source of food for the raccoons.

Ultimately, Kaloostian stresses that while people think they are doing a good deed by feeding the feral cats, they are, in the big picture, harming the environment. For more information about raccoon sightings, people can visit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission’s website. Kaloostian mentions that while the raccoons on campus are not a severe problem, they can be a nuisance because of the messes they cause as they forage in garbage cans, as well as the defection they leave behind.

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