BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS

Second road could have environmental impact

REBECCA BURTON
Contribution Writer

While most students who attend the Biscayne Bay Campus despise the school zone that seems to go on for miles on the only street leading onto campus, the construction of a second road would have had serious environmental consequences.

Vice Provost Steven Moll believes that another road is a necessity, but environmentalists at BBC are worried that the construction will pose a threat to mangroves that are crucial to the ecosystem of Biscayne Bay.

Moll has long thought of BBC as “Biscayne the beautiful” because it is located on what used to be an abundant coastal mangrove forest on a 200-acre piece of land east of NE 151 Street. The environmental impacts caused by the killing of mangroves is creating challenges for Moll, who wishes to expand the younger campus.

Moll said with three schools on one road, the safety of 12,000 students is at stake. The options of the new road are either an extension of NE 153 Street, NE 143 Street, or NE 163 Street along the Oleta River.

Moll strongly pushed for NE 135 Street, but North Miami Councilman Scott Galvin is strongly opposed. Galvin, a University alumus, said he helped make the area of the proposed extension into a nature preserve and worked hard to restore its natural mangroves. He had a bike path installed along the new preserve.

“I strongly oppose the extension of NE 135th Street because it is a quiet, residential neighborhood,” Galvin said during a phone interview. “To put a road there destroys the environment.”

The other two options also require the bulldozing of mangroves. Red, black, and white mangroves are native to South Florida’s estuary system and are key species to the rest of the ecosystem in north Biscayne Bay.

Zack Jud, a University doctoral student who studies the environmental impacts caused by depletion of mangroves, specializes his research in the history of BBC.

Before this coastal oasis was FIU, Jud said, it was one of the most dense mangrove forests in Florida. In the 1950s, in the spirit of spreading American trade to Latin America, plans for an international marketplace were proposed. Interama, as it was named, never achieved reality.

Due to political reasons under the Nixon administration and bankruptcy, only one building was constructed for Interama before the plans were cancelled. That structure today is the Hospitality and Tourism Management building.

Unfortunately, the damage to the mangroves was already done. Most of them were dug up and made into sub canals of the bay. The extra land was to be a study foundation for the buildings that never made it off the drawing board. The state of Florida then deemed the piece of land be used for educational purposes and it eventually became BBC.

According to Jud, 80 percent of the mangroves that used to be here are gone, the landscape has changed dramatically and so has the ecosystem.

NEW ROAD, page 8

Prof. Yawney takes the stage

CAROLINA ALCALA
Contribution Writer

The day had just begun and students were sipping coffee as a man in a dangling burgundy shirt, dark denim jeans, boots and a smile walks into the room.

Michael Yawney mbs his full head of salt-and-pepper hair as his eyes look eager to engage in conversation.

Yawney, an assistant professor of directing, playwriting and theatre history at the University, has written several plays, including “1,000 Homosexuals.”

But his biggest challenge every day is to confirm his bafulness.

“I’m really shy,” he said as he tucked his head under his arms like a turtle. “I’m not good with self-promotion. It’s been a really big obstacle for me because I can’t go out there and say ‘I just came up with the next big thing!’ Even if I did it’s a job for me and it’s not something I do naturally.”

Growing up in poverty made me happy to just be able to do what I’m doing.

Michael Yawney, assistant professor
Department of Theatre

Some of his students disagree. “There is never a dull moment with him,” said Jason Caceres, a bachelor of fine arts student in the theatre program. “He speaks about every subject that he teaches with such passion that it is actually an inspiration to sit and listen. He is one of the most encouraging teachers I have ever had to this day.”

Given his past, that may come as no surprise.

“Growing up poor has really affected the way I deal with certain things,” Yawney said. “You know, growing up in poverty made me happy to just be able to do what I’m doing. I never thought I’d leave New York. I spent 20 years of my life there and I’d never thought I’d move or learn to drive a car, but here I am.”

Yawney is always working with his students, trying to get them to think out of the box so that their work on the stage becomes a tangible experience for the audience.

THEATER, page 2

HOLIDAY TUNES

Organization aims to help Nicaraguan kids

EISSY DE LA MONEDA
Staff Writer

Helping people in need has been on the University’s radar lately. From designing shoes for children in Haiti to designing sites for children in Nicaragua, the University continues to emphasize the importance of giving back to the less fortunate.

Its most recent accomplishment was the task of assisting the Imagina tion Federation with the usability and effectiveness of their social networks in order to raise money and awareness on the issue of underprivileged children in Nicaragua.

The Imagination Federation is part of Friends of Students, a non-profit organization founded in 2006 by students in New York; its aim is to address the problem of poverty and homelessness.

The federation is the Floridian chapter of this organization and aims to help with the education of underprivileged Nicaraguan children in the community of Chacraseca. The organization seeks to raise awareness in the U.S. on the struggles occurring in Nicaragua.

Established in 2007, the Imagination Federation is a graduate class’ response to the work of Civil Rights leaders Bob Moses and Vincent Harding. Originally, the federation’s goal was to create a learning community for teachers. However, with so much interest and participation coming from students, they decided to change their efforts.

Students from the FIU School of Music gathered in the GC pit to continue their annual performance of holiday music. From left to right: sophomore Nicholas Iza- zara, senior Angelique Aguilera, and grad student Joseph Saenz.

Vania Panos/The Beacon

FACULTY PROFILE

Prof. Yawney takes the stage

CAROLINA ALCALA
Contribution Writer

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THEATER, page 2
Experts analyze state palm trees

Patricia Polo
Contributing Writer

Florida’s warm, humid climate and abundant rainfall make it a fitting environment for palm trees, even though only a dozen kinds are native to the state.

People view Florida as a tropical paradise, and people have brought in non-native palm trees to symbolize the tropics,” said Michael Ross, an environmental researcher at the University of Florida. Florida has imported palm trees from all parts of the world including Asia and South America. The Coconut Palm is not a native species in Florida but is something that everyone likes to see.

It also is one of the most attractive and most valuable of the species. Its wood is pressed to extract oils for dyes and finishes and it is a key component in parquet flooring and furniture.

The Coconut Palm produces more than 60 coconuts a year, Ross said. “[It] can be used to make medicine for problems in the heart, kidney and liver. Other uses can be for food, candles, soap and an array of products.”

Florida also has imported palm trees that are native to Florida.

Native palm trees in Florida include only 12 palm tree species,” said Scott Zona, green house curator at the Department of Biological Sciences.

Some of them are the Paurotis, Needle, Cabbage, Thatch, and Silver Palms.

“The Paurotis Palm grows in the wetlands prominently,” Zona said. “It is the most widely distributed in the Everglades.

“The Needle Palm is a trunk-less palm that is small and shrubby and grows up to five feet. It’s popular in Florida’s landscape for both residential and commercial. Thatch Palm is used to make tikis and the Silver Palm grows in the pine forest.”

“The Cabbage Palm is also called the Sabal Palm and it is Florida’s official state tree,” Zona said. “The Cabbage Palm produces heart of palm that is like an artichoke. It is edible and used to put in salads. However, extracting the heart kills the species of the palm and eventually the palm dies.”

Palm trees are remarkably resistant to high winds and floods, which is why many palm trees in Florida remain after hurricanes and tropical storms.

They play an ecological role by bearing fruit for animals. Many palm trees like the Thatch and Silver palms produce small fruit, Ross said.

Some palm trees in Florida are endangered due to commercial development, natural events and construction in developing areas.

Some endangered palm trees are Florida’s Royal Palm, Silver Palm, and Thatch Palm. Florida and federal laws protect endangered palm trees.

“Florida is the only state to have national protection from the state and federal level,” Zona added. “Tourists can’t imagine the Florida state tree being anything but a palm and Floridians see the palm as a huge tourist attraction that brings revenue into the Sunshine State.

And researchers like Zona and Ross have a third angle of vision. “For tourists in Florida palm trees symbolize a tropical environment that seems romantic,” Ross said. “For people, when you think of a palm tree, they also tend to think relaxation.

“For most people palm trees signify sun-drenched beaches, vacations, stress-free living and Margaritaville,” Zona said.

“But palm trees are also a fascinating evolution of plants that grow in a paradise, with enormous diversity and important ecological roles.”

This story was researched and written for JJOU 1000 Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevens in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. You can see this and other class work by going to thenews-wave.org.

Theater professor plays two roles

Michael Yawney directed the recent fall production “The House of the Spirits” and has written several plays himself.

Theater, page 1

The professor likes to keep himself busy and always has
e, he wants the viewers to be able to feel, taste, smell, hear and see each emotion the actors go through.

“He’s a really smart guy and well trained,” said Wayne Robinson, associate professor of acting and painting. “But I think what defines him is his ability to create an atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable, where everyone feels creative and is able to work.”

The professor likes to keep himself busy and always has
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The artistic man who thought he would have to work in something like retail to make a living has spent his entire career doing what he loves: right out of high school.

He got into the “Experimental Theatre Wing,” a four-year professional training program at New York University, where he graduated with a bachelor of fine arts. He then went on to graduate from Columbia University, where he earned his master of fine arts.

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

HOME COOKING

Panthers look to extend their winning streak at home

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

After their last second victory against Coastal Carolina, FIU will play their second game in a three day span, having traveled to Atlanta on Dec. 1 to face Georgia State. Now the team is returning home for a game against Alabama State on Dec. 3.

TIMELESS DEFENSE

Although Coastal Carolina shot 50 percent from the field against the Golden Panthers, FIU was able to make an important defensive stop down the stretch. The key moment before the game winning shot by Jeremy Allen came in the final 10 seconds of the game.

With the game tied at 62, the Golden Panthers were able to force Anthony Raffa to miss the jumper. Credit for the key defensive stop can go to film study that FIU had on Coastal Carolina in their previous game against Clemson.

“They ran a play against Clemson where they cleared it out over the top... We had gone over and we reminded the kids in the huddle that that could possibly be the play that they run,” coach Isiah Thomas said.

“They ran the clear out up the top and Jeremy happened to be the one guarding the guy at the top and he did an excellent job.”

ALLEN LEADS THE WAY

Senior guard Allen is off to a quick start in the first five games of the season. His 15.8 points per game average leads the Golden Panthers.

In Allen’s first five games last season, he averaged only 8.8 points per game. On the defensive end, Allen has made his presence felt. Allen’s 3.6 steals per game is tops for the Golden Panthers in his second season after transferring from Central Michigan.

“His defense is spectacular,” coach Thomas said of Allen. “I think he’s one of the top defenders right now in the country at his position. From when we first got him, his confidence has steadily grown. He’s knocking down shots and giving us good leadership.”

SCOUTING REPORT: ALABAMA STATE

Alabama State comes to U.S. Century Bank Arena on Dec. 3 looking to right themselves after a rough start to their season. Offensively, the Hornets are led by Termaine Butler, who leads the team with 15.5 points per game.

Kenderek Washington follows with his 14.3 points per game and three steals per game average.

In their first four games, the Hornets were defeated by an average of 15.7 points per game.

FOOTBALL

Panthers must sit and wait for bowl fate on Sunday

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

All season long, FIU had control of their own destiny. Where the team ended up at the end of the year depended on the performance on the field, not any other game. Their fate now lies in the hands of other teams who are trying to bid for a bowl spot.

As of Wednesday, there were exactly 70 teams that can be eligible after Saturday is 75 and at least 71. Anywhere from 1-5 teams that become eligible will not make a bowl.

WVU AT USF

As FIU fans sit at home watching the final week of college football games, they will have to cheer for other teams besides their own. It all started yesterday when West Virginia played USF. A Bulls loss will eliminate them from bowl contention, thus helping FIU in their hopes for a bowl trip.

UCLA AT OREGON

The Pac-12 title game features Oregon vs UCLA (6-6). Even though the Bruins have six wins, they will not qualify to be bowl eligible if they lose, because they will not have at least a .500 record.

However, UCLA could get a waiver to be in a bowl anyway, making the loss mean nothing. Nevertheless, still go for the Ducks in this one, just in case UCLA does not get accepted if they fall to 6-7.

SMU AT HOUSTON

Eyes should also be locked onto three noon games on Saturday. Root for Houston to beat Southern Miss in the C-USA title game.

If Houston wins, they will go undefeated and lock up a BCS bowl, leaving C-USA with some spots to fill for their bowl tie-ins. The only reason to be

BOWL, page 4
As season ends, Rodgers continues to produce for owners

Aaron Rodgers [above] has thrown for 3,475 yards and 33 touchdowns so far this season.

The fumble was a receiver’s fumble, that being Brandon Marshall had nearly 130 yards and a touchdown. Jason Witten had a mediocre game with only 43 yards, but had a big sports play moment when he was tangled with a Cowboy corner and immediately helped him up afterwards. The last game of the night included the “Harbaugh Bowl,” where both Jim and John Harbaugh went head-to-head for the first time in their NFL careers. It wasn’t pretty, but the more NFL experienced Harbaugh got the job done. The Ravens won 16-6. Joe Flacco had an impressive game throwing for 161 yards and a touchdown on a top-three defense. The Ravens defense completely dominated the 49ers offensive game with nine sacks on the game.

THE TRASH BIN

Dexter McCluster (Kansas City Chiefs)- Thomas Jones and Jackie Battle are battling for the starting job, McCluster got first dibs at the starting job when Jamal Charles was left injured for the season. He quickly lost his job to Battle and Jones. The small back is showing no signs of elusiveness. Trash him. Isaac Redman (Pittsburgh Steelers)- Dwyer has caught the eye of Mike Tomlin and has knocked Redman to the curb. With Mendenhall on his way back to the starting job, Redman’s career will be lost hope. Basarra. Pierre Garcon (Indianapolis Colts)- Not only are the Colts defeated for the season, but McCluster got his first dibs at the starting job when Jamal Charles was left injured for the season. He quickly lost his job to Battle and Jones. The small back is showing no signs of elusiveness. Trash him.

Under The Cruzar

Roy Helu (Washington Redskins)- The running back situation in the country’s capital is really starting to get confusing. Just start Roy Helu since last week’s performance were above and beyond and every other Skins back. He has been the most productive back in a season that went from something to nothing. Washington Roulette.

Riley Cooper (Philadelphia Eagles)- With five catches for 75 yards and a touchdown for the time being, Cooper is the number one target in Andy Reid’s offense. It looks like Tim Tebow isn’t the only Florida alum making a name for himself this season. Vince Young loves the former Gator and will continue to throw to him. Swamp Thing.

Johnny Knox (Chicago Bears)- With no Jay Cutler pulling the trigger, Mr. Hardy is really catching a liking for Johnny Knox, who had nearly 150 yards and a touchdown last week. Cutler is missing the rest of the regular season due to injury, and Hardy’s confidence in Knox isn’t going anywhere. Here’s Johnny.

CHASTISING CHAD

Chad obtains a measurer 201 yards on the season to go along with a yardage reception. I don’t understand why the Patriots haven’t parted ways with Chaddy boy. They would have been better off.

Maybe Chad will come alive in the playoffs, but I highly doubt it. This guy is a waste of any owner’s time.
Students help Imagination Federation with marketing

IMAGINATION, page 1

The focus of the organization is a more global perspective. Nicaraugua was of immediate focus because so many members of the organization had ties to the country. Alex Salinas, Emily Sendin, Carlos Morales and Paul Feigenbaum run the federation.

“We want to benefit Nicaragua as well as the people involved and show them how to deal with these types of issues. We want to think of others rather than ourselves and teach people to be selfless,” said Morales.

The Imagination Federation has taken eight trips to Nicaragua since they first began. The trips bring the children of Chacraseca: food, clothes and most importantly, an education. The federation has funded five homes and opened a secondary school in the area, since most schools are located miles away from the homes in Chacraseca. In addition to the donations and new constructions, the federation created the Tengo Un Sueo or I Have a Dream project. The project supports 34 kindergarten and first grade students by providing them with uniforms, school supplies, lunches, teachers, school organizers and tutoring. The project is a 16-year agreement among parents, teachers and school organizers to provide the kids with any necessary tools for academic success. The project’s main goal is to support the children from primary school to college. The federation provides $20 a month per child in order for them to attend school and it does not include teachers’ salaries. With so many children to support, it is no surprise that donations and awareness are major contributors to the federation.

They have not had much success, but fortunately Professor Ben Lauren came across the federation after searching for service learning projects for his technical writing class.

Fellow educator Feigenbaum heard he was looking to help and told Professor Lauren about the organization’s situation. “Paul told me about the federation and it seemed like a worthy cause. I felt like students would understand and support the organization. The federation needed things that we could provide for them,” said Lauren.

He assigned his class to redesign the federation’s website, blog, newsletter, logo, website and social media content. Without much experience in usability, the sponsors of the federation have not been able to achieve the level of awareness or money they require in order to keep helping the children in Nicaragua.

The federation hopes that the technical writing class can help them achieve that with more user-friendly, attractive utilities. The class’ main goal is to provide the federation with sites that are easy to navigate, content that is easy to understand and, most importantly, an efficient and practical way to raise awareness and donations to pursue their cause for a better future for the children of Chacraseca.

When asked how she felt about doing this project, freshman Martha Altamiranda, a member of the blog design team, said, “I’m glad we got the opportunity to help an organization with a great cause. Our skills as artists have allowed us to be part of a bigger picture. Now that my team has designed them a new blog, they will be able to transmit their experiences effectively and hopefully gain the attention and support they need.”
Undergraduates should study abroad, take advantage

The University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time. University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time.
A part from granting $164 to the Theater Department, a portion of the necessary funding for production rights to the Colorful Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf," the Nov. 28 Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus meeting, the last of the Fall 2011 semester, yielded little more than the same meandering contention of its inglorious past.

The issue was political parties again, though this time it was unattentional. The debate was prompted by Senate Resolution 1113, the motive of which was a handful of benign alterations to the election code, nothing more radical than the addition of "required polling stations at the Engineering and Computing Center." But, in presenting the election code on the senate chamber's projector, attention was drawn to Section 605, which acknowledges limitations for those caught defying the tobacco-free regulation on all campuses to confine smokers to certain smoking zones instead of the entire campus to confine smokers to only within certain smoking zones.

The University has taken smokers into consideration by offering several services to assist those affected. While helping smokers stop their addiction is ideal as a result of this regulation, it is unrealistic as well as intrusive to assume smokers on campus will want to change their habits because it is a possible outcome. Smokers are not ignorant to the dangers of their habit, and if they did not have any intention of quitting before the regulation, it is unlikely they would quit on their own without the regulation was made effective. Of course, the regulation would make it difficult for them to smoke during their time on campus, but the lack of an official punishment still leaves an opportunity open for them.

Still, the idea of a penalty for smoking seems ridiculous. If it is a slight punishment, then it can be ignored by smokers; if it is a severe punishment, then it is too much of an outrageous punishment for such a petty crime. I think the level of smoking can be reasonably regulated with the compromise of allowing students, faculty and staff to smoke on campus, but only within certain smoking zones. Non-smokers’ right to breathe will not be violated, nor will smokers’ right to continue their habit be violated.

It is ideal to help smokers with their addiction, but only then can they realize the harm their habits present and change their ways. Enforcing a rule and punishing them for violating it is not the way to go about it.

Each department is required to keep an inventory and know how much of each chemical is needed and exactly how much was used and disposed of. This what this does is ensure that chemicals do not go to waste, and it minimizes the amount of capital spent on these substances each year. It is a simple win-win situation for everyone.

The University is making sure to dispose of these chemicals after they have been used as safely as possible. According to Environmental Labs Manager Seema Sah, the Environmental Health and Safety Department has established a team that goes in and collects the used chemicals, then gives the chemicals to independent contractors who dispose of the chemicals at their specific location.

What might be the most important about is the amount of chemicals that go into our local bodies of water via pesticides and fertilizers that we add to our grass. While these chemicals are considered to be hazardous as well, there is not much of a safety net in place for them, as it is very difficult to tell just how much of these chemicals seep into underground groundwater.

A clear example of this is in the small pond just across from the northeast corner of the Owa Ehan building. Since there is no movement in that pond, chemicals from the pesticides and fertilizers allow for the nutrients to build up and the growth of any plant life in the pond, sucking all the oxygen out with it. This is a problem, and it is one that will not be easily solved, seen as how many organic alternatives, such as composting manure and composted food, often produce foul odors and would make walking around school a very unpleasant experience.

Our university, like any other, has its share of environmental issues to look after, and the key to those issues being moved forward is an understanding of how we are dealing with them, or not dealing with them. We have many improvements to make, like any other institution, but for now it seems we are on the right track.
One of a kind, underwater lab used to study reefs

REBECCA BURTON
Contributing Writer

Key Largo is home to one of the world's most vibrant coral reef systems, but overfishing of important herbivorous fish could threaten the health of these wonders that divers and snorkelers alike hold dear.

Deron Burkepile, 34, assistant professor of marine biology and oceanography at the University, discovered this in 2004 during a 10-day research mission on board the only underwater sea research vessel in the world, the Aquarius Undersea Laboratory.

Located in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, the Aquarius sits about 60 feet deep at the base of Conch Reef, about four miles from Key Largo. Aquarius is operated by the University of North Carolina Wilmington and is owned by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.

By living in the submarine-like pressurized habitat, divers' bodies become saturated with the maximum partial pressure of gas possible for that depth, a technique called saturation diving.

Once their bodies are saturated, they can dive for up to nine hours in one day, and avoid the deadly decompression sickness known as "the bends."

After a long day of diving, scientists, also called aquanauts, sleep, eat and even use the Internet for days at a time, instead of in any other laboratory in the world.

This is possible from the Life Support Booth that sits at the surface and is about 30 feet in diameter. The LSB is a platform that is connected to the sea lab and provides all of the gases needed for breathing underwater. Although convenient, the experience may not always be the most comfortable.

"The hardest part is being cold all the time, and constantly losing body heat," Burkepile said, referring to the heavy air conditioning used in the lab to keep the correct air balance.

Josef Pavlik, 51, professor of marine science at UNC Wilmington, has conducted four missions since 1995 but has never been an aquanaut himself.

"I get cold too easily," Pavlik said. "But I never have trouble finding interested students to send down. The hardest part is denying students the opportunity to go."

The prolonged experience allows divers to conduct extensive research that would be impossible if they had to return to the surface often. It is also more cost and time efficient. In Pavlik's most recent mission, he sent students to monitor Caribbean barrel sponges. The information the aquanauts found was important to monitoring the fate effects of the BP oil gusher in the Gulf of Mexico.

Scientists who want to conduct research using Aquarius submit grant proposals to NOAA. If the proposals are deemed useful, scientists are invited to conduct their missions. The research they find is to help benefit the marine habitats not only in South Florida, but also around the world.

The Aquarius was built in 1986 and was first placed in the Virgin Islands. Thirteen missions later, it was moved to Wilmington to be refurbished after damage from Hurricane Hugo. In 1993, it was moved to its current location, and has since been home to more than 90 successful missions, including Burkepile's.

"The director of Aquarius, Thomas Potts, 46, said that since its time in Key Largo "scientists have acquired a long-term dataset that is essential to comprehensive and interestingly studying and documenting changes in a coral reef ecosystem that could not be attained by disparate research projects alone."

Burkepile's mission is proof of that.

His mission was to reveal the need for diversity of herbivorous fish in coral reef systems. Burkepile and his graduate studentlarge up and down Key Largo's reef system to study how different fish eat different seaweeds.

"We got to eat, sleep, and dive," Burkepile said. "It was awesome."

After nine hours of diving for 10 days, Burkepile and his group of scientists found that certain species of seaweeds aren't eaten enough and their overgrowth could potentially harm the corals. He and his team also concluded that overfishing of certain herbivorous fish was affecting the seaweed balance and, therefore, the health of the coral systems.

Burkepile's missions along with others at the laboratory have helped produce more than 300 peer-reviewed scientific publications, but scientific research isn't the only use for the Aquarius.

Potts said the sea lab is also used for underwater technology development and for ocean education and outreach as well as a national training facility for scientific divers.

Unlike Jules Underwater Hotel in Key Largo, just not anyone can stay at Aquarius. Divers must go through five days of additional SCUBA training.

"We had to go through intense training," Burkepile said. "Our instructors would mess with us, pull off our masks, and imitate animal emergency situations."

Potts credits the stationary position of the Aquarius to its success.

"I think the biggest benefit of the Aquarius is that it has been in place for 20 years in one location," Potts said. "We can document long term changes and have long term data, which is very rare."

Pavlik agrees.

"Key Largo is an excellent location with a great reef system," Pavlik said. "There is a lot of topography and internal waves. The longer the laboratory is there, the more valuable information we can get."

This story was researched and written for JOU 3300 Advanced News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevins in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. A version of this story was also published on the website of the national conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists at the University of Miami. You can see this and other class work for SEJ at themiamiplanet.org or by going to thenews- wave.org.

City councilman says University is ‘stuck at this point’

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"There are restoration proj-ects being done, but not nearly what it used to be." Judd, a specialist in marine life, said the real impor-tance of the mangroves is to stabilize the shoreline and provide habitats for fish and other aquatic species.

"These trees provide crucial habitats for fish that we find economically and ecologically important," Judd said. "Fish we like to eat such as lobster, snapper, grouper and stone crabs spend their juvenile stages living in the mangroves. By depilating them, we're depilating the fish."

Deron Burkepile, assis-tant professor of marine biology and oceanography, agrees with Judd. He said coastal areas covered with mangroves produce more than 2,000 percent more fish.

Burkepile also said the killing of mangroves can indirectly cause bleaching of coral reefs.

Certain herbivorous fish, like parrotfish use mangroves as their homes. When mangroves are depleted, so are these herbivorous fish. Without these crucial plant-eaters, there is an abundance of algae that invades the corals. This then causes the coral reefs to become, in essence, "algal reefs," Burkepile said.

Moll understands the delicacy of the environ-ment the campus resides on, but is made to face a tough reality.

"I don’t want to destroy a seedling," Moll said. "But I am also responsible for the safety of the students."

Moll also said the ideal solution would be to build a bridge over the mangroves, but money is proving to be the restricting factor.

Galvin said there is no money for the extra roadway right now anyway.

"I know what challenges they face at FIU, and the reality is that they’re stuck at this point," Galvin said.

"The plans of the supplementary road are nowhere near finalization, employment at the University are actively working to replant mangroves around campus." Jennifer Grimm, envi-ronmental coordinator at the University, said that this university, in partnership with Miami-Dade County schools, has committed to restore about 15 acres of mangrove habitat on BBC.

The beginning of the process began with removing about seven acres of Austra-lian Pines, which are an invasive species, in order to replant mangroves in their place.

"The restoration will provide more habitat for wildlife, such as birds and fish," Grimm said. "Additionally, these ecosystems will absorb more water from sea level rise compared to that of an open area, such as a beach."

Grimm also said there are plans to restore a portion of BBC into a mangrove-wetland system that will serve as a renewable learning lab for the university.

"This habitat will be protected for perpetuity," Grimm said.

This story was researched and written for JOU 3300 Advert and News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevins in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. You can see this and other class work for SEJ at themiamiplanet.org or by going to thenews-wave.org.

As part of release week, on Nov. 30 students were offered free haircuts, makeup and nails done and even get a 10 minute massage all for free. [Left] Shannel Lemon, full specialist, is getting her make-up done done as [Top right] Tashana Lewis, junior journalism major, is getting her nails done by Alexandra Zeno, freshman full specialist. [Bottom right] Joleen Barry, cosmetology student, does Sofia Haspel's, freshman criminology major, hair.