Law Library acquires historic legal collection

NICOLAS SARAVIA
Staff Writer
nicolas.saravia@fiusm.com

A victory for legal history has occurred, as a 6,000-volume collection of historic legal materials from Latin America and Europe kept by the College of Law will be the beneficiary of a $6,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

The award is expected to aid in the care and restoration of the Mario Diaz Cruz Collection, donated by the Rainforth Foundation.

“The Mario Diaz Cruz Collection is of great value to legal scholars as it is the most significant collection of Cuban materials outside of Cuba,” said Teresa Stanton, director of the Law Library.

The compilation also contains works from other Latin American countries, as well as Italy, France and Spain.

The collection has its origins in 1915 Havana, where it was a working library for lawyer Mario Diaz Cruz.

His son, with his same name and also an attorney, brought the materials to Miami.

The works contain manuscripts, books and journals.

However, the collection also includes commentaries and treatises written by leading legal scholars between 1757 and 1959.

It also has judicial decisions from the Supreme Court of Justice of Cuba from 1903 to 1959.

The main emphasis of the library is private law, including commercial law, property, wills, banking, contracts and constitutional law.

“(The works) also represent a rare look into the legal world of pre-Castro Cuba and must be preserved so that it may be studied by the legal scholars of today as well as those of the future,” mentioned Stanton, who is also the associate dean of Information Services.

“This will benefit not only our own academic and legal communities, but also the general public. Very few law libraries in the country are fortunate enough to own many of the valuable materials that comprise the Mario Diaz Cruz collection as well as a first-rate staff with expertise in dealing with Latin America,” affirmed Manuel Gomez, associate professor of Latin American law.

This is not the first time the NEH benefits FIU, as it also provided a $6,000
We were asked to leave, but when one of our members tried to upset the people to the lawn, he was arrested.

Members claim that the charged individuals were not read their Miranda rights or told their charges during their arrests on campus.

“I asked the officers why they were being arrested, but he kept threatening me, ‘You want to be next? You want to be next?’” Aguila said. “They arrested the two guys next to me that were just standing there.”

In November 2011, the Occupy FIU held a teach-in at the same location, with around 90 people in attendance to learn more about the localized movement. According to Andrade Nunez, an FIU alum and one of the group’s organizers, the event took place without any issue or any permit.

“This was not a demonstration whatsoever. This was really just a music festival in solidarity with the Haiti Earthquake,” Aguila said. “We were very peaceful the whole time, even when the arrests were taking place.”

Additional reporting by Alexandra Campoyo and Neda Ghomeshi.

---

Group states it had permit to DM pit

College given $6,000 national grant

The NEH grant is an important stepping stone toward the expansion and preservation of a wonderful collection of foreign materials, and helps the College of Law continue the important legacy of Mario Diaz Cruz, Jr. in disseminating scientific legal knowledge throughout South Florida,” added Gomez.

---

 local

US Ambassador to Haiti Update on Earthquake Recovery

The U.S. ambassador to Haiti will be in Miami to give a public update on earthquake recovery efforts in Haiti.

Thursday was the second anniversary of the catastrophic quake that crippled the vulnerable Caribbean country.


Wilson, a Miami Democrat, said Thursday there are encouraging signs of progress in Haiti but the country needs more sustainable help from the U.S. national

Homeless New York Teen to Win Science Prize

A homeless New York teenager who’s a national science competition semifinalist won’t be homeless for much longer.

Samantha Garvey and her family were offered a rent-subsidized home by officials in the Long Island county where she goes to school.

The 17-year-old and her family moved into a homeless shelter on Jan. 1. Suffolk County officials made the housing announcement Friday morning at Brentwood High School, where Garvey is a senior.

world

Lebanese Man Detained in Thailand as Terror Threat

Thai police were questioning a Lebanese man with alleged links to Hezbollah militants as the US Embassy and Israel warned Friday of a “real and credible” terrorist threat against Americans and Israelis in Bangkok. Police said a bombing had been planned and another suspect was at large.

The warning comes during heightened tension over U.S. and Israeli responses to the prospect that Iran is going forward with developing nuclear weapons. Lebanon-based Hezbollah, which has been accused of carrying out terrorist attacks in the Middle East since the 1980s, is avowedly anti-Israel and widely considered to act as a proxy for Iran.

Compiled by Melissa Caceres

arrests, page 1

Another. needed more sustainable help from the U.S. encouraging signs of progress in Haiti but the country since the earthquake struck Jan. 12, 2010.


strophic quake that crippled the vulnerable Caribbean a public update on earthquake recovery efforts in Haiti.

NATIONAL

WORLD

Lebanese Man Detained in Thailand as Terror Threat

Thai police were questioning a Lebanese man with alleged links to Hezbollah militants as the US Embassy and Israel warned Friday of a “real and credible” terrorist threat against Americans and Israelis in Bangkok. Police said a bombing had been planned and another suspect was at large.

The warning comes during heightened tension over U.S. and Israeli responses to the prospect that Iran is going forward with developing nuclear weapons. Lebanon-based Hezbollah, which has been accused of carrying out terrorist attacks in the Middle East since the 1980s, is avowedly anti-Israel and widely considered to act as a proxy for Iran.

The 17-year-old and her family moved into a home- less shelter on Jan. 1. Suffolk County officials made the housing announce- ment Friday morning at Brentwood High School, where Garvey is a senior.

The U.S. ambassador to Haiti will be in Miami to give a public update on earthquake recovery efforts in Haiti.

Thursday was the second anniversary of the catastrophic quake that crippled the vulnerable Caribbean country.


Wilson, a Miami Democrat, said Thursday there are encouraging signs of progress in Haiti but the country needs more sustainable help from the U.S.
Rough road ahead for new coach

With the exit of Danjela Tonic as head coach of the University’s indoor volleyball team, who is now the coach at Bowling Green State University, FIU faces a dilemma.

Currently in the middle of a national coaching search, Director of Volleyball Operations Rita Buck-Crockett is looking for a coach to not only duplicate what Tonic did as a coach at FIU, but to also bring the program a greater deal of national attention.

Good luck.

The shoes that the next coach will fill will be large ones. Maybe to the outsider looking in, what FIU has done in the past seven years may not be spectacular, but look closer.

Tonic did what most coaches can’t, allure talented student-athletes to a school with crummy and outdated facilities. A place where no four-star recruit in their right mind would choose. But Tonic did it. She was able to convince three All-Americans, yes three, to come to FIU.

With a star-studded lineup in 2009, she coached the Panthers to a remarkable 32-4 record, including a perfect 17-0 in conference play. Tonic also doubled the amount of NCAA Division I Women’s Volleyball Championship tournament appearances. If there is a knock on Tonic, it is that she was not able to win the Sun Belt Conference championship in the seven season’s as head coach.

So in essence, Tonic was able to turn around a program that most people could care less about.

In a school, more to a degree a city, that lives and breathes football, volleyball is the last thing on people’s minds. She was able to get people in the seats for a team that was exciting to watch. She was able to do this in one of the worst facilities in the Sun Belt conference.

The fact that the University has decided to burn money with a new “emerging” sport is an entirely different argument.

Yet hiring from the outside for a position that was made up on the fly will cause the University to not only spend unnecessary money, but also take a few steps back in a program that took so many forward.

As of the moment, there seems to be no conclusion as to who exactly will fill the head coaching position at FIU.

Email at ricoolalbarracin@fiusm.com

Sara Mancuso

DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers travel to Mobile for Sun Belt showdown

The Panthers face a tough test when they travel to Mobile for the Sun Belt showdown.

Brandon Wise

Asst. Sports Director
branchenwise@fiusm.com

This season, the Panthers have been Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, winning some big games, but dropping games to lesser opponents.

Head Coach Cindy Russo has even noticed it all season long.

"At times, we are a team that plays at a level that very few people play at in this conference," Russo said. "But we don’t do it at the same time."

The Panthers head into this game in fifth (2-3) in the East Division of the Sun Belt Conference, two games behind South Alabama, who is currently in a tie for second (4-1) with FAU. The Panthers will be seeking their first conference road win of the season, as they fell to both Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky earlier in the year.

The Jaguars have yet to lose at home, posting a 7-0 mark. Msina El is the Jaguars leading scorer, averaging 10.6 points per game, followed closely by Camille Reynolds at 10.3 per game.

FIU statistically faces the Jaguars in every category. Jerica Coley and Carmen Miloglou have combined for nearly as many assists (130) as the entire South Alabama team (162). Based on the statistics, this should be a victory for the Panthers, but as of late they have struggled to play well in the Sun Belt.

In their last game, Femi Hutlassa became the 21st Panther to eclipse the 1,000 point mark for her career, when she scored 21 points in the Panthers blowout win over Louisiana 78-48. Russo felt that this could happen.

"She’s very offensively minded," Russo said. "What a milestone to reach, only a few players have reached that in FIU history since 1975. She deserves it."

After being dominated on the defensive side of the ball, the Panthers will hope to crash the boards a bit better. Russo wants to see her team play better in difficult situations like the one they were in against Middle Tennessee.

"They are mastering the boards most of the night, even though we evetually got the upper hand," Russo said. "It was lack of handling pressure and keeping poise."

David Ridings

Men’s Basketball

Panthers set for tough test on the road versus USA

Malcolm Shields

Staff Writer
malcolmshields@fiusm.com

Impressive victories over George Mason and Coastal Carolina earlier in the season now seem like a distant memory.

As Director of Volleyball Operations Buck-Crockett and Indoor Volleyball Coach X. Garcia are now facing the Jaguars and the Panthers have struggled, posting a 2-9 record. On Jan. 19, the Panthers wrapped up a short road trip in Mobile, Ala. to take on the Jaguars of South Alabama.

South Alabama (9-6, 1-3 SBC) enters its matchup against FIU as a battle tested team. The Jaguars have defeated LSU in overtime and close losses to Sun Belt Western Division contenders Denver and North Texas.

In conference play, the Jaguars are in the top five in rebounding on both the offensive and defensive ends as well as blocks shot per game. Their front line will be anchored by 6’8” forward Augustine Rubit.

He leads South Alabama with 14.5 points per game and 8.7 rebounds per game.

In the last 11 games, Ferguson has averaged 45.4 points per game and 11.7 rebounds per game. In the backcourt for the Jaguars, Freddie Goldenstein will run the point for South Alabama. He is second on the team in scoring with 10.3 points per game and assists with 2.4 per game.

Inside Force

The 2011-2012 season for sophomore Dominic Ferguson did not begin as it would have liked as he would have liked. Through the first 10 games on the season, Ferguson averaged 45 points and 6.4 rebounds per game.

During that 10 game stretch, Ferguson was in his prime and was a force to be reckoned with.

As the season progressed, Ferguson was able to move back to his more natural position of a small forward, which allows him to operate facing up more to the basket rather than his back towards it.

In his last six games, Ferguson has averaged 21.3 points per game.

Brandon Wise

Asst. Sports Director
branchenwise@fiusm.com

This season, the Jaguars have been Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, winning some big games, but dropping games to lesser opponents.

Head Coach Cindy Russo has even noticed it all season long.

"At times, we are a team that plays at a level that very few people play at in this conference," Russo said. "But we don’t do it at the same time."

The Jaguars have yet to lose at home, posting a 7-0 mark. Msina El is the Jaguars leading scorer, averaging 10.6 points per game, followed closely by Camille Reynolds at 10.3 per game.

FIU statistically faces the Jaguars in every category. Jerica Coley and Carmen Miloglou have combined for nearly as many assists (130) as the entire South Alabama team (162). Based on the statistics, this should be a victory for the Panthers, but as of late they have struggled to play well in the Sun Belt.

In their last game, Femi Hutlassa became the 21st Panther to eclipse the 1,000 point mark for her career, when she scored 21 points in the Panthers blowout win over Louisiana 78-48. Russo felt that this could happen.

"She’s very offensively minded," Russo said. "What a milestone to reach, only a few players have reached that in FIU history since 1975. She deserves it."

After being dominated on the defensive side of the ball, the Panthers will hope to crash the boards a bit better. Russo wants to see her team play better in difficult situations like the one they were in against Middle Tennessee.

"They are mastering the boards most of the night, even though we eventually got the upper hand," Russo said. "It was lack of handling pressure and keeping poise."

Femi Hutlassa

FROM JAN. 1, 2014

BASKETBALL

SOUTH ALABAMA vs. FIU

FIU Min FG FT R A TP

Marshall 28 6/12 0/0 0 0 12

Lauderdale 14 1/5 0/0 0 0 02

Coles 22 8/13 0/0 0 0 12

Corder 4 0/1 1/1 0 0 02

Wright 21 7/10 0/0 0 0 12

Brown 02 0/0 0/0 0 0 02

Bednich 02 1/3 0/0 0 0 02

Payne 01 0/0 0/0 0 0 02

Owens 01 0/0 0/0 0 0 02

Law 01 0/0 0/0 0 0 02

Tena 02 0/0 0/0 0 0 02

Tleta 06 3/6 0/1 12 02

ULL Min FG FT R A TP

Allen 20 2/4 0/0 0 0 02

Wade 20 2/4 0/0 0 0 02

Brown 14 3/5 0/0 0 0 02

Minter 21 2/4 0/0 0 0 02

Schaffbuch 04 0/0 0/0 0 0 02

Henderson 18 4/9 0/0 0 0 02

Welshaker 20 2/10 0/0 0 0 02

Shavers 19 4/9 0/0 0 0 02

Cox 03 0/0 0/0 0 0 02

Nino 03 0/0 0/0 0 0 02

Tleta 06 16/18 0/0 22 02

Mass: FIU 35-12, ULL 70 Field goal shooting: (19-32)/(57%), ULL: Field goal shooting: (32-62)/(51%). Attendance: 1810.

Sara Mancuso

SPORTS
In this stretch, he has registered 5-of-6 games in double-figure scoring, which includes two game scoring 20 points. “Offensively he is starting to find himself,” head coach Isiah Thomas said. “He is not quite near where he’s going to be by the time he is a senior. He has gotten a little better offensively.”

Since guard DeJuan Wright has been out of the lineup, FIU (4-12, 1-3 SBC) has struggled to protect the basketball and find consistent scoring outside of starters Ferguson, Jeremy Allen and Phil Taylor. “When guys are coming in, we need them to not turn the ball over,” Allen said. “As starters we need to set the tempo and not turn the ball over. We need to collectively come together and do it as a team.”

As a trio, Taylor, Allen and Ferguson are ranked first, second and sixth respectively in scoring per game in conference play. “Offensively they have to carry the load for us,” Thomas said. “We don’t have enough offense right now.” In the last six games, FIU has averaged only 8.8 points per game from the bench.

After the loss to Middle Tennessee, coach Thomas stated that he did not know if Wright would return for the duration of the season. “We gotta keep trying to search… find guys that can take up the slack on the offensive load until DeJuan comes back, if he comes back.” Wright has been out of the lineup since Dec. 14 when he sustained a leg injury in the first half against Maryland.

WRIGHT UPDATE
Since guard DeJuan Wright has been out of the lineup, FIU has struggled to protect the basketball and find consistent scoring outside of starters Ferguson, Jeremy Allen and Phil Taylor. “When guys are coming in, we need them to not turn the ball over,” Allen said. “As starters we need to set the tempo and not turn the ball over. We need to collectively come together and do it as a team.”

As a trio, Taylor, Allen and Ferguson are ranked first, second and sixth respectively in scoring per game in conference play. “Offensively they have to carry the load for us,” Thomas said. “We don’t have enough offense right now.” In the last six games, FIU has averaged only 8.8 points per game from the bench.

WRIGHT UPDATE
Since guard DeJuan Wright has been out of the lineup, FIU has struggled to protect the basketball and find consistent scoring outside of starters Ferguson, Jeremy Allen and Phil Taylor. “When guys are coming in, we need them to not turn the ball over,” Allen said. “As starters we need to set the tempo and not turn the ball over. We need to collectively come together and do it as a team.”

As a trio, Taylor, Allen and Ferguson are ranked first, second and sixth respectively in scoring per game in conference play. “Offensively they have to carry the load for us,” Thomas said. “We don’t have enough offense right now.” In the last six games, FIU has averaged only 8.8 points per game from the bench.

WRIGHT UPDATE
Since guard DeJuan Wright has been out of the lineup, FIU has struggled to protect the basketball and find consistent scoring outside of starters Ferguson, Jeremy Allen and Phil Taylor. “When guys are coming in, we need them to not turn the ball over,” Allen said. “As starters we need to set the tempo and not turn the ball over. We need to collectively come together and do it as a team.”

As a trio, Taylor, Allen and Ferguson are ranked first, second and sixth respectively in scoring per game in conference play. “Offensively they have to carry the load for us,” Thomas said. “We don’t have enough offense right now.” In the last six games, FIU has averaged only 8.8 points per game from the bench.

WRIGHT UPDATE
Since guard DeJuan Wright has been out of the lineup, FIU has struggled to protect the basketball and find consistent scoring outside of starters Ferguson, Jeremy Allen and Phil Taylor. “When guys are coming in, we need them to not turn the ball over,” Allen said. “As starters we need to set the tempo and not turn the ball over. We need to collectively come together and do it as a team.”

As a trio, Taylor, Allen and Ferguson are ranked first, second and sixth respectively in scoring per game in conference play. “Offensively they have to carry the load for us,” Thomas said. “We don’t have enough offense right now.” In the last six games, FIU has averaged only 8.8 points per game from the bench.
Art student finally pursues his true calling

HEATHER ARMAS
Staff Writer
heather.armas@fiusm.com

Orestes De la Paz is not your typical art major. At 25, he has gone through four majors and a life-altering decision to finally follow his true calling, with his makeup and hairstyling career as well as pursuing music and art.

“Throughout high school, I focused my energies on piano, singing, performing in theater productions, video editing, painting — simply pursuing myself out artistically in any which way possible before I started my college years. I figured I had to get it out of my system before I started my college years. I worked in the beauty industry, makeup as my mediums. The more I worked in the beauty industry, the more I found myself applying concepts of what I learned in art classes. I had heard stories of fine artists who needed some kind of practical application of their skills who then became hair and makeup artists. I simply decided to follow the path in reverse,” he said.

With the bit of knowledge he had gained in high school theater, he decided to branch out and begin freelancing with makeup and hairstyling. Nights hanging out with his friends at the dorms inspired him to think about how much he could help his friends at the dorms.

“I'd have to accept the fact that art and creativity had to play integral parts to my future successes. It dawned on me then to treat hair and makeup as my mediums. The more I worked in the beauty industry, the more I found myself applying concepts of what I learned in art classes. I had heard stories of fine artists who needed some kind of practical application of their skills who then became hair and makeup artists. I simply decided to follow the path in reverse,” he said.

With the bit of knowledge he had gained in high school theater, he decided to branch out and begin freelancing with makeup and hairstyling. Nights hanging out with his friends at the dorms inspired him to think about how much he could help his friends at the dorms.

made up of these full-grown men in shaggy attire in their 50s while a garage door slowly opens for their heralded reveal. The echo of Pollard’s vocals shook with the repeating distortion throughout this quick-striking track — and much of the album plays along to this precedent. It is refreshing to hear a band that does not need to evolve from how one remembers them. Maturity would make it seem like these men went soft and are tracing back desperately for nostalgic memories, but “Let's Go...” could fall in place with their material from the '90s.

SECOND ANNUAL IRC EVENT HELD FOR HAITI

CANDACE SIERRA
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

On the two-year anniversary of the tragic Haitian earthquake, the International Rescue Committee at the University is shedding light on the Haitian community’s past struggles, current issues and future triumphs.

IRC is working diligently to raise awareness about refugees from the world around. The club gains its name from the global nonprofit organization that responds to humanitarian crises and resettles refugees in the U.S. After the devastating earthquake, IRC’s Miami office turned their efforts to aiding their neighbors in Haiti. Together with IRC at Miami Dade College-Wolfson, the Haitian Student Organization, Sigma Iota Rho, Golden Key and other University organizations, IRC not only commemorated the second anniversary of the earthquake but also discussed the work still needing to be done.

IRC’s all-day plans began with a serving of traditional Haitian bread and hot chocolate. This was followed by a panel of prestigious speakers, including Marjory Sheba, a Haitian journalist and writer. The piece openly addresses how one remembers them. Maturity would make it seem like these men went soft and are tracing back desperately for nostalgic memories, but “Let's Go...” could fall in place with their material from the '90s.

IRC’s all-day plans began with a serving of traditional Haitian bread and hot chocolate. This was followed by a panel of prestigious speakers, including Marjory Sheba, a Haitian journalist and writer. The piece openly addresses how one remembers them. Maturity would make it seem like these men went soft and are tracing back desperately for nostalgic memories, but “Let's Go...” could fall in place with their material from the '90s.

Positively the most anticipated speaker was Latortue, a former consul general of Haiti in Miami. Many were eager for information on his experience at home post-disaster. Later in the afternoon, there was an official moment of silence held in the GC Pit in a night of commemoration.

The piece openly addresses how one remembers them. Maturity would make it seem like these men went soft and are tracing back desperately for nostalgic memories, but “Let's Go...” could fall in place with their material from the '90s.
“Punk never sounded so fulfilling”

GUIDED, PAGE 5

without much upheaval.

I do not know if “recording a session with one mic on the floor to a four-track” could be considered a type of sound production, but that is the style you should expect, or lack thereof. That is not a slight as this is them sounding and feeling authentic. That is beginning a new world of production machine.

In their lo-fi glory and not an automated recording as GBV’s newcomers, that also does not alienate its dedicated fan base. With a collection of chugging, dissonant music patches (“Hang Mr. Kite” and “God Loves Us”) sewn with single-like melodic pop patches (“Hang Mr. Kite” and “God Loves Us”), it makes it as gratifying as any reunion album could be. One never feels that this is some makeshift album made to promote a tacked-on tour, as GBV is already planning another LP this year. For the most part, the varied components all work here.

In the standout track “God Loves Us,” Sprott declares among the hard-hitting riffs, “We are living proof that God loves us.” Bad blood could not keep them apart, and their comeback proves that their is plenty of love for them to receive.

Recommended Tracks: “God Loves Us,” “We Won’t Apologize for the Human Race,” and “The Unsinkable Fats Domino.”

Michael Hernandez is DJ Mike Munchik. His show is Radiophobia on Thursdays, 4-6 p.m. on Radiate FM.
Gamestop, not a threat to academic

ALEX SORONDO
Staff Writer
opinion@fiu.com

To suggest that having a Gamestop on campus is in some way a threat to any student’s academic performance is as much an insult, however inadvertent, as an opinion.

It suggests that students who frequent the store, whether to buy or play video games or just stand around talking shop, are incapable of setting down a controller to study or go to class.

Considering the price they pay for their education and, for most students, the drudgery of their daily commute, the notion that they might be swayed from paying their due diligence to the notion that they might be swayed from their education and, for most students, the store, whether to buy or play video games is as much an insult, however inadvertent, as an opinion.

For even the most die-hard gamer, the fact he or she came to school today rather than stayed home to play video games is a testament to some capacity for discipline, and probably far more than they need to resist the temptation of skipping class to stand among video games they can’t even play.

Instead, we lead lives that revolve to be, and endorse the functioning of, a community. Many of us, as commuters, are deprived of the conventional and idyllic college lifestyle with a transgressive dorm life full of body-substance experimentation and weekend noodle and Monday night keg stands.

The development of a more unified student voice at FIU is necessary. Yet, with the recent interest of students and faculty in the Occupi FIU Art and Music Festival, we must question the methods in which the movement chose to be heard.

The Beacon, an organization that prides itself on exercising the first amendment to the fullest extent, respects a student’s right to free speech, but there is a right way and a wrong way to exercise that right.

For a movement that has already worked the red tape of legal protest, the way the festival was handled was amateur at best. As students, it is our responsibility to ensure that we are abiding by all rules and regulations, to be aware of where we are free to voice our opinions and what measures we need to successfully get that message across.

The members of Occupi FIU were arrested because they did not observe the necessary channels to have an event at the Deuxième Maison pit.

While they claimed to have spoken to and received permission from the University Ombudsman Larry Lunsford, none of the members interviewed could recall him by name. According to Lunsford, no permission–written or verbal–was given.

If verbal agreements are not valid in a formal business setting, a University setting is no different. Before action is taken at any location on either campus, the necessary steps to guarantee permission need to be taken.

The members were unable to provide written documentation that they were permitted to have an event at DM. The DM pit is not a free speech zone, therefore event permits are required. Although Occupi FIU held a teach-in at the pit last semester, the advertisement for this festival anticipated and ultimately attracted a large police presence.

We acknowledge that the designated free speech zones are not clearly marked and the process to have an event at the Deuxième Maison’s website, The Beacon discovered that the information regarding free speech zones is not disclosed.

However, it is not an excuse to push the limits as to what is and isn’t lawful assembly. Although it is no excuse for a public institution to have its affairs in order in terms of student activism, it is the responsibility of the activist to educate himself on how to properly, and most effectively step up to the soap box.

In the University’s part, it is their job to be ready with options for students whenever they feel that they need to exercise their rights.

We understand that FIU is still a young university that lacks a lengthy history of campus activism. It is learning how to react to a new generation of students who are witnessing a unique social movement in other cities and university campuses that does not seem to be stopping anytime soon.

We all need to get use to the soap box. But let’s make sure it’s okay to stand on it first.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Occupy FIU movement garnering attention nationwide, especially after arrests

The recent arrests at the Occupy FIU event that took place on January 12th brings forth two pressing questions: Why have these students chosen to engage to University through means of direct action and protest rather than going through the proper channels, and how is this movement relevant?

The base of the Occupy FIU project has been the rise in tuition. Currently FIU’s tuition is projected to increase 15% annually, and has been doing so for years.

Florida law dictates that tuition must increase by 7% every year. The extra 8% is then tagged on by FIU and is approved by Patrick O’Keefe as our SGA president and representative to the board of trustees.

The issue of tuition highlights the disconnection between those involved in SGA, the board of trustees, and the average FIU student.

According to a report released by FIU’s Labor Center From 2002-2009 the University faculty has grown 1/4 of 1% while administration has grown 96.8%. To break that down into numbers, over the course of 7 years we have gained 5 faculty members and 365 new administrators.

At the upper echelons of the University bureaucracy and administration we have an average yearly price increase ranging from no lower than 15% to nearly 55%.

Most students at FIU work, they work to fund their educations and their livelihoods. A privileged few can be involved on campus, attend SGA meetings, or join a fraternity.

Occupy FIU provides an avenue for the average student to get involved when they have the time between work and school. It is the only avenue available to those with children, full-time jobs, and long-commutes.

Occupy FIU is following the trajectory of student movements throughout history. If the student body were to find on themselves the necessary steps to guarantee permission need to be taken.

Students are caught in an unfortunate cycle of having to push back graduation dates as they may work more to pay higher tuition that increases 15% every year.

The University wants more money; students are reluctant to give it though they have little choice.

How then, should the University proceed? FIU needs to reemphasize itself to the students that although Occupy FIU is small, the movement’s actions are garnering attention from national, online, and local media.

With more police presence at their demonstrations the students seem to be gaining support, winning sympathy, and are becoming increasingly emboldened.

- Kevin Gonzalez
Alum

“Occupy FIU must reevaluate its demonstration methods”

The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorial. Send them to neda.ghomeshi@fiu.com.
Students perform repairs to park in honor of MLK

Barbara Correllini Duarte
Staff Writer

Even the cold chill of a Saturday morning couldn’t keep these students from waking up early on the morning of Jan. 14 to attend the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

Students from the University and Miami Dade College met at the Goulds Park and started to check in around 8 a.m. for the event organized by the Center for Leadership and Service, Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department, and various other civic groups.

“One of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s greatest messages was what can you do for others,” said Shannonee Rodriguez, AmeriCorps VISTA for the FIU Center for Leadership and Service and one of the event organizers. “Today is a great opportunity for students to interact with students from different majors and also help the community.”

Volunteers were divided into 13 teams and split to work on various projects around the park.

“I feel like we are all here because of team work,” said Tyrone Watson, sophomore criminal justice major. “The FIU community helping out other communities (near) our campus.”

Throughout the five hours of service, students worked on playground maintenance, landscape, gardening, painting and cleaning.

“How many times do you walk by a park?” asked Jeremy Vargas, a sophomore business major, while working on a sandbox.

“I walk by one every day. We never really know what kind of work it takes for keeping up a park. Working with other people, not getting paid and being here just help to open up the doors to the community, philanthropy, teamwork and leadership.”

The fact that some projects did not have enough tools for all volunteers did not deter volunteers from taking part. Several students worked in small groups picking up garbage, leaves and branches without gloves, rake or shovel.

“I think it’s really important that we get out and know what is going on in our community and that we are part of something that is bigger than ourselves,” said Christine Selby, graduate student of international education.

“That’s really what Martin Luther King was about, being part of a greater good and seeing that everybody has a right and need for freedom and respect within the community.”

As the projects were being completed, nearly 400 participants gathered in the park gymnasium to have lunch and attend to the closing ceremony.

Before heading back home, volunteers were engaged in a dance activity led by Dashay Bivens, dance instructor at Goulds Park.

Jack Kardy, director of Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department, started the ceremony delivering a speech to thank all the volunteers and staff.

“We estimate today that there was more than $20,000 worth of work that was done out here. Give yourselves a collective round of applause for that contribution.”

Kameika Clayton, a nursing freshman student, helps out with fixing up Goulds Park.

Panthers settle score with style

Brandon Wise
Asst. Sports Director

Last season, Central Connecticut State came to FIU and defeated the Panthers 142-121. This time around, the Panthers wanted to make a statement and send their seniors out in style.

They did just that, defeating the Blue Devils 174-120 in Miami on Jan. 14. Head Coach Randy Hornor was pleased with his squad’s performance.

“They really responded,” Hornor said. “This is a team that beat us last year and we definitely wanted to come back and win our last home dual meet and build some momentum heading into the conference championships.”

“We dropped off to a bit of a rocky start for the Panthers, as they dropped the opening event, the 400-yard medley relay, by two seconds to the Blue Devils. The Panthers bounced back and took the next three events before dropping the 100-yard breaststroke, 200-yard butterfly, and 50-yard freestyle to the Blue Devils.

However, they would get back on track, riding the showing of Sonia Perez-Arau. She won the first of her three events, the 1,000-yard freestyle, by a full 10 seconds over her next highest competitor, 10:30.25. Perez-Arau would go on to also take the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 2:03.52 and the 400-yard IM with a time of 4:33.66. Both events were won by at least eight seconds.

Hornor thinks the sky is the limit for Perez-Arau.

“She’s a great swimmer,” Hornor said. “Her winning events in duals is sometimes secondary to what she’s doing time wise to possibly set herself up for nationals, she’s that kind of talent.”

Perez-Arau is working on various projects around the University Center.

However, they would get back on track, riding the showing of Sonia Perez-Arau. She won the first of her three events, the 1,000-yard freestyle, by a full 10 seconds over her next highest competitor, 10:30.25. Perez-Arau would go on to also take the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 2:03.52 and the 400-yard IM with a time of 4:33.66. Both events were won by at least eight seconds.

Hornor thinks the sky is the limit for Perez-Arau.

“She’s a great swimmer,” Hornor said. “Her winning events in duals is sometimes secondary to what she’s doing time wise to possibly set herself up for nationals, she’s that kind of talent.”

Perez-Arau is working on various projects around the University Center.

“Always want to beat teams that may have beaten you the previous year to show that improvement,” Hornor said. “It’s a good measuring stick to where we are as a program.”

This the final home meet for seniors. Elly James (Back/IM), Kariann Stevens (Free/Butterfly), and Victon Torres (Free/Butterfly). Hornor and the rest of the team did their part in sending the seniors out the right way.

“The whole team was swimming to send the seniors off as winners here in our last home meet.”

In his closing remarks, Michael Lenaghan, International Board of Directors, Chairman for Service for Peace and Miami Dade College Professor, closed the event with some words of inspiration.

“The pebbles of the pond that we throw here reach far distance shores. Thanks for being pebbles in this pond that will undoubtedly reach far behind our shores.”

Council is optimistic for the new semester

Anthony Cave and Jonathan Szydlo
FIUSM Staff
bbc@fiusm.com

Despite elections after spring break and prepping the budget for next fall, there is “money set aside” for resolutions, according to Honors College Senator Pablo Haipel.

Members of the Senate met with an architect last semester to discuss a vision for the entire building. Haipel said that he wants to have it set up where future students could benefit. Haipel said that he wants to have it set up where future students could benefit.

Other resolutions passed by the SGC-BBC included the construction of a covered walkway from the Wolfe University Center to Marine Science Building; renovations to be made to the campus’ recreation fields; and pear trees to be planted on NE 151 street, from Biscayne Boulevard to the campus.

None of these pieces of legislation have come into fruition at time of press.

However, with the coming spring rain being on the horizon, SGC-BBC has passed and followed through with a resolution that has placed plastic umbrella bags throughout the campus.