Students, faculty come together for annual Law Week

LAUREN ROVIRA
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From March 27 through March 29, the law school was abuzz as the Student Bar Association brought together students and faculty for Law Week. “Law Week is on the Student Bar Association’s agenda from day one,” said Robert Scavone Jr., president of the SBA. “There are three objectives to Law week; building camaraderie among the students, creating events where the students and faculty can have fun together and creating time throughout the day where students can take a break from studying to have some fun.”

In preparation for the annual Barrister’s Ball, which was held March 31, the Student Bar Association and affiliate groups at the law school hosted a number of events for law students to enjoy. “Traditionally, the entire SBA Board chips in to make sure Law Week is a success,” Scavone said. “This year was no different; however, we also teamed up with the Hispanic Law Students Association this year.”

Students were invited on March 27 to the large courtroom to listen to guest speaker Robert Coppel, director of training and professionalism for the Public Defender’s Office. “Inspirational People in Criminal Law” featured Coppel speaking about his experiences as a felony trial and training attorney.

All students who had an interest in criminal law were invited to attend the event. The following evening, Students, faculty come together for annual Law Week

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An FIU international relations alum was selected to as one of the recipients for the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Graduate Fellowship, which includes $90,000 to pursue a master’s program, two internships, and three years of work in the United States Foreign Service. “I am extremely humbled by the opportunity to join a community of Rangel Fellows that are currently serving all over the world,” said Abdel Perera, who became the third FIU student to be selected for the program.

Perera was among 20 candidates selected out of more than 200 applicants nationwide for the Rangel graduate program, which this year had two FIU students in the finals. According to Perera, he was meet with candidates from Harvard, Georgetown and American University.

Though he said he felt prepared because of his training with the University’s Center for Excellence in Writing. The fellowship is a program that seeks to attract and prepare qualified individuals for careers in the Foreign Service in which they can “help formulate, represent and implement U.S. foreign policy.”

“The Rangel Fellowship was a highly compet...
Perera wins $90,000 scholarship

RANGE! PAGE 1

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join a community of Rangel Fellows that are
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Abdel Perera, AlfI

Perera was selected for another inter-
national internship with a member
of the University. Perera found out about
the program through Hilarion Martinez, asso-
ciate dean of undergraduate
and Spring semesters and once a week
during the Fall semester.

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Law, page 1

SBA hosted a Rock Band Night.
The students had set up a band ensemble
in the large courtroom and were
expected to have up to three vocalists.
The event took place between 5 p.m.
and 8 p.m. and dinner was provided.

To top it off, SBA and the Hispa-
nic Law Students Association held
Salma Night on March 29.
Salma night featured
volunteer instructors from
within the law school student body
who gave lessons to those who
requested them.

“The SBA and HLSA
co-hosted ‘Salma Night’
with the current HLSA
President, Christina
Vilaboa, and other HLSA
members giving salsa
lessons, while the SBA
provided paella,” Scavone
said.

“Both nights were hits
among the students.”

Law week ended with the
Baristas’ ball, where the SBA announced
the members of the associ-
ation for the following year.

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Two seniors hope to make final match memorable

JONATHAN JACOBSKIND
Staff Writer sports@fiusm.com

Friday, April 6, will be the final time Lisa Johnson and Christine Seredni suit up for a home match. Panther fans can say goodbye to the team’s seniors as they play host to Fresno State.

The Panthers will be honoring Johnson and Seredni and reflect their tenure at FIU. Johnson, who transferred from University of Utah in 2010, is still in disbelief that her collegiate career is coming to an end.

“I have mixed feelings because I really don’t feel like it’s over. I guess on the actual day I feel very sad,” Johnson said.

According to Johnson, she developed some of the most memorable moments and relationships with her teammates at FIU and will remain to linger in her memory.

“Winning the conference tournament last year was a memorable and great experience,” Johnson said. “Everyday practice and the jokes [the teammates] make with one another and all the inside things I really enjoyed.”

Over her two years at FIU, Johnson accumulated a 23-27 record in singles play and a 25-21 record in doubles play, going 3-0 last season in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

Seredni, a Virginia native, missed five matches in her final season and is looking forward to moving on with her life.

“It’s bittersweet. I’m going to miss my teammates and I am going to miss playing, but I am looking forward to moving on from tennis,” Seredni said. “I have learned to work together as a team of women who are from different parts of the world. I know that will help me out later in life.

Working with a coach like Melissa [Applebaum-Dall’au], who we don’t usually see eye-to-eye, has prepared me for the real world and problems I might have in the future.

Relocating from a small town in Rich- mond, Va to a city full of glitz and glamour in Miami, Seredni attributes Miami as the one thing that has impacted her the most while her time at FIU.

“I mean I’m from Richmond, Virginia, which is a very conservative place. So coming here to Miami, I was a bit close-minded and Miami has really opened my mind up,” Seredni said. “I love how everyone is accepted here.

I really love Miami’s culture and the opened mindedness and I’m going to take some of that back with me when I go back home.” Former Utah tennis player Johnson has aspirations of becoming a tennis coach after concluding her collegiate career.

“For me, I want to become a tennis coach,” Johnson said. “I still want to be around tennis for the rest of my life.”

Compared to her experiences back in Utah along with the ones at FIU, Johnson does not see much of a difference.

“It’s pretty much the same,” Johnson stated. “The most important thing was just being able to bond with the team…I put a lot of emphasis on my fitness so I feel like I have gotten in a lot better shape.”

Senior day ceremonies begins 15 minutes prior to the first match followed by the match against Fresno State at 1 p.m.

Panthers blank Rattlers to take opening game of two-game set

FIU SPORTS STAFF
sports@fiusm.com

FIU 13, FAMU 0

Whenever a baseball team records 10 hits in a game, it is considered a successful night on offense. Yet FIU aims for more.

“Our goal for hitting is to at least get 13 hits [per game],” said Jabari Henry last week.

On April 2, the Panthers (15-13) hit the number 13 in a category, except it was not in hits. It was in runs category. FIU added one of its best nights of the season at the plate and on the mound when it shut out Florida A&M University (5-27) 13-0 to win game one of a two-game series against the Rattlers.

Every starter lineup had at least one hit and one run in the season-high 13-run, 16-hit output, while senior Mike Martinez and Henry each hit a home run.

The pitching refused to be outdone, with three pitchers combining for 12 strikeouts and only two walks for the first shutout since April of last year. Right-handed starter Logan Dodds pitched five innings with six strikeouts and three more runs on freshman Oscar Aguirre’s triple, a wild pitch and a sacrifice fly.

T.J. Shantz joined the hit parade in the sixth inning when he hit an RBI single to score freshman Julius Aguire’s triple, a wild pitch and a sacrifice fly.

Junior Troy Trojans (13-16, 3-6 SBC) tonight at 7 p.m. for game one of a three-game series.

EDUARDO ALMAGUER

The offense totaled 32 hits in their series with the FAMU Rattlers between April 3-4.

BASEBALL
After the Panthers lost their first conference series of the season against Troy on April 1, FIU (16-16, 4-3 SBC) will take on the worst hitting team in the Sun Belt. The Panthers will now take on Louisiana-Monroe in a three-game set, which begins on April 6 with a doubleheader at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The Warhawks are coming off a big offensive output as they defeated Nicholls State 7-4 on March 29. The win leaves ULM (16-13, 3-6 SBC) in seventh place in the conference, six games behind conference leader Louisiana-Lafayette.

The Warhawks’ biggest offensive asset is without question their speed. Despite being the worst hitting team in the conference, ULM uses small-ball to make up for the lack of bats. The Warhawks rank fourth in the nation and tops in the conference in stolen bases with 2.55 per game, stealing over 50 bases more than the Panthers.

FIU pitchers may want to keep an eye on Miyuki Navarrete, who leads the team with 17 stolen bases so far in 2012. Those 17 stolen bases have also placed Navarrete as the leader in stolen bases in the conference and also ranks her 31st in the country. In comparison, FIU’s stolen base leader is Beth Peller with seven.

ULM also carries three batters in their lineup with a batting average above .340: Karli Wainwright (.388), Alexis Cacioppo (.345) and Janel Salanova (.341).

But FIU also carries some potent offensive weapons in Ashley McClain. The 2011 Sun Belt Player of the Year is batting a robust .418 average with 24 runs batted in. Beth Peller is hitting in stolen bases at a .312 average. Kayla Burris is hitting .297 to go with 14 RBI’s and Brie Rojas has 20 RBI’s on the year.

Although both clubs may bring a potent lineup, FIU’s pitching has the slight advantage over the Warhawks. FIU brings to the table their ace, Mariah Dawson, who carries a 12-8 record into the series with 121 strikeouts, 70 walks and 3.71 ERA.

The Panthers also bring to the series James Giudate, who is 4-6 on the year with a 3.35 ERA and ULM with Stephanie Routzon who is 3-8 with a 3.98 ERA.

FIU lost the series against ULM last season, but leads the all-time series record 12-5.

The Panthers will try to control the fourth ranked team in the nation in stolen bases in Louisiana-Monroe. The Warhawks are also first in the Sun Belt in steals per game with 2.55 stolen bags per contest.

**Offense continues to stay hot, total 30 runs in last three games**

**BASEBALL, PAGE 3**

**FIU 9, FAMU 4**

Following a slugfest the previous night, the Panthers batted the ball hot and outhit the Rattlers 16-6 to get Jose Lazo his first victory of the year.

FIU did most of their damage in the middle of the game by scoring seven runs from the third through fifth inning to beat FAMU 9-4.

Mike Martinez, who came into the game hitting .356, finished the game hitting 2-2 with two RBI’s.

“The real key to this game was just a good all-around pitching effort by our starting pitcher,” said Martinez. “We have to jump right from the start, they are really aggressive and they came out with a lot of energy,” Johnson commented.

The Bengals countered with three runs of their own in the fourth inning as short stop Julius Gaines.

But FIU would score more in the fourth, one in the fifth and one in the eighth as John Caballero Alberto Cardenas and John Grant finished off FAMU allowing zero runs and three hits in the last five innings to secure the win.

The Panthers go deeper into conference-play starting with two out of the runs came from. Bajdaun was replacing the usual starter Julius Gaines.

“Mike Martinez kicked things off for the Panthers in the first inning by singling home Pablo Bermudez with two outs to tie the game 1-1. After that, Martinez was into the game and scored a run in the first when Regina Grant scored on a Jose Lazo wild pitch while Grant was at third. His next plate appearance came with yet another RBI as he scored in Nathan Burns in a big third inning for FIU. Bermudez later scored on a throwing error by catcher Corey Franklin, and Adam Kirsch knocked in Martinez with a single. Kirsch later came around to score off an Oscar McClelland double to increase the lead to 5-1 by the end of the inning.

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The curtains are closing on the 2012 season as FIU (5-13, 2-1 SBC) looks to end the year on a high note, preparing to battle with the No. 49 Fresno State Bulldogs in their season finale.

The Bulldogs look to avenge a 4-2 loss that the Panthers handed them back on Jan. 27 in Athens, Ga.

Senior Lisa Johnson led the pack as the Panthers suspended the Bulldogs in the opening round of the 2012 ITA Kickoff Weekend in Athens. The victory marked the first win of the season for the Panthers.

“We have to jump right from the start, they are really aggressive and they came out with a lot of energy,” Johnson commented on the January match versus the Bulldogs. “So we have to make sure right from doubles we come out just as aggressive.”

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**JONATHON JACOBSKIND Staff Writer sports@fiusm.com**

The Panthers are ready for final match of the season

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**JASON WOLEK Staff Writer sports@fiusm.com**

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**ALUMNUS TO ATTEMPT “WORLD’S TOUGHEST RACE”**

**ESRA ERDOGAN**
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When reading a description of the Spartan Death Race, one may question the sanity of the participants. According to their website youmaydie.com, “200 ultra-endurance athletes” will fight each other out for the title in a competition that shares almost the same name of “The Hunger Games”; only 15 percent will complete the race. University alumnus Guillermo “Rhino” Sadir plans to be part of that 15 percent.

“Everyone I know has come to expect me to attempt crazy and unexpected adventures, however, I have never attempted to do such an extreme physical and mental challenge [as this] and some cannot begin to comprehend what is involved in competing at this level.

“Crazy is usually the first word that comes to their mouth,” said Sadir, who has three degrees from the University including a master’s in Human Resources. The Spartan Death Race is a 48-mile course that takes place in the mountaneous woods of Pintsfield, Vermont. Contestants are challenged by 25 to 30 obstacles, physical and mental, that they must complete before the deadline of 48 hours.

Some of the types of hurdles that “Death Racers” can expect are chopping wood for hours, building a fire, sprinting towards dangerous woods, or memorizing a list of vernacular words while then repeating it after looking a mountain.

While other obstacle courses may involve similar brutal physical tasks, the Spartan Death Race takes it to another level by adding in tests that challenge participants’ mental faculty. Another factor that makes this race different from the rest is that no contestant is aware of what is to come until they are already in the race; the developers keep the maps and challenges a secret.

In order to complete a race like this, contestants must train vigorously. Sadir is no newbie to races and extreme adventures. He and his “Death Racers” can expect are chopping wood for hours, building a fire, sprinting towards dangerous woods, or memorizing a list of vernacular words while then repeating it after looking a mountain.

During the registration process for the Miami 8-Mile Super Spartan Race, he saw the URL for the Spartan Death Race and registered for it almost immediately.

This year he completed the North Miami 8-Mile Super Spartan Race. During the registration process for the race, he saw the URL for the Spartan Death Race and registered for it blindly.

But Sadir knew he could not enter the race without the necessary prepartion and began training. He and his partner and friend Alen J. Potocki meet every morning at the gym at 5 a.m., said Sadir.

“Being confident enough to know what makes ‘Reunion.’

“Completing a race like the Spartan Death Race will require more than physical and mental training. In a race where 200 individuals are working towards the same goal, you wonder whether competition outwits camaraderie. Sadir believes that the competition like competition may be a misstep.

“Please trim your hand to the finish line, Sadir also finds that friendships developed during the race are memorable and meaningful.

“In last year’s race, a US Marine and a British Special Forces officer met up a few yards from the finish line after 20 hours of racing, they looked at each other and realized this experience was more than just about winning but it was about winning well. With few words, they marched side by side and stepped over the finish line together,” said Sadir.

As another source of motivation, Sadir has collected almost a thousand dollars for St. Jude’s Children’s hospital. He and his wife have become long time contributors after spending time in the Target House at St. Jude’s and meeting with some of the young patients.

Racing for charity is not required, but Sadir took up the additional challenge and hopes his story will open up people’s hearts and wallets so he can give more to the hospital. Sadir’s family has benefited from his new passion for racing.

“I am very proud, but also amazed at how he finds new things to find to be active. The last three years have been great for him [and] also our family. My two kids, ages eight and 10, have been doing triathlons and competing in races for the last two years and I even just did my first triathlon and hopefully I’ll be part of some of his crazy races,” said Tiffany Sadir. With the race on June 15th, Sadir has only a few months left to prepare for the challenge of a lifetime.

“I’m hoping I challenge myself to the breaking point and come ahead, so that the second I cross the finish line, I can start thinking of my next challenge, and I already have a few in mind,” said Sadir.

After seeing the story of a double amputee named Scott Rigby who finished the 140-mile Kona Ironman in Hawaii, Sadir was inspired.

“What excuse can I ever come up with for giving up?” said Sadir.

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**“AMERICAN REUNION” NOT A COMPLETE PIE TO THE FACE**

Jorge Mendez
Columnist

It’s easy to see that Hollywood is addicted to sequels and remakes capitalizing on fan’s loyalty and often on their sense of nostalgia to cash in and make a quick buck. Because of this, it’s not hard to go into a movie like “American Reunion” with a cynical mindset.

**Jorge Mendez**

This film does have a few things going in its favor: it’s the first “American Pie” movie to bring back the original cast since “American Wedding.” Additionally, it is written by John Hurwitz— the same writer of the original “American Pie” — and it is filled with a ton of fan service, which is sure to attract the level of success can be argued.

All of the original characters that you love and hate are back: Jim, Stifler’s mom, Michelle and even MILF guy #2.

Having the original cast back gives the film a feeling of authenticity; these guys really do seem like a group of lifelong friends who have reunited after years of being apart.

Concerning the film’s plot, it’s nothing new and, in a way, it seems formulaic: Jim has the awkward conversation with his dad, Stifler pulls off some ridiculous pranks and just about everyone in the movie has some sort of relationship problem— Jim’s being exceptionally hilarious.

With that being said, these returning gags do not fail; they are sure to make even the most serious of audience members put their guard down and let out a chuckle or four. The plot suffers from the occasional sappy scene, which feels forced and unnecessary when coming from a group of people like the class of 1999.

As in other “American Pie” movies, the actors’ performances are nothing to write home about. They range from acceptable to cringe-worthy.

Jason Biggs, acting the role of the film’s leading man, Jim, does the usual okay job. Still, if there was an award for best portrayal of someone getting caught with their pants down, Biggs would win it hands down.

Everyone else does an average job, except Sean William Scott. I don’t recall the Stifflerner having always been this bad. His over-the-top and amateur acting may have been forgivable 10 years ago in the original, but it just no longer makes the cut.

Overall, the film as a whole does a fine job of bringing the franchise back to its roots by appealing to both the old die-hard fans as well as the new generation of troublemakers. If you watch the movie with an open mind and ignore the cheesy moments, you just might be pleasantly surprised. I give “American Reunion” three pies out of five.

Jorge Mendez is a guest Columnist for Reel to Reel.
How to avoid being a jerk: A bartender’s guide

Y
ou’re the customer and you are probably wrong. At the very least, you are definitely not always right. I know you’ve been told that you are but you are not and this is why: your bartender, salesperson, waitress or waiter is definitely more of an expert on whatever it is you are arguing with them about.

Whether it is top shelf liquor that you are certain you did not get in your drink (I bet you can’t tell the difference, but I digress) or a shirt that was on the sale rack but was not actually on sale, you’re probably being a jerk about it. In such a case, the following are six steps you can take to avoid the pitfall of being a jerk.

1. Quality:
   Bartenders have no problem remaking a drink. They want you to be happy not only because they are good people but also because they want you to continue making them look like they are the idiot.
   As I said, surely the bartender is more of an expert on drinks than you are, so avoid making them look like they are the idiot.

2. Tipping:
   As I said, surely the bartender is more of an expert on drinks than you are, so avoid making them look like they are the idiot.
   Don’t ever yell at the checkout clerk or salesperson, no matter what. I cannot emphasize this enough. The same goes when you eat out at a restaurant.
   If you wouldn’t call your lawyer or accountant a “moron” to their face, don’t even think about calling any of the servers, bartenders or salespeople a “moron.” They really do not care if you don’t come back to shop, drink or eat there again. Plus, everyone in the establishment will silently be thinking you’re a douche.

3. Yelling:
   Bartenders have no problem remaking a drink. They want you to be happy not only because they are good people but also because they want you to continue drinking and spend more money, duh.
   However, try to be polite about it and assume that if the bartender cannot understand what you want, it’s probably because you are mispronouncing “Puma” and saying “Puma.”
   As I said, surely the bartender is more of an expert on drinks than you are, so avoid making them look like they are the idiot.
   For further notes about ordering see step 4.

4. Ordering:
   Fancy nicknames for drinks are lame and make the bartender feel bad for not knowing what it is. Don’t make the bartender feel bad. You don’t want a “Cape Codder,” you actually just want a vodka cranberry.

5. Coupons:
   As I said, surely the bartender is more of an expert on drinks than you are, so avoid making them look like they are the idiot.
   For further notes about ordering see step 4.
   Assume that outside of the customer-employee dynamic, the employee is probably way cooler and smarter than you. In other words, don’t assume that because there was a snafu with your Jäger-bomb or a skirt on sale that the person serving or helping you is intellectually inferior to you.
   They’re probably just really busy. Imagine someone hovering over your shoulder when you are trying to meet a deadline and ridiculing you for ending a sentence with a preposition. That’s how being in customer service is, all the time. Go forth, tip and act accordingly.

My Turn To Talk is a lifestyle opinion piece. Submit yours at life.fiusm.com
If Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had not been gunned down 44 years ago, I wonder what kind of courageous and poetic wisdom he would have imparted upon us in regard to the senseless murder of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin.

When it comes to race, America is experiencing an identity crisis. We live in an America where we have a Black president, a man whom, perhaps only 30 years ago, could have easily been mistaken for Trayvon. But we also live in an America where we have paranoid racists convinced that “walking while black” - WWB, - is a dangerous endeavour and a crime punishable by death.

We live in an America where numerous athletic teams, students, mothers, etc. have marched in hoodies to show solidarity with Trayvon and his family. But we also live in an America, where men in proverbial white hoods recently served Skittles and iced tea to gatherings at a Klu Klux Klan rally at the Arkansas headquarters of The Knights Party - the only two things Trayvon was armed with the night he was murdered.

It is worth noting the national KKK conference pulled in a total of 80 participants. The rallies for Trayvon, the facebook posts, the tweets in solidarity with him? Hundreds of thousands, perhaps even millions.

Certainly, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would have cried with us over the loss of Trayvon. Certainly, he would have encouraged not a violent response, but a steadfast resistance to accepting this death. Certainly, he would have smiled a bittersweet smile or his eyes would have filled up with tears, maybe both, when the President of the United States publicly said, “If I had a son, he would look like Trayvon”. But more than anything, I think Dr. King Jr. would have wanted us not to hate George Zimmerman, the man who pursued and killed Trayvon - that’s too easy. It is too easy to hate a monster. It is difficult, and forces a re-evaluation of ideals, to instead hate the system of racial inequality that murder and hopelessness like this are predicated on. Dr. King Jr. would have wanted justice for Trayvon and his family, no doubt, but he would also want, as he is famously known to have said, to “not stop there.”

He would not want us to stop with Zimmerman being arrested and investigated for murder.

He would not want us to stop until we’ve addressed the systemic roots of racism. He would not want us to stop until we have addressed the recent study that more African American males are in jail than there were African American men enslaved in 1850. Zimmerman stood his ground, he says; now we have to stand ours.

The illusion of online privacy and security is shattering before our eyes. The struggle to remain incognito to our professional peers has become exceedingly difficult due to a new trend in the job market.

Employers, in the process of hiring, have ventured into what many consider to be the ultimate taboo: the surrendering of social media passwords.

In a still-fragile economy, this new prerequisite will undoubtedly cause even more grief to applicants in a fiercely competitive job market.

This process is nothing short of an invasion of privacy, which is already far too simple in this ever-connected world.

In a recent National Public Radio broadcast, corrections officer Robert Collins related his first-hand experience of the social media screening process.

Collins was asked to present his Facebook password when he reapplied to the same facility he had left due to a family-related illness.

When he came back, he was subjected to a fully detailed Facebook search where many other aspects of his profile were carefully analyzed and dissected.

“I felt violated; I felt disrespected. I felt that my privacy was invaded, but not only my privacy, the privacy of my friends and that of my family, that didn’t ask for that,” said Collins about the screening.

The relevance of social networking information to a person’s professional life is highly questionable. It is unfair that future applicants are judged based on whatever they do outside of their occupations.

Prior to social networking, the only relevant information needed for new hires was a background check. What exactly makes it acceptable to require personal passwords?

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“We don’t need to invade a place or install a new government to help bring about a positive change.”

Nicholas Kristof
Columnist, The New York Times

“I don’t know how people function without near constant internal chaos. I’d lose my mind.”

Dave Eggers
Author of A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius

“All great change in America begins at the dinner table.”

Ronald Reagan
Former U.S. President

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TRANSPORTATION

State agency sets up shop on entry way to campus

STEPHANIE FELDMAN  Staff Writer  stephanie.feldman@fiusm.com

Just footsteps away from the pristine waters of Biscayne Bay and Biscayne Bay Campus is a building considered to be one of the most important forms of environmental protection: the law enforcement office for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s South Region.

As the result of a state constitutional amendment passed in 1999, the Florida Marine Patrol and the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission were merged to create one commission, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The land was donated to the agency by a fellow state agency and FWC then utilized grant money from Florida Island Navigation District to construct the building. No taxpayer dollars had to be used for land or construction,” said Curt Kaloski, lieutenant at the office near Biscayne Bay.

While the mission of the FWC is to “manage fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people,” the law enforcement division helps to enforce rules and regulations on both a state and federal level. The office for law enforcement contains investigators, marine patrol and conservation enforcement officers.

“Before our patrol officers patrol one of the state’s five regional offices, they need to be trained and certified,” said Captain Eric Cheek. “It takes a minimum of six months to complete this training.”

FWC marine patrol and conservation enforcement officers are often first to arrive at a scene, because they have the necessary equipment and means to reach often inaccessible locations.

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The FWC is tasked with managing the state’s marine and freshwater fisheries, marine mammals, and endangered species.

FWC patrol officers and conservation enforcement officers are often first to arrive at a scene, because they have the necessary equipment and means to reach often inaccessible locations.

“We also respond to most incidents where someone is lost and in need of help. As a law enforcement agency, we are at the ready to respond to any and all distress calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” Pino said.

The FWC also works alongside other local, state, and federal agencies for specialized training and projects which include the trans-planting and growing of coral, assisting in the vast Everglades restoration effort, and managing seasonal events such as lobster season and turtle hatching season.

Chuck Collins, director for the South Region stresses the importance of protecting the “unique and diverse environments” which are unique to Florida.

Collins’ students volunteer with Florida environmental agencies and groups, and there are other careers not limited to science and biology majors. Students can internships with the commission.

As the case of the increase in raccoon populations due to human feeding, Collins stresses the need to educate the public about the environment, specifically not feeding wildlife which creates nuisance animals.

“There is always a consequence to our actions and those need to be thought through,” Collins said.