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Florida International University

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SGC-MMC senate appoints speakers, chairs

DIANE ARIAS
Asst. News Director

With summer meetings underway, the legislative branch of the Student Government Association at the Modesto Maidique campus confirmed Speaker of the Senate, Speaker Pro Tempore and the six committee chairs for the 2012-13 academic year, leaving one position open in the Senate.

Elected Speaker Kristen Robillard is responsible for chairing all Senate meetings and also sits in the Senate. Senate’s impressive Speaker was appointed Speaker of the Senate, Speaker Pro Tempore and the six committee chairs for the 2011-12 academic year, leaving one position open in the Senate.

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SGC-MMC Senate's last meeting saw the senate now find itself dealing with attendance. Five absences out of a total of 30 senators, which failed to meet quorum.

The challenges the senate expects to encounter this year deal with the dual role of being a part of SGA and a university student. Despite reaching the needed attendance to proceed with business in their earlier meetings, the senate now finds itself dealing with attendance issues as addressed by Castro in their July 9 meeting. The senate’s last meeting saw 15 absences out of a total of 30 senators, which failed to meet quorum.

“We have one meeting that quorum was not reached. The reason is that it is summer and some senators are out of town.” Robillard said. “We had two meetings where we had issues with quorum.”

The Finance Committee is among the six committees in the Senate and is responsible for allocating funds to organizations not funded by any other committee. SGC-MMC Senate meetings take place every other Monday during the summer from 4-6 p.m. and every Monday during the fall and spring semesters in GC 140, the Senate Chambers.

University acquires local Jewish landmark

KATIA CANETE
Contributing Writer

The recent merging of the University and the Jewish Museum of Florida was a decision that came from many conversations about the vision of both the school’s and museum’s programs.

“Over time, we realized our shared interests gave us the unique opportunity to formalize our collaborations,” Kenneth Furton, dean of the college of arts and sciences, said.

The museum opened in 1995 and started off as a traveling exhibit known as MOSAIC: Jewish Life in Florida, before they had their own permanent facility in Miami Beach.

The museum includes two buildings of a former synagogue — a landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The merger, which resulted from the museum’s board of directors decision to gift the museum to the University, will make the museum part of the University and will change its name to the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU.

According to the museum’s website, the mission statement of the Jewish Museum of Florida is “to collect, preserve and interpret the material evidence of the Florida Jewish experience from when Jews came four weeks after the search and screen process for a new student affairs leader was happening.” Wartzok said.

“I have asked him not to because if you are trying to attract a very strong pool of candidates externally and they know the interim person internally is also a candidate then they tend not to apply,” Wartzok said.

This announcement comes four weeks after the search and screen process for a new student affairs leader was happening. The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU is located in Miami Beach.

*Check out our next issue for more coverage on the EcoAcademy Summer Camp.*

**See Merger, page 2**
Museum to educate on discrimination

MERGER, PAGE 1

were first allowed to settle in 1763... up to the present and to interpret this history in the context of the American Jewish experience."

The museum's website explains that, to meet their mission statement, the museum conducts humanities research in "both Florida Jewish history and in the general experience of immigration, acculturation and heritage preservation for all Americans, as reflected in the Jewish experience of Florida."

Furton said the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU will become an interdisciplinary education, research and outreach facility focused on the history of the Jewish experience in Florida and the issues of discrimination against all people in Florida, serving as an outlet for education for the public.

Multicultural education through exhibitions, programs and historical collections are just some of the ways the museum has educated their community for nearly two decades. "The addition of the museum, with its exhibits and archival materials, will help enhance Judaic studies," said Furton. The expansion is meant to target students in other programs and expand their global learning experience.

Due to the merger, the University will be able to utilize the facilities and collections to implement an academic plan designed to educate students and the community on the challenges of the immigrant experiences shared by all ethnicities in Florida.

Jo Ann Arnowitz, the museum's executive director, said that awareness and expansion are the main goals of the merger.

The other goals include engaging the community and having people come together because they both want to offer.

The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU has had a plan designed to educate students and the community in the context of the American Jewish experience up to the present and to interpret this experience.

The address of the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU is closed on Mondays and civil and Jewish holidays. "It's a good thing that the Jewish Museum of Florida and FIU have decided to team up. It's an ideal location and now the two programs don't have to be divergent. They have both come together because they both want the same thing," said Hannah Szteiner, a University student in the Jewish community.

The address of the Jewish Museum of Florida is 301 Washington Ave, Miami Beach. The cost of admission is $6 for adults, $5 for students and seniors, free for children up to six years of age and free for everyone on Saturdays.

The hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday; the museum is closed on Mondays and civil and Jewish holidays.

news@fiusm.com
Construction, more than just an eye sore

PANTHER PATROL, an "INANE SUGGESTION"

I am a fan of sarcasm, but the July 11 editorial on the enforcement of smoking and skateboarding bans failed to use it effectively because I came away unsure of what action the editorial board was actually endorsing.

The inane suggestion of a Panther Patrol was clearly meant to show that having no enforcement is just as ridiculous as students armed with whistles.

The editorial starts that these regulations "are in desperate need of enforcement," suggesting that administration should enforce them, but goes on to say that "enforcement that will tax the manpower of UPD" is a bad idea as well, and offers no suggestion of how they would be enforced without tax UPD, which seems to suggest that the regulations should be done away with rather than enforced. So while the sarcasm (and particularly the bit about the Worlds Ahead banner) was amusing, I am let down when it comes to knowing the actual position of the editorial board.

-Eric Feldman, University Alumnus

STUDENT RESPONDS to ROSENBERG'S EMAIL

I support the increase because FIU remains an accessible quality education, in many ways thanking Rosenberg for his efforts.

I have a small suggestion to improve our House: connect student to Graduate Programs more than now. FIU is making an investment in undergraduate education, so we should replicate the great efforts of this education and a graduate/professional education.

I am a 2011 graduate with a B.A. in political science Cum Laude, Honors College, and Certificate in National Security. I am also completing my masters in Public Administration, was highly recommended by FIU faculty, and I hold a substantial resume, being a full time professional.

Even with those credentials, FIU Law, we were looked to complete my dual MPA/ JD degree has not offered me acceptable years (under year applying). They couldn’t see past my standard LSAT and UGPA scores....now I find myself in the predicament of having to leave Miami altogether, as others schools out-of-state have paid attention to the quality education I received at FIU, considered my many other strong academic and nontraditional factors, and even offered me scholarships to attend their schools. My heart is with FIU, but sadly, I am not being given the opportunity to turn the “Impossible to the Inevitable.”

How is it possible that all this talent is being washed away? FIU is here to serve the citizens of South Florida. But as it goes at the Graduate level, often this seems not to matter, as if FIU did not value the education of its own students.

-Nikolos Mendoza, public administration graduate student

Just a glance at the construction site confirms, however, that the buildings will not be ready by the start of the fall semester. The projected completion is no later than November, but sometime around September 2013. The issues with this construction site may be tolerable now, but as the fall semester starts and a wave of lost parking, the inconveniences increase.

The new residence hall and parking garage, which are being built across from the FIU stadium, will house over 600 beds and 300 cars, respectively.

Drop interim and make him the full blown VP

The Beacon would like to extend a whole-hearted congratulations to Larry Lunsford on his recent appointment to the University’s Interim Vice President of Student Affairs. After 23 years of unyielding service to the University, this is a well deserved honor to an individual who is more than qualified to take the Division of Student Affairs in the direction that University President Mark B. Rosenberg envisages.

However, the University needs to put aside its phobia of committing and make its relationship with Lunsford Facebook official.

There’s no need to have its fragile reader relationship status it’s complicated.’

The Beacon strongly feels that the ‘Interim’ tag is an unnecessary one given that, after months of a costly national search for other viable alternatives, Lunsford has been at the top of the list for a long time.

After the original search, four candidates were produced, one of which was Lunsford. This process cost the University a significant amount.

One of the reasons given for the continued search of a permanent VP was the hope of bringing in an outsider with fresh ideas. We feel this would create an unnecessary learning curve students could be spared from.

We also note, although we don’t agree with every decision made by the division, it is clear to us that Lunsford displays the qualities that we as students would like to see in our Vice President of Student Affairs.

It is our opinion that this should be one of those situations where the Administration considers the input of students for a change, and name Lunsford as the official vice president of student affairs.

He is an individual who is in tune with what students would like to see from their administration, and has exemplified such traits as both the associate vice president of student affairs and as ombudsman.

The Beacon doesn’t stand alone in the matter of Lunsford, Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus President, and Pablo Haspel, Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus President, stand united on this issue as well.

If ever there was a time to heed the words of Bob Hope, this would be it - a time when the leaders of the two largest student organizations at the University, who are often at odds, stand united for a common cause.
**JAMAICAN ME ARTSY**

‘Students learn complexity of teamwork’

From paintings to hand-made sculptures, Museum Studies students get a chance to make their own art pieces to exhibit at The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum. The art will be on display until Sept. 16.

**THE FROST**

**EDEWINE SEME**

**Staff Writer**

On Aug. 6, 2012, Jamaica celebrates its 50th anniversary of independence. As a way to commemorate this anniversary and bring awareness to Jamaica’s art and culture, The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum is currently hosting an exhibition entirely put together by the students of the Graduate Certificate of the Museum Studies program as part of their annual event.

They started this event last year to give the students hands-on experience with the field and to provide them with a wider understanding of what it takes to curate an art exhibition. They plan on focusing on a different cultural group every year. This year, Jamaica is the chosen group. The exhibition has been up and running since April 25 and will continue until Sept. 16, thus including the date of the independence anniversary.

The exhibit, titled, “Jamaican Intuitive Art,” is made up of a collection of artwork donated by a group of self-taught artists, through which they depict what the nation is about, other than what it’s popularly known for. Those artists have not had any sort of academic training, so they focus mostly on the content of their work. Not having any rules to follow, the artists have the freedom to use the canvas however they wish.

They are known as “Intuitives,” and through their artistic careers, they have developed their own styles to tell their stories. They are known as “Intuitives,” and through their artistic careers, they have developed their own styles to tell their stories. They are known as “Intuitives,” and through their artistic careers, they have developed their own styles to tell their stories. They are known as “Intuitives,” and through their artistic careers, they have developed their own styles to tell their stories.

Attendees get to contemplate these painted and sculpted stories about Jamaica’s history, people, culture and what the nation is about. The artwork is arranged to represent the colors of Jamaica’s flag: black for strength, green for resources and gold for wealth.

This exhibition is not only a great way for viewers to learn about Jamaica, but it also helps the students who organized it. “They learn the complexity of teamwork and the responsibility it takes to put together an art show,” said Annette Fromm, program coordinator.

This year was also special because they got to work closely with the collector, Wayne Cox, and his wife, Myrene Cox. “This is a rare opportunity, but it is what a university museum should be about,” said Mrs. Cox.

Having such an event is very valuable to the students, the museum and the attendees. “It is an opportunity for our Museum Studies students to apply what they learn,” said Carol Damian, director of the Frost Art Museum.

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**ONE ON ONE**

Student media sits with Tony Lucca

**VANESSA PAREDES**

**Life/Editor**

The University was host to an array of artists this past Tuesday, July 17, for Summer Fest. Among them is Tony Lucca, musician most famous for appearing on “The Voice.” Student Media got a chance to interview Lucca, revealing a lot about this soulful rock musician.

Q: How did you get into the music industry?

A: I come from a real big music making family, sort of by osmosis. I had an interest in it from an early age; it’s just what I wanted to do.

Q: How was working on the famous show, “The Mickey Mouse Club,” when you were younger?

A: It was cool; it was a daily kids show, singing, dancing and acting. It was kind of like going to the same high school. I spent my high school years on that show. I got really close to the cast. That was the coolest part about it.

Q: I know you’ve collaborated with a lot of artists. Who has been your favorite to work with?

A: I got a chance to open up for Sara Bareilles. She is just one of my favorite people in life. She would invite me out each night to do an encore with her and that was really special.

Q: You’ve also had a career
**MIA MI LIFE!**

"FREAKS OF NATURE"

Kaskade gives Miami something to dance about

**Vanessa Paredes, Life Editor**

Miami was electrified this past Saturday, July 14, at the Klipsch Amphitheater in Bayfront Park. FIU students, among others, gathered to forget inhibitions and go wild.

Freshman communications major Andrea Ochoa was experiencing her first ever EDM concert. She went to a black tube top, dramatic high-waisted shorts, red heart shaped sunglasses and hot red lips to match.

"My preparation of my outfit was based on what I was told: go very outrageous. I thought I successfully did so," said Ochoa.

Everything, from bright colored bathing suits to nipple pasties with tight black panties and fishnet stockings, was seen at this event.

People really have no limits when it comes to dressing up for EDM shows. The crazier and more ostentatious, the better. That is usually the rule of thumb. Ochoa, among many others, described it as "very provocative."

The colorful crowd was hopping to the music blasted upon them from beginning to end. No matter the DJ, no matter the beat, no matter the 10,000 or so people around, everyone was in the zone. A tireless energy and good attitude was prominent throughout.

"People were happy, smiling and enjoying themselves with no care in the world," said junior Daniel Castro, "Kaskade was the man of the night and gave all of Miami's "freaks" exactly what they wanted, an unforgettable night."

Just as Kaskade was playing his last song of the night, a light olive sprinkled the crowd, adding a refreshing and magical touch and ending the night on the strongest of notes.

"As if he commanded the sky, rain began to fall. It gave a firm sense of revitalization, allowing everyone around me to decid with a bang. It was the perfect addition to the perfect night that was the "Freaks of Nature" tour," said Castro.

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**REEL TO REEL**

Female filmmakers explore sex and romance

The Bill Cosford Cinema at the University of Miami never fails at presenting a diverse collection of films - and this summer is no exception. Their latest collection of films brings six female filmmakers to Miami audiences, offering an interesting mix and something for just about anyone interested in exploring up-and-coming female directors.

While Maiwenn Le Besco's "Polisse," Mia Hansen-Løve's "Goodbye First Love" and Alice Rohrwacher's "Corpo Celeste" are all long gone, two films will be premiering this weekend that are likely to stir up plenty of mixed opinions.

In "Elles," Juliette Binoche stars as Anne, a journalist for Elle Magazine who is on assignment writing about prostitution among university students.

The two young women she interviews, Alicja and Charlotte, offer glimpses into the world of paid sex as Anne reflects on her dull and never changing lifestyle. "Elles" may sound like the sort of film one with an interest in human sexuality or psychology might want to watch, but it is unfortunately not worth spending your time or money on.

The story is almost embarrassingly shallow, poorly attempting to string together meaningless sequences into an actual narrative. For every scene that gives the slightest chance of insight into prostitution and the lives of these women, there's an endless - and extremely gratuitous - sex scene that serves as an awkward waste of time.

The film ends up feeling like a lot more like a series of loosely connected vignettes rather than a coherent work of cinema.

As if the writing wasn't enough of a mess, Malgorzata Szumowska's direction doesn't prove to be much better. At times, the camera is placed in the most random angles imaginable, showcasing the sets more than any single human being in the movie.

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**Lucca, Page 4**

**Q&A with Tony Lucca**

**as an actor; how was that? Do you wish to continue doing it?**

A: The acting thing is cool. I really enjoy that process. It's a grind as far as trying to make a career of it, you know, with auditioning and all the sort of rejection that comes with it; it's not fun. It's a very cool thing, cool outlet and something I would gladly return to if what I did really panned the way for someone who wanted to work with me.

Q: You were a contestant on the hit really talent show, "The Voice." How did that come about?

A: I auditioned in Chicago last July, maybe a year ago now, and it was kind of a wild ride. It was cool because I was never really much into "American Idol." I was told I had a pretty compelling story: it was hard to sit on the side-line and watch another season of that show going, "What would happen if I auditioned for it?"

Q: Did you learn from it? Would you do it again?

A: I don't regret it, I don't know that I would do it again, but I learned a lot. Working with Adam Levine was really incredible; he taught me how to take calculated risks and when it's the right time to take those kinds of risks. It provided a creative boost that my career was certainly in need of.

Q: What or who inspires you the most?

A: The most inspiring to me is travel. Travelling and observing life in different environments and seeing other people's stories unfold.

Q: How do you feel when you perform on stage?

A: I feel really blessed and fortunate. I've been blessed with the skill set to set up and express myself musically and connect with people through music. There really is nothing like it. Every chance I get to go on stage and share music with people, it's really a great gift.

Q: You are coming to perform at FIU for Summer Fest. What can the University students expect?

A: I'm bringing my band with me, and we're going to rock it a little bit. It's a fun show, integrating a bit of storytelling, playing songs and playing songs from the show [The Voice] as well.

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**Q&A with Tony Lucca**

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FIU picked to finish first in last year with Sun Belt

Luis D. Gutierrez
Contributing Writer

In its last season as an official member of the Sun Belt Conference, FIU football is expected to go out with a bang.

In a poll conducted by all 10 conference head coaches and select media members during media day on July 16, the Panthers were picked to finish atop the Sun Belt Conference season by all 10 conference head coaches and select media members.

The accolades have come in droves for FIU from a variety of sources. In an interview with Brandon Wise last week being named to the Sun Belt Conference defensive player of the year, head coach Mario Cristobal describes him as more than just a football player.

“He’s a better leader than he is a football player,” Cristobal said in an interview with ESPN on media day.

In addition, Hauptmann has been named to the Sun Belt Conference defensive player of the year.

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**BASEBALL**

KEVIN CASTANEDA  
Contributing Writer

After the first two days of the Major League Baseball First-Year draft passed and Martinez’s name had still not been called, frustration overcame him.

But on June 6, on his way to McDonald’s, the FIU slugger received the call of a lifetime to become a member of the Houston Astros as the first pick of the 36th round.

“I was with my girlfriend Eva in the car and I broke down. It was all the dreams I’ve ever had coming true. It was the happiest moment of my life,” Martinez said. “She was just as happy as I was. She has been there for the entire ride and it was just as emotional for her as it was for me,” Mike and Eva were not the only one.

Throughout his baseball career, Martinez has shown that he has the tools to make sure he leaves his stamp on the big leagues as evidence by the trail of accolades he leaves behind at every level.

At Miami Killian Senior High, Martinez was named the team’s most valuable player his senior year. Miami Herald First Team All-Dade selection, and Florida Athletic Coaches Association South Region Player of the Year.

As a 14-year-old, he suffered a broken left femur as a result of a jet-ski accident and was given the worst possible diagnosis.

“You will never be able to play sports again,” his doctor said. “Never” is a strong word. It carries a tremendous amount of weight, especially at the age of 14 when the rest of your life is still ahead of you. But it didn’t mean that Rodriguez, the seventh-grade wrestler, was prepared to accept it.

“Watch me,” he responded to his doctor. “There is nothing stopping me.” Rodriguez went on to recover from the broken femur in due time and ultimately returned to the mats once again. He acknowledges wrestling as the source of determination, motivation and strength that allowed him to back his promise.

“Those who’ve done wrestling, there is nothing you cannot accomplish,” he says. “If you can do wrestling and maintain that level of discipline, there is nothing that you cannot overcome.”

Now the head coach of FIU’s wrestling club, Rodriguez preaches the same ethics to the head coach of FIU’s wrestling club, the seventh-grade wrestler, was prepared to accept it.

His promise.

“Watch me,” he responded to his doctor. “There is nothing stopping me.”

Martinize realized life-long dream, joins Astros

As of July 12, Martinez is batting 263 with two home runs and 10 RBI for the Greeneville Astros.

Jonathan Jacobskind

**SPORTS**

The Beacon – Wednesday, July 18, 2012

www.fiusm.com

As of July 12, Martinez is batting. 263 with two home runs and 10 RBI for the Greeneville Astros.

**Determination defines FIU wrestling**

LUIS D. GUTIERREZ  
Contributing Writer

Alexio Rodriguez is no stranger to heartbreak.

As a 14-year-old, he suffered a broken left femur as a result of a jet-ski accident and was given the worst possible diagnosis.

“You will never be able to play sports again,” his doctor said. “Never” is a strong word. It carries a tremendous amount of weight, especially at the age of 14 when the rest of your life is still ahead of you. But it didn’t mean that Rodriguez, the seventh-grade wrestler, was prepared to accept it.

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**Team looks to avenge loss in postseason**

**VOLLEYBALL, PAGE 6**

Supportive,” therouble said. “This year we are trying to approach every venue like it is FIU. We have to win on the road to be champions. We have to send a strong message that we are here to win championships.”

The Panthers look to avenge a 3-0 sweep in the 2011 SBC tournament semi-finals at the hands of WKU in October, on the 12th and the 26th of that month. FIU concludes the regular season as it plays hosts to five of six opponents in Miami. The SBC Tournament will be held in Bowling Green, Kentucky and is slated for November 15-17. It all leads up to the season finale against Central Florida (Nov. 24) on the road.

Jonathan Jacobskind

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ENVIRONMENT

Down where it’s wetter, diving under the sea

STEPHAN USECHE
Staff Writer

It isn’t just jumping in the water, “breathing bubbles” and looking at fish.

“It’s really the environmental appreciation and awareness,” said Robert Weisman, dive and boat safety officer.

The University gives serious diving courses so students can witness the hidden activity in the ocean and learn to explore it.

During the 2 credits basic scuba diving course and coreq- uisite 1 credit scuba diving lab, students learn all about the science and theory of diving, with an emphasis on environmental protection and awareness. Students also have an option of getting certified through the National Association of Underwater Instructors.

The classes are offered year-round, including a 12-week summer session. The course gives students the diving procedures slowly and gives room to practice different scenarios.

“There’s a lot of fun in diving, believe it or not, because a lot of these physical laws of pressure relationships and partial pressures are a lot of things people don’t realize,” Weisman said.

During the summer, the class runs at both campuses from May to August, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. The courses are also available for non-degree seeking students and members of the community. Each credit costs the same as a credit of a regular course. However, students seeking the physical certification pay an additional $375 which includes the six dives, charter boat fees, equipment use, scuba license and the safety staff. The certification process is optional.

According to the Director of University College Jorge Zumaeta, who is currently taking the class, there’s a lot of material to cover, the most important being safety. We spend a few hours a week in the classroom learning how to use all the equipment, safety rules and regulations,” said senior Courtney Bleier, an education major. “From here, we go to the pool for actual water training.”

Having completed this course, students go on diving trips to the Keys and to Pompano Beach where they practice all the material learned throughout the semester.

“Scuba diving is the tool for the research,” Weisman said. “The Scuba Dive Safety Program began in 1995, and it was officially recognized by NAUI and by the American Academy of Underwater Science in 1996. It is under the administration of Risk Management and Environmental Health and Safety Department with Weisman as the boat and dive safety officer.

“I am happy to say, that during a time of programs being cut, the FIU Scuba Program stays,” Weisman said.

Weisman and his assis- tant, Alex Carrero, carry these out along with Environmental Health and Safety Director Roger Riddler, who completes the administrative structure.

A Diving Control Board set procedures for the dive safety manual, which contains the basic regulations for safety in scientific diving operations and is based on the policies of AAUS. The DCB is chaired by James Fourqurean and made up of faculty and administra- tors, the majority being scien- tific divers.

Weisman is happy to say that after having certified over 1200 students, the program still has a record of zero inci- dents or accidents.

“If you’re talking about something that could be potentially life threatening if you don’t know what you’re doing,” said Ady Orezolli, Underwater Archaeologist, “it is important to take a program that’s thorough, that helps you under- stand diving.”

Watch the video on fiusm.com.

CAMPUS LIFE

Dorm life - not so quiet

SOMAIY NIEVES
Contributing Writer

William Sturrup begins his freshman year walking into the Bay Vista Housing building at Biscayne Bay Campus. He is unsure of what to expect living on campus, but there is one priority on his mind.

“I came here to meet new people and form relationships because I’m an international student,” said Sturrup, marine biology major.

Living in the dorms may help students bond even in the summer.

“I started sort of being secluded to myself and then I started opening up to different possi- bilities and different people and it’s been a good experience,” said Luco Pierre, senior.

Although BCC only has one residence hall, this hasn’t stopped students during the summer from enjoying its appeal during the summer.

According to Nikki Kogan, Residence Life coordinator, Bay Vista Housing tends to have a smaller group of residence during the summer semester because they share the residence hall with camps and student orientations. There were less than 50 students staying at the dorms during Summer A with an additional 20 to 30 students that joined them in Summer B.

According to Kogan, during the summer, the residents tend to be a close group of students that have known each other from the past year. “It’s a little tight group we have there,” said Natalie Andrea Williams, junior marine biology major. “Some of my really good friends now are from there.”

Since many students living on campus are away from their homes and families, friendships are very important.

“We’ve got our own little community where you know everybody’s name and where everybody is from and it’s nice,” said Breanna Woods, sophomore early childhood education major.

Bay Vista allows for these students to interact through group oriented activities coordi- nated in the common room of the housing building.

The students gather in the common room and enjoy each other’s company as they eat or play games.

Kogan has helped organize “game night while watching the Heat game” and “chicken taste off to see what chicken products students like the best.” Students at Bay Vista take advan- tage of events occurring on campus as well.

According to Kogan, “during the months of June and July, Student Programming Council as well as Campus Life are doing more programs, ming during the day, so the staff tries to utilize those things.”

According to Williams, the housing staff promotes studying by having study halls where they experience the marine life in a darker and more myste- rious environment.

“We have different procedures slowly and gives room to practice different scenarios. “There’s a lot of fun in diving, believe it or not, because a lot of these physical laws of pressure relationships and partial pressures are a lot of things people don’t realize,” Weisman said.

During the summer, the class runs at both campuses from May to August, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. The courses are also available for non-degree seeking students and members of the community. Each credit costs the same as a credit of a regular course. However, students seeking the physical certification pay an additional $375 which includes the six dives, charter boat fees, equipment use, scuba license and the safety staff. The certification process is optional.

According to the Director of University College Jorge Zumaeta, who is currently taking the class, there’s a lot of material to cover, the most important being safety. We spend a few hours a week in the classroom learning how to use all the equipment, safety rules and regulations,” said senior Courtney Bleier, an education major. “From here, we go to the pool for actual water training.”

Having completed this course, students go on diving trips to the Keys and to Pompano Beach where they practice all the material learned throughout the semester.

The University provides all the equipment needed for the students, so they can dive safely and adequately.

Next is the advanced scuba course, which according to instructor Jose Cerdau, is when the actual fun starts.

“In the advanced course, you already know how to dive,” Cerdau said.

In this class, students want to go deeper and explore more.

One of the dives includes a beach dive in Hollywood Beach and a night dive, where they experience the marine life in a darker and more myste- rious environment.

As explained by Weisman, it’s not a sport, it’s a science and an experience of going into the environment.

“Scuba diving is the tool for the research,” Weisman said. “The Scuba Dive Safety Program began in 1995, and it was officially recognized by NAUI and by the American Academy of Underwater Science in 1996. It is under the administration of Risk Management and Environ- mental Health and Safety Department with Weisman as the boat and dive safety officer.

“I am happy to say, that during a time of programs being cut, the FIU Scuba Program stays,” Weisman said.

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LOCAL

A bright Mourning for Overtown kids

SELEMA HUSSAIN
Contributing Writer

The Overtown Youth Center, a charitable organi- zation dedicated to empow- ering underprivileged minority youth in Miami, will be holding a fundraising event on Thursday, July 19, 2012, at the new Rusty Pelican waterfront restau- rant in Key Biscayne from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The event will be hosted by former Miami Heat All- Star Center and NBA legend, Alonzo Mourning, and his wife, Tracy Mourning.

The event, “It’s All Over- town – One Night ... One World,” will feature exotic cuisine, live musical perfor- mances and a silent auction of items like authentic jerseys signed by Miami Heat stars Dwyane Wade, LeBron James and Chris Bosh.

All of the funds raised at the event will be used to benefit the OYC and the many programs it provides to help improve the lives of the underprivileged youth it serves. Tickets cost $125 and are available for purchase at www.overtown- youth.org or by calling (305) 349-1204.

Jayne Klein, professor of religious studies and program director of the Honors College at Biscayne Bay Campus, has been volunteering with the Over- town Youth Center since 2006.

“The Overtown Youth Center is a holistic, in- school, afterschool and summer program designed to help underprivileged kids develop self-esteem, study skills, and character,” Klein said.

“OYC is also a safe haven and a place of transforma- tion for young people and their families. The majority of the kids who participate here come from broken homes and have had some extremely difficult life expe- riences. I have seen first- hand how OYC has helped them overcome their nega- tive environment to become productive students and citi- zens,” shares Klein.

Students in Tau Sigma Alpha, the Honors College Alpha, the Honors College Club at BBC, volunteer as tutors for OYC’s high school students as part of their community service require- ment. The club also hosts events for the children, such as picnics, pool parties and field trips.

Tashaun Williams, a junior and Honors College student with a double major in marketing and finance, has been tutoring the OYC high-school students for the past year.

“Volunteering with the Overtown Youth Center has been a very humbling and enlightening experience for me,” Williams said. “I get to meet different types of students and see how they change for the better. The kids are cool, and I formed a few friendships.”

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