Cuba eliminates restrictions on traveling laws

STEPHAN USECHE
Asst. News Director

The Cuban government implemented a new travel law and with it, the benefit of Cuban residents to travel to other countries. According to the Miami Herald, long lines formed in Havana, Cuba on Monday, Jan. 14 outside of travel agencies and migration offices.

The new law allows Cubans to leave the country with a passport and a national identity card. This eliminates the requirement of obtaining an exit visa, also known as “carta habilitación” or “white card,” which is the authorization for leaving Cuba.

“The law makes it easy to travel abroad as long as they can get a visa from those countries, but that’s going to be the main issue,” said Jorge Duany, director of the Cuban Research Institute. “Only 15 countries in the world actually don’t require visas for Cubans, but most of those countries aren’t the ones that Cubans want to go to visit or migrate to.”

Duany realizes the benefits that this law brings to the Cuban community. “It is a step in the right direction of making it easier for Cubans to travel back and forth,” said Duany. “It eliminates a number of requirements like obtaining an exit visa, which was a very expensive and a very complicated procedure.”

The 15 countries that allow entry to Cubans without a visa are Hungary, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Slovakia, Barbados, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Granada, San Cristobal and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Moklavia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

“So, the U.S., Spain, Venezuela, Mexico, those countries which would be the target of migrants do require visas,” said Duany. “In that sense, the law won’t increase migrants or Cubans traveling, but it will increase the pressure on those countries to regulate the number of visas that allow Cubans to travel to those countries.”

Along with the new traveling law, the Cuban government also changed the migration law, which according to Duany, will now allow Cubans to retain rights and privileges in Cuba as long as they don’t leave for more than 24 months. It also allows those who have left Cuba to come back for 90 days. Information technology software major LévyFoto has family in Cuba.

### HOPE FOR HAITI

NYESHIA C. GARLAND
Contributing Writer

Everyone has had a favorite childhood toy, growing up. A product that, when you were younger, you couldn’t fathom living without.

Although we didn’t think much about toys in the past, products and catalogs are now under scrutiny because of gender bias. Protests against overly girly Easy Bake Ovens, ponies, and playground cleaning sets are now forcing companies, such as Hasbro, to change its prototyping.

Thirteen-year-old McKenna Pope outspokenly challenged the company to make an Easy-Bake Oven that her brother could play with. And, as a result, Hasbro complied.

“It’s black and blue and silver,” she said, according to the Daily Beast. “It kind of looks like an appliance you would legitimtely have in your kitchen.”

“That contrasts with the existing oven, in swirly shades of purple, which looks like it belongs only inside the maximum-security segregation unit known as Girls’ Toys.”

Protests against gender specific toys have also forced one of Sweden’s largest toy chains, Top Toy, to present girls playing with Nerf Guns, and boys playing with dolls, according to the Daily Mail.

Although the idea seems progressive, separating the bold line between girls and boys toys can be exhausting and meticulous. As Professor Maria Elena Villar of Advertising says, “we [still] have a long way to go.”

Stores across the globe already, expertly divide parts of stores in order to lead children towards their “appropriate” side; with girly aisles decorated in pinks and jewels and boy aisles, blue actions figures which yell out “Pow! Boom! Smash!” when you walk by.

Katie Goldman, mother and author of Bullied: What Every Parent, Teacher and Kid Needs to Know About Ending the Cycle of Fear, explains that another reason stores segregate toys is to promote sales. A mother with one son and one daughter can easily buy two different soccer balls- one pink and one blue. Ultimately, the kids don’t have to share, however they lose “an opportunity to develop their social skills,” she says in the book according to CNN.

With more parents becoming concerned about gender bias displayed on toy shelves, catalogs, and now in cases of bullying, they are looking for immediate solutions. Laura Dinehart, early childhood education professor and mother of three, doesn’t think it’s our responsibility, as role models, to promote the same behaviors.

“I bought numerous Lego sets this Christmas- and not the “Friends Collection” that Lego released to market specifically to girls,” Dinehart said.

Professor Villar relates, agreeing that we need to start evolving a world that doesn’t separate boys and girls: a world of freedom of expression.

She says discouraging girls from playing with toys, such as Star Wars, could push away the appeal of science, math, engineering, and space careers for women. To her, it goes beyond colors.

With gender neutral toy marketing in place, companies aim to blur the line between feminine and masculine, right and wrong, boy and girl, and instead advertise toys for everyone to love.

### MARKETING

Gender neutral toys becoming more prominent

BARBARA WEITZ
Professor English

I bought numerous Lego sets this Christmas- and not the “Friends Collection” that Lego released to market specifically to girls.

Barbara Weitz
Professor English

To all parents out there, a word to the wise.

“I bought numerous Lego sets this Christmas- and not the “Friends Collection” that Lego released to market specifically to girls,” Dinehart said.

She encourages her girls to play with all toys, and believes that it’s our responsibility, as role models, to promote the same behaviors.

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-news@fiusm.com
Hitting the debt limit: What bills would be paid?

It would require a degree of financial creativity that could test the law, perhaps even the Constitution.

It could shortchange Social Security recipients and other people, including veterans and the poor, who rely on government programs.

It could force the Treasury to contemplate selling government assets, a step considered but rejected in 2011.

In short, the president would have to create its own form of triage, creating a priority list of its most crucial obligations, from interest payments to debtors to benefits to vulnerable Americans.

“It may beenson a situation where one line officer will challenge what the administration did in that moment, but in the moment, who’s going to stop them?” asked Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former director of the Congressional Budget Office. “I pray we never have to find out how imaginative they are.”

In such a debt crisis, the president would have to decide what laws he wants to break. Does he breach the borrowing limit without a congressional OK? Does he ignore spending commitments required by law?

In a letter to Obama on Friday, Senate Democratic leaders urged him to consider taking any “lawful steps that ensure that America does not break its promises and trigger a global economic crisis — without congressional approval, if necessary.”

The White House has resisted that path. It has rejected recommendations that it invoke a provision in the 14th Amendment to the Constitution that states that the “validity of the public debt of the United States shall not be questioned.”

“There are no magic tricks here,” Obama said Monday. “There are no loopholes. There are no, you know, easy outs.”

So what’s left if Congress does not act in time?

Technically, the government hit the debt ceiling at the end of December. Since then, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner has halted full payments into the retirement and disability fund for government workers and to the health benefits fund of Postal Service retirees.

The Treasury can stop payments to a special fund that purchases or sells foreign currencies to stabilize world financial markets.

Past administrations have taken such steps to buy time awaiting a debt ceiling increase. That happened under Presidents Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush. The government restored those funds after Congress raised the debt ceiling.

Those measures and others could keep the government solvent, perhaps as far as early March, according to an analysis by the Bipartisan Policy Center. There are other extreme possibilities as well. The federal government could sell some of its assets, from its gold stockpile to its student loan portfolio.

“All these things are in principle marketable, and in a crisis you’d get huge discounts on them,” said Holtz-Eakin, now head of the American Action Forum, a conservative public policy institute. “They wouldn’t be good ordinary business, but would be in extraordinary times.”

According to a treasury inspector general report last year, department officials in 2011 considered and rejected the idea, concluding that gold sales would destabilize the international financial system, that selling off the student loan portfolio was not feasible and that such “fire sales” would buy only limited time.

An idea pushed by some liberals would take advantage of a legal loophole meant for coins collectors and have the Treasury mint platinum coins that could be deposited at the Federal Reserve and used to pay the nation’s bills. But the Treasury issued a statement Saturday putting the idea to rest, saying neither the department nor the Federal Reserve believes the law “can or should be used to facilitate the production of platinum coins for the purpose of avoiding an increase in the debt limit.”

Once all efforts are exhausted, then the government would be in uncharted territory.

At that point, the government would continue to get tax revenue, but hardly enough to keep up with the bills. According to the Bipartisan Policy Center, the federal government between Feb. 15 and March 15 will get $277 billion in revenue and face $452 billion in obligations.

The Treasury would have to decide whether to pay some obligations and not others or to simply pay for one day’s bills as it tax revenue rolls in, exponentially delaying payments the longer the debt ceiling is not raised. Under virtually every scenario contemplated, payment of interest on the debt takes precedence to pay off a calamitous default.

“I happen to think the triage would be chosen to ensure maximum amount of political pressure to break the impasse right away, which would be withholding Social Security checks,” said Stephen Wallach, a fellow at the Brookings Institution.

New immigration laws allow travel to Cuba

CUBA, PAGE 1

Cuba and the new law will benefit them because they had experienced the downsides of the previous restrictions.

“I have this cousin who has his daughter there [Cuba], and he tried to get into Cuba to see his daughter,” said Feito. “When he got to the airport in Cuba, they told him that because he left Cuba illegally, he can’t get into Cuba anymore, so he had to go back to the U.S."

Feito’s cousin lost the money he spent on the plane ticket and the passport. The new immigration law, allowing to Duany, will also allow Cubans to keep their properties in Cuba when they travel without having them confiscated by the government. Even though these are major changes for Cuba, there will still be restrictions, such as the cost to obtain a passport which is around $100, and according to Duany, this is more than what a regular person earns in a month, which is $20. Some students in FIU expressed their thoughts and opinions on the new law. “This law is wonderful,” said sophomore Erika Fernandez. “I can’t believe they finally passed something like this. That might help so many people.”

On one hand, students like Christopher R. Alonso, English major, doesn’t think the law will affect FIU.

“I feel that this law passing will help the Cuban community, but we will not feel too much change here on campus because we have so many Hispanics students already.”

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Preparation matters in school safety

**DIANA ANAYA**

**Contributing Writer**

From Virginia Tech to Sandy Hook, to the more recent shooting at Taft Union High School in California late last week, it's hard to feel safe at school anymore.

School shootings have turned into a trend that shows little signs of stopping, spurred along by the excessive amount of media coverage over these tragic events. So how can we help improve FIU in order to decrease the chances of a shooting? The short answer is, we can't.

Unless we upgraded to airport-like security, which would be nearly impossible for too many reasons to explain. But our campus security is as good as it can get, which is pretty good.

The University Police Department page has detailed information on the various types of emergencies that could occur, including active shooter incidents.

Information, such as 'what is an active shooter' and 'how to respond when an active shooter is in your vicinity,' is presented with minute instructions.

Other emergencies, such as fire, bomb threats, and missing persons are all covered as well, and many of the services they offer are free of charge to students and faculty.

As students, we need to know this information in case any of these emergencies were to occur.

Being knowledgeable on what should be done in these circumstances is the least we can do, and the most important thing, especially if you live on campus.

But beyond being educated, we need to be brave. Not brave in the sense of risking your life for others, an admirable act; that's something that cannot be asked of everyone.

We need to have the courage to tell someone when we see something or someone suspicious.

It may be wrong, and hopefully it is, but it's being aware of your surroundings and making your concern known to people like the University police that can save lives.

The other solution is to be politically active. Whatever you believe will change the current state of security, both in our school as well as in our state or country.

Make your opinion known. Write letters to congressmen, talk to the University police about campus security, or just get informed on how to better prepare yourself.

Because the truth of the matter is that being a student, as it's been made painfully clear, does not mean you're safe.

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**NERLYN GALAN**

**Contributing Writer**

Video games have been popular since the 1970s, and by the 1990s they could be seen in almost every home in the United States. So while spending almost half of my winter break playing my brand new Assassin's Creed 3 game I began to wonder: are video games good for us?

In my opinion: Yes.

But I wanted to see how others felt about it. So I went to the halls of our beloved GC and asked around at our local GameStop to get more information.

I learned that there are hundreds of different types of games with the four most popular being first person shooters (FPS), action role-playing games (RPG), sports, and finally strategy.

Almost every video game now has multiplayer options connecting you over the Internet, allowing people playing the same game.

The most sold games at the Modesto A. Maidique Center are mostly FPS, RPG, and sports games, mainly for the Xbox 360 and PS3 consoles.

Through interviewing patrons and employees about their favorite types of games and the average amount of time they spent playing them, I found that the majority of the students in the store were mostly FPS and/or RPG gamers.

RPG games have been around since before computers had graphic images and were composed mostly of text, while first-person shooters were first invented by the military as a training tool for soldiers and eventually found their way into the hands of the public.

It has become a trend in the media and the general public to credit these games as havens for anyone who plays, being another medium that the people of real life experiences and even causing the consumers to become violent.

According to my survey, the average RPG and FPS gamer spends 2 to 5 hours on average each day gaming, which is about equal to the 3.8 hours that users spend on social media, according to marketingcharts.com.

Video games, while in some instances consuming much of a person’s time, at least cause the gamer to critically think, requiring them to use strategy and skill to solve complex situations.

Multi-player options enable you to play with others, creating a sense of community for the players, in a way being a more interactive and active medium than all the so-called “social media”

These games are a safe haven for anyone who plays them allowing an easy and harmless escape from reality.

The public generally argues that it's a violent and inappropriate escape causing our youth to have more violent tendencies and outbreaks.

However, many gamers didn’t agree with this statement saying that in reality they would not do the actions they do in the games, but simply enjoyed playing the game.

This led me to believe that maybe this is what the media and general public were trying to get at: The parents lacked the understanding of which age group the games were appropriate for and didn’t regulate the amount of time their children spent playing.

But instead the video games got the bad reputation, when in reality they offer a lot of great advantages; when consumed in moderation and properly, they can actually be healthy.

Regardless of what the media publishes I know we will keep doing what gamers do best: Keep Calm and Game On.

-opinion@fiu.com

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**POLICY**

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Editorials are the unsigned voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes all letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to jonathan.szydl@fiu.edu.
Architect Rick Joy to lecture at University

KEILA DIAZ
Contributing Writer

Architect Rick Joy will visit FIU next week to discuss his 22-year architecture career in a lecture titled, “Taking the Time.”

Joy is well-known for his work in the desert of Arizona, as well as other international projects. His designs often employ environmentally sustainable materials, attention to space and low impact to the surrounding areas.

According to his nomination for Alumnus of the Year Award 2012 from the University of Arizona, Joy was a founding member of the Environmental Design Council of Tucson. He has received several awards for his works. In 2004 the Smithsonian Institution-Cooper Hewitt Museum awarded him the National Design Award, and in 2008 he won the American Architecture Award.

Some of Joy’s most popular works include the Woodstock Farm in Vermont, the Desert Nomad House in Arizona and the Amagiri Resort in Utah.

Today, Joy is the head of his own architecture firm, Rick Joy Architects in Tucson, Ariz., which he established in 1993 after graduating from the University of Arizona.

In 2002, Joy published the visually stirring “Desert Works,” which is a compilation of detailed photographs of nine of his projects in the Sonoran Desert, description of the building process and other narratives.

The book has received good reviews from architecture magazines, including Architectural Record.

Joy and his firm have also worked internationally. In 2011 he was chosen as one the architects for the development of the Pan American Villa in Guadalajara, Mexico as part of the Pan American Games. Harvard, Yale and M.I.T are among the various institutions that have hosted Joy as a guest professor.

During the lecture, Joy will discuss with students his firm’s major projects and how they represent core values that he developed as an architect over the years. One such project is the Princeton University Project. According to Town Topics, Princeton’s weekly newspaper, the project involved the design of a new train station that is being relocated from a different part of the university’s campus.

Joy’s purpose is that students walk away from the lecture knowing that being a good architect requires a personal development of a strong set of core values and that to do good work requires a lot of hard work and care. After the lecture, students will be able to ask Joy questions as part of a question-and-answer session.

One of the most interesting architects of the time, according to New Voices in Architecture, Joy’s inspiration for design is drawn from natural phenomena, and this is perhaps why he has chosen the desert as the background for his major projects.

His buildings feature large, open, naturally lit spaces. His designs are simple, yet luxurious and they blend into the landscape as if they had been there all along. The distinctiveness of Joy’s designs and their environmental appeal are becoming more important as alternative living spaces become more popular.

-Keila Diaz

22ND ANNUAL REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION

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Keila Diaz

Wednesday, January 16, 2013
www.fiusm.com
Smartphones, both benefit and distract students

ASHLEY OROZCO
Columnist

It’s 8:58 a.m. Somewhere outside of GL 100 sits a lonely freshman, waiting for his 9 a.m. class to begin. Apparently, his classmates have all fallen ill because those who are usually there before he is are nowhere to be seen.

Any other student would whip out their smartphone to check if the professor has sent an email about class being cancelled. Unfortunately, this particular student does not own a smartphone and instead waits for about 15 minutes before deciding class is most likely not meeting today.

According to Onbile’s mobile market research, out of the 5 billion mobile phones in the world, 1.08 billion are smartphones.

Nowadays, smartphone owners range from middle schoolers to businessmen and everyone in between. They have become increasingly popular in the recent years, especially among college students. The Blackberry was the way to go for a while. Then came the Androids and iPhones, which dominate today’s market at 75 and 14.9 percent, respectively, since November 2012, according to The Washington Post. The remaining 10.1 percent is broken into Blackberry, Windows, Symbian and Linux phones.

Neither one can be deemed “superior” to the other as it is all a matter of preference, which changes from individual to individual.

However, some points students and other consumers may consider when choosing a smartphone can include battery life-most Androids, like the Galaxy SIII, have an average battery life of 350 minutes, while the iPhone 5 has an average battery of 200 minutes. Androids also have removable batteries. For memory-the iPhone can hold 16 GB, 32GB or 64 GB, while most Androids have MicroSD slots for removable memory.

For applications—while the Android has several app stores, some apps are made exclusively for the Apple app store. Instagram, for example, did not come out on the Android market until almost three years after it had been released for Apple.

With all the capabilities that smartphones possess, students are using their phones for more than just social networks now. “I discovered this app, ‘Evernote,’ which allows me to write notes from my laptop. After that, it is able to sync to my phone and Nook almost instantaneously,” said freshman Kaitlynn Gutierrez.

The University has also made its own app with a multitude of features that would help even the most spirited student. Apps such as Blackboard, Dropbox, Google Drive and Catch Notes are among the few that really benefit students. Blackboard acts as a mobile Blackboard site while Google Drive and Dropbox act as mobile hard drives that can transfer files from your computer to other devices and vice versa.

Even email capabilities can allow a professor to quickly get in contact with his or her students if, say, an emergency arises and they must cancel their 9 a.m. class.

However, as great as having a smartphone might seem, it can cause as much harm as it does good. “There is plenty of time to link in, break up, trade stocks or shop after class,” says Dileep Rao, professor of entrepreneurship. “Since [students] are paying for their education, they may want to pay attention to class. Employers will appreciate those good habits.”

The distractions don’t stop in the classroom. “Last semester, I found myself checking Facebook and Instagram and wasting 20 minutes when all I meant to do was check what chapters were going to be on my next exam so I could study,” said senior Janet Janero.

It helps to be technologically savvy, and smartphones can put you at an edge; however, being savvy also means knowing which situations are appropriate for using your smartphone. Potential employers may want a quick response from an email they sent, but that doesn’t mean you should reply while your professor is giving a review for a final.

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The distractions don’t stop in the classroom. “Last semester, I found myself checking Facebook and Instagram and wasting 20 minutes when all I meant to do was check what chapters were going to be on my next exam so I could study,” said senior Janet Janero. It helps to be technologically savvy, and smartphones can put you at an edge; however, being savvy also means knowing which situations are appropriate for using your smartphone. Potential employers may want a quick response from an email they sent, but that doesn’t mean you should reply while your professor is giving a review for a final.

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Employers will appreciate those good habits.

Dileep Rao
Professor
Entrepreneurship
**Sports**

**Fishing club a catch for students across FIU**

**Jonathan Jacobskind**  
Staff Writer

The motto behind FIU’s Fishing Club comes from a verse in Zac Brown Band’s “Knee Deep”: “Knee deep in the water somewhere, got the blue sky breeze and it don’t seem fair, only worry in the world is ‘If the tide gonna reach my chair?’”

What started out as a few fraternity men casually fishing while paying homage to this catchy motto ignited club originator Johnny Davalos’ decision to found the Fishing Club.

“Fishing is such an important part of my life and all the times I have gone on fishing trips it has brought me nothing but great satisfaction. Not only do I enjoy fishing, but it is an excellent way to just block all of the stresses in life and what it comes down to is just you and the water,” Davalos said.

A member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, Davalos noticed the high amount of interest in fishing among his fraternity brothers. But while his brothers were avid fishers, Davalos was disinterested at the serious lack of interest in such a relaxing sport such as fishing within the overall FIU community.

“Outside of Pike, I really was shocked when how many people did not care too much for fishing being that it is such a gratifying sport,” Davalos said. “Since fishing is so important to me, I felt I needed to share the joy I get from fishing with the rest of the FIU community.”

**Men’s Basketball**

**Kevin Castaneda**  
Staff Writer

It’s no secret that the FIU men’s basketball team left on their two-game road trip last week with their heads held high.

The squad won three straight home games for the first time in a decade and reached the 500 mark on their record. They took this confidence with them on the road to Arkansas, Kirby Smart’s alma mater, to face the Red Wolves, a team they beat 80-61 on Jan. 10.

In that contest, the Panthers held the Red Wolves (10-7, 4-4 SBC) to 36 percent from both the field and the three-point line. Considering the Panthers rank last in the Southern Belt Conference in scoring defense, it was anomaly what they did to Arkansas State.

Fast forward to the rematch, the Panthers did it again to the Red Wolves. FIU held them to below 35 percent from the field and 25 percent from the three-point line.

The importance of the Panthers field-goal defense could not be more overstated considering they lost the turnover margin by three, were out rebounded by 11 and committed 22 fouls.

For the second time against the Red Wolves, the Panthers shot above 50 percent from the field and for the first time this season, the Panthers were above 500, with an 8-7 record.

**King of the Hill**

Head Coach Richard Pitino has always remarked about guard Deric Hill being his game changer. Pitino reinserted Hill into the starting lineup up against the Red Wolves, something Pitino hadn’t done since Nov. 24 against Coastal Carolina.

Coming off the bench for the majority of the season, Hill managed to still be ranked third in the SBC in steals, with nearly two a game. Hill has even averaged about three assists per game, which is better than Gaby Belardo’s two per contest. Belardo had swapped Hill early in the season as the starting point guard, but Hill’s stats have been more impressive.

The 5-foot-9 sophomore played a huge role in the Arkansas State game. His six rebounds from the guard position helped the team lessen their inefficiency on the boards.

He shot 60 percent from the field and 67 percent from the free-throw line, scoring 11 points. Even with his offensive success, Hill made sure to dish the ball out, registering three assists.

Hill’s bright performance at Arkansas State was a new cog in the machine of victory for FIU and a another vital piece they took to the Arkansas-Little Rock Trojans on Jan. 12.

**Road Block**

FIU’s four-game winning streak ended after the Trojans (11-8, 5-3) beat the Panthers 88-76.

The Panthers (8-8, 3-4 SBC) dag themselves a huge hole early in the ball game, ending the half down, 51-36.

Defense was not a problem for the Panthers, as they had six players in double-digit points. The biggest problem for FIU and a prevalent theme of their season, was their defense.

They allowed the Trojans to shoot nearly 60 percent from the field, 43 percent from long range and convert the 21 fouls they committed into 24 free points.

The one bright spot for the Panthers was the continued performance of Hill. He scored 11 points, grabbed 5 rebounds, dished out 4 assists and was a perfect 6 for 6 from the free-throw line.

The loss was a step back for the surging Panthers, as they are again even on the season at 8-8.

They are coming back home to face the 7-11 North Texas Mean Green tomorrow, Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

The Panthers will be hoping that the five days of rest and their home court advantage can put them in the positives.

Kevin castaneda@fiu's com
The life of a student-athlete is difficult during the season, but the offseason can be just as trying, especially during the holidays.

“Spots are won in the fall and lost in the spring,” said second-year softball Head Coach Jake Schumann.

While college students get to go home and indulge in as much food, sleep, and alcohol as their bodies can take in, Schumann and the softball team are constantly making sure they’re ready for the upcoming season. They work hard to stay in shape and keep their bodies ready for when their 20-hour work weeks start in spring.

“We meet with them before so they can go home and work on fundamentals,” Schumann said. “Strength and conditioning coach Corey Houston and I give them a work outs for them to focus on. We also tell them to play catch and hit at least three times a week.”

The Panthers are coming off a 28-27 record which was sixth best overall in the Sun-Belt Conference. They were 15-9 in conference play which was third best and a school record in conference wins. They look to improve their record as well as their play, something coach Schumann has a knack of doing.

“We’re just working out butts off every day,” senior Brie Rojas said. “I’ve seen improvement with everybody; strength wise, our conditioning, really all of it. Everyone’s been working really hard, taking extra swings, taking extra ground balls, just getting prepared.”

Since becoming a head coach, Schumann has been able to improve his team’s wins each year. He targets specific goals that he intends to meet, while acknowledging it is not the easiest when you inherit a team. Ten of the 12 seasons he’s been a head coach, he has been able to achieve a team batting average of over .300, from which the two other times were his first years with the programs.

Apart from batting average, the team plans on also focusing in all other areas, for example pitchers are expected to try and lower their ERA by one point. The goal of the squad is to win the conference, not just simply play well in it.

“Your goal is always to win the regular season,” said coach Schumann. “[You want to] Try to place first in the conference, not just simply play well in it. “Your goal is always to win the regular season,” said coach Schumann. “[You want to] Try to place first in the conference, not just simply play well in it.”

The team also has its fair share of storylines to keep an eye on. The team lost their best hitter and most dynamic player in Ashley McClain, a top 25 finalist for best player in college softball, who graduated last year. Schumann stresses that even while there may not be a superstar going into the year, as long as he’s at FIU, it will always be a great team overall.

“It might not be one big stick, but because we all work together so well and we click, I know if I can’t get it done, whoever comes up behind me will. It’s tough not having her but in the lineup but I’m confident that we’ll get the job done,” Rojas said.

Senior players Rojas, Jessy Alfonso, Alex Casals, and Kayla Irurzun are all returning back to the squad to provide leadership to a team welcoming 12 new players.

Some of the new players include two-time champion from Arizona State Bri Kaye, All-American transfer Amber Curry, first team All-American in Junior College Krystal Garcia, and highly-touted freshman Cortnie Jenkins and Alejandra Lopez. Add in junior pitcher Mariah Dawson, who led the league in strikeouts, and the team has a solid foundation with which to build upon.

“I’ve never been this excited about anything,” Rojas said. “I feel really good going into this year and I think everybody agrees. We’re a completely different team, we’re going to do a lot of great things this year that many people aren’t going to expect.”
Different daily dishes provide home flavors

**SKYLAR SIEGEL**
Contributing Writer

Dishes like bourbon grilled tilapia with brown rice and steamed broccoli or chicken marsala with white rice and steamed green beans are not dishes necessarily expected on a college campus.

Colleges across the nation provide students with several food options, many of which are fast on the go options; however, many colleges are innovating by offering healthier, home meal options.

At the Biscayne Bay Campus, Grille Works is following that trend with daily home meal options like bourbon tilapia, chicken marsala, and meatloaf.

Executive Chef, Denex Attelus has been working for Grille Works at BBC for six years now and is the one responsible for creating the daily home meal options.

Attelus works with his front line cook, Roberto "Sonny" Laboy, and usually one or two cashiers daily. Sonny has been cooking it has always been my passion; I love the home meal option because it’s not fried or processed, it shows that someone cares for you these days but last week I didn’t have time to cook so I tried Grille Works hot meal option grilled salmon and rice pilaf and it was so good that I’m going back this week,” said Davita J Ramirez, sophomore journalism major.

With 30 different menu options for the month, students have the opportunity to try new flavors every day, giving everyone on campus a chance to try something new.

“The most important thing to remember when cooking is to make sure your food is full of flavor, because students like every option. If your food has good flavor, that’s what makes people buy it,” said Attelus.

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**SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT, ARTS AND SOCIETY**

**The glass half full: GLOWS focuses on sustainable water usage**

**MADISON FANTOZZI**
Asst. News Director

Fresh water is a critical resource for the well-being of humans, but also for the plants and animals of the freshwater ecosystem itself.

Research associate of the Department of Earth and Environment, Elizabeth Anderson, will discuss the Global Water for Sustainability (GLOWS) program and its work to satisfy the water needs of humans without compromising the integrity of ecosystems in her lecture, “Balancing freshwater needs of human society and aquatic ecosystems.”

“We need to consider ecosystems’ need for water,” Anderson said.

GLOWS and the School of Environment, Arts and Society seek to address the economic and health issues produced by environmental challenges through research of ecosystems and communication with international governments and individuals.

The GLOWS program and its work and initiatives will be discussed in Anderson’s lecture Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Deering Estate at Cutler in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

According to Anderson, over 1 billion people do not have access to clean water and over 2 billion people do not have access to proper sanitation.

The mission of the GLOWS program is to promote both the management of water resources and aquatic ecosystems. Activities simultaneously promote economic and social benefits from water resources, while sustaining these ecosystems.

“It’s about designation and allocation,” Anderson said. “For example, determining ‘x’ amount of water a house needs a day and considering ‘y’ amount of animal’s needs for water such as for movement and migration.”

As executive officer of the GLOWS program, Anderson has worked in diverse environments in South America, East Africa and India. The program, which began in 2005, currently spans three continents: Africa, Eurasia and South America.

GLOWS works on the ground to implement water supply, sanitation and hygiene services and water management, working closely with local communities to increase social, economic and environmental benefits to people in the developing world.

“Water management will increase awareness as well as reduce pressure on freshwater ecosystems,” Anderson said. “And providing water resources for humans will also reduce these pressures.”

Current projects include a water sanitation and hygiene program in West Africa, an integrated natural resource management in watersheds of Georgia, an integrated water sanitation and hygiene program in Tanzania, an integrated water security program in Rwanda, water for biodiversity and human health in Kenya and capacity-building of local and national non-governmental organizations and community based organizations in Africa.

“GLOWS is an extension of FIU that is truly ‘Worlds Ahead,’” GLOWS program administrator and environmental studies graduate student Ana Lemos said.

Anderson said the program is currently working to extend the project to Colombia.

GLOWS is led by the University of the Arts and Society, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The consortium includes CARE, WaterAid America, Wintrock International, World Vision and the World Wildlife Fund.

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