One billion will rise to stop violence against women

YANAISS Collazo
Contributing Writer

One in three women worldwide will be beaten or raped throughout her lifetime, according to U.N. statistics. That amounts to one billion women living on this planet today. An uprising is occurring to end such violence against women, and the start of a new chapter is moments away for many women, due to the escalating campaign of “One Billion Rising: Dance to Move the World.”

This event, which will take place in 189 countries worldwide, is coming to the University, where there will be information and activity booths set up, films, performances and giveaways available for everyone who participates.

“It all began with the ‘Vagina Monologues.’ The organization that allows us to bring the ‘Vagina Monologues’ to FIU is called V-Day. They are the umbrella of everything we are doing. When we got introduced to ‘One Billion Rising’ and their events we said, ‘We have to do it!’ It’s a global movement. It is big and we want to be part of this movement to help women and girls. That is part of our mission,” said graduate student Guadalupe Juarez, coordinator of “One Billion Rising” and president of the Women’s Studies Student Association.

Not only is the University participating in this worldwide event, but so is the community. Arlene Connelly, division director of the Opportunities Industrialization Center of South Florida in Broward County, is visiting high schools and speaking with principals to get faculty and students to participate in this global movement.

Connelly’s idea is for the student body of each high school to dance precisely at noon for the cause. Additionally, University organizations will also contribute to the cause and will lend a hand to WSSA, including College Brides Walk, HPV Awakening, Women’s Center, Victim Advocacy Center, Switchboard of Miami, Voices for Planned Parenthood, International Rescue Committee and the National Organization for Women.

According to the Women’s Center’s Associate Director Brown Bares Pelaez, the center is participating in this event particularly because they partner with WSSA on a daily basis and one of their programs is “Anti Violence Awareness, Information, and Education.” They will host one of the tents as well, which will include interactive activities and information on upcoming events.

PIGGIN’ OUT

Students study abroad with help of federally funded programs

ALYSSA Elso
Contributing Writer

Have grant — will travel? Students studying abroad are receiving the ultimate global experience through scholarships and internship opportunities at U.S. embassies around the world.

FIU is the first American university to combine three existing federal programs: the Pell grant, the Gilman scholarship and the Department of State internship programs.

This is available through senior international officer of Undergraduate Education and former U.S. diplomat Hilarion Martinez’s connections with U.S. embassies and the U.S. Department of State.

Over 2,300 U.S. undergraduate students, 11 of whom were FIU students, received up to $5,000 to study abroad through the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship program during the 2011-2012 academic year.

The program aims to extend study abroad opportunities to undergraduate students with limited financial means or to students studying in underrepresented fields such as science and engineering.

Students who receive the scholarship and choose to study a critical need language while abroad are further eligible for a Critical Need Language Award; this will grant them an additional $3,000 towards their study abroad program costs.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be receiving a federal Pell Grant during the term in which they study abroad, and must be accepted to a study abroad program for academic credit through their University.

The 11 FIU Gilman scholarship recipients, who are spending the spring 2013 semester in France, Argentina, China, Japan, Spain, Australia and the United Arab Emirates, are also eligible to apply for a summer internship with the U.S. embassy in their country of study before returning to FIU.

In collaboration with colleagues at the U.S. embassies in Paris and Buenos Aires, Hilarion Martinez and Edward Loo, diplomat in residence at FIU worked to make these internships accessible to students.

The opportunity to work with the U.S. embassy will provide FIU students with a better understanding of how our country addresses challenges and global issues, and will prepare them to one day assume leadership roles, whether in the public or private sector,” said Martinez. “It may even spark an interest in them to eventually become American diplomats.”

Recipients of the scholarship are chosen through a competitive selection process based on academic performance, statements and student essays.

Students previously awarded the Gilman scholarship, who wanted to expand their study abroad experience, went on to pursue more ambitious scholarship opportunities.

“We had a student who received a Gilman scholarship and is now involved in Fulbright, a highly competitive scholar program,” said Magnolia Hernandez, director of Study Abroad. “She is currently away in Colombia for a full year teaching English, and getting funded by the U.S. Department of State to do so, and it all started with the Gilman scholarship.”

“Pairing the Gilman scholarship with the U.S. embassy internship is a way for students to further integrate into the cultural community abroad, and is an innovative approach that most universities are currently not offering,” said Hernandez.

Students who receive a federal Pell Grant and wish to apply for the Gilman scholarship, the applications for summer and fall 2013 are due by Mar. 5, 2013, and U.S. embassy internship applications for fall 2013 will also be due in spring 2013.

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Student Health Services: a better name to serve students

STEPHAN USECHE
Asst. News Director

University Health Services will be changing its name to Student Health Services. The name will be a better representation of the services offered, according to Oscar Loynaz, director of UHS.

“We wanted to make sure that our name was reflecting the work that we did and it would be more accurate and less confusing for students, faculty, staff and the community at large,” said Loynaz.

UHS currently has general medical services, including women’s health and special gynecology services, wellness services, which offers free HIV testing, as well as a pharmacy, both retail and prescription, according to Roxanne M. Baragano, health compliance coordinator and a graduate student in business administration.

“We are really excited to change our name because we really want our name to encompass what we really do and our mission is to serve the students here at the University,” said Baragano.

Students like Anabel Bobes, junior psychology major, likes the change saying it will bring more students to UHS.

“It makes it more clear who can have the services here,” said Bobes.

On the other hand, Glynnis Vega, speech linguistic pathology graduate student, disagreed on the effect of the name change.

“It won’t bring more students because they already know about the University Health Services because they pay for it,” said Vega.

Larry Lansford, interim vice president of Student Affairs, will send out a memo which will officially announce the name change, according to Baragano.

Even though the new name has not been changed on the University Health Services’ website, it has on its Twitter account, going by the name of “FIU Student Health.”

“We’ll be the same, we just need to get different ID badges, and need to get different logos for the website and a new logo on t-shirts and polos,” said Loynaz.

The change of names will not have an effect on the student health fee; however, according to Loynaz, there will be a health fee increase proposal.

“We go for [the increase] every several years and it’s our turn to go up for a fee,” said Loynaz. “So, we will be doing it in the next couple of months.”

Also, one of the main reasons for the name change is to reinforce the difference between the Faculty Group Practice, which focuses on serving faculty, staff and the community, and it depends on insurance reimbursement and also on out of pocket fees and the UHS which depends on the student health fee.

“We receive student health fee dollars and that allows us to serve the student either at low cost and free sometimes,” said Loynaz.

However, UHS is currently partnering with the FIU HealthCare Network, “a national health care provider network,” according to Healthcare Network of America. The network will allow UHS to accept health insurance.

“So, for example, any insurance plan that is accepted at the Faculty Group Practice, we will be able to accept it [at health services],” said Loynaz.

UHS will post a list with the insurance companies it will accept.

“We want to make sure everyone has the right information,” said Loynaz.

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Ambassador program offered

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For students interested in becoming an ambassador, Ferra said, “We definitely want them to have inter-personal skills because mostly what we do is give tours to those interested and we want them to be knowledgeable about the program, excited about the program, enthusiastic people.”

According to Ferra, the job of a student ambassador entails recruiting students to the CSHTM, giving tours, and speaking to other students about the CSHTM.

“We want as many students as possible to be a part of the student ambassadors,” said Ferra.

Fang Shu, coordinator for the China programs for the CSHTM, was a student ambassador in the fall semester and described the experience as perfect.

“Because you are a student ambassador you stand for the school so you know everybody in the school, faculty and staff, you get a chance to talk to them because you are the ambassador of the school,” Shu said that he has already recommended other students to be an ambassador.

Hospitality and tourism management senior, Vanessa Casal, said this is her second semester being a student ambassador in the CSHTM.

“We’ve also done a lot of public speaking workshops and things like that so it is very helpful and you get to learn a lot about other people and you learn a lot about your school as well,” said Casal.

Coral Gables Daily Campus: “It’s an amazing opportunity, it really opens the door a lot,” said Casal.

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**A happy valentine for all**

**ASHLEY OROZCO**  
Contributing Writer

Here’s an unpopular opinion: I love Valentine’s Day.

No, not the movie starring every celebrity you could think of. I’ve never had a “Valentine’s per se,” but that doesn’t mean I don’t care for people (or anyone, really) reason to be so bitter towards perfectly happy couples around this time of year.

My girlfriends, like many who are single, are only reminded of just how single they are as Valentine’s Day looms nearer. Just last week they were complaining about “not having a man” in their lives and therefore no one to take them out or buy them something nice on Valentine’s Day. When I chimed in that I had surprises for them they were less than thrilled. Gee, thanks.

I realize that the commercialization of the holiday has led almost everyone to believe that if you’re single, come Feb. 14 you will never be grateful.

I will be spending this lovely day with a significant other who was once single but because “the one” hasn’t shown up on your doorstep yet doesn’t mean you’ll have to take the black.

My grandma always called Valentine’s Day “el dia del amor y amistad” which literally translates to “day of love and friendship.” Because this notion of Valentine’s Day has stuck with me, I don’t associate it with having to be in a relationship.

In elementary school we gave cards to the class, not just our crushes. It’s not about having someone to cuddle with; it’s about spreading the love.

I like to spoil my friends. I like making baked goods and putting them in my sisters’ lunch boxes. See me.

You anti-Valentine’s Day folks are probably arguing that the only reason I waste my time and money is because it’s an “evil corporatize holiday.”

And to that I say, so what? Almost every holiday has been skewed in some way from its original intention. Atheists still celebrate Christmas and college students who use seekingarrange.com do not do it for fun or because it’s the easy way out. They do it because it’s the only way to better their lives by getting a college education and still being able to have food to eat when they go home.

We need to be more empathetic toward people who have different economic situations than we do. Not everyone qualifies for loans or grants or has financial support from their family. Maybe there are some students who do choose to use it because it’s quick cash. Regardless of the reason why, it shouldn’t matter. This is 2013.

We live in a time where women have the freedom to take charge of their sexuality and their lives. This is not our place to shame and judge them.

Send your grandma a card, take out your younger siblings, go see the Avengers cards you got on sale at Target (even if they won’t appreciate it) and just show the people you love how much you really love them.

Still not convinced? Look on the bright side: come February 15th all that chocolate will be on sale.

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**Sugar Daddy Website: Not the place for judgment**

**CHELSEA KLABER**  
Contributing Writer

Recently The Beacon published some thoughts about the sugar daddy website, seekingarrange.com, of which FIU ranks in the top ten for college student users. My thoughts were generally judgmental, harsh and in my opinion, not necessary.

We need to give the female students who choose to use this website more credit. They are all adults in college who are more than likely already aware of the risks that come along with meeting men on the internet.

The potential dangers – sexual assault, robbery or even murder – are a risk when using any dating website, yet it is not seen as a big deal when anyone uses one of those.

Not to mention, seekingarrange.com does have features that other typical dating websites do not have to ensure safety. The site allows sugar daddies to pay a one-time fee to be background verified, so sugar babies can be certain they are who they claim to be.

Popular dating sites such as OK Cupid and Plenty of Fish do not have this feature, so in a way, those possibilities could be more dangerous.

I also think it’s easy for us to sit back and say “just get a job” to the women who use the website, but we aren’t thinking about the bigger picture.

Though FIU is one of the less expensive universities in the country, it is still thousands of dollars a semester, and for on-campus residents, it’s even more pricey. This can be tough for students to pay even with a job. If you’re a majority of the students who use seekingarrange.com do not do it for fun or because it’s the easy way out. They do it because it’s the only way to better their lives by getting a college education and still being able to have food to eat when they go home.

We need to be more empathetic toward people who have different economic situations than we do. Not everyone qualifies for loans or grants or has financial support from their family.

Maybe there are some students who do choose to use it because it’s quick cash. Regardless of the reason why, it shouldn’t matter. This is 2013.

We live in a time where women have the freedom to take charge of their sexuality and their lives. This is not our place to shame and judge them.

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**Send us your letters**

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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Love: the neuroscience behind it

Women will dance to bring awareness to violence

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The ideal structure Juarez has in mind for the event is a festive information street fair, where organizations from both the University and the community will gather in their particular tents, 20 in total. Each tent will provide information, giveaways and have interactive activities for the guests all in relation to anti-violence awareness.

To help keep the festivity going the WSSA will provide a stage of DJs and live performances – including the band and dance team from Miami Northwest Senior High School, Bollywood dancers, salsa dancers and singers.

Within the time frame of 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., each hour everyone will have a 10-minute break to do a dance off. The dance off will consist of everyone dancing to the anthem of this movement, “Break the Chain,” where they plan to create a dance mob.

“My vision for this event is for guests to really learn about the purpose as to why we are doing it and spread the word to end the suffering and violence. It is definitely a movement one should rise to the occasion to and participate in. It is very easy to be apart of this, just know about it and share it,” said Juarez. “At the end, it’s all worth it.”

Juarez, who joined WSSA to contribute to the awareness of violence against women, now has the chance to do so at a larger scale.

“I feel passionate. I joined WSSA as a member and little by little became more involved. I was a stage director of the ‘Vagina Monologue,’ and now I’ve done everything and became president of the WSSA. I like what we stand for,” said Juarez. “I just feel that women are such a key component to the development, the growth, the flourishing of a community. If women are being victims of this type of violence then we are jeopardizing that growth, that development.”

Unfortunately the statistics are still increasing. In Florida, one in six women are raped and/or abused.

For this reason, the “One Billion Rising” campaign will bringing awareness on this issue, in addition to celebrating its 15th anniversary. Turning Valentine’s Day into the largest movement the world has ever seen in regards to violence against women, “One Billion Rising” hopes to reduce the statistics and increase awareness.

“ONE BILLION RISING: DANCE TO MOVE THE WORLD”

When: Feb. 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Between the Blue and Gold parking garages
How much: Free

VICTORIA RIVERA
Staff Writer

With Valentine’s Day right around the corner, students may wonder, “What is love?”

“Love is a serious mental disease,” Plato said. Mark Twain said, “Love is the irresistible desire to be irresistibly desired.”

“Love is acceptance,” said Intisar Khan, freshman biology major.

When it comes to love, students have different perspectives of what it means.

“Love is willing to do anything and everything for another person not because you have to, but because you want to, because seeing that other person happy makes it all worth it. Their happiness makes you happy. I think that’s what true love is,” said Joey Rogers, sophomore biology major.

In an examiner.com article, Dr. Paulette Kouffman Sherman, psychologist and author of “Dating From the Inside Out: How to Use the Law of Attraction in Matters of the Heart,” wrote that there are 15 different types of love, such as paternal love, brotherly love, romantic love and companionate love to name a few. According to Heidi von Harscher, psychologist in the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and director of Counseling and Wellness, there is a neuroscience behind this intense feeling students experience every day.

“This is an intriguing area of research, [which involves] neurotransmitters such as dopamine, serotonin, norepinephrine and many other chemicals,” said Von Harscher.

Dopamine is a neurotransmitter that helps us recognize rewards and work towards them. This Valentine’s Day, our dopamine levels will increase as we give and receive presents from our loved ones.

Our levels of serotonin, a neurotransmitter that improves our moods, will also increase this Valentine’s Day as we listen to happy songs and eat dark chocolate.

The darker the chocolate, the better it is to our minds and our hearts, according to the Medicine Hunter website created by Chris Kilham, professor of ethnobotany in the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

In his article, “Chocolate: the Love Drug,” Kilham wrote, “The first two compounds in chocolate to consider are caffeine and theobromine... According to numerous medical studies, caffeine is beneficial to overall health. Caffeine stimulates the central nervous system, stimulates the flow of blood in the brain and increases secretion of the very important neurotransmitter serotonin.”

Norepinephrine is a neurotransmitter that increases our heart rate and excitement. This is the chemical that is released when we fall in love.

In maternal love, the love between a mother and her child, the neurotransmitter involved is oxytocin. Oxytocin may be responsible for the secure attachment styles in some babies, according to Von Harscher.

Secure attachment is the healthiest attachment style that was found in 1978, through psychologist Mary Ainsworth’s insightful study called the “Strange Situation.” The researchers observed how 12-18 month old babies reacted when they were separated and returned to their mothers.

Babies with secure attachment prefer contact with their parents rather than strangers, but are still able to separate from them. They are more likely to have longer-lasting relationships and higher self-esteem and sociability throughout their lives, according to about.com.

“All parts of the brain play a role in love. For example, the limbic system triggers emotions and memories with our loved ones, and the amygdala may cause the fear of loss or grief,” Von Harscher said.

Von Harscher’s advice to students is, “Love yourself first. Take care of yourself and your brain. Take your time [with romantic love]. Seek support if you are dealing with loss or grief... Eat dark chocolate in moderation.”

She will be speaking at today’s lecture called “Healthy Relationships,” which the Fit and Well Program will host in room 363 at Academic Health Center 2 from noon to 1 p.m.

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Films that won’t leave you ‘in the mood for love’

Love is in the air, everywhere you look — whether you want to embrace that feeling or poison the air so you don’t have to deal with it — Valentine’s Day is on its way. You could drag your boyfriend out to see another unbearable Nicholas Sparks adaptation, like “Safe Haven,” but considering none of the characters have Ryan Gosling’s beard from “The Notebook,” I’d say it’s not worth your time.

Action-loving couples could definitely give out of some helicopter warehouses into a “Good Day to Die Hard,” screening or you could even compromise and watch both films if that’s what you’re into.

As someone who hasn’t ever been a fan of Valentine’s Day, even while in a relationship, I can’t say I find anything particularly special about it. So rather than cater to everyone who is heading out with their partners this Thursday night, I’ll be dishing out two recommendations for the season of love that won’t necessarily leave you “in the mood for Love” — which is conveniently the title of an excellent romantic drama that I’d definitely recommend.

A man named Alvy Singer once said, “Love is too weak a word for what I feel — I reassure you, you know… I luff you, two F’s.” That is just kind of crazy romance everyone falls into sometimes. Woody Allen’s incredibly memorable Best Picture winner “Annie Hall” doesn’t just give a hilarious look at the relationship between a neurotic man and the woman he loves, but it’s the film that defined the modern romantic comedy.

Regardless of what that might seem to imply, “Annie Hall” is far from traditional. The movie plainly shows the reality of a relationship, from the very first meeting, with all its ups and downs. Woody Allen and Diane Keaton are as pure an image of romantic love in the seventies as it gets, and their performances only add to the wonderful hilarity that this film brings forth.

Love comes in all forms, and often enough we find ourselves not wanting the greatest love affair of the century, just a simple connection with another human being.

Along comes Sofia Coppola, the director of an intimate little film “Lost In Translation,” to show that sometimes the most beautiful relationship is one where two people can simply sit back and enjoy each other’s company in the silence of the moment.

In this movie, Scarlett Johansson and Bill Murray play two lost souls in a Tokyo hotel who meet during sleepless nights. Coppola doesn’t need to present specifics or details about the two, only that they are married and questioning their happiness.

The quiet conversations that occur between the two are deeper than what most couples dream of having.

Subject aside, there is also plenty of humor in the film. There is an intimacy to “Lost In Translation” and “Annie Hall” that most films never achieve and that many dream of having.

Yet this openness in the relationship unfolds on screen so precisely that makes them so accessible and easy to relate to. Don’t get yourself down in the dumps because you’re sitting at home this Thursday Night. Instead of submitting yourself to what will likely be reams of that “Valentine’s Day” trevesty with every actor ever on television, sit back and watch “Annie Hall” or “Lost In Translation.”

There’s a good chance you’ll be having more than a few Valentine’s day’s dates ending in Kafkaesque sexual experiences.

-Juan Barquin

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To have your event featured, email us at calendar@fiusm.com
Cyprien projected as second-round pick in draft

JOHNATHAN JACOBSKIND
Staff Writer

Johnathan Cyprien is on the verge of turning his dream into a reality. The 6-foot-1, 210 pound strong safety is working tirelessly with an immense work ethic regimen just months away from the 2013 NFL Draft. The bone-crushing safety is set to raise the bar T.Y. Hilton left in last year’s draft, in which he was selected in the third round as the 96th pick by the Indianapolis Colts. According to ESPN’s pre-draft analysis, Cyprien, who’s the all-time leader in tackles for the Panthers with 353, is projected to go as high as early second round.

“I’ve been training every day of the week, just working really hard,” Cyprien said.

In response to whether or not he has heard from any NFL team, FIU’s leading tackler is solely taking care of what only he can control and letting things play out.

Cyprien has graced the football program for the previous four years not only with his abilities on the gridiron, but as humble leader both on and off the field.

“He is a great leader on the field and the locker room, and he’s an extremely hard worker,” said Markieith Russell, teammate and linebacker. “All throughout college he has done exactly what has been asked of him and never takes any short cuts and always puts in the extra work.”

Despite a 3-9 season where FIU was left out on the possibility of three straight bowl game appearances, Cyprien did not show any signs of slowing down as he lead the Panthers with 93 tackles and four interceptions.

Cyprien certainly lived up to all the preseason season expectations as he was voted Blue Ribbon’s Sun Belt Conference Preseason Defensive Player of the Year as well as being named to the Jim Thorpe Award 2012 Preseason Watch List for the nation’s best defensive back.

After a standout senior year, Cyprien was named to the Bleacher Report’s national ‘Best of the Rest’ Preseason Defense First-Team, which landed him an invite to the annual 2013 Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala. With scouts from all 32 NFL teams, Cyprien lived up to the hype after a stellar performance where he registered five total tackles, two of which were solo tackles.

Cyprien will join teammate Tourek Williams as the pair of Panthers will showcase their speed, strength and skill at the NFL Combine on Feb. 23-26 in Indianapolis, Ind. Kicker Sergio Sroka isn’t sure where Cyprien will land, but knows he is going to be a good addition anywhere.

“I really don’t know where he will get drafted, but he is very enthusiastic and is a team leader,” Sroka said.

Cyprien’s talent begs no questions but the possible teams who are interested in the services of this local product out of North Miami Beach, still remain up in the air.

According to starting quarterback Jake Medlock, he can almost guarantee that by drafting his former teammate, that lucky NFL team will receive an NFL-ready, highly talented, athletic specimen out of Cyprien.

“He is very athletic and does not receive enough credit for how athletic he actually is,” said Medlock.

“He is an amazing open-field tackler and does not let anyone get by him in the open field. Some of his qualities rubbed off on me as he has taught me how to be a better leader and stay humble and never give up no matter how tough things get.”

-Jonathan Jacobskind@fiusm.com

Overseas student-athletes face culture shock in Miami

DANIEL BRY
Contributing Writer

With only about one percent of the entire student body at FIU consisting of international student-athletes, the level of difficulty each respective player experiences adapting to this culturally diverse environment in Miami can prove arduous. Student-athletes coming from a foreign country embody close to one percent of the near 19 million students who are enrolled in a college nationwide.

At FIU, the majority of women’s sports house multiple foreign athletes. Tennis has seven foreign players in their roster of nine; women’s basketball has 14 players with seven being foreign; and nine foreign players comprise the roster of 19 in volleyball.

The lack of familiarity and unusual sense of individuality, along with the normal issues that accompany any domestic collegiate student-athlete, such as finances, transportation, and a healthy social life, all attribute to a typical rough first step for international student-athletes trying to adapt to their new home away from home.

For junior women’s tennis player Giulietta Boha, a native of Wuerzburg, Germany – the hometown of NBA Champion Dirk Nowitzki – the difficulty of living alone in Miami and being physically separated from family made her first semester at FIU tough.

“In the beginning, of course it was difficult,” Boha said. “Myself being an only child, I was trying to learn how to live without my parents; I was really homesick.”

The same issue was the case for junior sand volleyball player and Ukraine native Maryna Samodoy, whose father served as her coach from cradle to adulthood.

“Sometimes, it is very hard to be without him,” Samodoy said. “He was my coach my entire life. It is so hard to just… in one moment, be separated from him after all these years together.”

Samodoy also struggles to stay in touch with her older brother, two-time U-21 World Champion Valeriy Samodoy, who constantly travels around the globe competing in sand volleyball competitions.

“I miss him so much,” Samodoy said. “I grew up with him my whole life, and now, I am so happy he became such a good player.”

On Maryna’s most recent birthday, in a heartwarming phone call, Valeriy surprised his sister with a rather permanent solution to the pain of not being together.

“When my brother surprised me with a tattoo of our initials together I started to cry,” Maryna Samodoy said. “I was never a fan of tattoos, but it meant a lot to me that he would do that, so when I arrived home in Ukraine I got a tattoo as well.”

Both Samodoy and Boha however, utilize methods such as Skype, to combat the issue of distance in order to keep in touch with their families.

“Skype is a software application that allows users to make voice, or video phone calls over the Internet. “Skype is free, and the best way to see each other,” Samodoy said. “I am honestly not sure how I would live without it.”

“My family and I Skype everyday day,” Boha added. “We always want to see each other.”

Another issue confronting collegiate foreign players is the overwhelming expenses that result from living in the Magic City.

Along with a dismal public transportation system, Miami, ranked by Huffington Post as the most expensive city to live in in 2012, causes international student-athletes such as Boha, who does not own a vehicle due to the high cost of auto insurance, to rely on teammates and close friends as a main source of transportation.

“For international students, car insurance is so expensive, check that, everything is so expensive!” Boha said. “My friends usually take me everywhere because public transportation in Miami is… not that amazing.”

Apart from any issues these players may face, the most common denominator international student-athletes share is the love for their respective sports.

“The reason I came to FIU was to play sand volleyball, Samodoy said.” Volleyball is my sport, my passion.”
Panthers tamed in season opening invitational

ALEIMA LOPEZ, No. 11, celebrates after hitting a home run, her first of her career. But it wasn’t enough offense as the FIU softball team dropped to 1-4 overall to open the season, finishing last in the Panther Invitational.

BRYAN PALACIO Contributing Writer

The softball team had the game-tying or winning batter in the final inning in four of their five games, but couldn’t capitalize and dropped to a 1-4 record to open the season in the Panther Invitational.

FIU finished fourth on the final day of the invitational at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, facing the University of Kansas, Georgetown University and North Carolina State University Feb. 8 through Feb. 10.

The Panthers lost the first game to Kansas, won the second against Georgetown and finished with three straight losses, two to NCSU and the final against Georgetown, placing them last in the season opening tournament.

“I didn’t think we played very well,” said Head Coach Jake Schumann. “We didn’t execute on our strategy, hits or bunts; we have to try to score earlier in the game.”

Hitting was a low point after FIU was shut out twice and failed to score more than four runs in any of the five games. One game, the second against NCSU, even ended on a mercy rule, where if a team is down by eight or more runs after the fifth inning the game is stopped. This game was the latter of a back-to-back loss, following a very discourage- ing 1-0 loss to the same team.

The team had a collective 204 battering average over the weekend, far from their goal of 300. It included a dismal .083 against NCSU and .130 against Georgetown. Their best hitting game of the tournament came in the first game against Kansas, where they recorded a respectable .321 average.

The pitching had problems of its own. The staff gave up a batting average over .300 in three out of the five games, including two games where the opposition hit .467 and .393.

In those two games, combined, they gave up over 27 hits. Junior Mariah Dawson finished with an 0-2 record, sophomore Shelby Graves went 0-1 while freshman Corinne Jenkins recorded the sole win going 1-1.

“We needed better pitching,” said Schumann. “We threw some down the middle and they took advantage of it. We threw too many way pitches. I wasn’t very happy with these games.”

The players could not be reached for comments.

However, among the frustration lied some very significant play. Freshman Aleima Lopez had her first college home run in her very first at bat against Kansas, a storybook beginning for one of FIU’s most promising young talents.

“You only get one chance to do that. Your first time on national stage, the media puts a lot behind it, it’s a big deal,” said Schumann. “Both of those freshmen are very tough, they don’t play like freshmen; they’re not freshmen to me.”

Jenkins also recorded her first win on her first start while Graves recorded her first save. Senior Brie Rojas hit her first homerun of the season, a three-run homer over center field. Jenkins, Graves and Rojas’ achievements all occurred during the same game against Georgetown.

Fortunately, the team won’t have to wait long to get the bad taste of losing out of their mouths. The Panthers will look to bounce back in a double-header against Florida Gulf Coast University today at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Miami stadium deal might hinge on 2016 Super Bowl

STEVEN WINE

Even if voters approve using tax money to help upgrade the Miami Dolphins’ stadium, a deal might be contingent on the NFL awarding the 2016 Super Bowl to the city.

The Dolphins confirmed Monday they’ve reversed their position and agreed to a referendum. A no vote would scuttle the plan.

Should the measure pass, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez said, county commissioners still ought to have final approval — and insist on assurances from the NFL that the city will host the 50th Super Bowl in 2016.

“I don’t want to be eligible for things,” Gimenez said. “I want to actu- ally land something.”

The Dolphins hope the referendum can be held before May 22, when league owners are expected to choose the host for the milestone Super Bowl. Miami and San Francisco are the finalists.

“This is about Super Bowl 50,” Dolphins chief executive officer Mike Dee said, “the biggest event, frankly, in NFL history.”

The Dolphins’ plan also requires approval by the Florida Legislature. Public money would come from a $3 million-per-year state subsidy and an increase in Miami-Dade County’s tax on hotels.

Upgrades to the stadium are expected to cost about $400 million. Team owner Stephen Ross has agreed to pay at least 51 percent but might be forced to go higher.

“He started at 51. That’s great,” Gimenez said. “I don’t believe we’re going to end up at 51 percent.”

A referendum is risky for the Dolphins because many South Floridians remain upset about the public financing of the Miami Marlins’ ballpark, which opened a year ago.

“The Dolphins have shown to be a lot different than the previous organi- zation we dealt with,” said Gimenez, who opposed the Marlins project. “The Marlins — that’s the 800-pound gorilla in the room. Let’s say what it is. That was a bad deal, and a lot of things were kept in the dark. I don’t deal that way. I’m sure the Dolphins don’t deal that way.”

Gimenez said negotiations between the county and Dolphins haven’t begun, and a deal will be necessary before a referendum is scheduled. Yet to be deter- mined is who would pay for the special election, which could cost $4 million.

The Dolphins had previously resisted a referendum, saying there wasn’t time to hold a vote before the site for Super Bowl 50 was decided. But local legisla- tors have shown only tepid support, and the Dolphins now believe referendum approval would help their chances in Tallahassee.

“Our toughest critics have said the voters need to weigh in,” Dee said. “We support that.”

Miami has hosted the Super Bowl 10 times, most recently in 2010. The Dolphins and the NFL say stadium upgrades are needed to keep the city competitive in bidding for future Super Bowl.

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Miami Herald – Wednesday, February 13, 2013
**Student ambassadors ready to work**

**STEPHANIE MASON**  
Staff Writer

Students are constantly being challenged to stand out from the crowd when it comes to academics and extracurriculars.

Signing up to be a student ambassador can help do just that for students in the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

The deadline to apply to be a student ambassador is March 1.

Becoming a student ambassador is an option that’s been around for two years. However, according to Fabiana Fugan, graduate assistant in enrollment and recruitment services for CSHTM and coordinator for CSHTM student ambassadors, this year they are working on polishing up the Student Ambassador Program.

Fugan graduated from CSHTM in December 2012 and as a previous student ambassador herself, said,

“When I started, it was very inactive.”

This year, the Student Ambassador Program will collaborate with the Student Alumni Association and the University-wide ambassador program.

“So what’s happening is that it’s becoming a better program, bigger,” said Fugan.

“We were approached by the Student Alumni Association about combining the program, so it’s going to be revamped from what it was this past year,” said Fugan.

Fugan’s entry into this program came through the Student Alumni Association

Fugan stated that by collaborating with the SAA and the University-wide ambassador program, the students will receive a lot more benefits that they wouldn’t have been able to just being an ambassador in the Chaplin school.

“When we were doing our own program we were saying ‘there’s networking opportunities, you get invitations to special events, you get to have face time with the dean and actually sit with him in meetings and represent the student body,’” said Fugan.

“But along with those things which we’ll still keep in place, the student ambassador program has professional development programs and they have conferences and retreats and party registration which is... amazing.”

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**WUC becomes the hot spot for busy singles**

**VINSON PRESLEY**  
Contributing Writer

Speed dating may seem very 1990s, but the Student Program Council is bringing it back this Valentine’s Day.

Tomorrow, Feb. 14, SPC will host a Speed dating event in Wolfe University Center in rooms 221, 222 and 223 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

“SPC is LGBT friendly and open to everyone in the community,” said Judish Chetty, graduate assistant for the Department of Campus Life.

Speed dating is a way for men and women with busy schedules to go on multiple dates at once and potentially find a match. Most conversations last about 10 minutes before a bell rings and participants have to rotate to the next person.

The origin of this method for meeting people is a religious one: between 1998 and 1999, Rabbi Yaacov Deyo established speed dating to chaperone the meetings of young Jewish singles to encourage them to date people within the Jewish faith, according to healthguidance.org.

Today, this practice is common in religious and secular settings.

Students have mixed feelings about SPC’s speed dating event, but some see the potential benefits of it.

Kristen Castillo, a sophomore English major, believes the event will be fun because it gives singles with a busy schedule something to do that could potentially lead to a date.

Castillo agrees the event will give students a chance to meet multiple people at a time and increase their chances of finding a match since they will not be restricted to talk to only one individual.

Mary Jessica Villaruz, sophomore pre-nursing major, believes this type of event will reduce nervousness and build the confidence of the participants because each conversation will only be a few minutes.

“It’s an icebreaker. I think it’s perfect for some people who don’t have valentines,” said Villaruz.

Not all students feel this way though.

“I believe [speed dating] is effective for some people but not for everyone... not for me,” said Tania Centeno, junior accounting major. Centeno, who considers herself to be shy, said she would feel rush due to the time restraints of the event.

Gabrielle Cazimir, a sophomore biology/pre-med major, has a less favorable view of speed dating thinking it is not an effective way to meet people. She also is “not a fan of Valentine’s Day.”

Cazimir believes that friendship is the best way to get to know a person, not a brief and timed encounter.

Despite the many views on speed dating and Valentine’s Day, SPC is hoping that this event will bring students together, have a high turnout and that students bring a good attitude. Even some of the members of SPC will participate in the event.

With chocolate covered strawberries and romantic music playing, SPC wants this event to be a Valentine’s Day getaway.

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**Club Fair brings some love to campus**

**ALEXANDER SUAREZ**  
Staff Writer

Even the clubs on campus will be feeling a little festive this Thursday.

The Student Organizations Council will hold a Valentine’s Day Club Fair from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Panther Square.

Old and new clubs alike will table at the fair which will consist of games, give-aways, a camera booth and finger food.

According to Ana Coronel, director of public relations for SOC, students on Biscayne Bay Campus are often detached from campus life.

“Everybody either dorms here and goes back to their dorm or they commute. So you don’t really know what’s going on around the school.”

According to Coronel, this event aims to connect students with clubs and organizations that have similar interests.

“With students who are bringing more activity and more hobbies over here to BBC, I think there are a lot of kids that have the same interest but they just don’t know where to go,” said Coronel.

Some students have taken it upon themselves to create a new club where no such group existed.

One of these clubs includes the Long-board club, a club fairly recent to BCC.

“We want to liven up BBC. We’re trying to get more clubs out there,” said Coronel.

“You’re going to network. You’re going to create friendships. And overall, it’s going to help you get into other positions in the school.”

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