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Florida International University

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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, DJs, 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 Browen 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.

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 summer internships.

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 París 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.

“It is all started with the 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.

-nws@fiu.edu

PIGGIN’ OUT

In the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, students prepare their classwork for their Art in Culinary Arts class. In this class, students are taught how to cut and prepare a whole pig. Danielle Gonzales, a senior in hospitality, leans over the pig she is preparing.

Students exploring the world of travel

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-nws@fiu.edu

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

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PAGE 4
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 Lonyaz, 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 Lonyaz.

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 Rosanne 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 use it for parking,” 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 Lonyaz.

The change of names will not have an effect on the student health fee; however, according to Lonyaz, 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 Lonyaz. “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 Lonyaz.

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 Lonyaz.

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

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

-sstephan.useche@fiusm.com

Ambassador program offered

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

According to Ferrer, 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 ambassador,” said Ferrer.

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 CSHTM, giving tours, and speaking to other students about the CSHTM.

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EDITORIAL

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

HALF VALENTINE DAY

ASHELY 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 my grandma does (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” they were complaining

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

Almost everyone will spend this lovely day with a significant other, or at least be able to connect with someone. Just because “the one” hasn’t shown up on your door-step yet doesn’t mean you’ll have to take the black.
My grandma always called Valentine’s Day “el día 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. Sue me.

I anti-Valentine’s Day folks are probably arguing that the only reason I waste my time and money is because it’s an “evil corpori- rate holiday.”
And to that I say, so what?

Almost every holiday has been skewed in some way from its original inten- tion. Atheists still cele- brate Christmas and college

actor Cathy won’t make you any less single so enjoy it for what it is.

Sugar daddy website: not the place for judgment

CHELSEA KLAIBER
Contributing Writer

Recently The Beacon published some thoughts about the sugar daddy website: seekingarrange- ment.com, of which FIU ranks in the top ten for college student users.
We all know that sugar daddies want a woman’s money, but their thoughts were gener- ally judgmental, harsh and in my opinion, not necessary.
We need to give the female students who choose to use that 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 sites.
Not to mention, seekingarrange- ment.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 back- ground 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 could possibly 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 least expensive universities in the country, it is still thousands of dollars a semester, and for off-campus residents, it’s even more pricey. This can be tough for students to pay even with a job.
If I were a majority of the students who use seekingarrange- ment.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 to the Avengers cards you got on sale at Target (even if you didn’t appreciate it) and just show the people you care about how much you really love them.
Still not convinced?
Look on the bright side: come February 15th all that chocolate will be on sale.

-Chelsea Klaiber

All students shouldn’t be punished for extra credits

CHELSEA KLAIBER
Contributing Writer

Some students are getting punished for taking more than 120 credits in classes. At least that’s one way of seeing it.
According to the 2012 Florida Statutes 1009.286, “state universities shall require a student to pay an excess hour surcharge for excess of the number of credit hours required to complete the baccalaureate degree program in which the student is enrolled.”

That sounds like, “Let’s try to get some more money from college students’ pockets.”

The Florida Legislature implemented this law because they want students to graduate as fast and as efficiently as possible, but how can they possibly do this if universities such as FIU keep adding and/or requiring more classes for their curriculum?
It’s not an insignificant amount that will be added to the extra credits taken. In the 2012-2013 academic year the surcharge will go up to 100 percent of the tuition, which will leave the student paying double.
We do understand that there are some overachievers who want to expand their studies and obtain up to three different majors, and others who have failed the same classes repeatedly. The Florida Statutes says that those credit hours taken, whether they failed the class or whether they were transferred to other institutions, shall be included when calculating the number of hours taken by a student.
When it comes to these cases, the statutes aren’t completely unreasonable. Either you pass your classes or you pay extra for it.

However, transfer students should be taken case by case and the University should evaluate whether they really deserve the surcharge.
According to 2010-2012 Annual Accountability Report, between 2008 and 2012 only 22 percent of transfer students at FIU have graduated. The other 78 percent are still looking.

Some students from this 63 percent are still enrolled because they took classes at the previous institution they attended and those were not counted when they enrolled at FIU, but those credits will be included in the calculations.

Transfers aren’t the only students staying behind and not graduating. Sixty three percent of first time college students, whose first and only school has been FIU, graduated with extra credits hours in the 2011-2012 period, according to the Annual Accountability report.
If these students started at FIU, then what caused them to go the 120 credits mark in the first place?

First thing that comes to mind are the prerequisites required by FIU. These courses are mandatory in order to get full acceptance into the different colleges.
The First Year Experience class, for instance, “is designed to facilitate the transition to a university environment,” according to the 2012-2013 Undergraduate Catalog. The class is only worth one credit, but how much valuable information is it providing the students with? Wouldn’t they learn the university environment along the way? Instead of wasting a credit with this class, students can enroll into other classes which would actually be counted towards their majors, or maybe help them be one step ahead with their core classes.
The Global Learning classes are also a hold up. The classes are said to educate undergraduates about the relationship of local and global issues and also provide them with skills about local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving.

Students are required to take two GL courses, which leads to asking: are these classes really needed? Why can’t students just focus on the core classes and those from their majors?

These pointless classes might be one of the reasons why transfer and FTIC students are going over the 120 credit hours; which is why these surcharges need to have some exceptions.
Love: the neuroscience behind it

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, and are still able to separate from them. They are more likely to have lasting relationships and higher self-esteem and sociability throughout their lives, according to about.com.

“Part 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 in room 363 from noon to 1 p.m.

VICTORIA RIVERA  Staff Writer

Women will dance to bring awareness to violence

ONE, PAGE 1

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, belly dancers, 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 the outcome of 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. “It’s my passion. I joined [WSSA] as a member and little by little I 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 bring 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 increase awareness and reduce the statistics.

“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
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 significant other to a “Good Day to Die Hard” screening, or you could even compromise and watch both films if that is what you’re into.

As someone who hasn’t ever been a fan of Valentine’s Day, even while in a relationship, I don’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.”

There’s a good chance you’ll be having more than a few Valentine’s Day inspired dates ending in Kafkaesque occurrences, so you don’t get yourself down in advance. Love comes in all forms, and often enough we find ourselves falling in love with the idea of love, and their performances only add to the wonderful hilarity that this film brings forth.

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 romance in the seventies as it gets, and their performances only add to the wonderful hilarity that this film brings forth.

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 unfolding on screen is precisely what 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 substituting yourself to what will likely be reruns of that “Valentine’s Day” travesty 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 days ending in Kafkaesque sexual experiences.

If you’re interested in a more unconventional date, take your Valentine strawberry picking in Knaus Berry Farm. It’s $2.50 per pound of strawberries you pick, so you can manage how much you’d like to spend easily. After picking your favorite strawberries, you can go home and decorate them in chocolate, ending your date on a sweet note.

If you’re the cheesy romantic type, take your Valentine to Rome or Paris, while not leaving home. Decorate your place like a restaurant in a foreign country. Then cook the themed food and enjoy a romantic evening in a foreign country from the comfort of your own home.

To have your event featured, email us at calendar@fiusm.com.
Overseas student-athletes face culture shock in Miami

Cyprien projected as second-round pick in draft

JONATHAN JACOBSKIND
Staff Writer

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 missed 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.

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 and impressed on the field.

In the open field. Some of his qualities such as his speed 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.

“Every time I go for a workout, I see teams that are interested in him,” Sroka said.

According to ESPN’s pre-draft analysis, Cyprien’s speed, athleticism, and work ethic are all attributes that separate him from other college student-athletes, 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 Giuelitta Boha, who does not own a vehicle and is currently separated from family made her first semester at FIU tough.

“I’m going to miss him, Boha said. “He is the reason I am here. He is my sport, my passion.”

Boha added. “We always want to see each other.”

Another issue confronting college 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 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.

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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.

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 and impressed on the field.

In the open field. Some of his qualities such as his speed 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.

“Every time I go for a workout, I see teams that are interested in him,” Sroka said.

According to ESPN’s pre-draft analysis, Cyprien’s speed, athleticism, and work ethic are all attributes that separate him from other college student-athletes, 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 Giuelitta Boha, who does not own a vehicle and is currently separated from family made her first semester at FIU tough.

“I’m going to miss him, Boha said. “He is the reason I am here. He is my sport, my passion.”

Boha added. “We always want to see each other.”

Another issue confronting college 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 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, Samoday said.” Volleyball is my sport, my passion.”

-CYPRIEN PROJEC TED AS SE COND-ROUN D PIC K IN DRAFT-
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 in the final inning. It included a dismal .083 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 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 top 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 collegiate 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 home run 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 over .300 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
AP Staff

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 actually 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 organization 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 determined 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 legislators have shown only tepid support, and the Dolphins now believe referendum approval would help their chances in Tallahassee.

“Our harshest 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.
Student ambassadors ready to work

**STEPHANIE MASON**
**Staff Writer**

Students are constantly being challenged to step 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 Ferrer, 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.

Ferrer 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 Ferrer.

“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 Dawn Fagnan, enrollment manager for the CSHTM and supervisor in the Student Ambassador Program.

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

**VINSON PRESSLEY**
**Contributing Writer**

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

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

“The event is LGBT friendly and open to everyone in the community,” said Judisha 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 actually sit with him in meetings and represent the student body,” said Fagnan. “But along with those things which we still will keep in place, the student ambassador program has professional development programs and they have conferences and retreats and party registration which is... amazing.”

**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, giveaways, 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 they 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.

“We have students who bring 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 BBC.”

“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.”