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FIU partnership raises faculty concern

MADISON FANTOZZI
Asst. News Director

Faculty are raising concern and criticism over the University’s proposed contract with Academic Partners, a company that will offer online degrees to students abroad. Faculty are questioning the procedure – or lack thereof – that was underway to select the company for partnership, which was neither competitive nor voted upon.

The new program called FIU Global will help the University bring in the financial benefits of the increasing popularity of online learning with the help of AP’s marketing and recruiting services.

Provost Douglas Wartick wrote in an email to Student Media that marketing is not the University’s “core competency” and Dean of University College said the company will perform non-academic activities that are important to the success of the programs. AP is not a new acquaintance of the University, with its first contract signed in 2009 that not only created the online Corporate MBA program, but also faculty concern.

Mathematics Professor Enrique Villamor, who was chair of the Faculty Senate’s online committee when the initial contract was signed, was faculty was not informed of the contract. “If someone is going to teach, they should be involved or at least informed,” said Villamor.

The Faculty Senate proposed a recommendation. “Be it further resolved that the University shall neither renew its contract...nor enter into any such contract to offer any FIU degree in partnership with any other private company without first consulting with the Faculty Senate,” the recommendation says.

Villamor said the Faculty Senate was told “vaguely” that administration looked into companies but AP was the best choice. “We want to know why,” said Villamor. “We want to know more specific details about the contract.”

Elam said faculty was not informed of the contract. "Some faculty prefer not to have a public-private partnership in the delivery of academic programs.”

According to Wartick, faculty has “complete control” in determining the curriculum and development process of academic programs, and can decide whether or not they want to teach in the programs. Elam said the University will be in control of the academic development of FIU Global, while the company will be responsible for marketing and recruiting for the program.

AP’s activities also will include setting up a call center and student services, staffing these services and translating courses into the languages of prospective students. “We don’t have the capital or translation materials to do this on our own,” said Elam.

Another concern of faculty is the lack of a competitive process. “If at any point our General Counsel determines that a competitive process is required, we will move to such a process,” wrote Wartick.

“We appreciate the governor’s recognition of the importance of higher education and his support in funding higher education,” said Steve Sauls, vice president of Governmental Relations. “We’re doing now if that promise is not restored.”

The Miami Herald reported, however, that the company was responsible for recruiting 100 students for every entering class, but has only met this goal once.

FIU Health adds branch in Broward County

ALYSSA ELSO
Contributing Writer

For more than a year, FIU Health physicians have provided state-of-the-art, comprehensive care to patients at the Modesto Maidique Faculty Group Practice. Now, the practice is moving on up – to Broward County.

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine’s Faculty Group Practice has expanded into Broward and North Miami-Dade with its second practice at the Broward Health Medical Center.

In partnering with Broward Health, the University is expanding access to health care and increasing the learning opportunities for its medical students.

Feb. 15, 2013 marked the grand opening of the new practice, which is initially focused on providing outpatient psychiatric services to children, adolescents and adults through the diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric disorders.

“Practice currently has two doctors, who specialize in child, adolescent and adult psychiatry, as well as substance abuse,” said Dr. Daniel Castellanos, who is the founding chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health.

“We also have a licensed clinical therapist on staff, and hope to add specialty therapy in the future.” According to Castellanos, in April, the practice will add family medicine services.

Board certified psychiatrists, Dr. Leonard Granik, practicing psychiatry for twenty years, and Dr. Christopher LaRiche, who specializes in adult psychiatry, are both faculty members at the Wertheim College of Medicine.

Along with Katie Caramo, licensed clinical social worker, the trio are currently physicians at the FGP in Broward.

With its main clinical practice located at MMC, FIU Health-Broward, Castellanos said, “Serves to provide to the Broward County community, as its location is more accessible to residents of Broward and North Miami-Dade.”

FIU Health-Broward will not only treat patients, but also serve as an educational venue for third year medical students, who will soon begin their rotations within the practice.

“Medical students will rotate through our practice as part of their third year psychiatry clerkships,” said Granik.

“Our department uses the Broward Health Medical Center as a training ground for medical students,” said Granik, as FIU students have been receiving clinical training from physicians in a variety of specialties at Broward Health for the past three years.

“In the future we will expand to also provide primary care services to be an integrated provider of multidisciplinary medical care for our patients,” said Granik. “We also expect to grow and expand our psychiatry staff.”

Among the practices most commonly treated conditions are: attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, and psychotic disorders including schizophrenia.

Appointments are currently available Monday through Friday.
In today’s world, you can know everything about a person if you have five minutes and a smart phone in your palm. The new process of recruiting and hiring employees through Twitter is becoming more popular. The use of social media means endless and priceless opportunity, but some students see using a couple simple tweets to land a career as taking it too far. “It is unfair to those who put in a lot of time and effort to build their resumes,” said freshman criminal justice major Andrea Madrazo. “An employer does not know if the applicant has a college degree and that’s unfair to those who do.” According to a recent USA Today article by Bruce Horowitz, several companies have adopted Twitter as their hiring process, replacing interviews and resumes. Some companies even use an potential employee’s tweets to determine whether or not he or she is right for the job without a traditional interview or reading a resume. The USA Today article described a chief marketing officer for a tech firm who refuses to look at resumes, basing his decision for a six-figure social media strategist job solely on the candidate’s tweets. These “Twitterviews” can be considered a 140-character job application. Although it does seem like an unorthodox hiring method, the number of companies using Twitter to recruit employees is increasing worldwide. It seems this may become the new standard for companies seeking tech-savvy employees. A report by online job search expert Susan P. Joyce for job-hunt.org lists the top 50 companies using Twitter as their hiring process. AT&T, Hyatt Hotels, MTV Networks, and the U.S. Department of State were among the many included. Surprisingly, the social media craze does not have many students convinced. Even though it would seem young adults would be excited about this new hiring process, some still feel it is unfair method of hiring. “Twitter is meant to be social, not a job application,” tweeted Matthew Pimentel, a freshman business administration major. “It may make for better insight on a person but it shouldn’t go to the point of replacing the resume and face to face interview.” On the other hand, some see the benefits at “Twitterviews.” People who would have been looked over can now land an interview that he or she may not have otherwise. For candidates with less education and/or experience this hiring method gives them the opportunity to compete in the job market and also a possibility to share their knowledge that in other circumstances would have been lost. “Social media is a new way of connecting and [in some ways] can give more than a resume,” explained Melanie Adams, a graduate assistant at Career Services. “We educate students on how to use LinkedIn and company’s websites. I don’t think [Twitterviews] is a bad idea, it is another option.” Fair or unfair, it seems using social media as a hiring process is not merely a fad. Ten years ago it was rare for a company to have an updated and functional website, but now it is unheard of for a company not to be online. This mind, the process of recruiting and hiring employees via Twitter could easily become standard in the next decade.
Making stranger conversations more meaningful

MIGUEL MARTINEZ-IERA
Contributing Writer

A simple act of kindness is not what I’m talking about. Nor a kind word; nor helping out a friend. What I’m talking about is having a meaningful, unexpected interaction with a complete stranger.

Does this sound like an odd thing to you? Well, that’s because it probably is. Our society has been gradually isolating itself more and more over the course of this past generation. We’ve been using Facebook to stay in touch with friends far away, and tweeting to “Twidlets” we don’t even know. We share intimate details and pictures of our day-to-day lives with who-knows-who, and we’ve come to accept these things as normal and acceptable.

We praise how interconnected the world is while we tap away at our cell phones and fail to notice the human being sitting just a few feet away from us.

We’ve traded meaningless distractions for meaningful interactions.

When the last time you had a spontaneous conversation with a person you’d never met before? A conversation that left you feeling different about your day? A conversation that made you question something you believed or simply made you reflect on your own life?

“I think truthful and general kindness should happen more often,” Caitlyn Lincoln, a junior theater major believes. “It can be a smaller world, but you can feel like the most profound moments in my life have happened via a random conversation with a stranger.”

Somewhere along the way, the majority of the population forgot that what had made our species so special was our ability to communicate in a singular, meaningful way with almost anyone else. Anyone else. Including a complete stranger.

And that may seem daunting, but at the same time, it’s really not. If you’re sitting around campus, you could start a conversation with anyone; you already have a friend in FIU.

I’m not saying it should be forced, that would probably be awkward for everyone, but it should be a little uncomfortable. You’d be breaking down that social barrier that so many of us put up. It might be easier to post on your wall, or comment on a picture of them nearly naked, giving a “Like” and a suggestive comment. It would probably be more welcome than you inquiring how their day was going, or what was on their mind.

And that’s exactly the problem.

It seems so simple, put down your phone, only use it when you have to, only use it to read a text and interact with those around you.

It seems simple because it is. But so many feel the need to immerse themselves in their iPhone, hiding away in a cyber space, whenever they’re surrounded by ‘strangers’. I don’t want this to be taken as just a rant against social media in all it’s forms, I do believe it has its merits in some instances, but I do want this to be something that makes you stop and think, then limit the amount of time you spend disconnected from your present surroundings.

Next time you have a moment to spare, spark a conversation with a stranger. Who knows what might come from it. As Lincoln so sagely pointed out, “everyone who means something to me, at one point or another was technically a stranger.”

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Dream Era

February 26, 2012 is a night that haunts many. On this night in Sanford, Fla., Trayvon Martin was walking home when he was confronted and fatally shot by George Zimmerman. Florida’s Stand Your Ground law allowed Zimmerman to be released on bail and has yet to be charged.

This tragedy marked the beginning of new ideas and a stand for equality by an unlikely group – our youth. Students across the state began to rally in the wake of Trayvon Martin’s death and created an organization called Dream Defenders.

We have been planning and building our collective power to build a movement to speak for our under-represented communities to protect them and bring in an era of change.

The Dream Defenders is a young organization, but have been hard at work presenting the issues affecting our communities.

One such issue is the school to prison pipeline, a method in which kids are being channeled from schools into the criminal justice system.

This pipeline is criminalizing our nation’s children instead of educating them. There are even juvenile facilities that are being shut down across the state, leaving children as young as eight years-old to be forced into adult prisons, for disruptive behavior such as arriving late to class or throwing objects in the classroom.

Instead of the school staff handling the children’s misconduct, schools are relying on police officers to take kids out of an educational environment and put them in a system that will cause more harm to them.

When these children grow into adults living through the never ending incarceration process, they lose the chance to be educated, to have careers, and to really reach their full potential.

This greatly contributes to the fact that America has the largest incarceration percentage in the whole world. One in four of the world’s inmates are Americans and since the 1970’s the incarceration rate has tripled in the United States.

On March 5th, Gov. Rick Scott will deliver his State of the State Address, a speech that shows Florida’s status as a state.

On this day, on the steps of the Old Capitol of Florida, Dream Defenders will also be delivering a special “Welcome to the Dream Era” speech and Community State of Florida Address with speakers addressing a number of issues affecting our communities. Such issues include voter suppression, immigration, Stand Your Ground laws and the School to Prison Pipeline.

We welcome you to the Dream Era. Join us. We are the future. We are the answer; we are the change that we are being called for.

We will demand everything that was promised to us, while laying the foundation for a new nation created in our image.

America is changing, it is shifting. It is an era propelled by black and brown youth who spent their formative years criminalized, marginalized, tossed to the side and forgotten. We found beauty in the dark; we found strength in our struggle and determination through despair.

Paula Zamudio Dream Defenders FIU President Paula@dreamdefenders.org

Sharing the dream of the no-social-media challenge, where for either two weeks or a month, depending on the challenge, you don’t use any form of social media. This is a nice idea, but I believe it can be taken further. Make this a lifestyle choice: limit yourself to a certain amount of instances in which you can check in to each of these social media sites per day. Look around even once in awhile when waiting for a class to start or when sitting outside; hell, even smile at someone!

Obviously this is not the sole reason suicide rates have gone up for university students. But the loneliness of a campus filled with unfriendly, technology obsessed students could be the tipping point.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to the Beacon editorial board. These views are the opinion of the editorial board and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the university community.

OPINION

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of the Beacon editorial board. These views are the opinion of the editorial board and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the university community.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified 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 any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiu.com.
UNICEF@FIU to raise awareness about global poverty

VICTORIA RIVERA  
Staff Writer

There are 1.4 billion people in the world right now living in extreme poverty. Every 3.6 seconds, starvation kills someone, usually children younger than 5, according to the United Nations Children’s Fund. UNICEF, which was established on Dec. 11, 1946 by the United Nations General Assembly, is an organization that provides humanitarian relief to developing countries in order to eradicate those startling statistics.

UNICEF at the University shares this mission through the Global Poverty Project, a movement that raises awareness of extreme poverty in the world and prevents its cycle. “UNICEF gives you a venue for making a difference in the world,” organization advocates for issues that affect children, whether it be malnutrition, immunization, AIDS prevention, hunger and education,” said Shirley St. Pierre, master’s student in public administration and president of UNICEF@FIU. In September 2008, with the teamwork of several world leaders, the Global Poverty Project began in New York at the United Nations High Level Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, according to the Global Poverty Project’s website.

Today, the Global Poverty Project has reached several nations such as Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, as well as the United States. One of the major issues that concerns St. Pierre is vaccinations.

“We take that for granted here. We get our vaccinations prior to going to school, but some countries don’t have that. Some of the reasons for this are lack of medication supply, lack of funding and lack of awareness,” she said.

On Thursday, Feb. 28, UNICEF will host an event in the Graham Center Pit at the Modesto Maidique Campus to raise awareness about global poverty, human trafficking, education and the Tap Water Campaign.

Almost 800 million people do not have safe, clean water to drink, and 2.5 billion people live without a sanitary toilet, according to UNICEF’s website. Through the Tap Water Campaign, UNICEF@FIU hopes to beat this statistic.

By raising awareness of global poverty and all of the issues that it brings, UNICEF@FIU also hopes to expand students’ global connections. “Inspiring even just one person to help will make a difference. Awareness will turn into engagement [with other nations],” the organization has said.

UNICEF@FIU presented a town hall event last semester on the effects of blood drain from developing countries. During the town hall, speakers from the FIU Medical School shared their experiences visiting and treating individuals in these areas.

The organization is also focused on fundraising for cancer research. Relay for Life is the largest non-profit fundraising event that takes place in over 20 countries with more than 4 million people involved. People who have been affected by cancer and those who are just paying their respects, join forces to relay and reach a cancer-free world. This year the committee’s goal is to raise $91,000 for cancer-related services.

Relay for Life is an organization well known throughout the country and the world. There are 5,100 relay communities and more than 4 million people in over 20 countries participating in this inspirational fight against the life changing effects of cancer, according to cancer.org. Twenty-six students make up the committee in charge of planning and coordinating the relay. Sofia Sanchez, a junior double majoring in public relations and marketing, is one of these students. Sanchez decided to join Relay for Life because she wanted to get involved while being a part of a philanthropic mission. She states the committee has been working extremely hard since fall and mentioned the theme, Disney, is the key to success. “We believe the theme will make it easier for the teams to come up with creative ways to raise funds and hopefully it will make the event more enjoyable since it is overnight,” said Sanchez.

Everyone’s reason to relay is unique. For freshman biology major Patricia Padron, it was her parents’ fight against cancer that drove her to become a Relay for Life delegate for the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority. “I thought that being directly affected gives me a different view and appreciation. I wanted to help the organization while showing the victims that there is hope,” said Padron.

The memory of her father and the celebration of her mother’s survival has made her determined to “reach out, embrace reality and participate” for Relay for Life. Padron has set up a team that will compete to raise the most money through activities and other fundraisers.

Rebecca Reyes, a junior majoring in clinical psychology, has a different story. Reyes participated in last year’s event not because of a family member, but because of her manager’s father, who passed away due to cancer.

For Reyes it didn’t hit home as much, so her inspiration was drawn from the good times with her co-workers. “I realized it was about raising awareness and funds for those suffering from the incurable,” said Reyes. Her experience opened her eyes to a world where the small everyday problems didn’t matter.

As of the upcoming relay, students were able to donate their hair at the “Look Good, Feel Better” event on Monday, Feb. 18. Freshman biology major Heidi de Marchena was among the many that donated. She decided to donate because her sisters inspired her to. She describes the involvement as “an incredible experience.” “It made me feel great giving my hair to someone who really needs it,” said de Marchena.

www.fiusm.com

FIU RELAY FOR LIFE

When: Friday, March 1 at 6 p.m through Saturday, March 2 at 8 a.m.
Where: MMC Ryder Business Building Circle

Inspiring even just one person to help will make a difference.

Lorraine Apolis  
Secretary UNICEF@FIU  

which emphasizes the ‘International’ in FIU,” said Lorraine Apolis, sophomore political science/international relations major and secretary of UNICEF@FIU.

On March 1 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., supporters of the Global Poverty Project will speak in room 125 in the School of International and Public Affairs.

One of the speakers, Brittany Aubin, is a Peace Corps volunteer in Zambia. On April 5, 2012, she wrote in her blog: “I have found through Peace Corps, friendships deeper and richer than anyone could ask to be blessed with.”

Whether we were crossing the width of the African continent together, or just passing the time in someone’s hut, I have never known such a diverse, interesting and loving group of people. I have no doubt that they will play a significant role in all the years of my life, just as they did in the last three.”

For more information, students can go to unicef.org or look up UNICEF@FIU on orgsync.com.
KARLA REYES
Contributing Writer

Marine botanist and professor, Ligia Collado-Vides, has devoted her research to the ecology of tropical macroalgae – otherwise known as seaweeds.

An upcoming exhibition at the Murray E. Nelson Government and Cultural Center in Key Largo, titled “Macroalgae: Hidden Colors of the Sea,” features a collaboration by Collado-Vides and the Tropical Botanic Artists, a Miami-based art group dedicated to creating environmental art.

The exhibition is an effort to raise awareness about macroalgae communities and their importance to marine ecosystems. But students may wonder, “Why macroalgae?”

“We want to show people and help them understand [macroalgae’s] usefulness,” said Collado-Vides. “We use it every day.”

Although most students – and most people, for that matter – are unaware of the presence of macroalgae, it can actually be found in food, medicine and fertilizer. In addition to having practical usage, researchers are also beginning to look to macroalgae as an alternate source for biofuels.

“Most of the biofuels we use now come from corn, which causes a lot of harm to the environment and takes away from our food sources,” said Collado-Vides. “[If macroalgae would be used,] we won’t be taking away any food sources.”

With an increase in the amount of nutrients being dumped into the waters and an increase in fishing, the ecosystems and the macroalgae seem to be changing – and not in a good way.

“A bloom in the macroalgae can affect the seagrass, which then affects the whole ecosystem,” said Collado-Vides. “It will become a problem.”

Collado-Vides started the collaboration with the Tropical Botanic Artists to raise awareness to the issue by drawing the public in with the hidden beauty of macroalgae, which is the reason why she was drawn to the seaweed. For the exhibition, she will do her part by presenting a lecture aimed to give people a different awareness about macroalgae and hopes that their awareness will drive them to participate in making changes.

“Many things are happening to the environment and it is our responsibility to preserve it,” she said. “I wanted to work with something that would be good for the community and I find that algae is the most beautiful to work with.”

The “Macroalgae: Hidden Colors of the Sea” is currently open at the Murray E. Nelson Government and Cultural Center in Key Largo.

life@fiusm.com

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Q.

What goes on in our bodies or mind when we find someone we are attracted to and how do we know if it’s love or lust?

Dear O.P.,

The first stages of attraction to a romantic partner are special and sometimes overwhelming. There may be feelings of excitement, joy, and hopefulness. According to Dr. Helen Fisher, an anthropologist at Rutgers University, the chemical in our brains called phenylethylamine is often the reason behind the phrase, “Love is a drug.” Dr. Fisher elaborates that when you are in the beginning excitement stages of romance, your brain produces phenylethylamine, which stimulates dopamine production, a natural stimulant, and sends it out to many brain regions when one is in love. This is the same region affected when you feel the rush of other stimulants. So it’s no surprise that we sometimes feel “crazy in love” which can be interpreted as “lust.” Dr. Fisher adds that this feeling can last from 18 months to 4 years until eventually your body becomes accustomed to the “love drugs.” This information can be helpful to understanding what is driving our new budding romance. So, before you book the ticket to Vegas, with the plan to get hitched, get to know your love interest. Take the romance one date at a time, let the friendship grow and build trust and respect into your relationship. With time, this will serve you well as the “love rush” will eventually wear off. Become best friends with your new love, enjoy his/her company, allow the excitement to become the fuel to get to know the person and overtime the romance will grow. Good luck with your new love!

Be Well,

Nick Scheidt, M.S. is a Doctoral Psychology Intern at FIU Counseling and Psychological Services. He is a Clinical Psychology Doctoral Candidate from Carlos Albizu University. Once he completes his internship at FIU, Nick plans to work as a Psychologist, Writer, and Professor.

Do you have questions you would like to Ask Nick? Send an email to: NickScheidt@fiu.edu
Two-sport athletes enjoy non-stop competition

RHYS WILLIAMS
Contributing Writer

Dedication, hard work and perseverance by high school athletes to play a sport sometimes lead to opportunities to play at the collegiate level. For athletes who play multiple sports in high school, a vast majority of them end up focusing on the one that they believe will give them the best chance to get to the next level.

A few however, get the chance to continue with more than one sport that they love.

Freshman Michael Montero is both an offensive lineman for the football team and a thrower for the track and field team at FIU competing in both sports as a walk-on athlete.

“It wasn’t a hard decision for me and it is one I made as soon as I knew that I was coming here to FIU,” Montero said. “I knew that I wanted to continue each sport to the highest level while also studying and obtaining a degree here.”

The challenges of being a multisport athlete are nothing new to Montero seeing as he juggled several sports during high school.

“I played three sports in high school which were football, wrestling and track and field so playing multiple sports is nothing new to me,” Montero said. “I won the state title in shot put with a throw of 57 feet 1 inch, which was also my personal best and threw 169 feet 7 inches for my personal record for discus.”

The implements, as expected, are also heavier than they are for high school level of competition.

With an increase from 12 to 16 pounds, the shot has the biggest change in weight, whereas the discuss increases from 1.6 to 2 kilograms.

Montero is not only on the team but is putting up high marks during the 2012 football season which landed him fourth in the Sun Belt Conference. Montero’s football team mate and fellow freshman Chris Sullivan is also getting involved with Panthers track as a high jumper. After being sidelined due to a knee injury during the 2012 football season with a broken finger, the receiver planned on trying to prove himself somehow this offseason.

“I played football and basketball during high school along with running and jumping for my school’s track and field team,” Sullivan said. “I was a majority offensive player at both wide receiver and quarterback, with a little bit of time at the safety position for football, a pretty good offensive player in basketball with being able to dunk the ball from time to time.”

Sullivan is no stranger to the track, having put up some personal records of 6 feet 7 inches for high jump and a 52-second 400-meter dash time.

Coming into FIU in the summer of 2012, Sullivan had a preferred walk-on spot to the football team, but he had a feeling that he was going to try and run or jump for the Panthers track team during the offseason for football.

“I was on edge about trying to walk-on to the team because I didn’t think I was good enough to be involved at the collegiate level. I ended up going for it and now I am going to the conference meet to high jump,” Sullivan said.

Both athletes are currently competing at the collegiate level. The next meet for some of the members of Panthers track and field would be for those who qualify for the NCAA Indoor Championships which begin on March 8, 2013.

FIU baseball sounds off on lack of pride

PATRICK CHALVIRE
Contributing Writer

Every four years, the U.S team in the World Baseball Classic falls into the same predicament.

The World Baseball Classic was first introduced in 2006 when the International Olympic Committee removed baseball from the Olympics. Played every four years, it features 16 baseball teams, each representing a country that play in a bracket style to determine the best baseball country that year.

More importantly, the WBC is a way to show pride and support for one’s country rather than just another game to earn a paycheck. This display of pride has been dominant in countries such as Japan and Cuba have never had a problem showcasing their homegrown talent. The U.S, on the other hand, hasn’t had such success in that department.

This year, some of the game’s biggest stars are absent from the U.S roster, choosing to decline invitations. Starting pitcher Justin Verlander, the 2012 Cy Young winner, opted not to play, claiming he was tired from last season. Pitcher Clayton Kershaw, the 2011 Cy Young winner, dodged the event, too.

The No. 1 concern for big name stars in the majors playing for Team USA has always been the risk of injury. Players, and especially team owners are worried about a star player getting hurt prior to the season starting.

Turtle Thomas, head coach of the FIU baseball team, says the concern for injury should never be in a player’s mind.

“You can’t play this game of baseball worried about getting hurt,” Thomas said. “If you worry about getting hurt, that’s probably the time you will get hurt.”

Thomas doesn’t seem to think that playing in the WBC increases the risk of injury. The coach remembered an instance where a young man tore his anterior cruciate ligament by doing something everyone does day in and day out.

“There was a kid, literally getting in bed one night, and twist his knee and tore his ACL,” Thomas said. “You can even walk across the street and get hit by a car.”

According to Jayson Stark of ESPN, 73 players were on the disabled list in 2009 once the season started. Only two of them on the list played in the WBC. Rick VandenHark was a pitcher, and Ichiro Suzuki, who was on the disabled list due to a foot injury.

If that was not enough, players who did not participate in the WBC in 2009 were twice as likely to be on the disabled list. By the end of the season, 11 of the 115 players who made the WBC roster that year were later on the disabled list.

The choice is ultimately up to such player. Whether or not a decision is made due to injury or pride or whichever the case, the final choice falls on the glove of the player himself.

“Thats somebody’s individual preference what they want to do,” Thomas said. “Everybody has a reason why they would or wouldn’t, and you have to respect their decision. Their not just saying they don’t want to play. They’re out in spring training everyday anyways so they don’t have to spend extra time. They’re playing.”

Tyler Hibbert, outfielder for FIU, believes being asked to play in the WBC should never bring any concern or doubt.

“If you get an invite, you have to take it,” Hibbert said. “You never know if you get the chance again. What if you don’t get injured and you do something great? You’re going to be remembered for that.”
**Alpha Kappa Psi advances one step closer to championship**

**ALEXANDRA SABAUER**
**Contributing Writer**

In a game that went down to the wire on Feb. 22, business fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi defeated Theta Tau, 66-62, in overtime basketball game.

Alpha Kappa Psi kicked off the game with excellent teamwork chemistry between Steven Miro and Gabriel Noboa. The two were in sync with each other, delivering quick passes that led to easy points.

The game was a close one; Romel Rodriguez, Betzaida Ramirez, Amanda Valero, and Andrew Castillo from the Theta Tau had their chemistry in their performance as they scored more than 40 points combined.

Despite the loss, Theta Tau member Betzaida Hernandez was confident in her team.

“It’s really a close game, we’ve been practicing for the season and with this being our third game I think we’re doing really good,” Betzaida said.

The game gave an excellent performance and had the crowd at the edge of their seats the entire game.

“I knew we were doing well, we’ve practiced and we came prepared to win. The only big factor was sitting in disadvantage with Theta Tau is that we only have two girls in our team and they had to play the whole game,” Noboa said.

It may have not been the results Theta Tau players were expecting after so much practice and preparation. But Theta Tau head coach Andrew Castillo still said they’re ready to come back stronger again.

“It was a well fought game,” Castillo said. “Some of the calls didn’t go our way but we pushed through them. We just got to come back and win the next one, work harder, practice harder.”

**SUPINATORS FALL TO NO LIMIT**

In the FIU Rec Center, No Limit dominated the basketball court and won an intense match against the Supinators 51-46.

No Limit fell victim to fouls, leading to easy free throws for the Supinators. The Supinators, however, scored on a silverline backdoor by Ascansio teamed up with Eduardo San Jorge to carry the team to the victory.

Unfortunately Supinators’ San Jorge left the court after the first half of the game for a foul against him that he claims was not a good call.

His absence greatly affected the performance of the Supinators the rest of the game, with No Limit taking advantage of the situation to win the 30 minute game. Ascansio wasn’t discouraged though.

“We have a lot of experience, and as a group we have a lot of chemistry and that makes us a strong team,” Ascansio said.

The Supinators know they have to regroup after this loss, while No Limit continues riding the wave to the championship.

“We have a good team and we’re prepared to go to the championship and win it,” said No Limit team captain Akil Shabaz.

On Feb. 28, No Limit will have its next match and according to team member Charles Earl they’re ready to win it too.

“It was a great team effort, we pulled it out, and both teams played great ball,” Earl said. “I’ll be back even stronger next Thursday.”

**Pistorius granted bail pending murder trial**

**CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA**
**JON GAMBRELL**
**AP Staff**

A South African magistrate allowed Oscar Pistorius to go free on bail Friday, capping hearings that foreshadow a dramatic trial in the Valentine’s Day killing of the star athlete’s girlfriend.

Pistorius’ family members and supporters shouted “Yes!” when Chief Magistrate Desmond Nair made his decision after a more than 1 hour and 45 minute explanation of his ruling to a packed courtroom.

Radio stations and a TV news network in South Africa broadcast the audio of the decision live, and even international channels like the BBC and CNN went live with the pieces of its puzzle together in such a short time.

Anticipating the shape of the state’s case at trial, he said he had serious questions about Pistorius’ account: Why he didn’t try to locate his girlfriend on the night of the killing, why he didn’t try to determine who was in the bathroom, why he didn’t try to prove that he would not flee the country, would not interfere with witnesses or the case, and his release would not cause public unrest.

Nair questioned whether Pistorius would be a flight risk and be prepared to go “ducking and diving” around the world when he stood to lose a fortune in cash, cars, property and other assets. Nair also said that while it had been shown that Pistorius had aggressive tendencies, he did not have a prior record of offenses for violent acts.

He criticized Hilton Botha, the previous lead investigator in the case, for not doing more to uncover evidence that the Olympian had violent tendencies.

The magistrate ruled that Pistorius could not return to his upscale home in a gated community in the eastern suburbs of Pretoria, where the killing of Reeva Steenkamp took place.

Pistorius’ uncle, Arnold Pistorius said: “We are relieved at the fact that Oscar got bail today but at the same time we are sad that tragic night and we know that that is the truth and that will prevail in the coming court case.”

He made the ruling after four days of arguments from prosecution and defense in Pistorius’ bail hearing. During Friday’s long session in Pretoria Magistrate’s Court, Pistorius alternately wept in the pieces of its puzzle together in such a short time.

The two were in sync with each other, delivering quick passes that led to easy points.

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**WANT TO WRITE?**

If you want to become a part of the sports team at The Beacon, email: sports@fiusm.com

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**HEAD COACH Richard Pitino won the team’s 15th game of the season on Feb. 21, guaranteeing a winning record for the first time since the 1999-2000 season when the team went 16-14 under Shalley Rodriguez.**

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**Sports@fiusm.com**

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**For more on the case, visit:**

http://www.sports@fiusm.com
Triumph or tragedy? Students weigh in on Carnival’s future

STEPHANIE MASON  Staff Writer

Lawsuits have already begun to pile up after the misadventure of the Carnival Triumph cruise ship. Deyon Callender has never been on a cruise but she would still open to going on a Carnival cruise.

“I still think they have a future, I mean, accidents happen, everything is not perfect,” said Callender, junior in hospitality management.

With several horror stories of sewage leaks, food supplies having run short, and all communication cut off, the cruise’s passengers were forced to go from vacation mode to survival mode when the Carnival Triumph lost all power on Sunday, Feb. 10 after a fire ignited in the ship’s engine room.

All 3,500 plus passengers did make it safely off the ship however, this was after eight days of being stuck on the ship. With much at stake for Carnival, the question now is how will this affect the long-standing cruise company? Another student in hospitality management, sophomore Morlene Hidalgo, also feels that Carnival will recover from this incident.

“I think they’ll be fine. They’ll down for a little while but they’ll just go back up because that only happens once in how many years,” said Hidalgo.

“I just think Carnival’s awesome, like really they are from what I’ve seen, personal experience,” said Hidalgo.

Business senior, Yash Ramchandi said, “It’s one out of a thousand so it’s not really going to affect their business that much.”

On the opposite side of the Triumphant the Carnival incident, hospitality management senior, Stephanie Moss, said she doesn’t think Carnival will recover.

“I think it kind of will hinder the cruise line industry, but especially Carnival,” said Moss.

Moss said she goes on a cruise every year but not on Carnival.

"Me personally, I never liked Carnival," said Moss. "I just never liked the food, the environment.”

Moss said she believes that the mishap with the Carnival Triumph will serve as a setback for Carnival for about 10 years due to not only this incident but also to another one they had about a year ago with the Costa Concordia.

Hidalgo said her sister worked for Carnival and said although she hasn’t been on a cruise, she has toured several Carnival ships which she described as perfect.

"I just think Carnival’s awesome, like really they are from what I’ve seen, personal experience,” said Hidalgo.

Business senior, Yash Ramchandi said, “It’s one out of a thousand so it’s not really going to affect their business that much.”

According to Dean of CSHTM, Mike Hampton, “There is no relationship at all between the mishap and the Carnival Student Center.”

Dean Hampton was unavailable for further comment before time of publication.

Alejandra Laitano, senior in Hospitality Management, said, “Carnival will recover just because they’re such a big corporation. I do believe that it’s going to give them a bad reputation for the next couple months, but at the end of the day there’s only several companies right now who do cruises.”

Laitano said, “I’ve spoken to a lot of people just of Carnival itself and they actually all really don’t dislike Carnival, they prefer other lines.”

Senior in hospitality management, Geoffrey Leroux, said he thinks Carnival will probably be the people traveling on cruises in general.

“For sure Carnival will go down but, in general...obviously the whole cruise industry.”

Although he thinks Carnival will initially get a bad reputation for the Triumph incident, Leroux said he thinks Carnival will definitely recover.

“More people are traveling now through cruises so this is going to be a little setback if anything,” said Leroux.

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Students prepare for an ‘Affair’ by the bay

ALFREDO APARICIO  Staff Writer

A week of art appreciation awaits students who attend Affair of the Arts sponsored by the Student Programming Council at Biscayne Bay Campus, Student Government Council-BBC and Campus Life-BBC.

For Tashan Williams, president of SPC-BBC, Affair of the Arts is a way to pay attention to the newfound respect for the arts because it’s something that isn’t incorporated into everyday life as much anymore.

Affairs of the Arts originally began as a three-week event that has been extended to a week, for the first time this year, with new surprises and activities geared to offering students a fresh, interactive experience in a variety of events such as visual art, spoken word and music.

“They’ve formed a week of art where each day is going to focus on a different type of art and gives students more than one new thing to experience daily,” said Kaytien Franco, public relations assistant at Campus Life-BBC.

The week will kick off with the Flexible Comedy Show with Jonathan Burns, a comedian contortionist who will entertain the crowd with doses of goofiness and incredible feats of flexibility.

A new feature during the event will be a cupcake-designing table where students who attend will be able to design and eat their own cupcakes.

“They added it so that students could get a hand-on experience,” said Franco. “This way they are able to get a first hand appreciation for the arts.”

“It’s one thing to have students go and be in the audience, but then it’s another thing to have them interact,” said Williams. “We’re trying to bring more art appreciation and you appreciate yours more because you did it. When students get involved they are able to say that they contributed to the maintenance of art and will enjoy that they were able to express themselves.”

On Wednesday, Feb. 28, students will get a second chance to get creative as Raleigh Baker serenades students with her jazzy, blues-rock while they paint ceramics.

Aside from student appreciation, two museum trips have been added to the list of events, a new stable this year, where students who sign up in Campus Life will be able to visit North Miami’s Museum of Contemporary Art on Tuesday, Feb. 26 as well as the Wolfsonian-FIU Museum on Friday, March 1.

Both trips are free of charge and shuttle buses will be provided for the trip to and from the museums.

Students who have always wanted to learn an exotic dance will also get a chance to, as Mambo Yoli will teach salsa on Feb. 26, 27 and Feb. 28. Erika will teach belly dancing on Feb. 27 and Radu and Erika will teach the Argentine Tango on Feb. 28.

“I think art is everywhere in music dancing in everyday life and most people disregard it...we want to bring awareness to students,” said Emmanuel Jerome, treasurer for SPC-BBC who has attended Affair of the Arts for the last two years.

The final surprise in Affair of the Arts will be anything but miserable, as students will be able to see Les Miserables at the Adrienne Arbut Center on Wednesday, Feb. 27 for a discounted price of $10. Tickets can be obtained in Campus Life and will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

“It’s one of my favorite Broadway musicals, so I’m most excited for this one personally,” Franco said.

Other events will include an International Photo Contest Reception on Feb. 26 and an old-fashioned drive-in movie on Feb. 28 as Affair of the Arts screens Breaking Dawn Part 2.

Franco hopes students come, see and appreciate the opportunity that is given to them and are able to enjoy the art and the programming of events that have been set up for them.

Williams suggests students come with an open mind, come to have fun and really gain something from the experience.

“They should come ready to build their own Affair of the Arts for the arts.”

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The South Beach Wine and Food Festival starring students

STEPHAN USECHE  Asst. News Director

A garden of chocolate covered strawberries was one of the innovative food creations FIU students took part in last weekend at the South Beach Wine and Food Festival. Chefs from New York, California, Kentucky, Texas, Georgia and Miami worked with FIU students to prepare dishes that represented the flavors of each state.

“Well, we hit off to a big bang with the festival,” said Dean of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management Mike Hampton. “We have more events taking place this year than ever before, and we have over 1250 student volunteers that are working in all types of roles throughout Carnival.”

According to Hampton, there were more than 4,600 shifts that students were covering while working at the festival.

“So, the exciting part is getting around and seeing the festivals so varied, and having a good time and learning a great deal while they are here,” said Hampton.

Each student was assigned to a chef according to his/her resources, who volunteered at the festival during the four days.

“We evaluate what their credentials are, what backgrounds they may have, so if they are going to be assigned to a chef, they have to have some culinary experience, or they have had to [go] through our food production process,” said Hampton.

The festival accommodated students of different interests and majors, and it provided them with the opportunity to help in different areas of the festival.

“I helped set up and just basically accommodating any of the chefs, if they needed anything, any refreshment, backdrops,” said Daniela Mena, junior in management and human resources, who volunteered at the festival during the four days.

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