Students using Pell Grant money for more than just tuition

AARON PABON
Staff Writer

What do you do with your Pell Grant money?
The University receives grant money from Tallahassee each year, which gets dispersed to a majority of students in forms of financial grants and aid to be used for educational use. The second a student receives the check, the question is posed: what is the money going to be used for?

In an article published on Feb. 27 in USA Today by Phil Dunn, it stated that college and university students have been irresponsibly using financial aid for personal use.

Amer Faraj, a computer science freshman, said the term “personal use” was vague. “Just because people can use the money for school, doesn’t mean that [students] don’t use it to help with their school life, like for gas or food,” said Faraj.

Examples in Dunn’s article mention students treating their “…financial aid as gas or food,” said Faraj.

Said Alejandro Merino, a senior international business major, “She doesn’t get all of her money from the Pell Grant, she has other scholarships,” said Machado. “She needs the money from the Pell Grant to pay for school, combined with another scholarship, and has to pay for books with the remaining money.”

Other students at the University are in the same boat.

“One hundred percent of my money went towards tuition and fees,” said Glamour Leyva, a senior psychology major. “I even use other grants for school related fees and bills for school. I have heard of other students using it for other personal means, but I don’t have that luxury.”

While Leyva did not use his Pell Grant money for anything outside of school, he admitted to using his student refund to pay

SEE GRANT, PAGE 2

Venezuelans hopeful for future after death of Chavez

MARIA BRITOS
Contributing Writer

The news of the death of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez hit worldwide last Wednesday afternoon after an announcement made by Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro. Chavez had been battling cancer since 2011 and rumors of his death since December of 2012.

For many Venezuelans, this news brought sentiments from delight to speculation. In Venezuela, his followers greeted his death and marched in the streets of the capital supporting the continuance of his political policies.

On the other hand, Venezuelans in South Florida, who fled the country in fear of losing their wealth and freedom, were celebrating the leader’s death.

“I have a feeling the situation in Venezuela is going to become very hostile,” sophomore international business major Alejandro Merino said.

So the next few years are going to be very crucial, and it’s too soon to really know that’s going to happen, so we just have to wait and hope.” During more than 14 years in office, his leftist politics and grandiose style polarized Venezuelans. The barrel-chested leader electrified crowds with his booming voice and won admiration for any infection.

According to The New York Times, the infant was born in 2010 to a mother who did not know at the time that she was infected with the virus. Hannah B. Gey, an associate professor of Immunology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, began intensive treatment on the newborn.

When the baby was 18 months old, the mother stopped going to the hospital to receive treatment for her baby. Five months later, the mother returned and doctors were shocked to find that all of the baby’s tests came back negative for any infection.

 “This is amazing. I can’t believe there could actually be a cure. I don’t know anyone who is infected, but I think this is great news for them,” said Rhianna Jenkins, junior in hospitality management.

There is still some skepticism of the news among doctors and scientists in the medical community about the case with this patient. Not enough information is known about the case at this time.

SEE HIV/AIDS, PAGE 2

Coley ready to lead Panthers into Sun Belt tournament

RUBEN PALACIOS
Staff Writer

The regular season is over, and now every team will adopt the same mindset: win or go home.

With the regular season coming to an end, it is time for the Sun Belt Conference Tournament to kick off. The women’s basketball team finished the season with an 18-11 (12-8 SBC) record and earned the No.5 seed. The squad won five of its last seven games in order to earn their second first-round bye in the last three years.

“We are looking at anything at no one team is so much better than the others,” said junior Jennifer Coley. “We are going to go in and give it all we got. We want to win and we know we have a really good chance.”

On March 6, Coley won the SBC Player of the Year Award for the second consecutive year. Coley remains as the leading scorer in the nation with 26.1 points per game.

The Panthers will play the No.4 seed Arkansas State on Saturday, March at 12:30 p.m. ASU finished the year 15-14 (12-8 SBC) and were one of only two teams to defeat FIU in both of its regular season matchups. ASU beat the Panthers on Nov 29 in a tight 60-57 contest in Miami. The Red Wolves were able to shut down the All-American in Coley. They were able to hold the nation’s leading scorer to just 14 points on . The field and an abysmal 0 of 5 behind the arc.

The Panthers traveled to Jonesboro, Ark., later in the year for the second matchup against ASU. FIU was yet again met with a similar outcome as they lost another tight contest.
Students using Pell Grants for “personal use”

GRANT, PAGE 1

luxury.”

While Leyva did not use his Pell Grant money for anything outside of school, he admitted to using his student refund to pay for personal bills like his cell phone.

“It is true that there is no way that we can control what the student does with the extra funds that they get that are intended for books and supplies and living expenses,” said Francisco Valines, the director of financial aid.

Valines understands the use of funds for personal use for assisting the needs of a student. “Almost all of our students commute, and there is really only one way to get to campus, you’ve got to drive,” said Valines. “If you are using a student loan, you can pay for gas, insurance, personal bills like his cell phone.”

According to Valines, there are various areas that funds can be dispensed to. Examples include tuition, supplies, books, food, living expenses and gas.

Chavez, PAGE 1

ideas.

Chavez then took over television to host his own daily show, which ran however long he wanted, where he freely lambasted his opponents. He abominated the country on socialism and announced political news at his discretion.

He used his country’s oil wealth to launch social programs that included state-run food markets, new public housing, free health clinics and education programs.

While poverty declined during his presidency amid a historic boom in oil earnings, critics said he failed to use the windfall of hundreds of billions of dollars to develop the country’s economy.

Infatuation spread and the homicide rate rose to among the highest in the world.

“I can say that I’m neither happy nor sad about it.” journalist major Caril Medicina said. “Living here in America, you don’t really get to see the full impact that he’s had on the people. I do believe though, that he was not the best of presidents and that Venezuela can do better off without him.”

Chavez was a “master communicator and savvy political strategist,” as the Associated Press described him.

He was well known around the world for his disputes with the United States and Great Britain as well as his famous friendships with dictator Fidel Castro, Bolivian President Evo Morales and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

As of now, the country will have new elections held in 30 days, and although there is speculation that the current Vice President Nicolas Maduro will be representing the United Socialist Party of Venezuela, there was no official announcement. The opposition’s party is also unsure of their candidate but former presidential candidate, Henrique Capriles, is expected to run.

“Without a doubt, Chavez’s death will be marked as an ending of a difficult era for the people of Venezuela,” junior criminal justice major Rebeca Ariles said. “I myself, am not rejoicing because of his death but I am celebrating the fact that my family will be able to live a better life. I just hope the next appointed president will push the country in the right direction.”

Additional reporting by Frank Bajak and Ian James of the Associated Press.

RELIEF AND MOURNING FELT FOLLOWING DEATH OF CHAVEZ

Excitement builds over infant cured of HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS, PAGE 1

There are a lot of unknowns with this. It could be a fluke. They need to be able to see if they can replicate this in other infants before they start doing full scale trials,” said Trepka.

Khizroev said although the event is groundbreaking, more studies need to be conducted.

There is also the question of whether or not this case could be a model for research of the virus in adults. It may only serve a public health, free health clinics and education programs.

Chavez used his country’s oil wealth to launch social programs that included state-run food markets, new public housing, free health clinics and education programs.

While poverty declined during his presidency amid a historic boom in oil earnings, critics said he failed to use the windfall of hundreds of billions of dollars to develop the country’s economy.

Infatuation spread and the homicide rate rose to among the highest in the world.

“I can say that I’m neither happy nor sad about it.” journalist major Caril Medicina said. “Living here in America, you don’t really get to see the full impact that he’s had on the people. I do believe though, that he was not the best of presidents and that Venezuela can do better off without him.”

Chavez was a “master communicator and savvy political strategist,” as the Associated Press described him.

He was well known around the world for his disputes with the United States and Great Britain as well as his famous friendships with dictator Fidel Castro, Bolivian President Evo Morales and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

As of now, the country will have new elections held in 30 days, and although there is speculation that the current Vice President Nicolas Maduro will be representing the United Socialist Party of Venezuela, there was no official announcement. The opposition’s party is also unsure of their candidate but former presidential candidate, Henrique Capriles, is expected to run.

“Without a doubt, Chavez’s death will be marked as an ending of a difficult era for the people of Venezuela,” junior criminal justice major Rebeca Ariles said. “I myself, am not rejoicing because of his death but I am celebrating the fact that my family will be able to live a better life. I just hope the next appointed president will push the country in the right direction.”

Additional reporting by Frank Bajak and Ian James of the Associated Press.

RELIEF AND MOURNING FELT FOLLOWING DEATH OF CHAVEZ

Excitement builds over infant cured of HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS, PAGE 1

There are a lot of unknowns with this. It could be a fluke. They need to be able to see if they can replicate this in other infants before they start doing full scale trials,” said Trepka.

Khizroev said although the event is groundbreaking, more studies need to be conducted.

There is also the question of whether or not this case could be a model for research of the virus in adults. It may only serve a
With the many options FIU offers, the most difficult issue a student could come across might be deciding what class to take. The severed connection between Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus makes this decision even more difficult when the course offerings might not always be equal from campus to campus.

What separates the two campuses further, besides their obvious distance, are the different colleges and schools established at each one. This could explain why department courses are not always equally available at each campus. The School of Journalism and Mass Communication at BBC, for example, only offered nine courses at MMC in spring 2013 with only one section each, the rest simply accessible at ABC as well as online.

The solution was personal for me because as a staff writer of The Beacon, I have an interest in journalism but find it extremely inconvenient that most of the classes are at BBC.

The availability of an online portion of some classes can be quite helpful sometimes but they are more costly, given that they have an additional distance learning fee of as much as $174 for three to five credits.

This problem is not limited to MMC or ABC alone. The School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, for example, only offered seven courses at MMC in spring 2013, again with only one section each while the rest were offered either at ABC or online.

Hospitality and Tourism student Melissa Del Toro has to travel four separate days to BBC and said the time spent to travel and the expense of transportation is something she doesn’t even want to think about.

“It’s really hard sometimes. We have to pay for the bus $2.50 each way! [For me] that’s $20 every week,” said Del Toro. “I don’t even want to think about how many weeks there are in a semester. Imagine how much I spend on gas for those emergency days that I miss the bus.”

From the MMC side of things, a class search of the Department of History showed that only two courses were offered in spring 2013 at ABC, one of which was an Independent Study course.

A class search of the Department of the Humanities did not show any courses that were only offered online. A class search of the Department of Criminal Justice did not even offer any classes at BBC in spring 2013, one of which was also an Independent Study course.

A class search of the Department of Philosophy showed that only two courses in the 2000 level were offered in spring 2013 at ABC.

On one extreme, a class search of the Department of Criminal Justice did not even offer any classes at BBC in spring 2013.

Fortunately, departments such as the Department of Psychology and the Department of English made up for such issues with a class search showing that they offered eighteen and twenty-five courses at BBC respectively, all of which were a combination of upper and lower division courses.

The lack of classes from departments at either campus can be an issue for some, especially when taking the shuttle or taking classes online is not an option.

Whatever the solution may be, there certainly needs to be one so that students can pursue the education they desire.

“It’s hard, but [our hospitality and tourism school] is such a great program with such wonderful instructors that it’s worth the ride,” said Del Toro. “If only there was a way to have them at south campus, my world would be perfect.”

-Junette Reyes
junette.reyes@fiusm.com

The Beacon – 3
Friday, March 8, 2013

www.fiusm.com
The luck of the Irish: more than a four-leafed clover

HOLLY MCCOACH
Staff Writer

The Emerald Isle is a land rich in tradi-
cions and culture that range from Irish folk-
life, to the Irish Gaelic language, which is
spoken almost as commonly as English itself.
Around St. Patrick’s Day, however, old
Irish traditions are emphasized in Ireland,
unlike here in the United States, where
dressing in green is considered a way of
celebrating the day.
In Ireland, St. Patrick’s Day is recog-
nized as a religious holiday that has been
observed since Saint Patrick’s death in
the fifth century, on March 17. Saint Patrick,
a slave that was brought to Ireland at a
young age, has been credited for bringing
Christianity to Ireland, for introducing
the Holy Trinity together for dinner, and perhaps even
even sports.
“We have Gaelic soccer and hurling. Those are Gaelic sports. On St. Patrick’s Day, you will always have teams playing,” said Gallagher.
Unlike in the United States, St. Patrick’s Day is regarded as a national holiday, which means most places shut down, including most supermarkets and schools.

The modern day leprechaun is an icon
that is not so much Irish. “The leprechaun we know today are basically a media thing,” said Gallagher. Leprechauns, along with fairies, also emerge from Irish folklore. Leprechauns, in Irish stories, are short, tiny people that bring you luck and have magical powers, but the leprechaun that is tossed about the media in the United States is the Ameri-
canized version.

The “luck of the Irish” is not a complete
fable either. It is brought by the Irish’s
history of hard work and ancient legends.
“It’s not so much that we’re lucky; Irish people tend to be quite driven and focussed on what [they] want to do, and mostly because we had a bad history,” said Gallagher.
This bad history includes the wars
between England and Ireland and the
Potato Famine, which allotted the Irish
language in this country. More than half of Ireland is completely fluent in it, and the other half speak broken Gaelic. In Ireland, you will also find areas called Gaeltacht regions.

“There’s Gaeltacht areas all over
Ireland. In those towns, people only speak
Gaelic,” said Gallagher.
So unless you are a foreigner, it is
expected that you speak only Gaelic in
these places. This is how the Irish keep
the language from dying out.
The Gaelic language continues to
prevail, especially on St. Patrick’s Day, where you can see signs sending luck and
good wishes on that day.
On that note, Lí Fhéile Pádraig Sona
Duirt! Or, Happy St. Patrick’s Day!
Put a spring in your step: spring break fashions

Cramming for tests, pulling all-nighters and getting swallowed by multiple assignments are all symptoms of a stressful “I-need-a-break-already” semester. Luckily for students, our long-awaited spring break is just a few days away. Even luckier for us, the people place from all over the country come to for vacation is the place we call home: Miami.

For locals, it’s less about vacationing and more about relaxing. Dressing for school can become lazy and second priority as classes overload you with too much work to even give your brain a chance to create a creative outfit. That’s why today I want to give you a few tips on how to revibe your stylish spirit this spring break.

Miami may be known for Art Deco buildings and topeless beaches, but what truly makes this city unique is its use of color. The Wynwood Walls are overwhelmingly saturated and if you’re not wearing white, you’re probably wearing a vibrant color of some shade.

Bright colors are a great way to get into the spirit of spring break as seen by education major Brittany Davis. Her rainbow head-wrap caught my eye immediately and changed my bad attitude into a light-hearted one.

If you enjoy color but not to the point that you want to scare about it, try a pale pink outfit like Emily Adamc. She giddily stated that her choice of clothes that day was “to feel float-y and positive before a test today.”

Spring break is also about indulging in comfort, so her long un-fitted layers are perfect choices for a day spent shopping on Lincoln Road or curling up with a book and cup of tea. Another item that is absolutely essential for a successful spring break is a hat. Whether it is straw, a snap back, fedora or bowler, without a hat there is a good chance a sunburn will be prevalent.

Senior Heidi Bryce was seen wearing her boater’s hat outside of the Green Library. This style is great for areas like Miami because its wicker material allows airflow to your scalp and its khaki color is versatile enough to be paired with almost anything.

Another great option is the classic snap-back. With their huge rise in popularity it’s easy to find one that is customized to your liking such as art history major Renier Casanova’s “BOY” hat.

“My friend was trying to bunch me up so she got this hat for me,” remarked Casanova on the significance of his hat, also making a very good point about the visual symbolism of snapbacks. They may have their origins leaning towards the male gender, but are just as good for any female.

These are just a few ideas and inspirations to ignite your creative spirit this upcoming break. In the meantime, relax, enjoy times with friends and family, and get yourself a nice golden tan to get ready for summer bikini weather.

Ashley Garner is a junior editor, fashion merchandiser for Fashify.com and currently has an internship with College Fashionista. She was a fashion-based writer for Wasabi Fashion Kult, the fashion editor for RAUKUS Magazine and has worked for Miami Swim Fashion Week, Art Basel, Project Runway Latin America and has been published in several magazines. She also runs a personal art/fashion blog called Elegant Idiosyncrasy.

-ashley.garner@fiusm.com

Social media plays large part in self image

Greater social network usage was linked to weight gain, lower credit score and higher debt, researchers Andrew T. Stephen and Keith Wilcox reported. Stephen and Wilcox measured self-esteem to demonstrate that browsing a social network lowers self-esteem.

Stephen said social media users feel that “it’s like a present. It’s saying I’m going to give myself a gift. I deserve to get that unhealthy snack instead of sticking to my diet for the day.”

Although many people are indifferent to social media usage, they still acknowledge its superficial nature.

“Personally, I don’t really care about social media because I don’t care what people are doing or saying today, but I know that there are a lot of people who do,” junior business major Suraj Karamohandari said.

Social media has proven to be a useful tool for participatory politics in instances such as the Arab Spring but realistically, Facebook and Twitter are rarely used to sow seeds of revolution. As various experiments have shown, social networking sites are a source of negativity and unfavorable outcomes for those who dabble in it.

“People who spend a lot of time on social media are basically living a double life,” Karamohandari said. “If you are someone who is social in real life, you are not going to care about social media.”

To have your event featured, email us at calendar@fiusm.com

---

Social, Page 2

CALAendar of EVENTS

SPRING 2013

FRIDAY, MAR. 8

ADVOCACY BRIEFING IN COLLABORATION WITH GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
WHERE: 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: Fowler Rodriguez Valdez Faulk, Llp, 355 Alhambra Circle, Suite 801,
CORAL GABLES, FL 33134

HOUSING ROOMMATE PULL-IN
WHERE: Deadline 5 p.m.
WHERE: Housing Online

COHEED AND CAMBRIA
WHERE: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $20
WHERE: The Fillmore Miami Beach 1700 Washington Ave. Miami Beach, FL 33139

SATURDAY, MAR. 9

FIU THEATRE PRESENTS: THE LIAR
WHERE: 8 p.m.
WHERE: Wertham Performing Arts Center 10910 SW 17 Street, Miami, FL 33199

SAND VOLLEYBALL
WHERE: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
WHERE: Mabu, CA

SUNDAY, MAR. 10

FIU THEATRE PRESENTS: THE LIAR
WHERE: 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: Wertham Performing Arts Center 10910 SW 17 Street, Miami, FL 33199

FIU’S ENSEMBLE IN-RESIDENCE
WHERE: 3 p.m.
WHERE: Concert Hall - Wertham Performing Arts Center 10910 SW 17 Street, Miami, FL 33199

I NTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL
WHERE: 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $12 - $25
WHERE: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156

INTERESTING FACTS

- Ashley Garner is a junior editor, fashion merchandiser for Fashify.com and currently has an internship with College Fashionista.

- She was a fashion-based writer for Wasabi Fashion Kult, the fashion editor for RAUKUS Magazine and has worked for Miami Swim Fashion Week, Art Basel, Project Runway Latin America and has been published in several magazines.

- She also runs a personal art/fashion blog called Elegant Idiosyncrasy.

- ashley.garner@fiusm.com
The FIU men’s basketball program mustered in the last game of the season? The only certain thing is their trip to Hot Springs, Ark., for the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. As the No. 4 seed facing the No. 5 seed Arkansas-Little Rock Trojans. The two teams split their regular season matchups, both winning at home. Working against FIU is the fact that tournament will be played in the Trojans’ backyard. Even with that looming above the Panther’s heads, senior point guard Cameron Bell is not scared. “I would play anybody in the first round. I really don’t think there is a team we want to shy away from,” Bell said. “So if we see [University of Arkansas at Little Rock] in the first round, we’re going to go in as confident as if we would see anybody else in the tournament.”

What Bell might not be aware of is that two years ago, Steve Shields, the Trojans’ head coach, won the SBC Tournament. In his nine previous seasons as head coach, Shields has led the Trojans to five division championships. Those five first-place finishes are the most by any school in the SBC during his tenure at Little Rock. FIU’s first-year Head Coach, Richard Pitino is certainly aware of the experiences Shields is bringing to the court. In his first year at the helm, Pitino also is bringing high-level tournament experience as well. Having been under his father Rick Pitino and at University of Florida under Billy Donovan, he has been part of three Elite Eights and a Final Four. However, Pitino does not believe it will come down to a coaching duel, rather it will come down to the players. “It’s not going to have much to do with me or him,” Pitino said. “This time of the year it comes down to the players.”

The entire season, Pitino has been adamant that he does not define his expectations by wins or losses. He has focused on a day-by-day, game-by-game approach with team goals that can lead to wins. “My expectations are, ‘Are they going to play really hard?’ ‘Are they going to defend?’ ‘Are they going to rebound?’ ‘Are they going to take great shots?’ ‘Are they going to have a great attitude?’” Pitino said. “If we handle my expectations, I think we will win.”

These expectations will weigh heavily on the shoulders of the team’s captain, Malik Smith. The junior shooting guard has been the vocal leader of the Panthers this season. Pitino even challenged Smith after the loss at FAU to take control of the team and hold the others accountable. “This late in the season, they’re going to hear the same thing from me. At some point the players have got to do it themselves,” Pitino said.

Giving the leadership role to Smith does not mean Pitino is eliminating other players from his game plan. He does not want only one player to dominate. He believes it is to get everyone involved and improved. Players like Tynnell Murphy, a first-team SBC player who leads the team in both points and rebounds per game or even Jerome Frink, who Pitino regards as the best freshman in the SBC, have areas that can be further developed. “I certainly want everyone to give it their all. I think that every single one of them has something they can improve on,” Pitino said.

The Panthers have definitely improved as a program as their 11 conference wins were the most in the school’s history since joining the SBC in the 1998-1999 season. If the players can execute Pitino’s game plan of fast basketball, solid defense and fundamental rebounding, perhaps this is the year the Panthers can make it past the quarterfinals, a feat not done in eight years. “We are preparing for Little Rock like it’s a national championship,” Pitino said.

---

**FLI has no time for rest with SBC tournament tomorrow**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 8**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 10**

**MONDAY, MARCH 11**

**NO. 4 FIU (Men’s)**

**Graduate Assistant Coach**

**D. 6:40pm, Sun Dome Arena**

**NO. 3 FIU (Women’s)**

**Graduate Assistant Coach**

**D. 6:40pm, Sun Dome Arena**

---

**BASKETBALL, PAGE 1**

“Unfortunately we are taking midterms right now and all the girls have three or four exams last week so they’re pretty brain dead,” Russo said. “Exams are not a good combination when you are trying to get ready for a tournament.”

If the Panthers wish to advance in the SBC tournament, Coley and the rest of the team will have to fight past ASU’s stifling defense. “They play good defense, they take their time on offense. They run it all the way through and they have multiple people who can score,” Coley said. “We need to play good solid defense, get everyone involved, put in the easy shots and definitely rebound. We need to get back to rebounding like we did in the beginning of the year.”

Rebounding, as Coley noted, is a focal point in the Panthers game plan against ASU. In the two regular season matchups, the Panthers outrebounded the Red Wolves by an average of 14 rebounds per game. The Panthers will have to use their size advantage as a way to turn rebounds into fast-break opportunities and easy shots.

“The Panthers have defied the odds again. If we go in with that mindset it should be a great game.”

---

**FIU’s first-year Head Coach, Richard Pitino**

**ESPN**

**Championship Links**

**SPRING 2013**

**PHOTO COURTNEY MURRAY**

**FIU men’s basketball team ended the season on a sour note.**

Though finishing with a 16-13 record, the best mark the program mastered in the last 13 years, the team lost its final game to the Florida Atlantic Owls, leaving them to linger in the air of defeat for a week. The loss means the players have to wait a full week before they get a crack at the hard-wood again, since they have a first-round bye. Several factors could be running through the minds of the Panthers. Are they going in smug about an above-average 14.5 points per game in their two matchups thus far, almost 12 points below her season average.

Coley believes the Red Wolves’ chances of beating her and her team three times in a year are slim. “We know they beat us two times so we are definitely going in knowing that and want to turn around and beat them,” Coley added. “Maybe we are coming in as the underdogs but we just don’t want them to beat us again. If we go in with that mindset it definitely makes us play harder. We just have to play like it’s our last game.”

If the Panthers get by ASU they would likely face off in a semifinals game against Middle Tennessee. The Panthers split the season series with the Blue Raiders, with both teams winning on their opponent’s home floor. The Blue Raiders are the No. 1 seed in the tournament and finished the regular season 22-7 (17-3 SBC).

“It doesn’t matter who the opponent is at this time,” Coley said. “Any game we go into can beat any team so we just have to be ready to play.”

Russo believes this matchup boils down to who plays with the highest intensity and shows the most desire to win. “The team that comes in and plays the hardest is going to win,” Russo added. “Whoever is the healthiest, the strongest and mentally and physically toughest will win.”

---

**Contact Us**

Eduardo Almaguer
Sports Director
eduardo.almaguer@fiusm.com

Sports Director
Contact Us
The Beacon – 6
www.fiusam.com
Friday, March 8, 2013
Women fighting their way into martial arts

Going into 2013, the Ultimate Fighting Championship, or UFC as it is more commonly known, was a males-only event that had become extremely popular around the country. A change occurred in February, however, that can be explained in one simple word: women.


Students, both men and women, are getting involved in martial arts at FIU, with organizations like the Brazilian Jiu Jitsu club, headed by Ricky Smeglia, a junior recreation and sports management major.

"Women have been getting more involved and we have gone from one or two to six or seven in the past academic year," Smeglia said. "Once they get over the shyness of being involved, they seem to like it more."

Smeglia has been an instructor of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu for almost seven years and enjoys having women in his classes but does not believe the change will last long in the UFC.

"Any fighter must fit under criteria to be in the UFC. Rousey and Carmouche did so but I think it will be awhile before there are a lot of UFC fighting [for women], because for now it will be a slow work in progress," Smeglia said.

"I believe every sport has some controversy that goes with it but I have nothing against it personally. They are being equally viewed and accepted and segregation is becoming less and less. Even though I do not believe that they can get to the full potential that a man can, they can train as hard and are just as capable to be involved in athletics."

Even if the UFC were to open its doors wider to women fighters, Fernandez, an international relations and Asian studies major, said she would not take her skills to that level.

Rodriguez, who has been doing Brazilian Jiu Jitsu for almost seven months, already acknowledges that she recommends it to her friends.

"To my friends that I recommend it to, both male and female, I tell them that they have to be a bit open minded when they are first beginning with it and then some great, in my opinion and experience, life changes begin to happen with mind and body," Rodriguez said.

"I don't know how his family is doing it because I feel a lot of pain, and it's very sad. I cannot comment a lot right now. He's no longer with us — it's a very sad moment for his family, we know they are going through a tough time right now."

Chavez died Tuesday at age 58 after a nearly two-year fight against cancer.

"It's very sad. I ask that the Venezuela people stay calm," Zambrano said. "We have to understand that the president had a family. He's a human being and it's sad. We send him the condolences to the Chavez family. We know it's a difficult moment. This caught us by surprise."

Some players did not want to discuss Chavez's death. Pitcher Anibal Sanchez and third baseman Pablo Sandoval both declined when asked to comment.

A Venezuela spokesman said the team had requested a pre-game moment of silence for Chavez and asked that flags be flown at half-staff, but was told all parties involved — the Marlins, Major League Baseball and Roger Dean Stadium — were not prepared to do so.

"There are things we can't control," Zambrano said. "For the respect of Venezuela, they have to do something before the first game against the Dominican Republic (at the WBC in Puerto Rico)."
The campus continues beautification of testing environments. It also suggested that a dog's reliability should be evaluated. "There isn't a specific beautification project; we just always do things. The pantherization of Academic 1 was done through the efforts of staff and students. A national gardens project is being implemented. The garden project has been successful in Oleta River State Park. Such efforts are being expanded to other regions.

Dean's research helps train detector dogs

JOSEFINE GYLLENSPORRE
Contributing Writer

Cuban Safari, West Indian Mahogany, Canary Island Date Palm. The Biscayne Bay Campus offers up flora as diverse as its students.

The Biscayne Bay Campus offers an oasis for Florida wildlife in an urban environment. Several branches of offices and organizations at the campus are committed to projects that both ecologically preserve and improve the campus. The University has a history of dedication to the environment. It was the first in Florida to receive the Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree Campus USA in 2010. It earned the certification by meeting five standards: forming a Campus Tree Advisory Committee, creating a tree care plan and program for the campus, annual Arbor Day observation and service-learning projects. Several facilities and offices at BBC are currently working on initiatives that incorporate both beautification and sustainability.

"There isn't a specific beautification project; we just always do our best to improve the overall look and maintenance of the campus," said Julissa Castellanos, director of Academic Support Services and Operations. "For example, we work together with External Relations, Student Government Association and Facilities Management to do these things. The pantherization of Academic 1 was done through the efforts of staff and students. A national gardens project is being implemented. The garden project has been successful in Oleta River State Park. Such efforts are being expanded to other regions.

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Kenneth G. Furton's research with Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal Scientific Working Group (SWGDOG) deals with canine training and proficiency assessments. His work was cited by the United States Supreme Court in the case of Florida v. Harris on Feb. 19, 2013.

"I have actually been doing research now for about almost 20 years on the chemicals that dogs use to locate forensic specimens, including drugs," said Furton.

Furton's work with SWGDOG deals with guidelines for the proper training, maintenance and certification of detector dogs. The general guidelines for all canine disciplines cover the initial training of the dog, canine team assessments, canine team certification, maintenance training, and the keeping and management of records and documents.

"The work cited by the U.S. Supreme Court suggested that a dog’s reliability should be determined and based on certification and proficiency assessments but controlled testing environments. It also suggested that it would be easier to differentiate "false positives" from a positive dog alert, unlike in the field. The dog’s reliability is established by the results of certification, given that the dog achieved a 90% positive alert rate, and the results of proficiency assessments, such as the canine team assessments in which the way a search is conducted by the dog and handler is evaluated.

The U.S. Supreme Court cited the research in the context of Florida v. Harris, stating that a dog’s certification and proficiency assessment should be the basis of its reliability, in turn satisfactorily providing probable cause for a search if reliability has been properly established.

"Most of the time, when you’re doing scientific research, you don’t get to see a practical application of it until it’s not even in your lifetime," said Furton.

"It’s very satisfying to know that the many years of hard work of my students, colleagues and I have paid off in terms of supporting the reliability of dogs in an investigation."

In the case of Florida v. Harris, Clayton Harris was pulled over by K-9 Officer William Wheelrey on June 24, 2006 for having a suspended license plate. After observing that Harris was "visibly nervous" and shaken, Wheelrey proceeded with a "free air sniff" search with a German shepherd by the name of Aldo. Harris had previously refused to consent to a search of his truck, which led Wheelrey to walk around the truck with Aldo. Aldo had been trained to detect narcotics such as methamphetamine, cocaine, ecstasy, heroin and marijuana. Aldo eventually signaled by the driver’s side for the presence of drugs, which Wheelrey took as probable cause for searching Harris' truck.

"They found indications of materials that would be used to make methamphetamine but they did not actually find methamphetamine," said Furton.

The materials found, as indicated by Associate Justice Elena Kagan of the U.S. Supreme Court, were "200 loose pseudoephedrine pills, 8,000 matches, a bottle of hydrochloric acid, two containers of antifreeze, and a coffee filter full of iodine crystals."

Harris was arrested and charged for possessing pseudoephedrine pills used to create methamphetamine. Harris’ motion to suppress the evidence found in his truck was denied by the trial court, concluding that Wheelrey had probable cause to conduct the search.

The case was then presented to the Florida Supreme Court, who reversed the trial court’s ruling. The Court’s general consensus was that neither the training nor certification of the dog is adequate in establishing reliability as well as probable cause for the search of a vehicle.

The case then went to the U.S. Supreme Court, who granted certiorari; in other words, review of the case. The Court actually unanimously reversed the ruling of the Florida Supreme Court in that a dog alert is sufficient to provide probable cause for the police to search the vehicle," said Furton.

"The Court actually unanimously reversed the ruling of the Florida Supreme Court in that a dog alert is sufficient to provide probable cause for the police to search the vehicle," said Furton.

"The Supreme Court, in their unanimous decision, basically upheld the use of dogs as a tool for finding narcotic odors, and in this case, actually using them for searching a vehicle."