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 I need to 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 their own income...” and using vouchers for purchasing gift cards on a college campus to make a purchase elsewhere. Fernando Machado, a junior art history major, said his girlfriend has a Pell Grant and uses all the money for school.

“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 scholarships, 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 bills, said junior Leyla, 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 Leyla did not use his Pell Grant money for anything outside of school, he admitted to using his student refund to pay for tuition.

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 Tuesday 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 Caracas, Chavez’ followers grieved 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. “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 policies and grandiose style polarized Venezuelans. The barrel-chested leader electrified crowds with his booming voice and won admiration from doctors and scientists in the medical field and an abysmal 0 of 5 from behind the arc.

The matchup with ASU is as good as any," said junior Jerica 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 20.1 points per game.

The Panthers will play the No.4 seed Arkansas State on Saturday, March 9 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 7 of 25 shooting from 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 49-43. The Red Wolves took it to Coley once again; holding her to only 15 points on 7 of 20 shooting from the field and another 0 of 5 shooting performance from the three-point line. "The matchup with ASU is as good as any," Russo said. "They certainly are beatable, both games in the regular season were close games."
To say that social media has become a vital part of everyday life would be the understatement of the century. Studies have shown that living in a world so permeated by networking sites has had alarming, even adverse, effects on users. Junior political science major Alajdasta says people become a different person once they log in.

“People tend to go online and be who they wish they could actually be,” said Alajdasta.

According to a study by the Journal of Research conducted by professors from the University of Pittsburgh and Columbia University, reports show highly elevated levels of confidence due to positive feedback from friends.

Leandra Medine, fashion blogger, expressed horror at her emotional response to Facebook interaction in an article titled post “Think Before U Like” on her blog manrepeller.com: “I am highly disturbed that a digital thumb up has the ability to fill a highly visceral void manifesting within me with the same level of compassion that, say, a compliment, hug, or, heck, confession of undying love could,” Medine said. “The manicure palace at which I check newly uploaded Instagram photos, tweets and Facebook statuses is disconcerting.”

That spike in self-confidence, the study revealed, leads to other forms of crazed behavior in the form of loss of self-control.

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**Students using Pell Grants for “personal use”**

**GRANT, PAGE 1**

Luxury.

While Levy 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 Franciscus 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, payments, maintenance, which is valid if you need to cover those things to get to school.”

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

Students using money for personal reasons is not the only issue.

According to Dunn, “…The American Association of Community Colleges reports financial aid and abuse such as organized fraud rings and individuals intent on committing financial aid fraud have concentrated on community college programs due to their low tuition.”

There was no sign that this problem here at the University.

“Although we are reasonably [low] cost, we are not extremely low cost. It’s not easy to get into FEU. The way those fraud rings work is they gather people up, all apply in a school, take the [grant] money and run. You can’t just get in here,” said Valines.

—aaron.pabon@fiu.com

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**ENJOY YOUR SPRING BREAK, PANTHERS!**

THE BEACON WILL RESUME PUBLICATION BEGINNING ON MONDAY, MARCH 18.

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**Social media influences students’ self image**

**NEWS**

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**Relief and mourning felt following death of Chavez**

**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, lectured the country on socialism and announced political news at his discretion.

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.

Inflation sound and the homicide rate rose to among the highest in the world.

I can say that I’m neither happy nor sad about it,” junior journalism major Caribl Medina 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 Artesi 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.

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**Excitement builds over infant cured of HIV/AIDS**

**HIV/AIDS, PAGE 1**

“Are there 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 purpose for research in infected infants.

“It’s a lot more complex in adults. When they start doing full scale trials, they gather people up, all apply in a school, take the [grant] money and run. You can’t just get in here,” said Valines.

—aaron.pabon@fiu.com

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**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR STUDENT MEDIA:**

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The Beacon – 3 Friday, March 8, 2013

OPINION

Contact Us
Michae Baisden
Opinion Editor
michae.baisden@fiusm.com

The restored connection between the Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus makes this decision even more difficult when the course offerings might not always be as 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 BBC as well as online.

This is personally troublesome 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.

AARON PABON
Staff Writer

Tires screeching, brakes squealing, and cars colliding. This is not a NASCAR race, this is what can be heard around FIU.

Living in Miami, we are aware that drivers are crazy and it can be a dog-eat-dog world; but why is that the case at the Modesto Maidique Campus?

Is it necessary to floor it out of a parking spot?

Do you need to go through the roundabout nearly drifting?

I can hear the squealing of tires from across campus from the other side of Academic Health Center 4.

Basic laws like texting while driving and blowing stop signs have been broken, but what I witnessed in January of automobiles and motorbikes; this is unacceptable driving.

This is not only directed to drivers of automobiles and motorbikes; this is also directed to the golf cart drivers.

While a golf cart may be smaller than a Miata, and I could push it over with ease; do you want to get hit by one at full force?

Save the speeding and reckless driving for Gran Turismo: “The Real Driving Simulator.”

-Junette.Reyes@fiusm.com

Welcome to the FIU 500

AARON PABON
Staff Writer

To my fellow students:

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124.

With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editors and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and members of the University community.

Send us your letters

DISCLAIMER

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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@fiusm.com.

Illustration By Giovann Garcia/The Beacon

Classes across campus, distance and time affect students

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.

The Golden Panther Express Shuttle can also be somewhat helpful for people, such as myself, who do not have the means of commuting between campuses.

Still, establishing a schedule at MMC is difficult enough as it is sometimes given to how quickly classes fill up, so it isn’t always easy creating a schedule between the two.

This problem is not limited to MMC or BBC 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 BBC 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 BBC, one of which was an Independent Study course.

A class search of the Department of Criminal Justice did not even offer any classes at BBC in spring 2013.

On one extreme, a class search seemingly showed that 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 to attend the other campus or taking classes online is not an option.

One solution to this can simply be to make the classes available to students by scheduling enough sections at each campus. Another solution, as was done with some Hospitality courses this semester, is to simulcast classes from one campus to the other via video-conference with the presence of teaching assistants.

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@fiusm.com
Cork, Gallagher highlights all that Ireland studying music performance. A native of the shamrock and legend has it that he introduced the idea of the luck of the Irish. According to legend, the Gift of the Gab allows anyone to talk readily and convincingly to any subject that is presented to the individual. Ireland is divided into four provinces, where four dialects of Gaelic are spoken. Gaelic is compulsory in schools, from the ages of 5 to 18, making Ireland a bilingual 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 Duit! Or, Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

OSAMA A. MOHAMMED
Professor
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
The importance of his research is focused in two areas.

The Smart Grid Test Bed project is described as the future of protective systems. The second one is in the area of product development and their design optimization to meet established national and international standards,” he said.

Moammed’s research is motivated by his desire to solve practical problems that affect our daily lives.

increased utilization of renewable and sustainable sources of energy distributed throughout the system. The second one is in the area of product development and their design optimization to meet established national and international standards,” he said.

Professor receives major software grant

KEILA DIAZ
Contributing Writer

Technology using renewable sources of energy to create power systems is rapidly emerging, especially at the University.

Professor Osama A. Mohammed has received a $430,750 software grant from Operation Technology, Inc. – the creators of the Energy Systems Research Laboratory – to further his research of power systems and alternate energy sources.

Mohammed is a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at FIU as well as the director of the Energy Systems Research Laboratory.

His impressive resume includes a doctoral degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Tech, various research projects for the Office of Naval Research, more than 300 industry papers that he has written or collaborated on and various book chapters in industry books among many other accomplishments.

According to Mohammed, the software grant from Operation Technology, Inc. was due to the great research and educational programs that have been developed at FIU.

“Our power and energy program is one of the best in the country,” he said.

The Energy Systems Research Laboratory is used by students in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering for research as well as for educational activities. The lab is used by both graduate and undergraduate students and is used in several courses at the graduate and undergraduate level.

The Office of Naval Research has funded the development of the Energy Systems Research Laboratory over the last seven years.

The research conducted in the lab has to do with power system design and operation.

ETAP is the software that the lab uses to train students in the design, analysis and operation of power systems.

According to the ETAP website, the company has grown to be the world’s largest power system analysis software.

ETAP is used in combination with the Smart Grid Test Bed project built at the Energy Systems Research Laboratory.

The project is a power system facility that we built here at FIU as part of my research laboratory is significant and unique and many researchers from around the world want to visit and collaborate with us,” he said.

Mohammed’s research is motivated by his desire to solve practical problems that affect our daily lives.

His research is focused in two areas.

“The first one is the development of new control techniques that will help power and energy industry find solutions to the blackout issues that have recently occurred costing us billions of dollars. We are doing that through research will continue to grow as the nation faces more severe power outages as the one experienced by millions of residents in parts of Arizona, Southern California, and Northern Mexico in 2011.

For Mohammed, another very important aspect of the research he conducts is the development of scientists and engineers in these areas of research that will help this nation grow.

Many undergraduate students are involved in the research Mohammed conducts in the lab and they are paired with doctoral students.

“One important note here is that all students involved in our research projects do secure excellent jobs in industry and academia before they graduate,” he said.

The experience that the students gain working the in the laboratory prepares them with the skills that they need to succeed in the field.

“I hope we can continue to secure the research funds to keep this pipeline of trained graduates going,” Prof. Mohammed said.

Join The Beacon!
Pick up an application at MMC, GC 210 or BBC, WUC 124.
Social media plays large part in self image

Cramming for tests, pulling all-nighters and getting swarmed with 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 place people 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 revivify your stylist spirit this spring break.

Miami may be known for Art Deco buildings and topless 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 Britanny 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 scream about it, try a pale pink outfit like Emily Adams, she giddily stated that her choice of clothes that day was “to feel comfort, so her long un-fitted layers are perfect that her choice of clothes that day was “to feel comfort, so her long un-fitted layers are perfect.”

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 butch 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 RAURUS 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.

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CALANDER OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MAR. 8

ADVOCACY BRIEFING IN COLLABORATION WITH GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
WHERE: 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
WHO: Fowler Rodriguez Valdez Faulk
LUP, 355 Alhambra Circle, Suite 801,
Coral Gables, FL 33134

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

COHED AND CAMBRIA
WHERE: 8 a.m.
WHO: The Filmmaker Miami Beach 1700
Washington Ave. Miami Beach, FL 33139

SATURDAY, MAR. 9

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

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

SUNDAY, MAR. 10

FIU THEATRE PRESENTS: THE LIAR
WHERE: 2 p.m.
WHO: Wertheim Performing Arts Center 10910 SW 17 Street, Miami, FL 33199

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

INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL
WHERE: 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
WHO: $12 - $25
WHERE: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden 10901 Old Cutler Road Coral Gables, FL 33156

CALLE OCHO FESTIVAL
WHERE: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
WHO: $28
WHERE: Calle Ocho

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-ashley.garner@fiusm.com
The loss means the players have to wait a full week before they get a crack at the hard court. In his first year at the helm, Russo said, "This time of the year it comes down to the players."

"The team that comes in and plays the hardest is going to win," Russo 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 their season series with the Blue Raiders, 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 hardest is going to win," Russo 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 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.

"They are a good team but we think we can beat them," Coley said. "We can beat anybody in our conference so it really doesn't matter."

Coley, who continuously lights up the stat sheet, must step up her game against the Red Wolves in order for her team to succeed. It is plain and simple: as Coley goes, so does the team. The All-America center will look to put up her usually stellar numbers against ASU for the first time this year. ASU held Coley to an average of 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 we 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 split the season series with the Blue Raiders, 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."

"We are preparing for Little Rock like it's a national championship," Russo said. "The team that comes in and plays the hardest is going to win."

"Whoever is the healthiest, the strongest and mentally and physically toughest will win," Russo added.
Women fighting their way into martial arts

RHYS WILLIAMS
Contributing Writer

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.”

Students, both male and female, I tell them that they have to be a bit open minded when they first begin with it and then some great...life changes begin to happen with mind and body.”

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.

As long as both of these women have been participating in martial arts and as exciting as it could have been to watch the first female UFC match, neither watched the fight due to various reasons.

“I was going to watch it but I had to work so I missed it,” Fernandez said. Yannick Saez, the president of the Mixed Martial Arts club at FIU, and other members of the club, were unavailable for comment at the time of publishing.

To my friends that I recommend it to... I tell them that they have to be a bit open minded when they are first beginning with it and then some great...life changes begin to happen with mind and body.

Anissa Hadiraju
Contributing Writer

Women fighting their way into martial arts

Venezuela’s base-ball team mourns death of Chavez

AP STAFF

Venezuela’s baseball team was taking pregame batting practice when players heard that president Hugo Chavez had died.

“He was a baseball man,” manager Luis Sojo said after a 6-5 loss to the Miami Marlins in a warmup game for the World Base-ball Classic. “At the World Base-ball Classic in 2006 and 2009, the first call in the morning was his. And after the game, he used to call me too. It’s a very sad moment for our country. We wish the best to his family, we know they are going through a tough time right now.”

Chavez died Tuesday at age 78 after a nearly two-year fight against cancer.

“It’s sad what’s happening to our country,” first baseman Miguel Cabrera said. “We send our condolences to his family. This is something you don’t wish on anybody.

“I don’t know how his family is right now. He’s no longer with us — it’s very sad. I cannot comment a lot on it because I feel a lot of pain, and I’m not there in Venezuela.”

Above the rest...again

Junior Jerica Coley earned the Sun Belt Player of the Year award for the second consecutive year. She led the country in points per game at a 26.1 mark and became only the second Panther to break the 2,000-point mark for her career.

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Dean's research helps train detector dogs

JUNETTE REYES
Staff Writer

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Kenneth G. Furton’s research with Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal Detection Methods (SWGDOG) 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 through the Opinion of the Court, were “200 loose pseudophedrine pills, 8,000 matches, a bottle of hydrochloric acid, two containers of antifeeze, and a coffee filter full of Dodie crystals.”

Harris was arrested and charged for possessing pseudophedrine 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 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.”

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