‘Smart’ parking garage to spare students time in cars

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The opening of PG6 at the university’s main campus brings hundreds of new spaces for commuters. More than that, the garage brings new, smart technology to parking on campus. The PG6 structure enables the integration of license plate recognition with a car counting system, which allows the FIU Department of Parking and Transportation to push parking availability in real time.

The communication of the parking availability will be through the FIU mobile app, which could be found on the app store, and through variable message signals located in the PG6 parking garage. Students are saving their time searching for an empty space.

According to Thomas Hartley, executive director of the FIU Department of Parking and Transportation, such communication platforms are still in construction. These platforms are expected to be in function in the upcoming weeks.

"Beyond just building the garage, we are launching a smart garage," Tom said. "The new garage enhances ease of access and ease of parking throughout the university, all while reducing traffic congestion and the need to hunt for a parking space."

Even though PG6 took nearly a year to construct, it has tightened the lives of students at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and has provided over 2,000 additional parking spaces.

Sometimes I've waited around 20 to 30 minutes to park," Silerim Ortega said, a sophomore majoring in finance. "I see a really big relief here because the parking lot itself is bigger and more comfortable to drive."

The FIU Board of Trustees approved the construction for the PG6 building in March 2011, yet it did not receive approval from the State of Florida Division of Bond Finance until late June.

The project needed reauthorization due to change of building location from the southeast to the north side of the University, in addition to funding concerns and analysis of building location from the University with easy access to its server.

The technology in the PG6 building also has the possibility to gather current utilization data to forecast future needs.

According to Hartley, the PG6 location was strategically planned and because it was next to the main entrance, it provided the University with easy access from the main thoroughfare. These are the upcoming projects that can be aided by the opening of PG6.

"This location also provides needed parking in a rapidly growing area," Hartley said. "Especially with the additional medical buildings coming in line."

The parking garage is located west of the Red Parking Garage and features a bridge to the Engineering and Computer Science Building. Much like PG5, it includes 35,000 square feet of shell space for university-related retail space and classrooms.

In addition to PG6 and to better the commute in and out the FIU eighth street main entrance, 10th street was widened from 109th Avenue to 112th Avenue. A traffic circle was also added at 112th Avenue.

"PG6 has so much space around and it’s way better. I like it and it's where I park all the time," Ortega said. "I love the bridge. You just cross by and you don’t have to be looking for traffic, so it is very convenient for everyone."

Mobile application simplifies campus navigation at MMC

ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA
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Working on campus, Jenyer Paez often finds it difficult to give directions to people navigating throughout campus.

"Since I work here on campus I have a lot of people ask me how to find certain buildings and certain departments, and it’s not always easy to give them directions," Paez said.

Luckily for the senior English major, a solution is available in the tip of his fingers.

Campus Maps, a mobile application launched in summer 2012 by Vikram Bhandari, has recently added Florida International University to its server.

However, although the application features a map of the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, it doesn’t provide one for the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The application, which features campus maps for over 85 colleges and universities in the country, allows users to get directions from one point on the selected campus to another.

According to Bhandari, the idea for the app was sparked from his personal frustration with trying to find his way throughout the University of Maryland College Park campus.

Although his class schedule only provided a three-letter acronym for the building in which the class would be held, the campus map provided by the school featured the building’s full name, a mismatch that Bhandari found to be inefficient.

He then set to work on the application, which he hoped would make the process of finding a building more streamlined.

"Time is of the essence, and students are moving around," Paez said. "We have a schedule to keep up with and [Campus Maps] is gonna save us time, and I think that’s the most important element."

According to Bhandari, the most common feedback from students is, "Wow, you’ve saved my life."

Bhandari encourages feedback from students. Those interested in providing suggestions or asking questions are welcome to contact him at Vikram@getcampusmaps.com or founder@getcampusmaps.com.
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President Mike Eaton also be, and the whole community years of college, the more who have at least two Mississippi Community colleges or job training that transfer to four-year Northeast Mississippi’s Whitfield, who has been missing,” said Lewis Eaton said, is it forces students to “I’m not certain how by merely filling the program has continued to grow since the Gilmore Foundation launched it in Monroe County in 2008. Funds are paid by planning and development districts, foundations, county governments, city governments, business and individuals. “I’m not certain how big this announcement is in the northeast corner of Mississippi,” Gilmore Executive Director Danny Speerlider said of the Obama proposal. “I’m really worried every time I see the federal government bring this type of program. They always attach strings, and a lot of strings are detrimental to existing programs.” It is not yet known what would happen to the current tuition guarantee if the federal program did pass. Perhaps, Clark said, these funds could go toward other needs, such as books. Passage is certainly not assured, however, with Republicans in control of both the U.S. House and Senate. Mississippi Republican Sen. Thad Cochran said he has concerns about how the proposal would impact the existing system. We are currently conducting a clinical trial using a topical acne medication and a new acne device. If you are between the ages of 12 and 35 and have mild to moderate acne, this may be the study for you. Study patients will be compensated for their time. If you are interested in participating, please contact Dr. Mark S. Nestor at the Center for Clinical and Cosmetic Research at (305) 933-6716. Community college leaders await details of Obama’s plan
Dressing for success: it's a real thing

AMID BENNAIM Staff Writer amid.bennaim@fiusm.com

As social creatures, grooming is an important part of our biology. Keeping clean and looking good changes the way that we look at ourselves. This leads many to suggest that there is a correlation between dressing for success and achieving that success. As a matter of fact, psychologists have done more than just suggest, they have studied the link between dressing well and being well groomed and being successful. As it turns out, the link is very strong.

According to independent studies quoted by Forbes Magazine, clothing can even help determine how some people are paid. While these numbers are hard to generalize because of different work environments and dress codes in different fields, it is clear that people who dress for success are more likely to have higher wages. With that information I decided to try dressing more professionally before my next study session.

I tried it out the week before finals week of last semester. I was really surprised at how much it really changed my confidence for the exams. I found out that it made me feel nice and putting more effort into looking good, I had more confidence when I walked through the door for a test. Since I am not a person who usually loses their cool during exams, I was shocked that it worked for me. Needless to say, dressing well isn't going to make up for studying hard, but it is another form of preparation.

The boost of confidence that comes from looking good is very familiar to most students. Putting on a button-down shirt or wearing a fancy dress before going out feels different than throwing on some old sweatsuits. As a matter of fact, I would be genuinely surprised to learn that there is a person reading this article that has never had someone tell them to dress for success.

So what exactly constitutes dressing “well”? For starters, it is important to know that the term is very contextual. Dressing well for a student at FIU might mean putting on nice jeans and a button-down shirt, but for a Wall Street banker it means wearing a designer suit. In the broadest terms it means dressing in a manner that makes one feel good about what they wear and makes them feel self-assured. The key is to feel beautiful and confident in whatever you wear.

Even if you hold any doubts as to the reality of this link between dressing well and success, I suggest that you try it. Most people already own some clothes that make them look good, so there is pretty much nothing to lose. While dressing for success won’t get you a job or substitute studying, the fact that something so simple can have a positive impact on our lives makes it feel pretty logical to give it a shot.

Phillip L. Marcus, great professor and dear friend

L. Marcus as the most eccentric of exclamation points.

I remember sitting in one of my philosophy classes and listening to Professor Phillip L. Marcus. He was the kind of teacher that everyone decided they had a crush on. He was eccentric and charming in a way that made you want to hear more.

When I first met Professor Phillip L. Marcus he was wheeling his bag behind him into class smirking, dressed in slacks, sneakers shoes and a red polo buttoned to the neckline, onto which he’d pressed in bold white lettering, “It’s great to be here!” He said this line a lot. On the one hand referring to the actual location, FIU, the classroom, the company of students he adored and revered; but referring also, and I think more urgently, to a more cosmic notion of “here.” That life is great and brimming with purpose and well worth the traffic and so on.

Which carried a lot of weight when he said it on account of his being an older guy, older than most of his colleagues, who could recite for you a catalogue of atrocities from World War I; the profiles, practices and psychology of serial killers -- the darkest chapters of a hundred biographies -- the nature of post-traumatic stress disorder, unrequited love, religious doubt, grief, pain. He’d read the science of it all and he knew the poetry. He carried a pretty strong idea of why somebody might not think it’s too great to be here. Marcus endured enough to afford him some license in feeling that way, but he didn’t.

Here was this wiry man in his late 60s who at 8 a.m. had been awake longer than any of us and couldn’t stop smiling, laughing at jokes he hadn’t said yet. Jokes that were totally ridiculous but were made funny by his relish for puns, his baffling misuse of slang, his misguided references to Lady Gaga and the fact that he would apply Jungian psychology to everything from “Black Swan” to the foam on his latte.

But I also know he was happy because he woke up at a ridiculous hour – 4 a.m. or something – which miserable people tend not to do. I remember once getting to my dorm after a concert at 2 a.m. that he had put ‘Phill’ in the byline, they put "Bill". So it was a poorly-written story about a fish that wasn’t real by a boy who didn’t exist.”

Whether talking about Hemingway’s machismo or chronicling his travels with online dating he was intriguing, encouraging, inspiring and internally bright. Since his death on Saturday, Jan. 10 many of his former students have spoken of “mourning in English, minoring in Marcus.” This was because his classes were full of repeat offenders. On the first day each semester, he’d dismiss those seasoned students out of the room ten minutes early so he could speak privately to the new students. Tell them what the deal was.

“Do your reading,” in so many words, “take lots of notes, embrace Carl Jung into your hearts and know that I love you. Come to me for anything.” He was Mr. Feeny, save for the fact that he smiled all the time and dressed in zebra-print everything. Marcus was the greatest professor many of his students had and thanks to the six hours he spent sitting with us at Starbucks each week -- where he would not hear of any student paying for his own coffee -- he was one of the dearest friends we made.

And so upon his departure, it seems only in keeping with what Professor Marcus would’ve taught and would’ve encouraged, that the grieving be turned into a celebration. A remembrance and an appreciation of what he gave us and of what he accomplished and of all other things, painful and pretty. It is, after all, pretty great to be here.

ALEXANDER SORONDO

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

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The Beacon – 3 Wednesday, January 21, 2015

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Wednesday, January 21, 2015

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.
MMC Student Government creates series for incoming students

KATRINA VELEZ
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The Student Government Association’s “Meet and Greet: What I Wish I Knew” opening segment invited students on Tuesday, Jan. 13, to hear its members speak about what they wish they would have known when they first started FIU.

SGA representatives briefed students about its current projects for the academic year:

“I always hear the student body government is doing this, but I never see it happen,” said freshman Samantha Palomino. “So when we walked in we thought, oh ok, they’re talking to people, asking questions, they want to know what’s going on and [have] people show up.”

Speakers noted the importance of SGA to the campus community, given that the organization receives an annual $16 million budget to fund all campus clubs and student activities, including its current plans to expand the number of study spaces.

Questions regarding the budget were on everyone’s mind, like FIU’s unreliable Wi-Fi.

“I understand it’s a first world problem,” Palomino said.

Nonetheless, speakers admitted to the bitter irony of the Steve and Dorothea Green Library and the Graham Center being the worst places for obtaining an internet connection, and announced plans to improve it within the next three years.

The meeting allowed students to gain transparency in relation to FIU’s campus activities and developments.

“I wanted this to be something students can relate to,” said Mary Corbin, a junior and SGA’s current chief of staff. “We wanted to give the students a gist of what SGA is all about and what we do for them.”

This segment is part of the organization’s series “SGA Declasified School Survival Guide,” a spin-off title of Nickleodeon’s “Ned’s Declassified School Survival Guide,” which Corbin thought would relate to the lower classes.

“I wanted this to be something students can relate to,” said Mary Corbin, Chief of Staff SGA.

“Wet Dreamz” then carries the trance towards his adolescence. This explains why the second beginning with his earliest years.

The track dives into 2003, “03’ Adolescence” may be one of the most powerful songs throughout the album.

The track dives into 2003, when Cole had turned 18, graduated from high school and moved to New York City to pursue his college career at St. John’s.

It channels Cole’s inner most thoughts, while aspiring to become an MC. He presents ideas of low self-esteem, his troubles with people truly is.

His songs “St. Tropez” and “A Tale of 2 Citiez” focus on his upcoming fame and fortune -- the rapper also raises brows, for the thought of white dominance -- the industry sells, and he pokes fun at the thought of white dominance.

Specifically in “No Role Models” he mentions how there are rarely any strong female figures for young girls, but also pleads to return to his roots. The song “Hello” further the “stick to your roots,” assertion.

“No Role Models” focuses on the thought of white dominance over blacks, in one verse he states, “White people have snatched the sound.”

“Apparently” and “Love Yourz” are songs reflecting on life, wrong decisions and a desire to fix them.

“Intro” and “Note to Self” reiterate the main outlook of the whole album: freedom, happiness and love.

And if touching upon any of the universal themes, of youth and hardship, wasn’t enough, the rapper also raises brows, for the fact that he produced all of “Forest Hill Drive’s” beats.

A little about J. Cole, he was born in Frankfurt, Germany and raised in Fayetteville, North Carolina by his mother. After graduating high school, he became a student at St. John’s University in New York City on an academic scholarship and graduated magna cum laude.

Throughout this period of time, he had already established a passion for rap, looking up to legends like Jay-Z, Tupac and Nas.

After finishing his first mixtape, he tried to capture the attention of one his idols, Jay-Z. When his approach did not go as planned, he took a job as a bill collector receiving a minimum of $10 an hour.

He made a living, for a while, like this and would spend months (sometimes illegally) trying to get into New York studios to record his mix-tape.

Consequently, his mixtape “Come Up” demanded attention. He ended up being the first artist to be signed with Roc Nation: a label owned by Jay-Z. J. Cole’s debut in 2007, established a loyal fan base.

He has been featured in albums such as Jay-Z’s “The Blueprint 3,” has collaborated with artists such as Mos Def, Wale and Drake and has released two mixtapes: “The Warm Up” and “Friday Night Lights.”

In 2011, he released his first official album, “Cole World: The Sideline Story,” which was at the top of the Billboard 200. In 2013, he released another album, “Born Sinner,” which included his famous single “Power Trip.”

Not only does “Forest Hill Drive” demonstrate J. Cole’s progression and growth as an artist, it shows passion for his art and ambitions for life. It provides lyricism filled with perspective and commentary on the culture today.

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The 2015 Miss Universe pageant will be held at FIU on Jan. 25.
Leonard ready to lead 2015 football team

JACOB SPIWAK
Contributing Writer

If you ask anyone who watched the FIU football team play last year what the best part of the season was, it's safe to assume that a very common answer among those asked would be comeback and return specialist Richard Leonard.

The 2014 season was by far the best of Leonard's collegiate career, having led the Panthers in just about every defensive and special teams statistic (interceptions, defensive touchdowns, return touchdowns, yards, etc.). He also led the nation in fumble recoveries with four.

These stats propelled Leonard to receiving All-Conference USA First Team honors both as a defensive back and as a punt returner.

He did so well last season that many thought he would forego his final year of eligibility and enter the NFL Draft this spring. However, a few weeks ago, Leonard announced that he would be returning to the school next season. Every Panther fan breathed a large sigh of relief when Leonard announced this.

After sitting down and speaking with his family to make his final decision, Leonard determined there were two main reasons why coming back was the best choice for him.

"I made my decision [to return] so I can graduate school and compete to win a Conference USA championship and a bowl game," Leonard said.

The Panthers haven't competed in a bowl game since Leonard's freshman year (a 20-10 defeat at the hands of Marshall), and he has never been a part of a team that won their conference.

He also mentioned that some of his teammates who have already made the transition from FIU to the NFL reached out to him to offer advice.

"I talked to T.Y. (Hilton) and Johnathan Cyprien before I made my decision," Leonard said. "They just told me to look into it closely and make the right decision for myself, not anybody else."

Another person who gave Leonard advice during this process was Head Coach Ron Turner.

"I talked to Coach Turner everyday," Leonard said. "He talked to me about the draft and asked me how I felt and told me to just make the right decision." The main sacrifice Leonard made with his decision to come back was that he’d miss out on the 2015 NFL Draft.

Leonard commented on how he was able to turn down the temptation of potentially being drafted.

"It was kind of hard, but I didn’t have to ask for it. I had some things in my game I felt I had to get better at and I wanted to improve on, and show the scouts what I could do," Leonard said.

Specifically, Leonard discussed improving on his breakaway speed, getting off blocks and his ability to physically guard taller receivers, a task he would definitely be asked to do a lot of at the next level.

When reflecting on last season, Leonard said the biggest accomplishment in his eyes wasn’t a personal feat or individual statistic. Rather, he looked at the team as a whole and the improvements they made, and their desire to continue to get better.

"I would say [the biggest accomplishment was] the team really coming together as one this season. We now have bigger aspirations that will lead us to hopefully contending for a conference championship next year. We went from one win [in 2013] to four wins [this past season], and now we’re trying to reach seven, maybe eight or more this year," Leonard said.

All of these aforementioned accomplishments are even more impressive when you look back on the 2013 season and how difficult it was not only for the team (who went 1-11), but also on a personal level for Leonard. He had to sit out the entire season due to academic reasons, which many players could use as an excuse to give up or stop moving forward.

Instead, Leonard used this as an opportunity to improve himself as a player, and more importantly, as a student.

"I had faith in God, and my parents always talked to me and said everything was going to be alright," Leonard said. "I promised them I would never make that mistake again. I told them I would work hard, and that’s exactly what I did during that 2013 season and offseason. I worked hard, kept my head together and made sure to stay in the books."

Looking to the future, Leonard touched on how he hopes to see the team increase their win total and win a Conference USA championship and a bowl game.

"Looking at the future, I definitely believe that we’re going to make our bowl game and I hope we can improve on all the stats I put up this year, and maybe win the Jim Thorpe Award" (given to the nation’s best defensive back).

Men drop to even record with loss to Western Kentucky

DAVID DRUCKER
Contributing Writer

The men’s basketball team dropped a close game on Saturday, Jan. 17 against Conference USA opponent Western Kentucky University in a 65-58 defeat.

The Hilltoppers (12-5) improved to 5-0 in CUSA while the Panthers (9-9) struggled to break free of the WKU full-court press the entire second half.

"We didn’t have the press break, and they were able to turn us over a few times and get some baskets off of us or at least get possession. So that’s something that we’re going to have to work on," said Head Coach Anthony Evans.

The Panthers started the first half with more energy than they had against Marshall University the previous game.

Junior forward Daviony Draper scored the Panthers’ first basket and sank a well-contested baseline jumper a few possessions later.

Draper scored 15 points on 7-of-11 shooting and notched 11 total rebounds over the course of the game. The defensive effort was also present for the Panthers in the first half; senior guard Kris Gulley grabbed two of his team’s four first-half steals. They also held WKU to 0-20 shooting in the first half of play. At halftime, the score was tied at 24.

The second half was a different story on both sides of the floor for FIU.

The Hilltoppers got some easy points off of inbound passes and breaks to the hoop. The Panthers also were unable to break the full-court press that WKU had set; they turned over the ball eight times in the second half.

The Hilltoppers used these points off of turnovers to climb out to a 56-48 lead with 3:51 remaining.

When asked about himself personally, the main thing he looks for is “just overall improvement across the board. Personally, I want to improve on all the stats I put up this year, and maybe win the Jim Thorpe Award” (given to the nation’s best defensive back).
San Lorenzo tops Nacional at FIU

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San Lorenzo of Argentina defeated Atlético Nacional of Colombia by a score 2-0 at FIU Stadium on Saturday, Jan. 17.

It marked the second time that Atlético Nacional makes the trip to Miami and lost.
The club also traveled to Miami in July of 2014 and lost a 4-2 decision to AS Monaco.

San Lorenzo was spurred by two first half goals from Martin Cauteruccio and Enzo Kalinski.

They got off to a quick start as Emanuel Mass centered a ball to an unmarked Cauteruccio who tapped it in with only three minutes gone by.

“Scoring is always a good thing,” Cauteruccio said. “It’s good to start the new season on such a positive note. I think this was a good step forward for the club.”

Despite the early lead, San Lorenzo continued to pressure the Nacional defense and they found the back of the net again with Kalinski’s goal in the minute 37.

San Lorenzo was spurred on its way in by Kalinski. They delayed the game with his antics continued.

Both teams noted that the artificial turf of Ocean Bank Field would be a new challenge for them.

The Nacional fans, who were seated in the East end zones stands, were warned that the game would be suspended if their antics continued.

The delay was the most exciting part of the second half.

Neither club was able to net a goal in the second.

San Lorenzo arrived in Miami on Wednesday, Jan. 14 and practiced daily at the FIU Soccer Stadium while Nacional arrived on Jan. 16 and was only able to fit in one practice before Saturday’s match.

Both teams noted that the artificial turf of Ocean Bank Field would be a new challenge for them.

“The pitch was the same for both clubs so you can eliminate that as a reason we lost. Neither club is used to practicing, much less playing matches on artificial turf,” said Club Atlético Nacional Coach Juan Carlos Osorio.

San Lorenzo players celebrate after Martin Cauteruccio scored the first goal in the third minute. The Argentinean team won the Copa Campeones de América 2-0.

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San Lorenzo players celebrate after Martin Cauteruccio scored the first goal in the third minute. The Argentinean team won the Copa Campeones de América 2-0.
University professors battle commercial sexual exploitation

MARIA C. SERRANO
Staff Writer
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Criminals prey on these vulnerable children and youth and entice them to get involved in these activities. But there is a percentage of children that is forced or coerced and don’t know how to get out of it.

“On these streets,” the team hopes to raise awareness in regions where crime and extreme poverty forces children to fall victims.

“Criminals prey on these vulnerable children and youth and entice them to get involved in these activities,” Villar said. “But there is a percentage of children that is forced or coerced and don’t know how to get out of it,” she said.

The idea for the game came from University of Miami doctoral student, Jessica Wendorf, a Colombian-American who saw the need to partner with child-serving organizations in Colombia.

“When through their existing relationship with Jessica, [the organizations] reached out to her to help them address the need to raise awareness about the problem,” Villar said.

The team traveled to Bogota, Barranquilla and Cartagena, Colombia where they have partnered with the Colombian National Police. They also met with the Ministry of Tourism, Fundacion Renacer, Fundacion Juan Felipe Gomez Escobar and Colombia Joven to better understand child exploitation in the country.

The game requires players to role play as characters in scenarios where child sexual exploitation is eminent. Characters include a mother who forces her daughter to provide sexual favors as a source of income.

Another character would be a taxi driver who provides information to tourists on where child prostitutes are found.

The game is intended to be used at workshops held by the police and the Ministry of Tourism in affected areas. It will also provide recommendations for how to report child sexual exploitation to police.

“People in all sectors of Colombian society can identify the problem, prevent it and report it to the proper authorities,” Villar said.

According to the organization Children of the Andes, there are 35,000 children being affected by this crime, especially in cities like Quibdo where 49.9 percent of the country’s extreme poverty is found.

Colombian Police Officer Luis Eduardo Barrera, informed Student Media of the importance of the National Police’s involvement in overseeing child protection, especially in the areas of tourism protection and national heritage.

Villar and the researchers received a grant from the Miami Consortium for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, a collaboration between FIU’s Latin American Caribbean Center and UM’s Center for Latin American Studies.

They were awarded $10,000 to develop the project between June 2014 and May 2015. They plan to travel to Colombia again at the beginning of February to visit several regions who are exposed to the problem.

“I haven’t seen a case of a person that I know suffering such an abuse, but it is something you see in the news and people talking in the streets of Colombia,” said University alumn and Colombian native Juan Camilo Aristizabal.

“It is something that needs to be addressed and I am more than willing to cooperate in resolving this issue,” Aristizabal said.

E-cigarettes, not really the ‘healthier’ alternative

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F rom n asty to b e a l l ied cigarettes to tasty- flavored, tobacco-free e- c i garettes, young adults who look to quit their old smoking habits have found an alternative.

While traditional cigarettes contain over 7,000 toxic chemicals like ammonia and carbon monoxide, e-cigarettes depend on a tiny battery for its vapor effect. Despite their differences, e-cigarettes are not the saviors of bad-habit smoking.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, both cigarettes use the powerfully addictive chemical nicotine - the key ingredient for returning customers. Although e-cigarettes help to avoid quick degenerating skin and lung cancer, experts say that flawed manufacturing could account for carcinogens and vaporizing heavy metals like lead, tin and zinc.

Who are the head chefs of these cinnamon apple, banana nut bread, vanilla cupcake, chocolate candy bar and coconut bomb flavored “vapes”? According to The New York Times, the Chinese. Nearly 90 percent of the world’s e-cigarettes are made in China.

Due to its popularity, the Food and Drug Administration has worked on guidelines for careful manufacturing, but analysts say it could take years for Chinese factories to slow down their soaring profits before complying to tenuous regulations.

Sales of e-cigs more than doubled last year from 2012 to $1.7 billion, according to Wells Fargo Securities. In the next ten years, the use of the new technology could surpass that of traditional cigarettes.

No-smoke.org states that as of Oct. 1, 2014, out of the 1,014 tobacco-free campuses in the nation, 587 prohibit the use of e-cigarettes including our very own FIU. The University’s ban on tobacco began in early 2011 including “electronic cigarette(s)…or any other device intended to simulate smoked tobacco.”

Even though smoking is not allowed, my nose still squirms from the lingering fumes of sneaky students and staff smoking on campus. To see students use e-cigarettes inside campus buildings is even more uncanny.

When I studied abroad in Paris, I concluded that the need to smoke is frightening — even high school students are not forbidden from smoking a cigarette on school grounds. Everyone has the right to do as they choose, but despite the immense beauty and mystery of the city, it was hard to catch a bit of fresh air sometimes.

Sure, e-cigarettes don’t let out a big puff of unpleasant smells, but must it really become another addiction? For those who choose e-cigs with nicotine, its addictive component can intensify a bad habit that later becomes a struggle to break out of.

Instead, I propose a different kind of pleasantness — living a liberating life away from the chains of addictions. I have a loving friend who can’t watch an entire film with me without having to step out for a smoke and whose aroma impedes me from fully enjoying this person’s presence.

Whether it’s a cigarette or the next “healthier” version of an e-cigarette, addiction should never become a necessity nor a bad habit.