‘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 technology to parking on campus. The PG6 parking garage brings new, smart technology to parking on campus.

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.

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 drivers at the Moderno A. Maidique Campus and has provided over 2,000 additional parking spaces.

“Sometimes I’ve waited around 20 to 30 minutes to park,” Sileirim 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 rezoning due to change of building location from the southeast side to the north side of the University, in addition to funding concerns and analysis data requested by Governor Rick Scott in February 2013.

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.

There are also 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 Bed 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

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The application, which features 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 application 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.”

According to Bhandari, what sets Campus Maps apart from other mobile applications is quick speed at which it provides directions to users.

But why add FIU to the server? Bhandari’s aim was to reach the hundred largest college and university campuses within the United States.

“I had students’ interests at heart [when creating the application],” Bhandari said. What sets Campus Maps apart from the map available on the FIU Mobile app is its ability to provide students actual directions from one building to another, while the FIU Mobile app just features a localization and a compass that points students to the desired location.

Bhandari has other apps under construction. Among them is Campus Jobs, which allows users to identify job openings available near their college campus. Bhandari encourages feedback from students.

These interested in providing suggestions or asking questions are welcome to contact him at Vikram@getcampusmaps.com or founder@getcampusmaps.com.
Community college leaders await details of Obama’s plan

CHRISS KIEFFER
Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, Tupelo
TNS

President Obama likely will use next week’s State of the Union address to give more details about his recent proposal to provide free community college. Leaders from a region that already has its own community college tuition guarantee program will be watching closely.

In an announcement last Friday, the president unveiled “America’s College Promise” which would extend public education two additional years. Speaking at a community college in Knoxville, Tennessee, Obama cited a new program in that state that pays the cost of two years of community or technical college.

Tennessee’s program closely resembles one in Northeast Mississippi, where it now covers 17 counties and four community colleges. It is not clear, however, how similar the federal program would be.

“It is hard to evaluate because the details are missing,” said Lewis Whitfield, who has been among the champions of Northeast Mississippi’s tuition guarantee as senior vice president at the CREATE Foundation.

Those details, including how the administration proposes paying for it, could come in Tuesday’s address to the country. Initial reports have said that the federal government would cover three-quarters of the expenses with states paying the rest of the bill. Participating students must be enrolled at least half-time, maintain a 2.5 grade-point average and make progress toward a degree.

Community colleges would have to offer programs that transfer to four-year colleges or job training programs.

The average tuition and fees at Mississippi’s 15 community colleges is $2,476, said Eric Clark, executive director of the Mississippi Community College Board.

“If I feel certain there would be people who would take advantage of that,” he said.

That is an important way the federal proposal appears to differ from the existing plans in Tennessee and in Northeast Mississippi. Those are “tuition gap” plans, meaning they cover the remaining cost of tuition after scholarships, Pell Grants and other financial aid has been applied.

Reports indicate the new federal proposal would cover the cost of tuition up-front before other aid was applied. It is unclear whether community college Pell Grants and other state and federal aid would no longer exist or whether they could be used for other expenses like books, meals or housing.

By merely filling the tuition gap, the cost of Northeast Mississippi’s program has been relatively low, Whitfield said. This fall, it cost $489,272 to provide money to 647 students in 17 counties. The program covered 2,760 students, but many of them already had the full cost of tuition paid by other sources. One benefit of the program, Whitfield said, is for students to find out aid they did not realize was available.

“The tuition guarantee has played a role in helping remove barriers to get people to go to school and to feel like they could afford it,” Whitfield said.

Northeast Mississippi’s program has continued to grow since the Gilmore Foundation launched it in Monroe County in 2008. Funds are paid by planning and development districts, county 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 Speerleir 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 those strings are detrimental to existing programs.”

It is not yet known what would happen if 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.

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Dressing for success: it’s a real thing

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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 class.

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 dressing nicely 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 me 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 sweatpants. 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.

If anyone that has 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.

When I first met Professor Phillip L. Marcus he was wheeling his bag behind him into class slinking, dressed in slacks, snakeskin 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 and his 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 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 natures 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 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 around 4 a.m. and sitting down to send a reminder to bring a book he was going to show me.

He’d apparently just woken up. A few moments later, as I was settling into bed, he sent me a quick response with long considered sentences and lots of exclamations points.

“While I can’t quite speak of Phillip L. Marcus as the most eccentric professor I ever had -- not since that one 60-year-old adjunct who spoke each week of his masturbatory habits and his contempt for his wife -- he’s certainly a runner up, in a good way.

“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 least expensive 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
MMC Student Government creates series for incoming students

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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 wished 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 Declassified School Survival Guide,” a spin-off title of Nickleodeon’s “Ned’s Declassified School Survival Guide,” which would relate to the lower classes in the same age group. Students enjoyed cupcakes, pizza and free office supplies while the organization’s legislation offered advice on handling college as an incoming freshman or new student.

Freshman Anaise Hernandez was also worried about the Wi-Fi connection. “It was helpful to find out how things are passed,” Hernandez said. “Especially that whole Wi-Fi thing. We’re waiting for that to speed up -- literally.”

Forest Hills Drive
J. Cole drops chart topping album to end 2014


In 2011, he released his first mixtape "Forest Hills Drive." 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 studies to record his mix-tape.

Consequently, his mixtape "The Come Up” demanded attention. He ended up being the first artist to be signed with Roc Nation: a label owned by Jay-Z.


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 his passion for his art and ambitions for life. It provides lyricism filled with perspective and commentary on the culture today.

The real is back.
end to the current regime that runs the country. There really isn’t much to this film, but any way to get it more exposure helps. The one thing to keep in mind with this film is that it’s satirical; so much of what you might see should not at all be taken seriously. In fact, the more ludicrous, the better. This film made my cheeks sore due to the amount of laughter it gave me. Pretty much anytime someone got killed was a laugh, due to the outrageousness of it all.

The film also explains a bit about how the world is and what the situation in the year 2000 is (there’s actually backstory that can be looked up independently from the film itself).

One of the things I really liked about “Death Race 2000” is its future setting, one where a Death Race is a sport and a place called New Los Angeles exists (makes you wonder what happened to the old one).

Another thing I like about the movie is how cheap it is. From everything being filmed in Los Angeles to some of the deaths, and even the appearance of some guy named Sylvester Stallone, the film has all the qualifications of being quite low budget (which is of course a Corman staple).

The film on a technical level is also well done, utilizing effective editing (mainly in the appearance of some guy named Sylvester Stallone before he was Rocky Balboa). Both men play race car drivers, who, with their navigators, go across the former-US country and kill people with their cars in order to acquire points so that they can win the race (never mind actually getting first place in the actual race itself). All the while, a group of rebels is looking to stop the race indefinitely and put an end to the current regime that runs the country.

The film on a technical level is also well done, utilizing effective editing (mainly in the appearance of some guy named Sylvester Stallone). It’s a cult classic, it’s a perfect B-movie and it’s everything you could possibly want out of a movie about a Death Race in the year 2000.
Leonard ready to lead 2015 football team

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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, 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 forgo 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 come back because I felt I had a lot of improvement to do to become the right decision.” The main reason Leonard made 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 decided not to do 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 contend 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-athlete. “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 never would 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.

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).

SPORTS

Men drop to even record with loss to Western Kentucky

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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 Davion 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 3-of-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.

“We just made mistakes in the second half that were crucial,” said junior forward Adrian Diaz.

The Panthers’ biggest chance at a comeback came when WKU committed a backcourt violation with 1:45 left. Diaz was fouled while shooting and made both of his free throws to cut the Hilltopper lead to three. Diaz then had to leave the game after committing his fifth foul on Harrison-Doaks, who made both of his free throws.

“Feel like we had the same press break in the first half and the second half. We just made mistakes in the second half that were crucial,” said junior forward Adrian Diaz.

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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 Emmanuel 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.

Kalinski headed a shot past the unmarked Cauteruccio who tapped it in with only three minutes gone by.

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“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.”

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.

The Nacional fans showered the pitch with paper and fireworks.

Nothing seemed to go FIU’s way as Atlético Nacional makes the trip to Miami and lost.

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

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University professors battle commercial sexual exploitation

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Advertising and public relations
Professor Maria Elena Villar has joined forces with University of Miami researchers to fight against child commercial sexual exploitation in Colombia. Through the development of an educational role-playing game called “Por Estas Calles,” meaning “On These Streets,” the team hopes to raise awareness in regions where crime and extreme poverty forces children to full victims.

“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,” she said.

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

“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 Carrera, who grew up in the city of Medellin, received a grant from the Miami Foundation to carry out the project. The researchers sent a grant to the Colombian National Police that will generate an educational role-playing game and an educational DVD that can be used at workshops held by the police, the Ministry of Tourism and the child protection and national heritage communities.

Villar and the researchers received a grant from the Miami Foundation for Latin American Studies, a collaboration between FIU’s Latin American Caribbean Center and UM’s Center for Latin American Studies. They plan to travel to Colombia this summer to develop the project between June 2014 and May 2015.

“On these streets,” she said.

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. Maria Elena Villar Chair Advertising & Public Relations

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

E-cigarettes, not really the ‘healthier’ alternative

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COLUMNIST
fiusm.com

E-cigarettes are made in China and are not routinely tested for quality control, so ingesting the contents of the device can result in health problems. The flavorings in e-cigarettes are harmful, and can contain dangerous chemicals. Artificial flavorings can be highly concentrated, and the flavors are not tested for safety. Some of the substances used in e-cigarette flavorings include diacetyl, a chemical that can cause lung damage, and formaldehyde, a known carcinogen.

E-cigarettes are not as safe as they are made out to be. The Federal Drug Administration has classified e-cigarettes as tobacco products, even though they do not contain tobacco. The FDA has the power to regulate e-cigarettes, but has not done so. In 2014, the FDA proposed regulations that would require e-cigarettes to be marked with health warnings, but the final regulations are not expected to be released until 2017.

As of Oct. 1, 2014, 587 universities prohibit the use of e-cigarettes on campus. Sales of e-cigarettes continue to grow, and it is estimated that there are over 7 million e-cigarette users in the U.S. The market for e-cigarettes is expected to reach $10 billion by 2020.