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University partnership to promote HIV/AIDS awareness

**DESTINY BURT**
Staff Writer
destiny.burt@fiusm.com

FIU-BRIDGE partnered with Union Positiva, Spectrum Programs, Mixto Music and Dieste on Friday, Jan. 23, to promote HIV/AIDS awareness among Hispanic students in the community ranging from 18-24 years of age. The Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) offered a grant to FIU-BRIDGE, one that would go towards a project promoting health as well as substance abuse, HIV and Hepatitis C prevention.

The project FIU-BRIDGE is working on is the Miami-Dade partnership for preventing health risks among young adults.

“This is for FIU students; the nature of the grant was to focus on a minority group and because we [are] a Hispanic serving institution, that’s what we focused on and got the funding for,” said Dr. Eric Wagner, the executive director for FIU-BRIDGE. Some shared their excitement over the event’s turnout.

“I’m glad people came out for the free HIV testing,” said Sofia B. Fernandez, a public health doctoral student. “I feel like it’s something that hopefully the students will take advantage of. We actually brought the van to the students because it’s convenient and confidential.”

The event was not just for FIU students but also Miami-Dade County in general, since it is ranked number one in the state of Florida for the number of new HIV and AIDS cases. To gain more attention, FIU-BRIDGE has Miss Hivaria, a representative they enlisted to help promote awareness of HIV and AIDS.

I hope capitalizing on Miss Universe and having this campaign running right now will spread awareness about the campaign and what our ultimate goal is.

Sofia B. Fernandez
Doctoral Student
Public Health

“Miss Hivaria was created to represent people with HIV, which is 35 million...the size of a country. [She] has been doing appearances as a playful way to use the Miss Universe event for the forces of good,” said Wagner.

According to her Facebook page, Miss Hivaria spent the week of the Miss Universe pageant representing the Republic of Hivaria.

“I hope that capitalizing on Miss Universe and having this campaign running right now will spread awareness about the campaign and what our ultimate goal is, which is encouraging people to get tested and being open about their status (to) prevent the spread of HIV,” said Fernandez.

Some believe that having a grant that targets one minority group will be beneficial to helping BRIDGE achieve its goal of spreading awareness.

“Sometimes certain illnesses affect a certain minority [group] more and if it’s a growing population you want to make sure you are targeting a specific population,” said Denise Ay radarita, public health graduate student. “It’s easier if you pick a certain population to reach your goal.”

**CEO of Sushi Maki coming to share business experience**

**NICOLE MONTERO**
Asst. News Director
nicole.montero@fiusm.com

The CEO and founder of Sushi Maki will be coming to FIU to share his personal experiences in the business world as an entrepreneur.

Abe Ng, a Miami native, was recognized as one of Miami Herald’s 2011 “20 Under 40,” a list created to showcase accomplished professionals from the South Florida area who are under the age of forty and demonstrate abilities to succeed in their respective industries.

Ng is also a graduate of the Owner/President Management program at the Harvard Business School, and was honored as the Ultimate CEO by the South Florida Business Journal in 2014.

With Abe, the unique thing is that he started his own business and got it to grow at a very young age,” said Garth D. Headley, associate director of public affairs in the Center for Leadership. “His story will relate to everyone, especially when you’re in an environment like Miami that’s entrepreneurial by nature.”

According to Headley, the Center for Leadership reached out to Ng because it identified him as an ideal speaker for their leadership lecture series.

“He’s gone through a lot to get to where he is,” Headley said. “The idea is to have him share his message on leadership and share what he did to get his business to where it’s at now, including the challenges and issues he had to deal with.”

Ng’s restaurant is mostly known for its Japanese cuisine and has many locations around South Florida—including Miami, Kendall, Coral Gables, Brickell, the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and more.

In 2011, it received the award for Outstanding Minority Business of the Year by the Greater Miami Chamber of Congress.

Romina Angelleli, a junior majoring in digital media, is one of the many students looking forward to his lecture.

“When someone like this comes to FIU, you have to be there and take advantage,” she said. “Even though I’m a communications major, I’ve always had ideas to open up a company and I just think that this lecture will really help put that in perspective for me.”

Like Angelleli, Ricardo Amaury, a senior majoring in business, believes that this is an opportunity that is vital to the FIU community.

“It’s important, not just for business students—though obviously they are the ones that would take the most out of it—but for everyone,” he said. “Everyone should be interested in how the business world works. If not that, then at least they should show up to hear about how Sushi Maki got to where it’s at now.”

As highlighted in the Center for Leadership’s website, the lecture will provide attendees an opportunity to gain insight on the challenges involved with creating a startup company and finding the right path to identifying partners with similar interests.

The Center for Leadership will be partnering up with the Honors College for this lecture, to the capacity that the College will award honors credit hours to its students.

Ng will present his lecture this Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 9 a.m. at the Graham Center Ballrooms in the Modesto A. Maid-
King Abdullah, Saudi ruler who led nation through turbulent times, dies at 90

As the leader of a conservative family dynasty of tremendous wealth and extraordianry power, King Abdullah ibn Abdulaziz al Saud was charged with steering the desert kingdom of Saudi Arabia through an unconventional period of cultural upheaval, regional strife and economic challenge.

He had formally taken power in 2005, but in effect been running the country for a decade before that, guiding it uneasily through the challenges posed by the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, the war in neighboring Iraq, the disintegration of Syria, the upheavals of the “Arab Spring,” and the rise of Islamic State.

Abdullah died Friday. Saudi state television reported, even as his state faced a new challenge in the upheavals of the Islamic State.

The meltdown of another neighbor, Yemen. He was reported, even as his state faced a new challenge in the Islamic State.

As part of its 2015 Leadership Lectures series, the University’s Center for Leadership will be hosting Captain Barrington Irving, who, at the age of 23, became the youngest individual and first African-American pilot to fly around the world in a single-engine aircraft.

At the lecture, Irving will discuss the importance of making topics covered in STEM courses relevant to students, and how to fuse these courses with those in the humanities, among others.

The lecture, along with the three others that comprise the series, was chosen by University faculty and staff, two groups that worked alongside the Center for Leadership’s academic board of advisors and a group of business professionals from the community.

Fellows program, Irving was one of various individuals who was given the chance to gain valuable insight on how to succeed in his respective field.

While the Center for Leadership seeks to invite prominent professionals holding leadership positions in a variety of disciplines, more focus is placed on the topic that can be discussed as opposed to the person delivering the address, according to Headley.

“I think the lecture [one] should walk away with from Barrington…really boils down to how much do you want [to succeed],” he said.

For some students, the element of inspiration is what draws them to the lecture.

“I’m going to attend the event, but not because I’m interested in a career in the STEM field,” said Yadira Amador. “I think it’s important to be reminded about one’s ability to push through adversity, and that’s what I believe the lecture will offer.”

“You can either face it and make things happen in spite of whatever beginnings you had?” said Headley.

“The interest in potentially hosting Irving was sparked over two years ago, when members of the Center for Leadership saw the young pilot sharing his story at a Miami Foundation event.

As part of the Miami Fellows program, Irving was one of various individuals who was given the chance to gain valuable insight on how to succeed in his respective field.

Heard it, and how can you make things happen in spite of whatever beginnings you had?” said Headley.

“The one most important aspect of the lecture will be the element of informing those in attendance how to overcome the challenges that life throws at them.

According to Garth D. Headley, associate director of public affairs in the Center for Leadership, the lecture will aim to present more than just information on STEM fields to those in attendance.

Ireland will be speaking on the difficulties he faced as a young man and his ability to overcome adversity.

“The interest in potentially hosting Irving was sparked over two years ago, when members of the Center for Leadership saw the young pilot sharing his story at a Miami Foundation event.

As part of the Miami Falls program, Irving was one of various individuals who was given the chance to gain valuable insight on how to succeed in his respective field.

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“You can either face it and make things happen in spite of whatever beginnings you had?” said Headley.
College life improved through online classes

KRISTINE PEREZ
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

Online classes have given students the opportunity to study what they want, where they want and when they want. Life to handing over the control of learning, online classes are modestly becoming more attainable and sought after.

As one of the great technological advancements our generation has, this simple idea of learning at home has solved the problem of rushing to campus, grabbing food on the go and being constricted to taking class at certain times. Online classes have given students the opportunity to study what they want, where they want and when they want.

Rather than planning work and life around school, students are now able to do the opposite.

The only time restriction to worry about is when assignments for the week are due; whereas in a traditional in-person course students may be constricted three times a week during work hours.

Students who take online courses are in control of their learning as they are able to decide when to complete the work, which learning strategy they want to utilize and the pace at which the work is done.

Beside the fact that students and professors do not meet in person, there is no other difference between online and traditional courses.

While online courses allow students to mold their own schedule, the class still keeps some vital components of traditional classes.

As a global learning community, FIU has developed online courses that incorporate various forms of technology and communication that allow group work, discussions, teacher feedback and virtual class meetings.

It has never been easier for a student to learn as he or she pleases, especially with more tools offered. When taking an online course, there is no longer the fear of missing even a sliver of information mentioned during a lecture.

Depending on the method of learning a student enjoys most, the course content can be replayed, reviewed or revisited as many times as needed without hesitation.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: MISS UNIVERSE

Dear Editor,

As a student and a Latina woman, I am extremely angered and disappointed to attend a university where their “Worlds Ahead” mission includes the perpetuation of an imperialist where supremacist, capitalistic patriarchal event. Miss Universe directly colonizes women’s bodies on and offstage.

With its ethnocentric views, this event imposes what diversity should look like throughout the rest of the world. Miss Universe enforces toxic Eurocentric beauty standards that are unattainable to the majority of women around the world, who are mostly women of color.

Miss Universe is NOT “Worlds Ahead” and FIU is bringing their faculty, staff and students behind them. This event delegitimizes everything that FIU students, faculty and staff have worked so hard in order to help legitimize FIU’s reputation and credibility.

The lack of communication between FIU’s administration and it’s students, faculty and staff only goes to show how FIU is more interested in their image rather than providing quality education and resources to it’s students, faculty and staff.

Acquiring assault rifles, canceling classes, halting transportation for disabled individuals around the event area, policing bodies outside of the event and taking money away from the women’s athletic program in order to fund this (whom are performing much better than their male counterparts), necks of a University that is “Worlds Behind.”

Consequently, test results of these online results are becoming reality.

So my questions for the FIU administration are: What kind of messages are you sending out to your own women-identifying students who are overwhelmingly women of color? What messages are you sending to your women-identifying students from Venezuela and Colombia, who already suffer from a detrimental body psyche thanks to the importance placed on beauty pageants and plastic surgery in their countries? What kind of message are you sending out to your faculty and staff whose credibility is being damaged by this vacip event? What kind of message are you sending out to the students whose classes are being cancelled because of this event? What kind of message are you sending out to your disabled students? What kind of message are you sending out to potential students, faculty and staff members and women-identifying students? But most importantly, what kind of message are you sending out to the world? To the rest of the world? To the world that is “Worlds Behind.”

Sincerely,

Laura Hernandez
National Student Advisory Council Member, AAIW

President, FIU College Democrats
Fellow, YPL- Young People For Good Job Opportunity? Or...

ANGELO LOPEZ
Staff Writer
angelo.lopez@fiusm.com

As potentially stressful and nerve-wracking as it may be, job seeking is something that almost all of us will have to suffer at some point.

This past October, I had my turn in experiencing the torment that job hunting can turn out to be.

Unpleasant as this was, this uncomfortable experience provided me with valuable lessons to apply to the future when I have an uneasy feeling about a hiring company. Namely, what are important tell-tale signs of a potential employment scam.

First, the story.

I began sending resumes via CareerBuilder to as many job openings as I felt made sense, and even to a few others that I felt were long-shots considering they were not related to my major.

Reflecting on this, I’ll stay away from sites like those in the future. They seem to be a magnet for scam artists. Out of all the resumes I sent out, I only received a response—from two days—from one company which claimed that it specialized in direct marketing.

This was the first red flag for me. Why would an advertising firm be interested in someone whose major was in the social sciences? And why would it waste so little time in an only getting back someone granting me an interview? Misgivings aside, I decided that it couldn’t hurt to see what was being offered.

Dressed in my best attire, I arrived at the company’s office for the interview. Their office was in the blue Lagoon Business Park, in the same area as FIU’s on North Bay Village Drive—just south of the airport. It was a good sign, but I took it with a grain of salt.

There are many conveniently available commercial properties that are available for a fraction of their worth because of the slow economy, making it easier to deceive.

News and photos of the issue are available at www.thebeaconflorida.com and on the Beacon’s new app available on both Apple and Android devices.

Annie Ybarra
Assistant Editor
aybarra@fiusm.com

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Alpha Phi Alpha starts Too Dapper Tuesday trend

From left to right, Alpha Phi Alpha brothers Andrew Jones, Rodin Celider, Jayson Esdaille and Garry Luxais show off their sophisticated style for Too Dapper Tuesday.

High hopes for mid-season premieres of ‘Arrow’, ‘The Flash’

After a very long five weeks of no new episodes of the CW’s “Arrow” and “The Flash,” we finally got to witness the 10th episode of both shows.

“The Flash” mid-season finale had left us wondering what would happen with Barry and his powers after his climactic confrontation with the man who killed his mother when Barry was a child, the Reverse Flash.

In the final minutes of the mid-season finale, we see that Barry’s mentor and partner, Dr. Harrison Wells, is in possession of the Reverse Flash suit. This would, normally, lead the viewer to believe that Dr. Wells is the man in the yellow suit. But I believe it’s a little more complex than what meets the eye. Why would Dr. Wells have such interest in helping Barry expand his powers and do everything in his power to keep Barry safe from harm?

Obviously unprepared and overpowered by the Reverse Flash in their first battle, Barry, in this past week’s episode, looked to expand his powers and to train on a much more strict regimen in order to become faster and more agile for the next time the two speedsters would collide. His training would, actually, help him out in his fight at the end of the show with the returning Captain Cold and newcomer Heatwave. Something big is being set up in the show, and I am more than excited to see how it all plays out.

As a fan of “The Flash,” it’s pleasing to see how in depth the CW is getting into the core of the character of Barry Allen/The Flash. The more we see of his humanity in check, give him that believable superhero complex and the best part about it all, they have a humorous and courageous Barry. And not just Barry’s character, but with all the other characters in the show too. I mean, do I really need to say how beautiful Iris is? Fellas, help me out here.

“Arrow”

[Warning for spoilers]

In the 10th “Arrow” episode, every one of us fans were left in wonder of whether or not Oliver was still alive after his fight with the League of Assassins leader Ra’s Al Ghul. In the mid-season finale, Ra’s Al Ghul shocked the CW world by stabbing Oliver through the chest in the final moments of their duel with one of Oliver’s own swords, leaving all mouths dropped and in disbelief that our hero, the Arrow, had fallen.

I knew it was only a matter of time that the show would keep Oliver dead, but I had no idea that they would bring him back in the very next episode. Normally I’d feel like that sort of return would be a little too rushed, but I was ecstatic like that sort of return would be once more a return to the show too. I mean, do I really need to say how beautiful Iris is? Fellas, help me out here.

Now what’s left on my mind is what Oliver will have to do -- Now that he’s alive again -- to return to Starling City back to his family and his friends.

I know I’m not the only one who’s extremely excited to see Ray Palmer’s A.T.O.M. suit in action. Seeing Ray working on the suit’s mechanism at the beginning of the episode was really great to watch. Not only because this suit has been in the works for all of the third season, but also because we get to see more emotion come from Ray as to why he’s creating this suit to save the city. As someone who has lost a relationship to death, I find myself relating to Ray Palmer more than I thought I would. His motives are pure and understanding. How awesome Ray Palmer will look in the full A.T.O.M. exoskeleton is still up in the air for viewers to wait on. But I have a feeling that we’ll be seeing Ray Palmer and Oliver Queen suit up together to take on the bad guys shortly.

Sit tight my fellow “The Flash” and “Arrow” fans. We are in for an exciting second half of each season. So, let’s get ready for episode 11 of “The Flash” and “Arrow” on Tuesday, Jan. 27 and Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 8 p.m. -Life@fiusm.com
In 2012, the still in high school Jo-Vaughn Virginie Scott, better known by his stage name Joey Bada$$, released mixtape “1999” that to this day is a favorite of the contemporary underground hip-hop community.

That mixtape, combined with the buzz he had been garnering in the previous two years, brought with it two things: notoriety and expectations. By the tender age of 17, Joey Bada$$ had established what many aspiring rappers struggle mightily for years to acquire, a fanbase.

The fact that he had done so before graduating high school was not only wildly impressive, but placed on his shoulders great expectations for future greatness.

Not unreasonably, if you ask this author, because it’s not every day that a teenager manages to make a good living because he rhymes impressively in his hip-hop songs before he even graduates high school.

As of this writing, these sizable expectations have yet to be met. His 2013 mixtape “Summer Knights,” while containing its fair share of quality tracks, was nothing comparable to the caliber of “1999.”

“1999” that to this day is respectable to the caliber of “1999.” Fast forward 18 months and we find ourselves uttering the same thing about his debut album, “B4.Da.$$.”

As I listened to track after track, the phrase that I found myself repeating was, “Good at best, but nothing exceptional.”

Rating: 3/5
Artist: Joey Bada$$

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Based off Humans of New York from the NYTs, Student Spotlight captures FIU students as their natural self. Ana Arenas, FIUSM Staff, will spotlight a new student every Monday, with a photo and quote that eludes to their personal story and goals.
RUSSO RELEASES REIGNS

Women’s head coach steps down, leaves position after 36 years

REBECCA CHARUR
Staff Writer
rebecca.charur@fiusm.com

The reign of Head Coach Cindy Russo has come to an unforeseen end after 36 years. Russo announced on Thursday, Jan. 22, that she is stepping down as the head coach of the women’s basketball team, effective immediately.

The strain of a long basketball season proved too much as the famed coach battled through her own physical and mental health struggles.

From the Press Release:
“ ’For the first time in my life, I am putting myself first,’ Russo said. ’My health has been compromised for a long time now. It has been difficult to get up and move around. Basketball season is a long, stressful season that can suck you in with the demanding schedule. I just didn’t feel like I had the physical and mental capacity to keep going. My mother’s death exasperated everything, and it was a long ordeal with her. I was by her side for a long time, and now it’s time to take care of myself. I just can’t push myself like this anymore. The team will be fine. They play good basketball and they play hard, but we just can’t finish. Someone just needs to step up and be a leader. I trust that Inge Nissen will do a great job and handle everything that comes along.’”

Cindy Russo
Former Head Coach Women's Basketball

Women start second half of the season against Florida’s best

RAYMOND SIXTO
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

There are five tournaments left before the Panthers play for the Conference USA Championships in April. The first of those five is on Monday, Jan. 26 when they tee off in Ocala, FL at the Florida Challenge. The Panthers competed in this tournament last year and finished in fifth place. They look to do much better as they bring back seven players who played in last year’s tournament.

Last we saw the Panthers was November 2014 when they were hosting the 37th Annual Pat Bradley Invitational in Sarasota, FL. They wrapped up their fall season with a third place finish and had four players finish in the top 20. Junior Meghan MacLaren was the leader of that group, finishing in second place after shooting five-under-par for the entire tournament. She played in all four tournaments in the fall and led the team with a 71.92 stroke average. She finished in the top 10 at all four tournaments. Her best finish came in the first tournament of the year when she won the Mary Fossum Invitational by posting a score of five-over-par. Her best score was her performance at the Pat Bradley Invitational. She has already shot two individual rounds under 70 and is on pace to have another great year for FIU. The Panthers are going to need help from others besides MacLaren if they want to capture a Conference Championship. A lot of that help has to come from freshman Katerina Krasova. She’s tied for second best on the team with a 75.25 stroke average. She has played in all four tournaments and finished in the top 20 in three of them. Her best finish came at the Mary Fossum Invitational when she shot fifteen-over-par and tied for 13th place. Her best score came at the Johnie Imes Invitational when she shot five-over-par. She finished tied for 26th which turned out to be her worst finish to date.

Sophomores Coralia Arias and Camila Serrano have also been huge contributors to FIU’s success this year. Arias has the second lowest stroke average along with Krasova at 75.25. Serrano is not too far behind with a 75.58 stroke average of her own. Both have played in all four tournaments and have combined for four top 20 finishes. The best one came by Serrano when she finished in eighth place after shooting two-under-par at the Johnie Imes Invitational.

The road to a Conference Championship begins when they tee off at the Florida Challenge. They will face the best that the state has to offer; schools such as the University of Florida, Florida State University, the host school University of South Florida and local rival the University of Miami.

Panthers to face tough road test in Norfolk against Monarchs of Old Dominion University to end January

DAVID DRUCKER
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

The men’s basketball team (9-9) will travel to Norfolk, Va. to play Old Dominion University (15-2) on Thursday, Jan. 29.

The Monarchs, who were ranked for the first time in school history two weeks ago, will be looking to climb back into the top 25 while the Panthers will look to rise above .500.

Old Dominion’s path to success has been paved by solid defense and unselfish offense.

The Monarchs currently have the ninth best defense in college basketball, allowing 55.4 per game. They also rank in the top 75 in both offensive and defensive rebounds per game.

On offense, Old Dominion looks often to junior forward Trey Freeman (15.8 points per game). Junior guard Aaron Bacote is also a reliable scorer for the Monarchs with 10.2 points per game and a free throw shooting percent of .841 this year.

The Panthers are coming off of a 65-58 loss to the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers. Although the team has had good performances out of junior forward Davion Draper and senior guard Dennis Mavin, they struggled to break the Hilltoppers’ full press and ignite their offense in the second half.

Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. from the Ted Constant Convocation Center. Video coverage is available on Conference USA Digital Network. The Panthers will then continue their roadtrip against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte 49ers (8-10) on Saturday Jan. 31 at 7 p.m.
Marlins open Spring Training with game against FIU

JACOB SPIWAK
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

When Major League Baseball announced the official Spring Training schedule, it was confirmed that the Miami Marlins will be opening their season with an exhibition against the FIU Panthers baseball team.

The game will take place on Monday, March 2, at 1 p.m. at Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, FL, the home of Marlins Spring Training.

These games featuring pro and college teams are not uncommon, as other MLB teams will also be opening their exhibition slate against a college team.

The Marlins will be playing two collegiate teams, this game vs. FIU and another against the University of Miami the next day. In fact, this will not be the first time the Panthers and the Marlins have faced off. The two have opened Spring Training multiple times in the past, including a 2012 matchup that gave fans a sneak peek of the new Marlins Park. Despite some Panther players having this opportunity before, any experience playing a Major League ball club it’s a great thing for a team, especially for younger players who haven’t gotten the chance before.

While this will be the first game of the year for the Marlins, FIU’s season will be in full swing by the time March 2 rolls around.

The Panthers will be playing this game right in the middle of two key homestands, the first of which is against the Manhattan College Jaspers (a familiar opponent whom they swept in 2013), and the second against the University of Connecticut Huskies.

The game comes at a point in the season where the Panthers will be looking to gain some momentum to carry them toward a big series against UConn, and Conference USA play shortly there after.

Head Coach Turtle Thomas will lead the Panthers in year No. 8 at the helm. The Panthers open the season at home against the University of Tennessee on Feb. 13.

From Panthers to Panthers: House joins FIU after Pittsburgh

DAVID DRUCKER
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

Former University of Pittsburgh defensive coordinator and linebackers coach Matthew House has been hired by Panthers Head Coach Ron Turner to become the team’s next defensive coordinator.

House brings with him 15 years of coaching and tape analyzing experience.

House inherits a defense that ranked second in the nation in fumble recoveries and ranked fifth total takeaways in 2014. In the same year, House’s group at the University of Pittsburgh was ranked No. 33 in total defense – just two spots ahead of FIU’s own.

Josh Conklin, who coached the Florida International defense in the past two seasons, departed for the University of Pittsburgh earlier this month. Joining him was former linebackers coach Rob Harley, who spent just one year in Miami. Both coaches were hired to fill their same respective positions.

Matthew House was the defensive coordinator at the University of Pittsburgh for two years before joining the staff at FIU.

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University commemorates Cuban national hero

CAMILA FERNANDEZ

BCB Managing Editor

camila.fernandez@fiusm.com

As a Cuban patriot, a freedom fighter and poet, José Martí transformed Latin American literature and art, and was a key figure in his country's struggle for independence from Spain.

To honor the Cuban national hero, the University will host a 15th Annual José Martí Breakfast on Thursday, Jan. 29 at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

“We have never honored a Cuban person, but a Latin American person that was known and respected by Latin America,” said Raul Moncarz, University vice provost emeritus and starter of the event.

The breakfast event will also raise awareness about the José Martí Scholarship Fund for FIU students, as well as to collect donations for future scholarship recipients. Hundreds of dollars are awarded to winners.

According to Moncarz, this year’s commemoration will honor both the younger and older generations as an example of Martí’s respect for all ages.

For this reason, the University invited guest speakers疏 in collaboration with the Family, Friends and Comrades of José Martí to participate at the event. A student of a relative of Martí, Raul Bober will share her insight of her as a teacher and will also talk about her own involvement in the cuban community. She is also an artist, a writer and a painter.

As done in the past, the high school and middle school students will perform at the event with either a song or recitation of Martí’s poetry.

“Hopefully the young people will remember that not only do we honor them, but we also honor elderly people that have been very important in their lives,” Moncarz said. He made reference to Martí’s saying, “Los niños son la esperanza del mundo,” (meaning “the children are the hope of this world.”)

After singing the United States National Anthem, the Cuban National Anthem is also expected to be sung, a touching moment for everyone, Moncarz explained.

According to Marcy Alstrom, Student Government Association office assistant, what is most exciting about the event will be the unveiling of the newly installed José Martí statue at the Rincón Mariano near the Academic Two Building.

“We are very excited to have the unveiling of the statue as part of our program this year,” Alstrom said. “It’s something that we’ve been looking forward to for quite some time.”

The statue was donated by Cuban Ysmelio Lopez, who also donated a statue of liberty located on the FIU campus. It is said that a replica of the statue will also be placed at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

Fernando Ottati, graphic artist for BBC Campus Life and attendee of the event for the past few years, said that it is nice to see younger generations still reading Martí’s great works.

“We are all influenced by what he did and what he wrote,” said Ottati. “And [the children] read aloud what he did. It’s nice to see that,” he said.

Ottati said that as a young student in Uruguay, he remembers having studied Latin American writers, including Martí. He said his favorite poem is “La Niña de Guatemala” of which to this day he can still recite a part of: “Dícen que murió de frío. Yo sé que murió de amor,” meaning, “they say she died from cold, I know she died of love.”

The breakfast will be held at the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms from 8:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. The event is free and open to the public.

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