Florida Senate passes bill to stop texting and driving

By ALYSSA ELSE

A new ban on texting while driving has been introduced to the state Senate, aimed at preventing the 200,000 accidents that occur in Florida each year. The bill, sponsored by Jeffery Arias, a junior biology major, could make it illegal to text while driving.

Jeffery Arias, junior biology major, said, "The bill is a step in the right direction. I've personally seen the consequences of texting while driving, and I believe it's time for the state to take action." Arias emphasized the importance of educating drivers about the dangers of texting while driving.

The bill was introduced on April 16, and if passed, it would go into effect immediately. It is expected to be considered by the Senate Education Committee on April 23. If approved, it will be sent to the full Senate for a vote, and if passed, it will then move to the House of Representatives.

"This is a significant step towards reducing the number of accidents caused by distracted driving," said Senator Bobby Trujillo, who supports the bill. "It's time for us to recognize the seriousness of this issue and take proactive steps to ensure the safety of all Floridians."
Students becoming weary of false fire alarms

Diego Saldana-Rojas
Staff Writer

Students are paying less attention to fire alarms. Speculation is due to events in recent weeks, including the false alarms on April 1, students have become desensitized to fire alarms.

“If it happens to be a real fire no one is going to actually believe it. It’s the boy who cried wolf and so on,” senior geogaphy major Martin Busaca said. “I can understand a practical joke every now and again but when it comes to the safety of residents that just boils down to downright stupidity.”

University Chief of Police Alexander D. Casas noted that his department responds to every fire alarm as if there is a real fire despite the number of times or locations a fire may occur. “We are actually one of the few [police departments] that respond in emergency mode [lights and sirens],” Casas said.

Casas also noted that the majority of false alarms are related to actual incidents are small grease fires, smoking inside of buildings or carelessness around fire alarm springs. “However, many students are still unsure about how they feel when they hear the alarms go off because it might be an actual fire or a joke,” Casas said.

“They go off a lot. I don’t think they are drills,” junior international business major Mariana Hernandez said. “I feel they are people playing with the alarms. Honestly, I don’t feel safe. They go off so often that I can never tell if it’s a real drill or a joke.”

Casas gave an analogy to better explain why some students chose to ignore alarms, saying “How many times have you walked through a parking garage and heard a fire alarm go off and have paid attention to that?”

Still, some students feel that many people just disregard the alarms because of how often they have heard them go off throughout the semester. Many students are still weary of what will happen in the future.

“I don’t feel safe at all,” Hernandez said. “How will I know that it’s not a drill or a real fire if two times a week someone is pulling the alarm? It’s not just me what about everyone else.”

Additional Reporting by Heidi Reyes.

-interest rates could increase $345 per year-

Interest rates could increase $345 per year

Loans, Page 1

Students are still in school or during authorized periods of deferments. Students must demonstrate their financial need through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to be eligible to receive subsidized federal loans. Unsubsidized Stafford loans do not require students to demonstrate financial need to receive these loans, but the federal government does not subsidize the interest payments on these types of loans.

At FIU, 15,559 undergraduate students and 4,944 graduate, professional and law students used loans this school year, according to Director of Financial Aid Francisco Valines.

For undergraduate students, the subsidized Stafford loans disbursed have a fixed interest rate of 3.4 percent and the unsubsidized Stafford loans disbursed have an interest rate of 6.8 percent for the duration of the loan. Additionally, subsidized and unsubsidized loans have a loan fee of 1.0 percent of the principal amount of each loan that is borrowed.

Francesca Rosario, a sophomore majoring in journalism, has been taking out a subsidized loan each year. Rosario also receives scholarships, but needs loans to cover part of her tuition.

“I don’t like the idea of increasing the interest rates on loans,” said Connie Buitrago, a junior in criminal justice, who started taking subsidized loans this past fall semester.

“Buitrago does not think changing interest rates will prevent her from taking out another loan, because she pays them off before the semester ends.

“Buitrago indicated that the increase would only change Rosario’s idea of increasing the interest rates on loans, because she pays them off before the semester ends.

“Buitrago is going to actually believe it. It’s the boy who cried wolf and so on,” senior geogaphy major Martin Busaca said. “I can understand a practical joke every now and again but when it comes to the safety of residents that just boils down to downright stupidity.”

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Additional Reporting by Heidi Reyes.
Students’ differing rituals for final’s week

ASHLEY VALENTIN
Staff Writer

It’s final exams week and I’ve fully equipped my bank account to handle the burden of all the skinny triple shot white chocolate mochas I’m going to be inhaling like a druggie for the next few days to keep me awake.

This has become a ritual I cannot function without. Final exam rituals differ from student to student, but each one helps students get into the study groove.

First, there are the rituals to help you stay awake.

A lot of us stay up for days straight, pulling all-nighters in the hopes that we can learn months of material in just a few hours.

Some students like junior Olga Torres become addicted to caffeine. “When my anxiety is at an all-time high, I like to add to the anxiety by drowning myself in coffee,” Torres said.

Some students have been known to abuse Adderall pills to help them concentrate on final exams, often accompanied with energy drinks.

Finals week also has a dress code that students strictly adhere to, to be as comfy as possible for cram sessions.

The style is “just rolled-out-of-bed-looking-like-a-Walking Dead-cast-member-chic.” I refuse to come to school in anything but my comfiest sweats and shoes if I have finals. There’s no way I’m gonna wear some skin tight skinny jeans or worry about my makeup smearing when I have formulas to memorize! Ain’t nobody got time for that!

Then there’s the matter of stress. Personally, the way I deal with stress during finals week is by eating nauseating amounts of chocolate.

Other students however prefer a healthier way to burn off steam. “I exercise,” said junior law major Fiorella Vilchez. “Jogging helps me relax.”

Junior Krystal Valls said that getting massages helps keep her stress levels low. Junior Nixon Alcantara likes to go out with friends for drinks after exams so he can relax and get ready for the following break.

For some students, finals rituals are all about having a very controlled study environment. “I like to study in the same place every time so that I’m familiar with the environment,” said junior advertising major Gabriell Rodriguez gives himself a mantra: “Don’t take time for granted. I like to tell myself this. It helps put everything into perspective for me.”

I’ve seen kids bring good luck charms before an exam, some who claim that every time they wear their blue underwear they get an A, and some who pray vigorously to not forget everything when they see the exam sheet.

The most famous exam ritual for University students, however, is the spinning of the cube in front of DeSriene Maison. It’s supposed to give you luck on your exams if you spin it clockwise.

Nothing no matter if you’re injecting caffeine into your bloodstream, praying to the FIU gods, or procrastinating on tumblr, I wish you the best of luck on your exams. May the curse be forever in your favor!

vinsoN PRESSLEY
Staff Writer

There are thousands of people who work their butts off every day to make our college experience awesome and enjoyable.

These people work behind the scenes and quietly perform the tasks intricately necessary to keep our school up and running and to those people I say, “Thank You!”

Thank you, to the heroes who are responsible for maintenance and keeping our campuses clean and beautiful. Every single time I arrive on either campus early in the morning, the custodians are already hard at work making sure our campuses never lose their magnificent glow and excellence.

The floors are always spotless, there are never large piles of trash or trash bins overflowing anywhere on campus; I’ve never lost my appetite at the sight of unpleasant vermin hunting for food crumbs.

These heroes perform countless amounts of duties that make our lives much easier and allow us to focus on the harder things like exams and papers and lectures that never end.

Imagine rushing to the bathroom right before class and not being able to use it because the toilets were uncleaned, now you’re stuck holding it until after class or being late and running to find another restroom. Imagine trying to study for a midterm and having to move five feet every five minutes because the noise in every location was too much to endure.

These heroes perform vital functions that without them, I don’t think FIU would be able to run smoothly and accommodate such a large number of students.

Thank you, to the people who work tirelessly in the bookstores at the Biscayne Bay and Modesto Maidique campuses.

Carla Chauca, assistant manager of the bookstore at BBC said she tries to help students with the cost of textbooks by trying to get more used books in the bookstore.

She also mentioned that when a student needs a textbook that’s located at the other campus, rather than telling the student to make the long trip to MMC, she offers to have the book transferred from MMC to BCC and save the student a trip.

These heroes “go h.a.m” in helping us

The services that are performed by FIU’s heroes are worthy of constant praise.

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The people at the bookstore have remarkable qualities: their ability to serve an endless line of people and never lose their cool. I don’t think I would be able to handle a large line without getting frust-rated, but then a hero on a white horse comes along and wins the day.

Imagine rushing to the bathroom right before we cross paths, I will no doubt be able to run smoothly and accommodate such a large number of students.

The people at the bookstore have remarkable qualities: their ability to serve an endless line of people and never lose their cool. I don’t think I would be able to handle a large line without getting frust-rated, but then a hero on a white horse comes along and wins the day.

I could write a book on the countless efforts and contributions of all the heroes at FIU and how they make our lives on campus great but unfortunately I don’t have the space. I will say this though, to all the heroes who work at FIU that perform the tasks that in any way make our lives easier or help us, I profoundly appreciate your work and I hope that nothing but good things come your way.

The services that are performed by FIU’s heroes are worthy of constant praise and when we cross paths, I will no doubt show my appreciation for your work, thank you.

A ‘thank you’ to the unsung heroes of the University

VinSon PRESSLEY
Staff Writer

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Send us your Letters

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to our editor by e-mail or by our offices at either GC 110 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  www.fiusm.com  Friday, April 19, 2013
Papua New Guinea trip brings back more than research

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

This past March, University professor Tudor Parfitt traveled to Papua New Guinea to continue his research on the Gogodala tribe, which practice a form of Judaism and claim Isrealite descent.

In 2012, he was appointed President Navon Professor of Sephardic and Mizrahi Studies and SIPA Research Professor at the University. “This means I am interested in the Jewish world and particularly its oriental and African component,” said Parfitt.

This interest fueled Parfitt’s desire to travel to Papua New Guinea for the third time and expand his research on the Gogodala. Traveling with him this time was his wife, Gerald and Bonnie Sussman, a pair of married Rabbis, and a crew from External Relations that documented the 12-day journey.

Parfitt and company were also joined by five FIU students: graduate students Sabrina Diz and Olivia Autolino, undergraduates Kyle Decker and Keysel Pelaez and Honors College student Pablo Currea.

Religious studies students Sabrina Diz and Kyle Decker discovered new interests within their field while on the trip. “Sabrina Diz became very interested in medical and women’s issues,” said Parfitt. During the trip she organized an event that delivered supplies to a women’s shelter in the village.

Decker, who has a background in studying Hebrew with University professor Erik Larson, took a liking to Parfitt’s work and began researching the subject on his own while in Papua New Guinea. “Kyle Decker took an interest in my area of research and conducted a number of interviews on his own looking at the way in which the Jewish religion or aspects of it had been developed in the Gogodala tribe. He also conducted some classes in Hebrew,” Parfitt said. Apart from his studies, Decker also enjoyed a game of rugby with the tribe. “Olivia Autolino from the School of Education had an interest in missionary education among the tribe and how ritual was being used to transmit Jewish values,” Parfitt said. But during her time in Papua New Guinea, Autolino also got to show off one of her special talents by educating the Gogodala in a different way. “Olivia, who is an amazing dancer also presented a cup for the best Gogodala dance group.

In Papua New Guinea, graduate student Olivia Autolino presented a trophy to the best Gogodala dance group.

Parfitt referred to as “by far the coolest member of the expedition.” Biology student Keysel Pelaez traveled to Papua New Guinea to collect medical plants to study. But he wound up returning home with more than a few plant samples. “Keysel Marcel Pelaez won the hearts of the Gogodala tribe with his charm and energy,” said Parfitt. “One of the highights of the trip was a concert our crowd put on for the Gogodala people. Keysel had taken a banjo and ukulele - and he’s obviously set for a great career in music.”

While the students and crew each had their own memorable experiences, Parfitt said that the moment that will always stick with him will be when they finally had to leave Papua New Guinea. “The tears in the eyes of the Gogodala when we left the village in an army transport plane told me that the visit had been a success in human terms.”

For a greater look into the group’s trip to Papua New Guinea Parfitt said the release of the full documentary can be expected this fall.

Daniel Uria@fiu.am

Seniors advised: dress in comfort and confidence

Graduation is only days away for those few that have made it through four years of all-nighters, these papers and the all-around stress that comes with being a full-time student. But for seniors, that is all about to be over and soon they will venture out into the real world to apply what they’ve studied.

Summer is here, which means you should be spending your days tanning on the beach, window shopping on Lincoln Road and not waking up until after noon. For those of you seniors that are officially done with your final exams and just waiting until you get to walk down the aisles in your cap and gown, take this time to relax and breathe.

Undecided freshman, Tate Carroll, seemed to be embodying the carefree, confident and relieved spirit that all seniors should be feeling right about now in a full-length lilac dress. Its double tiered and pleated style made for great visual appeal when the wind blows, and not to mention airflow to the whole body during these scorching days.

“I feel fabulous and beautiful, not to mention comfortable. Comfort is key to me,” said Caroline. Who could blame her? All seniors should be taking a tip from Caroline’s selections of comfort. Why not be comfortable and feel fabulous and beautiful all at the same time?

For you men out there, take a look at finance major Lawrence Jiles’ sunny choice in apparel for inspiration. His preppy look is not only smart since he is wearing colors that won’t attract the sun, but he has managed to make it unique with the styling of a white beanie. His preppy look is not only smart since he is wearing colors that won’t attract the sun, but he has managed to make it unique with the styling of a white beanie. Ultimately, you want to find comfort and beauty, and always feel fabulous.

Ashley Garner@fiu.am

Contact Us

Eissy de la Moneda
Life! Editor
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Researchers in the University’s Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine have developed a new technique that can be used to deliver and release AZTTP, an anti-HIV drug, directly to the brain.

The technique is revolutionary because for years doctors and scientists that work with neurological diseases have been unable to get past the “blood-brain barrier.”

The barrier is a natural filter in the brain that prevents medicines from reaching the brain. Even though not all medicines are blocked from reaching the brain, most antiretroviral therapies that are used to treat HIV are deposited in other organs before they reach the brain. Antiretroviral therapies are treatments used to treat people infected with HIV by using a combination of three or more anti-HIV drugs, like AZTTP, to restraint HIV replication and lowering the likelihood that the virus will develop a resistance. These therapies help reduce mortality of HIV-infected people as well as improve their quality of life.

Thanks to the new delivery technique antiretroviral therapies will be more effective.

“I think it’s so exciting that we’re making such important breakthroughs here at FIU. This has the potential to save lives and improve the people’s quality of life significantly,” said Grettel Zubiaur, senior and journalism major.

Madhavan Nair, professor and chair of the College of Medicine’s Department of Immunology, and Sakhrat Khizroev, professor and vice chair of the same department, used magneto-electric nanoparticles to get past the “blood-brain barrier.” By using this method of delivery, the level of AZTTP delivered cells infected with HIV is up to 97 percent more.

“I’m sure this will even help reduce damage to the liver and other organs that are often negatively affected by increased amounts of medication,” said Omar Madrigal, senior and nursing major.

The technique developed at the College of Medicine attaches the anti-HIV drug to the magneto-electric nanoparticle which is then inserted into a type of white blood cell that is then injected into the body and travels to the brain where the drug is released by an electrical current.

This new delivery method is an exciting development because it has the potential to help with the treatment of other neurological diseases, including Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.

life@fiusm.com
New men’s basketball coach eager to lead program

JONATHAN JACOBSKIND
Asst. Sports Director

He picked up the phone on the first ring.

“Tell me about Anthony Evans’ initial reaction when he saw FIU Athletic Director Pete Garcia calling him for what eventually became the call that named him head coach of the men’s basketball team.”

Garcia introduced Evans in a press conference on April 16. The former Norfolk State University head coach was the favorite to win the job.

“We wanted somebody that was going to come in and build on the success we had last year,” Anthony Evans who we are introducing here today was the clear-cut choice,” Garcia said.

“I actually spoke with him last year and I am a big fan of him as well as what he was done at Norfolk State by going to the NCAA Tournament last year, the success he has by going undefeated in his conference, being coach-of-the-year and having the one of the biggest turnaround in [academic progress rate] scores. So, he gets it done both very well in the classroom and on the court.”

Evans is 99-94 overall at Norfolk State in six years as a head coach and is coming off a 21-12 record with no losses in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference boasting a 16-0 record.

Along with being given the nation’s top Division I coach as well as the Ben Jobe Award for the nation’s top minority coach. Evans was in serious consideration the last time this position was vacant, losing out to Head Coach Richard Pitino a year ago. Pitino is now heading the University of Minnesota program under a deal that FIU couldn’t match. At the time of press, Evans’ contract details were not available.

“I am extremely humble and grateful for this opportunity to take this basketball team to new heights. [FIU] is a sleeping giant and I am truly excited about this,” Evans said.

Evans wasted no time in talking to his new players and expressed the direction he plans on implementing for this program moving forward.

“Last night [April 15] I had the opportunity to meet with the team and I love their energy. Their message to me was that they wanted to continue to ride the success they had last year and I told them we will be able to do that,” Evans said. “We going to play a similar style and to be up-tempo and work hard, but I also told them if we’re going to do it on the court we need to do it in the classroom. We have raise our standards and understand that if we are going to push to be great basketball players, we need to push to be great students.”

Education and grades will play a huge factor during the Evans era, as the Panthers are facing a program moving forward.

“I am used to throwing something, but throwing what” Sullivan not even on the list. With the practice schedule being strained around a similar style and to be up-tempo and work hard, but I also told them if we’re going to do it on the court we need to do it in the classroom. We have raise our standards and understand that if we are going to push to be great basketball players, we need to push to be great students.”

Education and grades will play a huge factor during the Evans era, as the Panthers are facing a possible 2013-14 postseason ban after receiving low APR scores when the program was under the Isaiah Thomas regime two years ago. Evans dealt with similar sanctions during his tenure at Norfolk and pledged to raise the team’s grades along with their win total.

“It’s about implementing a plan that gets students to understand the importance to go to class,” Evans said. “I think that us putting a plan in place for student athletes and understanding the seriousness will help us improve.”

Norfolk State’s 2009-10 multi-year APR score of 894 resulted in the NCAA removing two scholarships and reducing the team’s practice time.

Evans’ team bounced back in 2010-11 with a 926. The 2011-12 scores are not available.

If current players transfer out because of the change of regime, it will negatively affect the program’s APR score.

Garcia reiterated the importance of education after Evans made a request for his players before the start of the press conference.

“Nobody wants to win more than myself, our president and our coaching staff. But we are a university and our number one business is to graduate these young men and even today before the press conference, Anthony told me to invite [the players], only, if they’re not supposed to be here. It helps,” Garcia said.

Additional reporting by Eduardo Almaguer
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Track and field athletes find their niche in throwing

RHYE WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

When you look on the roster for the overall track and field team, you will see freshman Nicole Chang listed at pole vault, junior Kim DeKrey under sprints, and Chris Sullivan not even on the list.

However, they have all found a true home in the throwing section of the team under the tutelage of Assistant Coach Ryan Heberling.

Sullivan started his freshman year as a preferred walk-on for the Panthers in football. Having been a premiere weapon for Cocoa Beach High School, in Cocoa Beach, Fla., at wide receiver, he took a backseat while medical redshirting for his freshman campaign last season.

Sullivan was a track phenomenon for the Minutemen of Cocoa Beach as a sprinter, but mostly on the field side as a high jumper. Still being a high jumper here, Heberling has been showing him how to throw the javelin throughout this current outdoor season for the Panthers.

“I played a little bit of quarterback in high school so I am used to throwing something, but throwing what is basically a weapon is kind of cool. There are a few major things that are different like the implement, the grip, and somewhat the motion,” Sullivan said. “I really just like doing whatever I can to help the team gets points because in the end that is what we are here to do.”

With the practice schedule being strained around because of final exams and classes, neither Chang nor DeKrey, both hammer throwers with the team, were available for comment about their plans with the team.

The Panthers will travel to the University of Florida for the Tom Jones Memorial Classic today. Next week, some of the team will travel to Philadelphia for the Penn Relays. After the relays, the team will begin preparations for their final Sun Belt Conference Championships, which begin on May 10 at the Ansin Sports Complex in Miramar, Fla.

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I’ve been two weeks since Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban raised eyebrows by saying he’d draft women’s college basketball superstar Brittney Griner in the NBA draft, and still no one gives the thought any serious merit.

Will women ever break the gender barrier and call themselves athletes in a men’s professional league? There is no doubt that women have made significant advances in joining and advancing in the professional workforce. Integrating themselves in professional sports dominated by men seems to be a whole other ballgame, however.

ESPN Women’s commentator Kate Fagan argues for a reality check. Even if a female athlete is talented enough to permeate a male sport, Fagan holds that breaking the gender barrier would mean that the best female athletes will now assume second-class status among stronger and heavier male athletes. There will never be that equal plane where you can judge both objectively.

Marita Davydova, a player on the University’s women’s basketball team, agrees.

“I don’t think that it could work. When I think about it, I just compare [Griner] with Lebron James and that won’t work,” Davydo- va said.

Since its establishment in 1972, Title IX has contributed to the increase in the quality of women’s athleticism. The result has been an increase in the number of women belonging to a pool of talented athletes that professional male league scouts can set their eyes on. The question becomes whether it is more desirable for those women to be considered the best players in a women’s professional league, or an average player on a men’s professional league.

Who was drafted as the top pick in the Women’s National Basketball Association from the Phoenix Mercury on April 15, will undoubtedly be the star player of the team, but even being considered an average player in the Mavericks would have been socially groundbreaking.

Then the role of what sports women can even join? Any excessive contact sport like football may be out of the question. Perhaps basketball? Maybe baseball?

But female athletes will need to over come much more social hurdles than physical ones to join a professional male league. It’s the minute things that will get magnified. How will showers work? Changing in the locker room? The notion of a physical barrier for women in a male locker room would be ironic.

When women display qualities that are normally associated with men, such as assertiveness and aggression, they are considered unfeminine. As a result, they lose their likeability.

In the world of sports, women face greater social stigma resulting from crit ics of being too masculine. As a successful female athlete, you can embrace your athletic talent but only at the expense of your sexuality being questioned.

If these deep-rooted social attitudes do not change, the only women we will continue to see on the field along side men will be cheerleaders, not equally deserving professional athletes.

Regardless of the strength and athletic ability of female candidates, this is a glass ceiling that even the most talented athletes will be unable to break through.

SPORTS

Breaking sports gender barrier, an impossible feat

Panthers bear their teeth when it comes to offense

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Staff Writer

You can be sure of two things at an FIU base ball game: good seats and a lot of offense.

FIU (20-16) is entering tonight’s matchup against Middle Tennessee State University (21-18) with one of the best offensives in the Sun Belt Conference. The Panthers rank in the top five in batting average (.298), slugging percentage (.449), runs scored (218), hits (573), runs batted in (348) and second in home runs with 34.

Leading this offensive charge for the Panthers is freshman Edwin Rios who has a .385 batting average with 34 RBIs and six home runs.

“Edwin is on a tear right now and he’s de fi ni tely one of the best hitters on this team,” catcher Aramis Garcia said. “The thing about Edwin is that he never lets anything bother him and that’s what makes him the man.”

Even Head Coach Henry Thomas has noticed just how impressive his freshman shortstop has been in this season, especially during the series finale against the University of Louisiana at Monroe where Rios drove in the go-ahead run to open the floodgates for the Panthers.

“He got a huge hit when the score was 4-4 and he hit a three run shot that put us up 6-4 and that was a big deal,” Thomas said. “He certainly swung the bat well and he’s maturing at the plate.”

Garcia is not too far behind Rios himself with a .331 batting average and 31 RBIs with seven home runs, one of which was a grand slam against the Warhawks.

“It had been a rough day for me at the plate before that last at bat,” Garcia said. “I was just not trying to press, see my pitch and put a good swing on it and that’s what I was able to do.”

However, Rios knows that individual numbers mean nothing in the big picture and that it’s all about racking up as many wins as possible.

“We were down in the conference and we were just trying to win, trying to get ahead and win a series,” Rios said. “I’ve just been able to really be seeing the ball good lately so I’m just trying to put a bat on the ball.”

Rios also understands the importance of consistency and becoming a creature of habit, never letting a bad game change his approach to the plate.

“It’s just a matter of hard work and concent ra tion,” Rios said. “I just try to think the same thing as I go to the plate. It’s not change and if I have a bad game I just throw it away and just go on to the next day and do my best.”

Thomas, understands that his offense is not going to come every inning and that sometimes his team just needs a little wake me up call to snap out of a slump. Just like when FIU was down against the Warhawks in the series finally until the seventh inning came around.

“Well we didn’t hit much for about six innings and finally in the seventh inning some things started clicking,” Thomas said. “But the bottom line is you play nine innings, you don’t play three, four or six innings.”

The bottom line is you play nine innings and it’s the final score at the end of nine innings that counts and it doesn’t matter when you get them just as long as you get them.

Law professor campaigning for Dolphins Stadium

VICTORIA RONDEROS
Staff Writer

College of Law professor H.T. Smith has been appointed co-chair of Friends of Miami First, a political action committee by the Miami Dolphins.

The committee aims to convince voters of Miami-Dade County to approve tax-subsidized renovations of Sun Life Stadium. The legislation, however, would force Miami-Dade County to increase its hotel tax rates and state sales-tax subsidies. According to Smith, these renovations will benefit the county.

“We’ll have 4,000 construc tion jobs and we’ll have up to 400 million dollars of economic benefit,” said Smith.

Seventy percent of jobs would go to Miami-Dade residents and the Dolphins have guaranteed four Super Bowls over the next 30 years which would provide economic development, according to Smith.

According to The Miami Herald, Miami-Dade lawmakers are uneasy about the legislation. Some think that the Dolphins will only pay back a small portion of the funds if legislation passes. Some think that the Dolphins will follow the footsteps of the Miami Marlins and will not be able to pay back taxpayers after the contract expires.

Smith said if legislation passes and renovations bring profits, the Dolphins will pay back the people of Miami-Dade for their invest ments. The Dolphins also stated that if it does not meet promises made and if any of the money goes to the people.

This agreement is the best in the country, said Smith. The Marlins deal was so bad that people are rightly outraged. The Dolphins deal is totally different. It had to be different, to protect the taxpayers.

Smith, who teaches civil liti gation and criminal procedure, has been working closely with the Dolphins since 1995. With the help and contributions from the National Football League and the Dolphins during the 1995 Super Bowl, Smith was able to build and open the NFL Youth Educa tion and Town youth center in Liberty City.

Smith’s long-time partner and the Dolphins has made him an advocate for the franchise.

“We know what fine, corporate citizens [the Dolphins are]. They just raised four million dollars for the Sylvester Cancer Center to help save people’s lives. And I know, as a taxpayer, what a good deal [the renovations are]. This is going to be a very tough campaign, but I believe it’s right, and I have always fought for what is right,” said Smith.

The ballot for the renovations will be April 23. Early voting begins April 9, and the official referendum will be May 14. If passed, renovations will begin this fall and Smith states that the project should be completed within 22 to 24 months.

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Hospitability’s festival raises $2.1 million

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Staff Writer

After the four long days full of hard work for students and celebrity chefs alike, the University was able to take home a total of $2.1 million from the South Beach Wine and Food Festival this year.

According to Richard Lopez, Student Associate Program manager for SOBEWFF, 1,303 students from the University worked at the festival this year; 500 more students than last year.

“We had 2,000 people register but we only had 1,303 involved so that means that SOBE is really starting to become an exclusive event for top students,” said Lopez. “We’re only picking the best talent that the University has to offer.”

Senior in hospitality management, Jennifer Martinez, said she worked six days for SOBEWFF this year in a culinary position.

Martinez said it was fun working at the festival and the main thing she would improve would be the process of checking in and out. “We’d be done and we’d still have to wait like an hour or two to be checked out or we would come in at 5 and the event wouldn’t start until 10 and we’d just be sitting around.”

Martinez hopes to do event planning when she graduates and feels the festival helped her with timeliness, working at events with guests and quality control.

Another student who worked at SOBEWFF, Claudia Vera, junior in hospitality management, said, “I thought it was really great because I got to meet a lot of people.” Vera said she really enjoyed working at the Wine Seminars and thought it was really organized and well prepared.

Pertaining to improvements she feels the festival could make, Vera said, “I think I would change the way they distribute the workload because I think people didn’t know exactly what they had to do.”

Students are already able to register to work at SOBEWFF in 2014. Lopez said next year he hopes to include video capturing of students. “I want to be able to see what the students are growing and learning from, live, like in real time,” said Lopez. “It’s very difficult to kind of get your hands around the experience that is SOBEWFF because there’s so many things going on at the same time and it’s such a fast-paced environment.”

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Possible electronic paper grading scares some students

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To those students and professors that are used to online grading programs like Turnitin and Blackboard, electronic grading and assessment has approached a new level of efficiency with the introduction of the Edx, a non-profit enterprise founded by Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Edx consists of an online program that receives essays and grades them, returning immediate feedback to the student. The student then has an opportunity to improve his or her answers for resubmission. According to The New York Times, Edx was designed with the intention of relieving stress from the teacher. Both faculty and students seem to think otherwise.

Stephanie Piedrahita, freshman communication arts major, said the program devalues the education profession.

“Only a teacher can know the capabilities a student has,” Piedrahita said. “The biggest advantage I can see with the Edx is the fact that the percentage of human error would decrease. Papers would not be misplaced and students wouldn’t have to worry about bias from the professor.”

Though Piedrahita acknowledged the advantages of the program, her apprehension was not swayed.

“We don’t come here to depend on an electronic system to tell us the worth of our intelligence. I want to hear from someone who has experience that can give me personalized feedback. Well-thought-out responses really come from a human,” said Piedrahita.

Arlene Roger, sophomore international business major, also believes that Edx would be defeating the purpose of the professor’s job. “It may be good for teachers, but while teaching is a part of the job, the other part involves grading and evaluating essays. I wouldn’t consider a grade from that computer program authentic,” Roger said.

Roger also stated that while a computer can detect logic (logos) and credibility (ethos), it would be incapable of identifying emotions (pathos). “You should be writing to an audience that will be responsive to the emotional appeal, not a computer program,” Roger said.

Professor Karl Klint of the English department shared similar opinions about Edx.

“Programs like this have come up before, but they can’t do everything that a professor is capable of doing,” said Klint.

According to Klint, implementing the Edx system into the education system would promote language bias.

“America has multiple forms of English. Teaching English in Minnesota and in Miami is different. Here, in some cases, English is a secondary language,” Klint said.

Klint added that the program would not be able to understand the localisms of the student because it is not personal.

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Before your test, take a trip to the Wild Wild West

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Contributing Writer

Students can bring their cowboy hats and appetites to the Wild Wild West event on Monday, April 22 at 10 p.m. The midnight breakfast will take place in the Wolfe University Center at Biscayne Bay campus.

Campus Life is holding the midnight breakfast event for students as a way to relieve any stress before their finals.

There will be massages, line dancing, laser tag, paper critiques and a costume contest.

“We wanted to keep an academic setting, since finals are during that week,” said Claribel Azcona, graduate assistant at Campus Life-BBC.

There will be graduate assistants from career services to polish and make the finishing touches on any resumes and papers. Students have due during the week of finals. The graduate assistants from career services will be available in WUC 152.

“We understand that there are finals the next day and students may want to be studying, so it’s beneficial to have the graduate students at career services available to critique resumes and papers,” said Azcona.

The midnight breakfast will be provided by Aramark. During the event, the students may dress up as cowboys and cowgirls to participate in the costume contest.

According to Azcona, three winners will be announced in which first, second and third place will be awarded to the students who dress the best. A DJ from the Round Up Country Western Nightclub in Davie, Florida, will be teaching line dancing in Panther Square.

The laser tag will be in WUC 221 and WUC 223. There will be digital pictures of the Wild West and props in the rooms.

The massages, provided by the Wellness Center at BBC, are for any students who are stressed from the week of finals to relax and will be available in WUC 155. “We are really excited for this event! We hope to see a lot of students participate,” said Azcona.

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