Dean of Libraries relaxes rules on student snacking

KATHERINE LEPRI Staff Writer

After an unpopular pilot program over the summer that barred food and drink from the Green and Hubert Libraries, students can once again eat while they cram for their exams, but with a few added caveats.

“I think we all recognized that our students are often working under a lot of pressure, and that they have a lot of competition, and are trying to make the most of their time,” said Dr. Anne Prestamo, dean of libraries, about the new policy that allows some types of snacks.

“We’re asking for students to be responsible, to help us try to minimize incidents and accidents that occur around food and to limit what they bring into the library to light snack foods and not drippy, messy, unclean foods.”

This past June, Thomas Breslin, professor of Politics and International Relations who acted as interim dean of libraries, implemented a strict no food and drink except water policy in the library that irked many of the 50,000 student body who spent multiple hours a day in the facilities.

Commuters face rising gas prices around both campuses

MARIA BRITOS Staff Writer

The recent spike in gas prices can convince any student to skip class and save a trip to campus.

For students attending Modesto Maidique Campus, the Shell gas station on Southwest 8th Street charges $3.41 per gallon for regular, as compared to the BP station on Southwest 139th Avenue that charges $3.69 a gallon.

A Chevron station located on North east 167th Street and Sixth Avenue has even been spotted charging a burdensome price of $4.85 per gallon of regular gasoline, according to a report by the Miami Herald.

As a commuter school, a large proportion of students are left worried with the idea of rising gas prices when tuition costs, among other expenses, need to be covered as well.

“The higher prices for gas makes it difficult to travel to school,” said Kenny Falcon, a junior business administration major. “It is so frustrating because as a college student, I make very little income and worrying about living costs is hard enough.”

Other students shared Falcon’s sentiment, like Maria Sandoval, a sophomore majoring in international relations.

“With the higher gas prices, I end up having to take fewer classes in order to have enough money to get around,” Sandoval said.

The total undergraduate population who live off campus and commutes to the University is estimated at 93 percent.

According to the recent 2012 Common Data Set researched by the Office of Planning and Institutional Research, transportation expenses for commuter students at the University is estimated at about $2,850 yearly if these students live at home or on their own.

Dino Siervo, professor of Economics, said that oil prices are slightly higher in Florida than in other states because of the lack of oil pipelines. Therefore, the cost of transportation is an added factor displayed in the rising gasoline prices.

The Syrian conflict is another increasing factor on the rising of oil prices. Although Syria is not a major oil producer, the United States’ conflict and possible nuclear attack could reduce the production of oil and slow shipping transportation in the Middle East, according to the Associated Press.

As of Sept. 16, the North Miami Beach Chevron gas station still holds the highest retail gas price in the area.

Ibargüen is also a member of the boards of PepsiCo, American Airlines and AOL, and is a member of the Secretary of State’s Foreign Policy Advisory Committee. Additionally, Ibargüen will be giving the keynote address at the event.

This year, the Center for Leadership honors president of Knight Foundation

ALONSO MONTANO Contributing Writer

This October, the Center for Leadership is hosting The Chapman Leadership Honors, an annual event that recognizes distinguishable individuals who have made important contributions in business leadership and community building.

Every year at the event, the Center for Leadership presents the Transcendent Leader Award.

The award honors a person who has made significant contributions to the community and our society at large. This year, the award will be presented on Oct. 3 to Alberto Ibargüen, president and CEO of Knight Foundation.

“It’s a tremendous honor,” said Ibargüen. “This event is named after somebody who was a hero, a mentor and a friend.”

Ibargüen is also a member of the boards of PepsiCo, American Airlines and AOL, and is a member of the Secretary of State’s Foreign Policy Advisory Committee. Additionally, Ibargüen will be giving the keynote address at the event.

“The award is presented to Ibargüen this year because of his work with different media throughout his life,” said Garth Headley, associate director at the Center for Leadership. “But it’s not just about the companies he works for, it’s also about the work he does for the community which reflects a greater good, a greater interest in moving Miami forward.”

As president of Knight Foundation, Ibargüen helps endorse ideas that promote quality journalism, media innovation, engage communities and support the arts. By fostering these initiatives, the foundation seeks to sustain a just democracy where people are well informed and able to actively be involved in the community.

“The role of citizens is the best role you can play. The more engaged and the more informed you are, the more fulfilling it is [the role of citizens]; the more involved you are the better it is for the community,” said Ibargüen. “When you have a really engaged and well informed society is when you have the best kind of representative government.”

Ibargüen has also dedicated much of his life to philanthropic and charitable work. He served in the Peace Corps in Venezuela’s Amazon territory and was the Peace Corps Programming and Training Officer in Colombia.

In addition to the Transcendent Leader award, a second award will be presented during the ceremony.

The first annual Emerging Leader Award will recognize younger leaders who are improving communities by generating original and groundbreaking solutions to business and social challenges.

The recipient of the Emerging Leader Award will be announced during the event. The annual Chapman Leadership Honors will be in the Graham Center Ballrooms on Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m.

It is an open event, but anyone wishing to attend must first register online at lead.fiu.edu.

“Even though this event is not open to the public, we hope the students who come and participate will feel a sense of pride and joy.”

NEWS@FIUSM.COM
Libraries lift ban on food and drinks after survey

While some students criticized the decision to bar food and drinks from the library, the management argues it was necessary to maintain a clean and conducive learning environment.

**LIBRARIES, PAGE 1**

**The FIU Libraries LibQUAL+ report, which evaluated the Green Library, Hubert Library, and Engineering Library services, will be published later this year.**

The new stricter policy had a popular appeal among staff that had found students eating pizza and having birthday parties in the study area. Some students believe that this policy was too much.

"I think it's a mistake, to have done what she did, to relax the rules. I think she will find that it will come back to bite her."

**Vorov represented a significant percentage of students who spent hundreds of hours every semester studying for exams, researching for papers or meeting with study groups that manage their limited time by eating meals in the library.**

"I started seeing people eating in the library and I found it disgusting," said Sigfredo Romero, a second-year student, who had not heard of either policy.

But after seeing fellow students eat, while they were studying, it changed his mind, and Romero began to treat himself to a snack or a drink while he prepared for class.

"I saw that everybody used to do it, so I started doing it," Romero said.

The new policies at the library currently permit most snack foods and drinks including chips, nuts and library-specific beverages. Library patrons are also requested to use spill proof containers for all drinks. If a student is found eating something other than snacks, security and staff will politely ask them to find a more appropriate place in the library or to put it away.

"It's a mistake, to have done what she did, to relax the rules," said Bruselin, who has been working for the university since 1976, of the new dean's decision to allow some eating inside the libraries. "I think she will find that it will come back to bite her."

Bruselin said that Prestamo’s relaxation of the food and drink ban was a bad decision and will eventually lead to the deterioration of resources at the library. "The students are the biggest users of the library," Prestamo said. "We like to work in partnership with our students and be sensitive to the needs of our students as much as we can."

Library officials agree that everyone that utilizes the library system should be responsible to take care of the resources which are funded by both state and student fees. Overall, the library system has a consid-

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Atlantic University, which has implemented a course that discusses the law and its effects.

The introduction of such a course is quite beneficial, not just to law students at FAU, but also to residents of the state of Florida at large. The reasoning behind such a presumption is two-fold. First, it will be the precursor to the provertial conversation on race that so many have called for. Those who believe that ‘Stand Your Ground’ hurts minorities will come face-to-face with those who believe it helps them.

And the superficial part is that this will be unaffected by any shaky editing and twisting by any mainstream news network. Students of diverse backgrounds and perspectives will each have a seat at the table on this conversation on race, and how it relates to ‘Stand Your Ground.’

No pandering or screaming, just academic conversation.

Second, it helps students understand what the law means for them and the community. Zimmerman notwithstanding. They will realize how such a law may empower them to defend themselves and their loved ones, regardless of their skin color, against an aggressor.

No longer does a woman have to worry about walking to her car, alone and defenseless, at night. No longer does a man have to worry about being unable to protect his family from an assailant simply because he is a few miles away from home.

Some may say that the law should be completely wiped out from the books because it allegedly promotes a violent culture. However, this argument is fallacious in the sense that it assumes that all those who defend themselves are eager to do so. Quite the contrary, many who defend themselves only believe in using violence as a last resort.

The Zimmerman case is complex, and so are the arguments regarding the ‘Stand Your Ground’ law. But this should not deter academics from discussing the issues and looking at them from multiple angles.

I commend FAU for opening a class such as this, and I look forward to the day that FAU introduces a seminar, as suggested in a recent student media article, on the topic.

-RAUL HERRERA

Contributing Writer

In a speech given at the University of Buffalo last month, President Obama discussed the creation of a federal college ranking system that would, in theory, help students make the right choice when it comes to higher education.

Instead of relying on annual rankings, like the one by US News & World Report, which lists universities as “best” or “worst,” students would be able to evaluate postsecondary institutions by relating financial aid to college cost, considering average student loan debt, graduation and transfer rates and amount of degrees earned.

According to the President, “private rankings…encourage colleges into gaming the numbers and raising costs.” It’s not an isolated opinion, certainly.

In the race to see which institution is going to make it to the top, which will be considered poor in academics, many universities take advantage of students by raising costs and diminishing opportunities. It is more like a game of prestige and fame, rather than a true depiction of what universities can offer to students.

There are many aspects to be considered when choosing an institution of higher learning. For example, a university that offers an outstanding program for your degree but that is not on the higher section of a private ranking shouldn’t be automatically discarded from your list. It’s far more important to believe that Zimmerman was attacked and ethnically mislabeled by the media for being Hispanic. Those who are outraged about black-on-white crime.

What should a college be known for?

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Contributing Writer

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What should a college be known for?
Why I’m going through Panhellenic recruitment

COLUMNIST

ALEYS TOLEDO

When I began my academic journey into higher education in 2010, I initially believed that the “college experience” would happen to me on its own. Granted, my ideas of what comprised the ultimate college experience were only what I had seen in movies or the stories my older cousins shared with me. None of these served as accurate depictions of what I would be experiencing when I embarked on this new stage of life.

I am only one member of my immediate family who has been to college. My parents, both Cuban immigrants, never had the chance to pursue higher learning due to a dictator- ship that almost decided for them, anyway. My brothers, born and raised in this country, decided early on not to go to college. They have been resourceful and successful in their endeavors without a degree. Although bringing without a degree has worked out for them, the importance of having a college education has been instilled in me from a young age.

I didn’t have any perspective of what to do while I was in school, so I didn’t know that college was something more than being a learner.

Freshman year, I thought about studying psychology, but soon realized I have better potential in the communications field. By the second semester of my freshman year, I declared a major in public relations. Adjusting to the rhythm of college was easy. The challenges I have faced only been on a more personal aspect. Isn’t college supposed to be a place where I meet fascinating people and make lifelong friends, discover who I am and what I want, but it is the place where I can try new things, fail miserably and then try something else? Why have my memories only been about late night cramming at the library?

It took me a long time to realize that the “college experience” I had heard about and longed for does not just happen. In a school of about 50,000 students, no one is going to come to me and hand me the “college experience” on a silver platter. I became stagnant and I felt like I was missing out on something great.

It took me until my junior year to branch out. I had been stuck in a dark, stationary bubble that was on the verge of popping into nothingness. The French have a word for this: ennui. Ennui is an overwhelming feeling of nothingness. Finally, I was done living with ennui and done waiting for something to happen.

Slowly but surely, I took my step towards my “college experience” getting involved. I decided to merge my love for writing into my need to be a part of something, so I applied to write for The Beacon. When I’m working on an article or story about the University, I’m learning more about my school and what it can do for me. As soon as I started actively writing and meeting people who shared the same interest, I felt a sense of belonging. It makes me feel comfortable, productive and fulfilled.

Now, I decided to go even further outside of my comfort zone and join a sorority. Misconceptions and stereotypes of sorority girls held me back from participating at the start of college, but after much consideration, I am motivated to at least give it a try and go through recruitment. Believe me when I say that this will be the most uncomfortable I have ever been. To willingly walk into a room full of women who are judging me is something that scares me to the core.

So why am I doing it? Because it’s an insecurity I don’t want to live with. I don’t want to be stuck and have I’ve learned that pushing myself to do something I am unsure of will propel me forward.

My purpose in writing this is to remind myself and others of what it’s like to be on the verge of something greater than oneself. Maybe you are in a sorority or an alumni, or maybe you are someone, like me, who needs an extra push to go for something that scares you.

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ANDRE PORTUONDO
Asst. Entertainment Director

The Wynwood Art District’s walls and streets will come to life on Thursday, Oct. 3, through Saturday, Oct. 5, as III Points Festival: Music, Art and Technology makes its debut and takes over the neighborhood.

The 3-day music event will feature big name acts such as DJ Shadow, Jamie XX, XYYXX, Lizzo, Lorde and Love Affair, Juan Atkins, Miami Horror, Jacques Greene and more. The festival SoundSystem as just as some of the acts headlining various shows in a South by Southwest style festival.

The festival gets its name from the three things it intends to promote: art, music and technology equality.

The three-day event will feature local artists, barbeque events – hosted by record labels Young Turks and DFA Records, both independent record companies – and various events.

Activities will be related to technology- and music-production, hosted by some of the festival’s headliners and other local film, technology and cultural organizations.

Of over 20 activities, some will be hosted by The LAB Miami and the David Lynch Foundation. In a Miami New Times article that initially announced the event, David Sinopoli, Bardot music coordinator and one of the festival creators, stated that “we want to do a conference, we want to have a conversation, we want to have an intellectually stimulating thing. But it doesn’t necessarily have to be somebody preaching on a panel. It can be us all engaging in an experience-based event.”

All-access passes are approximately $125 with individual performance tickets available between $30-$70.

More information is available at their website, iiiipoints.com.

Students can follow their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to keep up with events details.

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LIFE!

NEW BENCHES

Stevie Wise/For Beacon

Niko Sanchez, sophomore in criminal justice and Kevin Paz, freshman in computer engineering, waited to be the first to test out the new swinging benches put in front of DML Tuesday.

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“Touchy Feely,” just another indie disappointment

COLUMNIST

JUAN BARQUIN

Much like massage therapy, there’s an almost soothing presence to Lynn Shelton’s latest film that leaves one longing to fall asleep right where they’re seated. Sadly, unlike massage therapy, that’s a big problem for a film like “Touchy Feely” to have.

The film follows the lives of a massage therapist and those around her, all of whom seem to be striving for some semblance of happiness in their lives. Some hit roadblocks, with therapist Abby (Rosemarie DeWitt) finding herself developing an aversion to touching anyone’s skin that makes getting physical with her clients and boyfriend Jesse (Scot McNairy) impossible. Others flourish all of a sudden, like brother DeWitt and McNairy relegated to uncomfort- able glances while Pais turns out a surpris- ingly decent comedic performance.

It’s up to the supporting players to save the film and they can only do so much to dull the pain of a bad massage. Alongside Pais, Allison Janney makes it her goal to bring out the laughs as a new-age healer, leaving Ellen Page to pick up any emotional pieces left to her by Shelton’s tiresome tale.

Page’s acting here is a far cry from her emotionally-charged work in “The East” this year, but she still somehow manages to bring something compelling to an otherwise lacking narrative.

Her barely-there subplot with Scot McNairy, an unrequited romance of the indiest kind, is one of the most interesting features of “Touchy Feely,” even though it ends up in as much disappointment as the rest of it.

As interesting as Lynn Shelton’s premise and cast were, “Touchy Feely” never manages to get past its narrative shortcomings, leaving it to fall into the same trapings as most indie films.

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FIU getting the right mindset for Louisville

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

With a 0-3 start, some feel this is the stages of a rebuilding period. Injuries, however, are a concern for the team as Mike Medlock, the only returning starter on offense, has suffered late in the fourth quarter of the loss to B-CU. Head Coach Ron Turner went into detail Wednesday about practice.

"I have not heard anything official yet but he didn’t practice today and it is not looking good for Saturday, but I haven’t ruled him out yet," Turner said.

Medlock is not cleared to play then E.J. Hilliard will get his first start of the 2013 campaign. This will come against his former Northwestern High School teammate in Cardinals quarterback Teddy Bridgewater, who is in the running for the Heisman trophy this season.

In his press conference, Cardinals Head Coach Charlie Strong addressed questions about the game Saturday with the Panthers coming to play.

"I didn’t show film from two years ago to my players now. It’s a different coaching staff and a different team from two years ago. You look at two years ago and T.Y. Hilton was there and now he’s playing for the Indianapolis Colts. He caught those two big passes," Strong said. "I think about this also: we would’ve beat Kentucky two years ago and then we came home and lost to Marshall. That’s what we can’t let happen. We can’t have that lie down where we’re coming back home where we’re going to have a great crowd. Our fans did an unbelievable job following us to Lexington. We’re coming back home and we’re going to have a good crowd here."

He also addressed the new coaching staff of the Panthers and how some of his team knows some of the roster for the Panthers, while knowing that the Cardinals recruit heavily in the Miami area. There are 37 players on the roster from Florida, 16 from the Miami area alone.

"I do not know their staff. I knew Mario Cris-tobal when he was there."

As the Panthers continue their 2013 season, questions of the teams mindset is called into question.

There is a process when you have a bad football team on your hands.

First, you get a little disappointed that the team is expected to be awful. Second, you realize first hand how bad that team is and you partake in the bashing of a downward team. And finally, you open your eyes in a moment of realization and figure out that if the team will ever prosper again, they must continue to be awful for the foreseeable future.

Ever hear the saying, “It’s always darkest before dawn?”

Well that’s my point exactly. The football team is 0-3. They got blown out by an above average ACC team in Maryland 43-10. They got shutout by in-state rival UCF 38-0. And maybe there are a few glimpses of light shining on this team. The B-CU game was a coming out party for T.J. Lowder, who caught six passes for 125 yards and a touchdown. Maybe, just maybe he’s the second coming of another famous two-intiated first name wide receiver who once donned the Panthers colors. The guy I am talking about, T.Y. Hilton, once torched Louisville for some 200 plus total yards on route to probably the biggest win in FIU football history.

With the 100-yard performance last week, Lowder became the first FIU receiver since Hilton to have a 100-yard game by his third career start. Freaky ain’t it.

Lowder, who was a true freshman when Hilton was a senior in 2011, has kept in touch with the Indianapolis Colts star in order to get help on how to become a better player. Well, at least last week it looked like whatever Hilton has been preaching, Lowder has been listening.

Lowder has a ton of upside. He’s just a redshirt sophomore and still has two years to hone in on his craft and become that unstoppable force that Hilton once was for the Panthers.

And if he ever wanted to be "The man," like Hilton was, there could not be a better stage to do it on than against Louisville on Saturday. Remember, that was the same stage T.Y. once took and he took the Cardinals by storm.

Joel/fiucardinals.com

The Cardinals come into the FIU game 3-0, with wins over Ohio, Eastern Kentucky and Kentucky. Now those are not names to be impressed with whatsoever but it is not whom they have beaten that is impressive, but the way they have beaten these teams. The Cardinals have allowed a combined 27 points in their first three games. In comparison, the Panthers have allowed a combined 115 points through their first three contests.

My point is the Cardinals are way, way, way better than anything FIU has seen this year and that this game could be the darkest moment in the Panthers season.

But remember, it’s always darkest before the dawn.

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And if he ever wanted to be "The man," like Hilton was, there could not be a better stage to do it on than against Louisville on Saturday. Remember, that was the same stage T.Y. once took and he took the Cardinals by storm.
After an offseason where the men’s basketball team had to deal with an Academic Progress Rate score scandal, the loss of their head coach and some players transferring out of FIU, the Panthers now turn their attention to the upcoming 2013 season.

The 2013-14 schedule was released on Sept. 16 and announced by new Head Coach Anthony Evans. The upcoming schedule will include a couple of notable names including the NCAA National Champions Louisville Cardinals on Dec. 21 and last year’s Cinderella story Florida Gulf Coast, also known as Dunk City, on Dec. 7. The Cardinals visit to FIU will be the first time a defending national champion has played against the Panthers on their home court.

Evans knows just how tough the upcoming season will be with a schedule that features 11 teams which saw postseason tournament action last season.

“This year’s schedule will be a good test for our team,” said Evans in a FIU Athletics press release. “With it being our first year in Conference USA and the quality non-conference opponents we will be facing, I expect this to be a challenging yet exciting season. The year will be fun and entertaining for not only our team, but our fans as well.”

The season will kick off at the Kennesaw State Tournament on Nov. 8 and will finish up on Nov. 12. After the Panthers finish up the four-team tournament in Kennesaw Ga., they will head back to the Lime Court at the U.S. Century Bank Arena to tip off their home opener against Florida College.

The back-to-back NCAA tournament teams will close out 2013, prior to the New Year.

FIU will wrap up the 2013-14 season with Scour Day on March 2 when they host Tulane, followed by a March 6 matchup against in-state rival Florida Atlantic in Boca Raton.

Nasty weather plaguing NFL, causing concerns for players

BARRY WILNER
AP Writer

Nasty weather often plagues the NFL. Everyone knows about the Lambeau tundra or the whipping winter winds off Lake Erie in Cleveland. But for Mother Nature to wreak havoc with games in September? That doesn’t bode well for the rest of the season.

Already, three games, including two in prime time, have been disrupted by weather issues, mostly lightning. Kickoff for the Ravens-Broncos opener to the season on Sept. 5 in Denver was delayed for 33 minutes. On Sunday, New Orleans’ visit to Tampa Bay was interrupted for two turnarounds and a weather delay.

Panthers embrace challenges of new schedule and Conference USA

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Sports Director

It’s an awkward process for game officials told the teams according to coach Pete Carroll, according to coach Pete Carroll, according to coach Pete Carroll, according to coach Pete Carroll, according to coach Pete Carroll, according to coach Pete Carroll, according to coach Pete Carroll, according to coach Pete Carroll, according to coach Pete Carroll, according to coach Pete Carroll.

“Last night, it was tracking of heavy action, they not only have to stop playing for a lengthy break, but then need to fire up their engines again.

“I’ve never had a rain delay, ever, in football,” Saints safety Malcolm Jenkins said. “It was kind of one of those things, you don’t want to do too much and wear yourself out. We sat around a little bit and once they gave us the signal (to return to the field), we started to warm up again and go over some last minute checks and started over.

“We did the same pregame ritual that we usually do, just restated the whole process.”

Seattle’s coaches reviewed the TV teams, and we go through our meteorological services and the services the stadium uses. Safety is paramount.”

Lightning is the biggest worry because it’s so unpredictable and dangerous, K ensl said. The NFL and stadium authorities track any storm that includes lightning, and when it gets within 5 miles, meteorologists try to predict its path toward the stadium.

“Last night, it was tracking to come right over the stadium,” K ensl added. “We knew within a mile and a half of the stadium we would have to clear the field. As we were clearing the field, we had a bolt of lightning somewhere (nearby).

Scoreboard messages, public address system announcements and word of mouth all are used to clear a stadium. Fans generally are sent to covered corridors or even into lounges until the storm clears the area. It’s an awkward process for several times they would be heading back to the field, only to further delay resuming play. Seattle’s coaches reviewed the TV teams, and we go through our meteorological services and the services the stadium uses. Safety is paramount.”

“Absolutely we did,” Carroll said. “It was a great opportunity for us; I’m sure they were doing the same thing. We did all kinds of things in all phases where it was needed. We coached throughout the time, other than when thereeze was blaring in the locker room.”

Sean Payton and his New Orleans staff kept after the trainers and players to make sure everyone remained hydrated. “You deal with it,” tackle Zach Strief said. “It’s not like anything’s going to fall apart. Again, if that happens in the middle of the third quarter in a big game, much tougher. They handled it well in here.”

Ah, but remember this when it comes to Mother Nature: The Super Bowl next February is being played in New Jersey. Outdoors.
**Sciences is only the second busi-**

**following four days of testing.**

**orbiting outpost on Sunday,**

**food, clothing and goodies for**

— bearing 1,300 pounds of

**the company said in a tweet.**

**Shore, the departing point for a**

**launched its first-ever supply**

**private suppliers for the high-**

**made its successful debut**

**February, rocketing toward the**

**Key Largo Cultural Center, a committee in**

**to use the facility to attract**

**educational programs and**

**events to Key Largo.**

**The series features academic experts from the**

**and the Florida Keys.**

**According to Elaine**

**of SEAS, the partner-**

**ship with FKLLC grew out of a mutual goal to**

**bring free quality educa-**

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**They had a newly**

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**working in the area,” says**

**Pritzker. “The purpose of the series is to bring researchers and academics**

**to the Keys to educate and inspire audiences of all ages about the unique**

**environment in which they live.”**

**This event is free and open to the public. Food and beverages will be provided.**

**-bbc@fiusm.com**

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**MADEleine NOda**

**Contributing Writer**

Submerging into the marine world to explore and research the coral reefs and ecosystem lying beneath the water of the Florida Keys has become more than a recreational activity. Thomas Lockyear, director of the History of Diving Museum, will discuss the impact these activities have on the economy of the Keys and its dive shops at the next Ocean Life Series: A Brief History of Diving in the Keys event.

“We strive to educate and inspire the next generation by engaging everyone with history, science, technology, art and so much,” said Lock- year. “This is not just a place for inspiring divers, but a place where people of all interests can take something back home.”

Lockyear will also discuss the importance of South Florida and the Keys on the history of diving.

The event will take place at the Murray E. Nelson Governance and Cultural Center in Key Largo on Friday, Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. The night will start with a meet and greet then at 7 p.m. the presenta-

**The event will take place at the Murray E. Nelson Governance and Cultural Center in Key Largo on Friday, Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. The night will start with a meet and greet then at 7 p.m. the presenta-**

**At the “Skyfall” themed annual mixer, Student Organizations Council departments and clubs get to interact and know each other. Above, Michael Aquino, the Student Organizations Council president, and Marie Pierre, the Stu-**

**Key Largo**

**Education**

**Explore Ocean Life Series in Key Largo**

**MADELINE NODA**

**Contributing Writer**

Students, researchers and academic experts from the University and the Florida Keys.

**According to Elaine**

**Pritzker, the coordinator**

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**Second private company rockets toward space station**

**AP STAFF**

A commercial cargo ship made its successful debut Wednesday,rocketing toward the International Space Station and doubling the number of NASA’s private suppliers for the high-

flying lab.

Orbital Sciences Corp. launched its first-ever supply ship from Virginia’s Eastern Shore, the departing point for a NASA moonshot less than two weeks ago.

“Look out ISS, here we come,” the company said in a tweet.

The capsule named Cygnus — bearing 1,300 pounds of food, clothing and goodies for the astronauts — is due at the orbiting outpost on Sunday, following four days of testing.

The Virginia-based Orbital Sciences is only the second business to attempt a shipment like this.

Cygnus in December with about 2,800 pounds of supplies.

NASA Sciences hopes to launch another

Russia and Japanese supply ships.

Orbital Sciences’ unmanned

Antares rocket — named for the bright red star — blasted into a clear sky from NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility.

A test launch in April went well. So did this one, with a camera on the rocket providing dramatic views of the coastline.

The entire commercial effort dates back five years.

It was Wallops’ second high-profile launch this month.

On Sept. 6, the company took part in a NASA moonshot that dazzled skywatchers along the East Coast.

Wednesday’s late-morning liftoff, while at a much more convenient hour, was not nearly as visible because of the daylight.

The rocket exhaust plume, at least, was visible from Wash-

ington, D.C.

The three space station resi-

dents, circling 260 miles high, watched the launch via a live link provided by Mission Control in Houston.

“Great launch! Excited for Cygnus arrival on Sunday!” space station astronaut Karen Nyberg said in a tweet. She’s expecting a fresh stash of chocolate.

Nyberg and Italian astro-

naut Luca Parmitano will use the space station’s robot arm to grab Cygnus from orbit and attach it to the space station. Also onboard is a Russian.

The crew will double in size next week when another American and two Russians lift off aboard a Russian rocket from Kazakhstan.

NASA is paying Orbital Sciences and Space Explora-

tion Technologies Corp., or SpaceX, to keep the space station stocked after the retirement of the shuttles. The other countries involved in the station also make deliveries.

The bigger SpaceX Dragon capsule, which is launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla., has the advantage of returning items to Earth. It parachutes into the Pacific off the Southern Cali-

fornia coast.

The Cygnus will be filled with station trash and cut loose for a fiery destruction upon re-entry, following a monthlong visit.

That’s how the Russian, Euro-

pean and Japanese supply ships wind up, too — as incinerators.

If you needed more tangible proof that this is a new era of exploration, it’s right here, right now in Virginia.

Robert Lightfoot

NASA Associate administrator

“We categorize it as dispos-

able cargo,” said Orbital Sciences’ executive vice presi-

dent, Frank Culbertson. “Others may call it trash.”

If all goes well, Orbital Sciences hopes to launch another Cygnus in December with about 2,800 pounds of supplies.

That will be the first true operational mission under a $1.9 billion contract.

The SpaceX contract is worth $1.6 billion.

SpaceX is working to modify its Dragon capsule for space station crews, so NASA doesn’t have to keep paying tens of millions of dollars to the Russians per ticket.

Orbital Sciences envisions strictly non-human payloads for the Cygnus — but not neces-

sarily just in Earth’s backyard.

“We’d be happy to help a mission go to Mars,” said Culb-

erton, a former astronaut who lived on the space station in 2001.

The capsule was named in honor of G. David Low, a former astronaut and Orbital Sciences executive who died in 2008. He flew on three shuttle missions but not to the space station. This was a way for Low to get there after all these years, Culbertson said after the launch.