**University expands services for veterans**

RAUL HERRERA

Staff Writer

The Tower Building, the University’s first edifice, has made University history once again. Renovations have turned it into a center for veteran students.

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs lists FIU as one of the schools with which it has expanded its VetSuccess on-Campus services.

Through this expansion, the department will help students who served in the armed forces transition from military life to on-campus life. Said expansion has allowed the creation of a VSOC facility in the Tower Building.

Michael Pischner, director of the Veteran and Military Affairs Center, said active duty is very strict.

“Know what time you’re going to eat, what you’re going to eat, what you’re going to do for the day, everything’s all laid out for you,” Pischner said. “When you leave that structured environment, it can be a little chaotic. [The center] gives them a place to come in and they can talk to other veterans here that have gone through the same problems.”

“It doesn’t just facilitate the enrollment of veterans, but it’s also a sort of safe haven,” said Edward Glueck, senior criminal justice student and Iraq War veteran.

SEE VETERANS, PAGE 2

**Latin American and Caribbean Center hosts event on US-Venezuelan relations on-campus**

MACKENZIE BARTELS

Staff Writer

Under newly elected Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, the political turmoil in Venezuela has reached new heights as a number of Venezuelans continue to leave their country and return to the U.S.

As a result, the University’s Latin American and Caribbean Center will sponsor an event on Sept. 26 at 6 p.m. titled “Damaged Beyond Repair? U.S.–Venezuela Relations.”

The event is set to last for one hour. According to Mora, after the discussion, the event will open up doors and generate ideas for his generation.

Of course, that is the hope of moving forward.

“This event should make students think about the Venezuela relationship in greater depth. And that’s, I think, the value added,” said Olson.

SEE SEX ED, PAGE 2

**Sex talk, not dirty talk: sexologists speak to students**

ALYSSA ELSO

Staff Writer

Sex can often be a difficult subject for students to talk about, but with the help of sexologists Joni Frater and Esther Lastique, students are no longer misinformed of the dangers of unprotected sex.

On Wednesday, Sept. 18, curious students gathered in the Stadium Club Room at Alfonso Field to have a sex talk with Sex Ed Boot Camp: “The most fun you can have with your clothes on,” speakers, Frater and Lastique.

Together for 9 years, Frater and Lastique began their Sex Ed Boot Camp in 2010 and have since spoken to thousands of college students about how to enjoy and practice safe sex.

According to Lastique, the most rewarding experience of hosting the Sex Ed Boot Camp is making a difference in the way they approach sex.

“I have had students confide in me their darkest secrets or email me asking ‘what do I do, my condom broke’, giving them someone to trust is what makes all of this worth it,” said Lastique.

“Tonight I learned a lot more than I ever knew about condoms, the many different kinds and how they are affected by different lubricants,” said Arthur Alcuria, a freshman business major.

Among the many topics discussed was also the sensitive issue of rape and consent. The sexologists informed students of a Florida laws which explain that intoxicated sex is considered rape because individuals are not in a state of mind to consent, but many did not know it existed.

According to Senior Health Educator Ebonie Parriss, in the state of Florida, if one party is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, they are not capable of giving consent.

For example, if they wake up the next day saying that they do not remember having sex and felt like they were raped, the other party could actually be arrested.

“A lot of students don’t really understand what consent means and what it could mean if one party is not consenting, and they can end up going to [the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution] for that purpose. So we want to prevent any and everything from happening as far as the demise of their academic career,” said Parriss.

Student Health Services has also taken many steps to help students learn the dangers of unprotected sex and give them the outlet to practice safe, responsible sex.

“At Student Health Services, we have sexual health consultations where students can come in and ask any questions. For example, if they come in today and say ‘I am worried about my sexual health and my partner and I are not practicing safe sex’, they will open up a discussion with them about what they need and any other health risks they may have,” Olson said.

SEE VETERANS, PAGE 2

**PANTHERS DRESS TO IMPRESS**

Several students dressed the part Thursday for a Career Fair held in the US Century Bank Arena where they were given the opportunity to interact with several seeking employers.

**EVENT INFO**

What: Damaged Beyond Repair? U.S.-Venezuela Relations

Where: College of Business, room 232

When: Thursday, Sept. 26, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

RSVP: By calling (305) 348-2894
**VETERANS, PAGE 1**

*“Veterans understand other, and the center provides an all-inclusive covering avenue for them.”*

The Tower began a year and a half ago, and “went online” the first week of August. The building will have its ribbon cutting on Oct. 21st.

According to Gluck, there are about 1,800 veterans here at the University and that this large amount indicates the necessity of this facility.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have created, for the first time since [World War II], the largest influx of veterans, Gluck said.

Pischner pointed to the number being over 2,000, but that not all of them have been receiving benefits.

“We’ve got about 1,400 - 1,500 receiving some sort of educational benefit here,” said Pischner. “Not necessarily veterans, but it could be the dependent of a veteran or their spouse.”

Despite this, Pischner said that the center is also tailored towards veterans who have not received any governmental benefits. He said 812 veterans applied to the University the fall.

The funding for this expenditure primarily comes from the University and the Post-9/11 GI Bill, a program that provides financial support for education and housing to those who have at least 90 days of service after Sept. 10, 2001, or have been honorably discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ website.

“Following 9/11, there was an addition to the GI Bill which [gave] educational benefits to veterans,” said Gluck.

“This was all supported by the University,” Pischner said. “They’ve just done this for the veterans. They’ve always taken very good care of the veterans here.”

Pischner said that many students who have served in the military continuously seek a university that is willing to work with them, the GI Bill and other financial aid. According to him, the University fits this description.

**Fla. unemployment rate drops**

California and New York, by contrast, added around 30,000 jobs last month. Scott has tried to recruit companies from both states by arguing that Florida has lower taxes and a better regulatory environment for businesses.

In spite of Friday’s news, the state’s overall unemployment remains lower than the national average, and Florida has seen the largest rate drop in the country in the past year.

Scott, who is making the state’s closest sufficient centerpieces of his re-election campaign, said in a statement that the decrease in the rate continues to be “evidence that our pro-growth and business friendly policies are working.”

State economists, however, released an analysis this summer that showed a reliance student’s unemployment rate decline has been people leaving the labor force or delaying their search for a job.

There are now an estimated 560,000 people out of work in the state.

While the unemployment rate has gotten better since Scott took office in 2011, the U.S. Census released information this week that showed household income remains stagnant year over year since the start of the recession. Some of the state’s largest cities rank in the bottom in income levels for the nation’s most populous metropolitan areas.
The grass is greener on the other side

DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS
Staff Writer

“I hate Miami.”
I’ve heard these words more than once and not always from individuals donning thick rimmed glasses and leather boots.
From my native perspective, it seems that quite a few people hate this place: it’s too hot, the weather is like, super unpre-
dictable, people are lego ralude, traffic is freakin’ crazy and drivers are ridiculous, bro.
If you smirked or rolled yours eyes at the monologue of a stereotypical Miamian, then you know exactly what I am writing about: the disdain of this city by some of its own people. I realized how silly we Miam-
ians can get sometimes.
A few days ago, I met a student who had just transferred from one of my favorite cities-Chicago.
What we don’t own in the digital age

MOISES FUERTES
Staff Writer

I have this book in my hands, “Cloud Atlas.”
It’s a wonderful book, and one I encourage any of my friends to read. Isn’t it a wonderful thing that I can simply lend my book to any one of them without having to jump any hoops?
One would think I should be able to do the same with, say, any of my purchased songs from iTunes.
The reality is, of course, much more complicated than that.
In the digital age, property rights are complicated, misleading and confusing. Lending a digital copy of anything, whether that be a song, video game or a DVD, is a chore or simply impossible.
What we have seen through iTunes, the video game industry and even Holly-
wood, is the usage of activation codes which directly link a piece of bought data to one single person, often locking it there even after death.
It doesn’t matter what digital goods any given person purchases. The end result is the same.
In his piece, “Who owns your iTunes library when you die,” writer Doug Manacsony says, “Part of the problem is that with digital content, one doesn’t have the same rights as with print books and CDs. Customers own a license to use the digital files – but they don’t actually own them.”
Also, according to the article, Apple and Amazon both offer “non-transfer-
able” rights to the content.
Essentially, that means that when I die, whenever that ends up happening, I can’t give away my legally purchased digital content to anyone, not even my kids.
When I purchased “Cloud Atlas,” I assured myself ownership of this phys-
ical book. I can give it away, sell it or destroy it.
Essentially, I can do with it as I please in terms of its physicality. But this is not the case with digital goods.
The same goods that companies are constantly trying to have us purchase.
I don’t think that’s fair.
I’m positive that these digital restric-
tions lead people to download music, games and movies illegally.
Why would any person purchase digital content if all they are getting is legal permission to use it, but not the right to redistribute it?
Why can’t we just lend our bits? I’m sure there are ways software can lock certain content if, for example, it is lent to someone.
There was some recent blowback with the announcement of all the restric-
tions the Xbox One would impose on its users, such as having to connect online once every 24 hours to even be allowed to play any of the games purchased.
Since then, Microsoft has decided to completely change their stance on the issue due to the enormous backlash from the gaming community.
Interestingly, companies like Steam, a digital distributor of video games, has announced family share plans that allow up to 10 devices to be linked to an account.
According to the Steam website, the software is currently in beta. Once a device is registered to an account, the website mentions all the games from the linked account that can be downloaded and thus borrowed.
The issue, however, remains across all forms of digital entertainment.
Any digital goods purchased are simply a license to use, and not true ownership.
Viva the digital age.

The freshman 15 is only a myth

ASHLEY VALENTIN
Contributing Writer

The day I tried to button up my favorite pair of shorts and couldn’t is the day the world almost exploded. Dogs started howling, babies began to cry and a select few trees sponta-
neously caught fire. Angrily, I vowed never to have Chick-fil-A for lunch again. In fact, not even mid-study break Frappuccinos would be safe from the wrath of the diet I vowed to undertake. Nope. It was low calorie juices and whole wheat crackers for me! This declar-
tion of weight loss lasted for a grand total of one week before the thought of Moe’s Quesaduela seduced me into making the long walk to PG5.
The 15 pounds I have gained since starting college has yet to melt off me (and, yes, it actu-
ally has been exactly 15 pounds), but I love my Frappuccinos too much to mind.
However, according to the Huffington Post, I’m an exception. Most students don’t gain 15 pounds (otherwise known as the “freshman 15”) at all. Typically the weight gain is around 5 pounds, and it doesn’t happen in one semester, but rather over the span of their college years. The weight gain is usually only a result of your body growing to its adult size in height and weight, and should be viewed as a normal part of getting older, not because you’re overeating.
“A recent Ohio State University study that included data from 7,418 young people over the course of their college years found that women and men, on average, gained three pounds during their freshmen year. Less than 10 percent of the freshmen gained 15 pounds (or more), and a full quarter of the students actually lost weight in their first year,” writes the Huffington Post.
So the freshman 15 is a big o’ myth. Then why has the term reached the ear of every new student craving snacks on campus? The transition to college is sometimes over-
whelming. There’s the stress of financial aid, clubs, living on your own and paying bills. It’s often assumed that this stress, combined with larger college budgets and an endless buffet of fresh meals, leads to easy access to all kinds of unhealthy foods on campus will drive any unsuspecting college student into a binging, weight gaining frenzy, but this is simply not the case.
Freshmen, take a step back. There’s no need to add on more unnecessary stress over gaining weight. It really is no big deal. If you’re concerned about maintaining a healthy weight, there are plenty of healthy food and snack options on campus, as well as a pretty sweet gym accessible to all FIU students. There are more important things to worry about than gaining weight during your freshman year. Go ahead and enjoy that Frappuccino! You look great as is!

SEND US YOUR LETTERS
Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinions@fiusm.com or drop by our office at room GC 210 or WRC 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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Theater department kicks off year with “Cardenio”

DANIEL URIA   Staff Writer

While many students have their focus on football season, this weekend marks the beginning of another kind of season at FIU. The FIU Theatre Department opens its four-play theatre season on Sept. 27 with its production of “Cardenio.”

The director of “Cardenio” Michelle Yawney had this to say about the play: “It’s about people finding out who they are through their experience in Italy. Hearing about the play: “It’s about people learning who they’re really in great art.”

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The persistent, reigning trend of socks and shoes

COLUMNIST

A SHLEY GARNER   The Beacon

After last week’s observations of trends happening across campus, I couldn’t help myself from pointing out one more very important one: socks and shoes.

I remember as a child my mother always trying to force me into frilly bobby socks and my sour-puss self pitching a fit for the whole process. From there, I graduated into pre-teen toe socks that came in an embarrassingly wide variety from Limited Too! Once middle school had begun, socks were no longer cool and it was all about the below-the-ankle socks to show off your Nike Air Force Ones, at least at my school.

Finally, in high school, socks were slowly but surely coming back starting with the likes of striped and printed tights and now, a decade later, we have a wide emergence of calf socks, knee high socks, thigh-high socks, bobby socks and I could go on but will spare you for now.

I am all for this sock trend, especially considering that over the process of four years of college, I have found myself, the long devotee of stilettos, a habitual tennis shoe wearer. Apparently heels aren’t as easy to walk in as they look, especially when you are carrying 10 pounds of art materials across campus.

Back to socks and shoes; this trend is nothing new to the bike and skateboarding community. They have long been supporters of calf and knee high socks for sake of the safety of their shins while skating. Although they are wearing socks for reasons beyond sartorially pleasing aesthetics, they still have style while doing it—as seen by fine arts major Carlos Morales with his well-worn and personalized tennis shoes paired with diamond quilted calf high socks. Another fine arts major who was seen sporting the socks and shoes trend in a much different way was Sierra Manno.

Her outfit was simple and throwback ’90s with a beige velvet button down, high waisted jeans, soft pink woven Keds and bunched-up men’s charcoal dress socks. By pairing these particular socks with her outfit rather than no-show socks she created a color-blocking motif that lead the eye from her head all the way down to her toes.

One last student that I want to pay credit to for doing socks and shoes in a completely unexpected but wholeheartedly appreciated way was Asian studies major Thais Torquez.

Seen in front of Deuxieme Maison during the first week of classes, Thais was wearing a full head-to-toe pink skirt and shirt ensemble with a matching quilted Hello Kitty backpack and some badass wood block cut out shoes with extremely frilly bobby socks reminding me of my preschool years.

I left her feeling like I had just encountered a whimsical rosy-cheeked fairy. My point essentially in all of this rambling on socks and shoes is to consider it. Whatever happens I just hope I can make a complete fool of myself on stage and the audience can follow us on this hilarious journey which involves so many ironic, playful moments, said Cadena. “It is such a fun show and I hope that translates on all the nights to come.”

Santos expressed her excitement for the production to begin. “I cannot wait for opening night,” she began. “To have a live audience with people not just from our tiny theatre department, but our families and friends who have little exposure to theatre—it will definitely be interesting. You never know what will hit-or-miss a particular audience. I’m ready for their feedback!”

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Doris, played by Janelys Santos, a senior seeking a BA degree in theatre.

Santos describes Doris as the antagonist of the play, but believes that she means well.

Everyone despises her, but as the actor portraying her, I feel like all the advice she offers, whether asked for or not, is given out of love—especially to her younger sister, Camila. She’s just really misunderstood.” She said.

William Cadena, also a senior with a BFA major in theatre, plays the actor portraying his character is faced with having his best friend’s bride ask to seduce her on their wedding night. His only hope for the play is that it produces a lot of laughs.

“If you lose interest with this one, you can just look at the next one.”

“Having 12 characters is kind of wonderful, because you get to pick and choose,” said Yawney.

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When did you decide to give DJing a try?

I started with mutual friends that had equipment during senior year of high school, just messing around, nothing serious. But when I came to FIU I got a Behr controller that I still use to this day, joined [Sigma Phi Epsilon], and they gave me the opportunity to take it to the next level. Since then I've been DJing ever since.

What is the moment when you realized you could DJ for the rest of your life?

I still don’t think that’s realistic, but I hope I can. I have always loved sharing music though, even before I was a DJ. In high school, I would show my friends music I discovered and see if they liked it too, just because it was all about the music for me. I’d say the first Sigfip party that we threw together, called SI Te Cojo Te Mojo, was my first eye-opening moment when I got to really see people enjoying what I can do. It was my first relationship with an audience. From then on, I knew I could do this for a long time.

What’s your DJ name and how did you come up with it?

George Andreas and that’s my real first and last name. I was in between getting a DJ name or using my Greek life name so I decided to go natural.

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What is the difference between a DJ and a producer?

Well first off, producers can do anything a DJ can produce music, whether it’s for himself or someone else. For example, I know Benny Bennassi is a producer. He’s a producer, but well, the majority of the music comes from the producer under him. He’s the face of the music, more or less. DJs can do almost anything with the crowd. Whether it’s five people or five hundred, they’ll adjust their track list if they’re really good, they can tell a story within their set. They know how to control an ambiance and a vibe within their set. If you can transition from song to song pretty well, that’s cool — you can DJ, but you’re not a good DJ. When you know how to connect it all, which key, which tempo, if you can make it all come together, that’s when you’re a good DJ.

Which DJs or producers are your inspirations?

Producer-wise, Tiësto, Amin van Baaren, the gods — Swedish House Mafia — but individually: Axwell, Sebastian Ingrosso, Steve Angello and Dirty South. I can go on with this, but those are the people I grew up listening to before they were too mainstream. Back in eighth grade, people like Kaskade and Tiesto and their own music, but people didn’t know about them back then. I was already listening to them, though.

DJs I’m going to be at Oktoberfest, the Homecoming show with Zedd [Oct. 6] I’m going to be opening at Miami’s 93.5 Evolution and Life in December. Hopefully all of this will add up. I also have a whole bunch of edits and stuff that I’ve been saving for my live shows to change it up. You can’t just start playing a bunch of new stuff, though, because the audience can’t connect. I’ve got stuff that they’ll recognize, but with a twist that makes it my own. I think people will appreciate that.

Where’s the next place we can see you?

My fraternity is throwing a philanthropy block party on Oct. 4 for the Buoncolini Fund, which fundraises for the Miami Project. I’m going to be at Oktoberfest, the day after in Brickell and then October 6 I’m going to be opening at the Homecoming show with Zedd and I’m going to be at all those. But if you can make it to that, you can always check my SoundCloud, DJGeorgeAndreas, or hit me up on Twitter and Instagram @DJGeorgeAndreas.
Get your hot dogs, pretzels....and beer?

Tennis looking to bounce back after dismal season

When someone goes to a football game courtesy of the National Football League, more often than not, they will see someone who has taken advantage of the concession stand a chance that they are going to consume something to drink at the game. For many fans their choice of beverage is one that contains alcohol, which is also a big factor in revenue for each respective stadium and the team that it houses. In the nation, there are only 23 athletic programs that sell alcohol at their home games at the collegiate level, including prestigious universities as the University of Miami, University of Minnesota, and West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. The athletic program, headed by athletic director Oliver Luck, the father of Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck, has seen it be helpful both economically and safety wise to his program and went into detail in an interview with FIU Student Media.

We had a different situation here that other schools do not usually have,” Luck said. “We used to allow students and fans to exit the stadium at halftime or whenever they pleased and come back into the game, which was costly with having to check people’s bags a second time and getting their ‘Buzz back on’ then returning to the stadium. It did not create a pretty sight.”

Luck also believes that the selling of alcohol at the games could possibly be an extra incentive to get students in from the tail-gates but it depends on the situation of the school itself.

“Through sponsorships with Miller/Coors, Anheuser-Busch and a local brewery in Morgantown Brewing Company, we are near $750,000 in profit,” Luck added. “We do it through the concession group we use called Sodexo. It helps us control the situation of the school, the fans, the students and reducing alcohol consumption and gives us a bit of extra revenue which isn’t bad.”

FIU Student Media reached out to the Athletic Department at the University of Minnesota, who was one of the only schools to report a loss in selling alcohol financially. A response was never returned.

Many feel that adding alcohol to the list of beverages that are sold at FIU stadium will help raise money and attendance.

The first full tournament for the Panthers tennis team can be characterized as successful.

In the Milwaukee Tennis Classic back on Sept. 13 through Sept. 15, FIU was victorious in 11 singles matches and picked up five doubles victories.

“We played better than I thought, and these girls did well in singles,” Sophomore Carlotta Orlando, the singles champion title from the weekend, winning a match on day two with Orlando; losing 8-4 to Marquette’s duo of Ana Primienta and Erin Gebes.

Freshman Nina Nagode, a Slovenia native also went 2-1 in doubles matches winning one and losing two.

Another freshman went 2-1 in doubles, I feel like I improved a lot on the court and I feel more experienced the growing pains of playing doubles matches.

“Carlotta was here in the summer working during Summer School with the couches to get in shape and I think it paid off,” Petrovic said.

“I’m really happy with doubles, I feel like I improved a lot on the court and I feel more confident now,” Orlando said. “We lost one doubles match with Nina [Nagode], so we still got to know each other better on the court.”

The Panthers won’t be in action again until Oct. 18 when they participate in the ITA Regionals in Athens, Ga.
FIU Health to insure retired players, families

**PATRICK CHALVIRE**
Staff Writer

The National Basketball Retired Players Association will now be receiving support from FIU Health.

On Thursday, Sept. 19, an announcement was made of a partnership between FIU Health, the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine’s Faculty Group Practice and the NBRPA.

The partnership will now allow for both uninsured and underinsured members and spouses of the NBRPA to receive health and wellness physicals.

Some members in attendance included Dr. John Rock, founding dean and senior vice president for Health Affairs, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine; Otis Bird, chairman of the Board, National Basketball Retired Players Association; Fernando Valverde, CEO, FIU Health Care Network; Thurl Bailey, vice chairman, NBRPA; George Tinsley, past chairman, NBRPA; Sam Vincent, player ambassador, NBRPA; Amie Fielkow, president and CEO, NBRPA.

The NBRPA, with partnerships from the National Police Athletic League, will host youth basketball and mentoring clinics for more than 150 local at-risk youth as part of its Full Court Press: Prep for success program in Miami on Sept. 28.

The NBRPA is currently comprised of former professional basketball players from the NBA, ABA, Harlem Globetrotters and WNBA. It is a non-profit organization, with its goal to assist former players in their transition from the court to life after the game, while also positively impacting communities and the youth through basketball.

p-chalvire@fiusm.com

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Writer

Tiger Woods and Henrik Stenson, the top two seeds in the FedEx Cup, could not have been more different in the opening round of the Tour Championship.

Stenson hardly missed a shot on the front nine. He had such control over his game that six of his first seven iron shots were 10 feet or closer to the hole. He converted five of them for birdies, added a 5-iron from 223 yards to 4 feet for one last birdie on the par-3 18th, and wound up with a 6-under 66 and a one-shot lead at East Lake.

Tiger Woods was the model of frustration. He missed a short birdie putt on the opening hole that set the tone for a most unusual day. When it was over, Woods failed to make a birdie for only the seventh time in his PGA Tour career — three of them at East Lake. Woods opened with a 73, nine strokes behind.

"It’s a nice feeling to hit those shots behind. It’s a nice feeling when you’re playing with the world’s best player," Woods said.

Stenson is known for public displays of frustrations — remember that poor tee marker at Carnoustie in 2007?

Woods walked off the course without speaking to reporters. Perhaps he could learn from Stenson how to cope with a frustrating day on the golf course.

"Or maybe not," Stenson said.

"I don’t think I’m the right person," Stenson said.

When Stenson’s round soured, he noticed, I wasn’t that good frame of mind coming out there if I wanted to play good golf this week," he said. "As some of you noticed, I wasn’t that on Monday and a 65.

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Writer

FIU Baseball Open Tryouts

The FIU Baseball Team will hold tryouts for the 2013-2014 season on Monday, Sept. 23, at 6:00 pm at the FIU Baseball Field.

FIU Health could help boost revenue and attendance at games

ALCOHOL, PAGE 6

Conference and the Atlantic Coast Conference, excluding the University of Miami Hurricanes, with their games being at Sun Life Stadium, where alcohol is sold for all Miami Dolphins games.

"There is no conference rule but it is up to the institution. We don’t have a ruling either way," Courtney Archer, Associate Commissioner for Public Affairs for Conference-USA said about alcohol within the conference.

In regards to it being possible to grab a cold Corona Extra with lime, a Yuengling, or an Anheuser-Busch product at an upcoming football or basketball game at FIU would be a stretch, but not something I believe is without of reach within the next few years at Alfonso Field at FIU Stadium, the US. Century Bank Arena with the Lime court or the FIU Baseball Stadium to be possible.

You do not have to be 21 to see that the student section of FIU Stadium, if not a majority of the stadium in general, has not really been at or near capacity in the past few games.

In my opinion, it could bring some students in from the tail-gates to watch a dismal football team or a basketball team who due to grades cannot play in the postseason.

I don’t think that after I turn 21 I would complain if I could grab a cold one when I was at the game to watch the Panthers play. FIU Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia denied speaking with FIU Student Media on the issue of alcohol at sporting events.

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Hubert Library celebrates Banned Books Week with ReadOUT

In high school, most students are exposed to and required to read classics such as "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald, "The Lord of the Flies" by William Golding and "The Sun Also Rises" by Ernest Hemingway. One characteristic that these novels have in common now is these and many others have once been classified as "banned" books.

The Glenn Hubert Library at the Biscayne Bay Campus will be hosting its 12th Annual Banned Book ReadOUT to recognize the freedom of reading and bringing awareness on intellectual freedom issues. Students and faculty are welcomed to get together and read excerpts from books that have been banned in the past.

The event also celebrates the Banned Books Week, which typically runs during the last week of September, and has branched out to cities across the country and promoting the privilege of reading freely.

Special guest speakers will join the readout to share excerpts of their knowledge on banned materials throughout history.

Frederick Blevens, mass communications professor, will be specifically discussing the history of banned music.

"My main concern is to remind people that it’s not just about books, but there are other forms of expressions like music, films and art,” said Blevens. “We should encourage people to express themselves.”

Other guest speakers include Marian Demos, associate humanities professor, who will be translating a poem by the French 19th-century poet Charles Baudelaire entitled “The Metamorphoses of the Vampire”. Also, George Pearson, University librarian, will join the readout. Every year the event is planned by Lauren Christos, University librarian, who also started the tradition back in 2002. Christos was inspired by an urge to expose students to not just its resources but to its main purpose, the books.

“I wanted to share and enlighten the concept that these books that we have in this library are here for you to read,” said Christos. “And the freedom to read is astonishing and we take it for granted.”

Throughout history, famous books like "The Catcher in the Rye", by J.D. Salinger have once been challenged by individuals who claimed their discontent with the content of a book. There are various reasons for a book to be considered banned including political reasons, sexual content or remarks to religion.

Some of the books that have been banned at some point are lined up to be read during ReadOUT.

FREEDMAN SPEAKS

CHRISTIANS GATHER IN KANSAS TO DISCUSS HOMOSEXUALITY

A Kansas man whose online lecture about the Bible and same-sex relationships gained considerable attention has gathered about 50 Christians from around the country to delve into his belief that the Scriptures do not condemn homosexuality as a sexual orientation.

Matthew Vines, of Wichita, grew up attending a conservative evangelical Presbyterian church in the city and relies heavily on intensive study of the Bible for his presentations. He said liberal and moderate Christian churches have adopted more gay-friendly stances, but conservative churches remain steadfast in their opposition to homosexuality.

The 23-year-old Vines wants to bring change with his message that the Bible doesn’t actually say same-sex orientation is a sin or condemn loving gay relationships. Out of 100 applicants, Vines selected 50 people with ties to conservative churches to participate in his three-day conference, which started Wednesday in Prairie Village and ended Saturday.

"This conference is important because it really represents the next frontier of the LGBT movement, which is working to change the minds of conservative Christians about same-sex relationships,” Vines said. “Because I’m a gay Christian who grew up in a conservative church and still have a lot of friends and family in conservative churches, I’m trying to empower people to be able to stay in their churches that are not yet supportive.”

Vines delivered an hourlong lecture on the topic at a Wichita church and posted it to YouTube in March 2012. Since then, the video has garnered more than 600,000 views and 15,000 responses. And it has been translated into several languages.

"A lot of conservative Christians are willing to listen, but they don’t want to do it with someone who isn’t educated about Scripture," said Vines, who has started a new organization, The Reformation Project, and written a book on the topic that will be published in March.

Evan Lenow, assistant professor of ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, wrote an extensive rebuttal on his blog about Vines’ online lecture and said Wednesday in a phone interview that Vines’ take on the Bible is not a faithful reading of the text.

"It seems to me he is attempting to read Scripture through his presupposition that homosexuality is not a sin," Lenow said. "... Every time (Scripture) speaks of homosexuality it speaks of homosexuality in terms of sin.”

Jane Clementi, whose son, Tyler, killed himself in 2010 after his roommate at Rutgers University made a webcast of him kissing another man, is among the conference participants. She’s giving a keynote address Friday evening.